



United Methodist
Church of Summit



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Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele

Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak

Children, Youth, Family Minister: Carrie-Lee Farnham

Mental Health Minister: Dr. Alison Johnson

Office Manager: Kimberle Gray

Seminary Intern: Daniel Faniyan

Sexton: Fred Herse

September 21, 2025

Shine A Light For Climate Justice Sunday

The United Methodist Church of Summit is a diverse church committed to serving the Lord Jesus Christ, dedicated to building disciples, passionate about growing in faith, and motivated to be a voice of hope for the world.

PRELUDE: Voluntary on the turn *Dix*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bill Glancy

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: We gather in the name of the Creator—who formed the Earth, sea, and sky, and God called it all good.

People: We come to worship the Sustainer—who breathes life into every creature, and whose Spirit moves through all creation.

Leader: Today, we shine a light for climate justice. We grieve what is broken, we celebrate what remains, and we commit ourselves to the work of healing.

People: Let justice rise like the sun, let hope shine like the dawn. We are here, O God—ready to worship, to act, and to renew.

CENTERING PRAYER: *(in unison)

Bill Glancy

Creator of All, in the stillness of this moment, we turn our hearts toward You. You crafted the stars and shaped the seas, and yet, You know each of us by name. Your creation sings with beauty and complexity—and we confess how often we have turned away, consuming more than we need, ignoring the cries of the Earth and of our neighbors. Forgive us, O God. Ignite in us a fierce love for justice, a steady commitment to care, and a courage that shines like the rising sun. In the name of the Christ who reconciles all things, Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** *(please remain standing as you are able)*
UMH#92 *For the Beauty of the Earth* (vv.1-4)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Carrie-Lee Farnham,
CYF Minister

ANTHEM *God Has Work for Us to Do* Mark Miller
Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Daniel Faniyan

SCRIPTURE READING: Bill Glancy

Old Testament: Ezekiel 47:1-12 (NRSV)

Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me round on the outside to the outer gate, that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. Going on eastward with a line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the loins. Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through. And he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I went back, I saw upon the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the stagnant waters of the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes every living creature which swarms will live, and there will be very many fish; for this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. Fishermen will stand beside the sea; from Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not

become fresh; they are to be left for salt. And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”

New Testament: John 3:16 (*NRSV*)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God, People: Thanks Be to God.*

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** (*please rise as you are able*)
TFWS#2060 *God the Sculptor of the Mountains*

SERMON: *Not Just Another Selfie* Rev. Dr. Victor Peterson

OFFERING (*please place offering envelope in basket or text “dollar amount you wish to give” to 908-224-7670*)

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Variations on *This Is My Father’s World*
William Teubner - trumpet

***DOXOLOGY** (*please rise as you are able*)
UMH #94 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***CLOSING HYMN:** (*please rise as you are able*)
UMH #707 *Hymn of Promise*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Majestic Recessional in F Major* for Trumpet and Organ

** Denotes please rise in body or spirit as you are able*



Please join us in the Social Hall after worship for Coffee Hour! We welcome all who have come this morning to worship, especially newcomers and visitors among us. Everyone is invited to come to Coffee Hour for refreshments and conversation immediately following the service in our Social Hall by exiting the front of the Sanctuary and proceeding to the door through the breezeway. The

restrooms are located in the back of the sanctuary. We ask everyone to silence their cell phones during the service and note that there are emergency exits in the rear and front right of the Sanctuary. May God bless us all as we gather for worship and fellowship together.

Rev. Victor Peterson, Guest Preacher, Bio:

As an ordained United Methodist minister, Rev. Dr. Victor Peterson served forty years in the Greater NJ Annual Conference. (Summit Oakes and UMC Summit were his first two appointments.) Since 2007 he has ministered to couples and families with his Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Eastern University and Postdoctoral work at Council for Relationships. Born in NYC he grew up on Long Island, lived in Colorado and traveled in North America, Central America, Africa and South Asia. He graduated Hofstra University New College BA and Drew University M.Div. Magna Cum Laude. A perennial student, he enjoys history, photography, swimming, and cooking. He is deeply concerned for the environment, wild places, and the stewardship of creation. Dr. Peterson is married to Cindy Wills LCSW and they have a blended family with two sons and a daughter.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Jaimie Bass, Rev. Tanya Lynn Bennett, Patricia Williams, mother of Dr. John Williams, Dadi Hove, Harry Conway, Kitty - recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Beverly Alexis, Emily LaJeunesse, the family, friends, and classmates of Dylan Faulkner, Christine Matthews, Janice Matthews, Charles Farnham who is out of the hospital, the family and friends of Summit firefighter Lonn Mülle

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, September 21st:

9:00am-9:30am	Instrumental Rehearsal
9:15am-10:15am	Social Skills Group (Chapel)
9:30am-10:00am	Chancel Choir
10:00am-10:20am	Bell Choir
10:30am-11:30am	In-person/online Worship
11:30am-12:30pm	Coffee Hour
11:45am-12:15pm	Singing Believers Family Choir
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Monday, September 22nd:

7:00pm-9:00pm	Continuo Arts rehearsal (Social Hall)
7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room, Chapel)

Tuesday, September 23rd:

9:30am-11:15am	Baby Bandstand (Chapel)
10:00am-5:00pm	Casa de Estudio de Torah (Social Hall, kitchen)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Friday, September 26th:

9:30am-12:30pm	Music Together (Social Hall)
11:00am-12:00pm	Yogafaith (Chapel)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Saturday, September 27th:

9:30am-11:30am	Music Together Social Hall)
12:00pm-1:00pm	Chancel Choir
1:00pm-1:15pm	Bell Choir
1:15pm-1:30pm	Contemporary Ensemble
1:30pm-3:00pm	Instrumental Rehearsal
2:00pm-10:00pm	Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)
2:30pm-3:30pm	Liturgical Dance

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today! 11:30AM: Join other faith communities around Summit after service today as we march downtown to Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation (0.7 miles) to spread the word beyond our walls about the power of the sun, and join their celebration of Sun Day.

12:30 - 2:30 pm Sun Day at Beacon Unitarian Universalist Beacon

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4 Waldron Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901 - Fellowship and Refreshments - Interfaith Prayer/Blessing for our planet's health, led by Rev. Robin Tanner featuring Pastor Laura Steele. Guest Speaker Wendsler Nosie Sr., a long-time opponent of the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and former Chairman and Councilman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

NEW: "Come to the Table" Small Group, Sundays after Church

Starting this summer there will be an extra table set up during Coffee Hour for those who want to dig deeper into God's Word. We are calling this small group "Come to the Table" and you can grab some refreshments and join in

conversation and fellowship about the day's Scripture readings and sermon topics. This is a "self-led" group. There is no sign-up or commitment to join this group, just COME TO THE TABLE! All are welcome.



CLOTHING NEEDED!

We are collecting gently used clothing and accessories for the upcoming **Rummage Sale** on October 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's sale will feature clothing, shoes and accessories only (no

furnishings, etc.) Please drop off any donations to the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Faye, Kim or Debbi



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MUSIC MINISTRY



WELCOME ALL MUSIC MAKERS!!

Come and share your musical gifts and enrich your faith with your Church Family!

Chancel Choir

It is a joy to work together and lift our voices in praise. Our Chancel Choir rehearses on Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in preparation for worship. Come before His presence with singing and sing joyful songs to the Lord! The Chancel Choir shares an anthem each Sunday as well as leading the congregation in song. Come and share the inspiration of singing with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Bell Choir

Calling all bell ringers!! Making a joyful sound is the mission of our Bell Choir. Come and ring Handbells and Handchimes with your church friends. Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 1:00 and on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Come and ring with our Church Family.

Singing Believers Family Choir

All children, youth and adults are invited to sing the songs of the church. Let us share the light of Christ through music. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 11:45 a.m. in the Music Room. Come and share the joyous songs of Christ's church.

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble shares music for Holy Communion each month. The ensemble prepares music from the contemporary hymnal "Worship and Song". Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 1:15 and on Communion Sundays at 9:15 a.m. All singers and instrumentalists are welcome to praise and make music to the Lord during the sacred time of the Lord's Supper.

YOGAFAITH

Yogafaith is back with Friday classes, at 11am in the Chapel! All levels are welcome. Join us as we stretch our faith while we stretch our bodies!
Suggested donation of \$10 per class



Now that school has started, we're looking forward to all that's ahead in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry!

Sunday Morning Schedule Starting September 14th:

9:15-10:15AM: Social Skills Group in the Reeves Chapel (Sept. 21st)
 10:30-10:45AM: Children grades K-5 start in worship
 10:45AM: Children are dismissed to Sunday School
 10:45AM-11:30AM: Sunday School in the Education Building, 2nd floor
 11:30AM-11:45AM: Coffee Hour in the Social Hall
 11:45AM-12:00PM: Singing Believers Family Choir in the Music Room

Sunday School
LESSON PLANS

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
14 Adam & Eve	5 David	2 Psalm 150
21 Noah	12 Solomon	9 David Dancing Before the Ark
28 Tower of Babel	19 Josiah	16 The Valley of Praise
	26 Jesus, King of Kings	23 Student Sunday
		30 Christmas Pageant Practice

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
7 Hanging of Gideon	4 Worship Service	1 The Talents
14 Journey to Bethlehem	11 Baptism of the Lord	8 The Good Samaritan
21 Christmas Pageant	18 Souper Bowl of Caring	15 Souper Bowl of Caring Count
24 Christmas Eve	25 Jesus Begins His Ministry	22 Jesus Says No To Temptation
28 Worship Service		

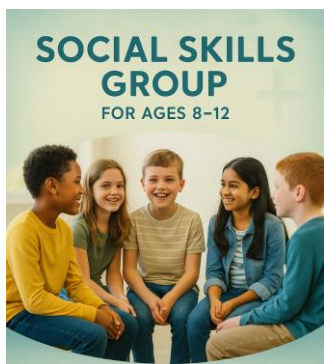
MARCH	APRIL	MAY
1 Easter Pageant Practice	5 Easter	3 Jeremiah
8 Pageant Practice	12 Jesus & Thomas	10 Timothy
15 The Last Supper	19 Breakfast on the Beach	17 Mary & Martha
22 Peter's Denial	26 The Great Commission	24 Pentecost
29 Pageant Practice		31 Spiritual Gifts

JUNE
7 Education Sunday

Family Christmas Eve Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School 10:45AM

Join us as we kick-off an exciting year of learning in our Sunday School program. Children elementary aged begin in worship at 10:30AM and are dismissed to Sunday School with Ms. Carrie after the Children's Sermon. This year we have added some exciting new areas to our Sunday School room: a Bible dress and play area, a new Bible story felt board, a new puppet theater! If you have any questions please contact Children, Youth, and Families Minister Carrie-Lee Farnham



New Group Starting Sept. 21st, 9:15AM-10:15AM in the Chapel

We're excited to invite families—both from our church and the wider community—to a brand-new Social Skills Group for children ages 8 to 12, beginning September 21st. The group will meet every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM, and it's completely free of charge. Taught by Dr. Alison Johnson of Summit Psychological Services. Free and open to the public. Email:

MHMinister@umcsummit.org for more info.

Confirmation Classes Start Sunday 9/28

We're excited to kick off our Confirmation Classes this Sunday from 12-1 in the youth lounge! This class is open to all youth interested in learning more about their faith and exploring what it means to become a member of UMC Summit. Whether you're ready to take the next step or just curious to learn more, you're welcome to join us on this journey of discovery, growth, and faith.



"Wings of Faith" Liturgical Dance Ministry Saturdays, 2:30-3:30PM

Join the UMC of Summit for our Liturgical Dance Ministry. Liturgical dance is a form of praise and should be thought of as an act of worship, rather than a performance. We are praising God through movement and expression. We want the congregation to feel they are part of our expression, accepting the dance as a form of prayer. Resident dance instructor Debbi Picorale will be leading the classes on Saturdays in the Dance Studio. See Ms. Debbi for more information, all levels welcome – no experience necessary!

Make a Difference...

Join a Committee!



Your gifts matter. Your time matters. And your voice matters. Serving on a committee is a wonderful way to grow in faith, build relationships, and use your talents to make a lasting difference in our congregation and community. The following committees are looking for new members:

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): [Carol Conway, Chairperson](#) Supports and nurtures our pastors and staff, ensuring a healthy relationship between church leadership and the congregation. Handles personnel matters, evaluations, and staff support.

Worship Committee: [Alison Johnson, Chairperson](#) Works with the pastor to plan and enhance worship services, including seasonal themes, liturgy, communion, and special events.

Nominations Committee: [Rev. Laura Steele, Chairperson](#) Identifies, invites, and equips church members to serve in leadership and ministry positions.

Lay Leader: [Beverly Alexis](#) Serves as the primary connection between the congregation and the pastor, representing the laity in worship, meetings, and community outreach. Attends GNJUMC Annual Conference each Spring.

Finance Committee: [Jesse Reyes, Chairperson](#) Oversees church budgeting, giving, and financial planning to ensure resources are used faithfully and responsibly.

Hospitality Committee: [Faye Cunningham and Debbi Picorale, Co-Chairs](#) Creates a welcoming environment for members and visitors—organizes fellowship events, coffee hours, and special receptions.

Education Committee: [Carrie-Lee Farnham, Chairperson](#) Supports Sunday School, Bible studies, scholarship program, and spiritual formation programs for children, youth, and adults.

Outreach Committee: [Chairperson Vacant](#) Coordinates mission projects and community partnerships to share Christ's love through service and advocacy.

Music Ministry Committee: [Latoria Hall, Chairperson](#) Supports the music director, choirs, and musicians in providing uplifting music for worship and special events.

Trustees: [Al Lord, Chairperson](#) Manages church property, legal matters, and physical assets to ensure our building and grounds are safe and well maintained.

Property Committee: [Jayme La Jeunesse, Chairperson](#) Works alongside Trustees to handle repairs, maintenance, and improvements for church facilities.

Green Team: [Bill Glancy, Chairperson](#) Dedicated to environmental stewardship by implementing sustainable practices and educating the congregation on the importance of protecting God's creation.

Sermon Notes

key verses:

prayers: