



United Methodist
Church of Summit



“Bridging the Great Divide”

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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 28th, 2025

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

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: Variations on the Hymn:
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Carol Conway
(please rise as you are able)

Leader: Come, dwell in the shelter of the Most High.

People: We will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Leader: God is our refuge, our fortress, our place of trust.

People: We will call upon the Lord, who answers and saves.

Leader: In Christ, the separations between us are bridged.

People: Let us worship the God of mercy and justice!

***CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)* Carol Conway

Merciful God, You are our refuge and strength, our dwelling place from generation to generation. Yet we confess that we too often create walls of separation and division instead of building bridges of peace and understanding. We seek shelter in the illusions of this world - material possessions, power, and status. Open our hearts, souls, and minds to Your mercy this day, so that we may find true shelter in You and extend Your protection and care to others. Through Christ our Lord, who crossed every chasm to reach us, we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** *(please remain standing as you are able)*
UMH #110 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Alison Johnson

ANTHEM *Up Above My Head I Hear Music in the Air*
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING:

Carol Conway

Old Testament: Psalm 91 (NRSV)

Assurance of God's Protection

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and defense. You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day or the pestilence that stalks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noonday. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

New Testament: Luke 16:19-31 (NRSV)

The Rich Man and Lazarus

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if

someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" *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 #2222 *The Servant Song*

SERMON: *Bridging the Great Divide* Rev. Laura Steele

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

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Voluntary on *To God Be the Glory*
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#364 *Because He Lives*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Variations on All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*
for Trumpet and Organ

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Blair Conley, 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 Mu

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, September 28th:

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 29th:

7:30pm-8:30pm	Affordable Housing Design Committee (Social Hall)
7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room, Chapel)

Tuesday, September 30th:

9:30am-11:15am	Baby Bandstand (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Friday, October 3rd:

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

Saturday, October 4th:

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



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ATTENTION ADMIN COUNCIL 2025 CHARGE CONFERENCE MONDAY OCTOBER 6TH, 7:30PM

The 2025 Charge Conference of the UMC of Summit will be held on Monday, October 6th, at 7:30PM (SPRC at 7PM) in the Social Hall. All Administrative Council members are expected to attend. **REMINDER:** Paperwork is due uploaded to Arena by September 30th.

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



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!

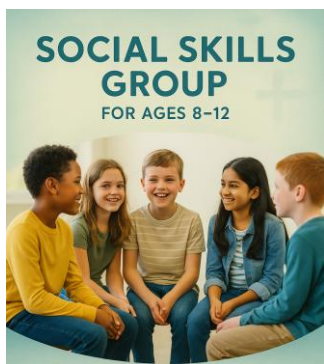
Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:15-10:15AM: Social Skills Group in the Reeves Chapel
 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 14 Adam & Eve 21 Noah 28 Tower of Babel	OCTOBER 5 David 12 Solomon 19 Josiah 26 Jesus, King of Kings	NOVEMBER 2 Psalm 150 9 David Dancing Before the Ark 16 The Valley of Praise 23 Student Sunday 30 Christmas Pageant Practice
DECEMBER 7 Hanging of Green 14 Journey to Bethlehem 21 Christmas Pageant 24 Christmas Eve 28 Worship Service	JANUARY 4 Worship Service 11 Baptism of the Lord 18 Souper Bowl of Caring 25 Jesus Begins His Ministry	FEBRUARY 1 The Talents 8 The Good Samaritan 15 Souper Bowl of Caring Count 22 Jesus Says No To Temptation
MARCH 1 Easter Pageant Practice 8 Pageant Practice 15 The Last Supper 22 Peter's Denial 29 Pageant Practice	APRIL 5 Easter 12 Jesus & Thomas 19 Breakfast on the Beach 26 The Great Commission	MAY 3 Jeremiah 10 Timothy 17 Mary & Martha 24 Pentecost 31 Spiritual Gifts
JUNE 7 Education Sunday		
Family Christmas Eve Service		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School 10:45AM

Join us as we begin 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, 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. 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 2025-2026!

Our Confirmation Classes meet on Sundays 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: