



United Methodist  
Church of Summit

## *From Dust to Dwelling*



Tabernacle



Temple



Heart



New Creation

— *A Lenten Journey of Faith and Home* —

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Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele  
Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak  
Children, Youth, and Families Minister: Carrie-Lee Farnham  
Mental Health Minister: Dr. Alison Johnson  
Office Manager: Kimberle Gray  
Sexton: Fred Herse  
Video Ministry: Parker La Jeunesse

# March 15th, 2026

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

*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 *Nearer My God to Thee*

### **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: Along a dusty road,

**People: Where the world saw blindness, Christ saw possibility.**

Leader: Today, God meets us in the dustiness of our lives.

**People: Holy Spirit, open our eyes to grace, healing, and new life this day.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who brings light to our darkness.

**People: Come Holy Spirit, come!**

**\*CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

Bill Glancy

**God of creation and restoration, You formed humanity from the dust of the earth, and you breathed life into what seemed ordinary. In Christ, you walk among us, along the dusty roads of our lives: our confusion, our pain, our blindness; and you shape it into something new. Open our eyes this day. Help us to see your grace in places we once overlooked. Give us courage to trust the healing work you are doing among us. As we worship, renew our vision so that we may walk in your light and follow Christ into the world you love. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** UMH 454 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alison Johnson

## ANTHEM:

*It Is Well With My Soul*  
Chancel Choir

John Beck

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Daniel Faniyan

## SCRIPTURE READING:

Bill Glancy

### **Old Testament: Genesis 2:5-7 (NIV)**

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

### **New Testament: John 9:1–12, 24–25, 35–40 (NIV)**

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind.

"Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this

man is a sinner.” He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

### Spiritual Blindness

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God; People: Thanks be to God.*

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:** UMH#451 *Be Thou My Vision*

**SERMON:** *When God Gets Down in the Dirt* 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 the Hymn *Be Thou My Vision*  
William Teubner - trumpet

**\*DOXOLOGY:** *(please rise as you are able)*

UMH #95 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** UMH #206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *Majestic Recessional* for Trumpet and Organ

*\*denotes please stand as you are able.*

*\*PLEASE NOTE: All of our services are livestreamed publicly. If you do not wish to have yourself or your loved ones on camera, please see Pastor Laura.*

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The family and friends of John L. Troianello,; Pray for me to feel home ♥;Shela Waldron; the friends and family of Mateo Kaufman Sandler; Vincenzo Lamanginne's mother Angela and brother Mike, rest their souls; prayers to the mother of Shirley Hooper; Ruth Howard; George Drossinos; Laurie Kelly; Alex and Luci Parrish; Blair Conley; Jaimie Bass; Rev. Tanya Lynn Bennett; Greg K.; Patricia Williams, mother of Dr. John Williams; Dadi Hove; Harry Conway; Beverly Alexis; Emily LaJeunesse; the family, friends, and classmates of Dylan Faulkner



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.



*In Loving  
Memory*

The funeral of **Mildred Eichhorn** will take place in the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Memorial Tea reception in the Social Hall.

## This Week's Schedule

### Sunday, March 15th:

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 (Social Hall)
11:45am-12:15pm	Singing Believers Family Choir
11:45am-1:45pm	Trustees Meeting (Fellowship Room)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

### Monday, March 16th:

7:00pm-8:15pm	Caregivers Support Group (Library)
7:30pm-9:00pm	Administrative Council Meeting (Chapel)
7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Rm., Social Hall)

### Tuesday, March 17th:

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

### Wednesday, March 18th:

6:30pm-7:30pm	Worship & Soup Supper (Chapel, Social Hall)
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### Friday, March 20th:

7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)
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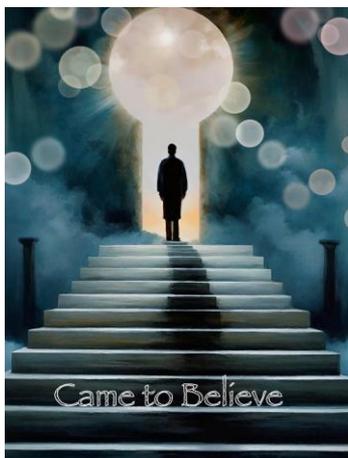
### Saturday, March 21st:

12:00pm-1:00pm	Chancel Choir
1:00pm-1:30pm	Contemporary Ensemble
1:30pm-2:00pm	Bell Choir
2:00pm-3:00pm	Instrumental Rehearsal
2:00pm-10:00pm	Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)
2:30pm-3:30pm	Liturgical Dance



Please note Pastor Laura will be out of the office from 3/18/26 through 3/21/26. If you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office at: 908-277-1700.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## "CAME TO BELIEVE" WORSHIP SERVICE

Next Service:

**Sunday, April 5 at 5:30pm**

The UMC of Summit realized that there is a need for a "safe space" for recovering individuals, their friends and families, and saw that our church could provide that space by offering a worship service for all those people whose lives have been affected by alcoholism and addiction. Everyone is invited to attend the worship service created to speak to the needs of people in recovery as well as their families and friends. Please join

us on the first Sunday of every month in the UMC Chapel located on Deforest Avenue. **FREE Childcare provided! FREE coffee and refreshments! ALL are welcome!**

## Donations for Jefferson School Easter Baskets

Our partnership with Jefferson Elementary School continues this year as we seek to arrange Easter dinners for 10 families in need. Please help fill these baskets by donating food. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Social Hall for your convenience, beginning on March 1st. Boxes for donations are in the Social Hall. **Please note: All food donations are due by March 22; financial donations due by March 15.** Our financial goal is \$300, which will allow a \$30 Shop Rite gift card for 10 families.



## "Come to the Table" Small Group Sundays after Church

Every Sunday 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.

**Lent Weds. Night  
Worship and  
Soup Suppers  
2/25-3/25  
Services 6:30PM  
in Reeves Chapel  
Soup Suppers  
7PM Social Hall**

Join us on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent for a simple,

meaningful rhythm of worship and table fellowship. We will gather for a brief Lenten worship service at 6:30 PM, followed by a soup supper at 7:00 PM. These evenings are designed to be accessible and grounding with a time for prayer, Scripture, shared food, and gentle conversation as we journey through the Lenten series *"From Dust to Dwelling"*. Come for worship, stay for soup, or join us when you're able. All are welcome.



We are also looking for some awesome Soup Chefs to volunteer for our Soup Suppers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall if you can help out! Each week we need one person to cook soup, one person to prep salad, and one person to bring in bread. Thank you in advance!



**NEW! Caregivers Support Group Mondays** – A new Caregivers Support Group is meeting weekly on Monday evenings in the Library from 7:00–8:15 p.m. This group will offer a warm, confidential space for caregivers to support one another, share both encouraging stories and the moments

when we struggle, and exchange helpful resources for the journey. Led by Dr. Alison Johnson, this group is part of Summit UMC's Mental Health Ministry, dedicated to fostering connection, resilience, and hope within our community. All caregivers are welcome.

**Meeting Reminder: Trustees**  
Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:45AM  
Fellowship Room  
**Administrative Council**  
Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Reeves Chapel: 7:30PM



**SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP**  
FOR AGES 8-12



LED BY DR. ALISON JOHNSON,  
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST  
MENTAL HEALTH MINISTER

SUNDAYS 9:15-10:15 AM STARTING SEPTEMBER  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
SUMMIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
17 KENT PLACE BOULEVARD, SUMMIT, NJ  
MHMinister@umcsummit.org

**New "Social Skills" Group!**  
**Sundays 9:15-10:15AM in the Chapel**  
**Ages 8-12 Years Old**

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 meets every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM, and it's completely free of charge. Led by Dr. Alison Johnson of Summit Psychological Services and long-time member of the UMC of Summit. A social skills group for kids that intersects with faith incorporates

values, teachings, and community into evidence-based social-emotional learning (SEL) methods. This group will use these values as a framework to help children develop skills like empathy, conflict resolution, and communication within a supportive environment. This holistic approach aims to nurture a child's social and spiritual well-being simultaneously, reinforcing positive character traits and ethical decision-making. For more information please contact Alison Johnson, UMC Summit Mental Health Minister, at: [MHMinister@umcsummit.org](mailto:MHMinister@umcsummit.org).

# YOGAFAITH

YogafaitH is back on Friday mornings at 11AM in the chapel. Join us as we stretch our faith! No experience necessary. Suggested donation of \$10 per class. **NO CLASS ON 3/20/26**



United Methodist  
Church of Summit



**MUSIC MINISTRY**

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

**Chancel Choir** rehearses Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30  
**Bell Choir** Rehearses on Saturdays at 1:30 and on Sundays at 10AM  
**Singing Believers Family Choir** Rehearse Sunday mornings 11:45 a.m.  
**Contemporary Ensemble** Rehearses on Saturdays at 1PM and on Communion Sundays at 9:15 a.m.  
 Questions? Please see Music Director Joanne Teubner Prussak (908)-277-1700 or email: [Office@umcsummit.org](mailto:Office@umcsummit.org)



## Easter Egg Hunt Collection

We are excited to start collecting Easter eggs and allergy-friendly items to fill the eggs for our 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Donations can be dropped off from Feb. 15 to March 22. You can place your items in the Easter baskets located in the Social Hall and the Sanctuary. Thank you for helping us make this event fun and safe for all of our young participants!



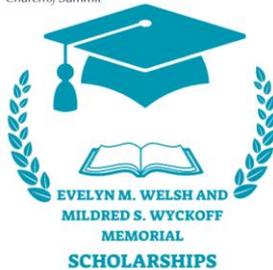
## Egg Stuffing Event!

Join us for our Easter Egg Stuffing Event during **Coffee Hour on Sun., March 22!** This is a special time when we fill the Easter Eggs that will be used for our Hunt on March 28. This is a fun way to help out and a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Come lend a hand and enjoy some great fellowship.



## Easter Egg Hunt

As we look ahead to spring, sign-ups are now open for our **5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., March 28, at 2:00 PM**. This family-friendly event is open to children ages 0-11 and includes games, snacks, face painting, a special visit from the Easter Bunny, and plenty of eggs to hunt. Space is limited to 100 participants, so early registration is encouraged. Mark your calendars and join the fun!



## Scholarships

We are excited to announce that applications for our 2026 scholarships are now live! All applications and supporting documents must be submitted by April 30. Applications can be submitted online at [www.umcsummit.org](http://www.umcsummit.org) or by filling out a hard copy. Don't miss this opportunity to honor these legacies and support your educational journey! Please see CYF Minister Carrie-Lee for more information.



## Easter Breakfast

The Hospitality Team is getting ready for our annual Easter Breakfast. Breakfast will be at 9:30 before worship. We need to know who is attending. Sign-up sheets will be in both the front and back of the Sanctuary. Please let us know how many are in your party.



FREE  
Prom  
Shop

APRIL 11TH,  
2026  
11AM-4PM



United Methodist  
Church of Summit

## FREE PROM SHOP!

**Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 11AM-4PM**

The UMC of Summit is hosting a free "Prom Shop" this Spring for local students and we need your help! Do you have formal wear and/or accessories that you no longer need? Please consider donating to this initiative. We are accepting donations for all genders. Please drop off donations to the church office Monday-Friday from 9AM-1PM, or bring them in on Sunday mornings. If you know a student who would like to participate, please call the church office: 908-277-1700 to make an appointment.