

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 22nd, 2026

Fifth 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 the Hymn *Righteousness*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: When hope feels buried,

People: God is still at work.

Leader: When grief is heavy and the stone feels too large to move,

People: Jesus stands at the entrance and calls us by name.

Leader: When we are bound by fear, despair, or doubt,

People: The Spirit loosens what holds us captive.

Leader: Come, out of the tombs we carry—

People: Into the dwelling place of new life. Let us worship the God who calls us forth.

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

God of life, we come to you carrying both faith and doubt, hope and grief, confidence and questions. Like Mary and Martha, we know what it is to wait, to wonder where you are in the face of loss and pain. Meet us here. Stand with us at the places that feel sealed and final. Weep with us where we are grieving. And then, O God, speak your life-giving word, calling us out of all that binds us. Restore us. Lead us into life again. We pray in the name of Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** UMH #364 *Because He Lives*

hearing me. I say this so that those standing here may believe that you sent me.” Then he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” And many who had come and seen what Jesus did believed in him. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God; People: Thanks be to God.*

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** TFWS #2130 *The Summons*

SERMON: *Unbound: Stepping Into New Life* 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 *The Garden*
William Teubner - trumpet

***DOXOLOGY:** *(please rise as you are able)*
UMH #95 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***CLOSING HYMN:** UMH#707 *Hymn of Promise*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Recessional in F Major* 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

Susan Reitmeyer (UMC Absecon) and family; the uncle of Steven Brown; 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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES <i>From Dust to Dwelling</i>		
 <p>PALM SUNDAY 10:30AM Sanctuary</p>	 <p>GOOD FRIDAY 7:30PM Reeves Chapel</p>	 <p>EASTER SUNDAY 10:30AM Sanctuary</p>
 <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30PM Reeves Chapel</p>		

*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 22nd:

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
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Monday, March 23rd:

12:30pm-2:00pm Meadowlands District Clergy Fellowship Gathering
(Social Hall)
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 24th:

7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Wednesday, March 25th:

6:30pm-7:30pm Worship & Soup Supper (Chapel, Social Hall)

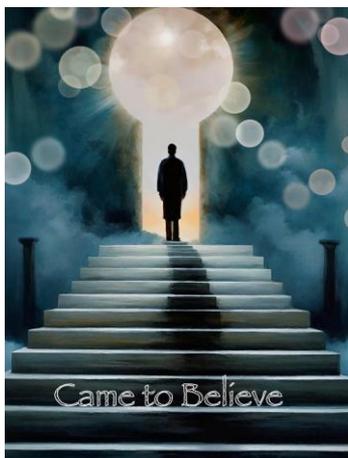
Friday, March 27th:

11:00am-12:00pm Yogafaith (Chapel)
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Saturday, March 28th:

10:00am-12:00pm Mildred Eichhorn Memorial Service & Tea
(Sanctuary, Social Hall)
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-4:00pm Easter Egg Hunt (Social Hall, Sanctuary, Campus)
2:00pm-10:00pm Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)
2:30pm-3:30pm Liturgical Dance

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.** 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.

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.

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.



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



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!



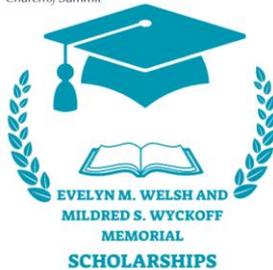
Egg Stuffing Event!

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 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 9:00 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 11th, 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.