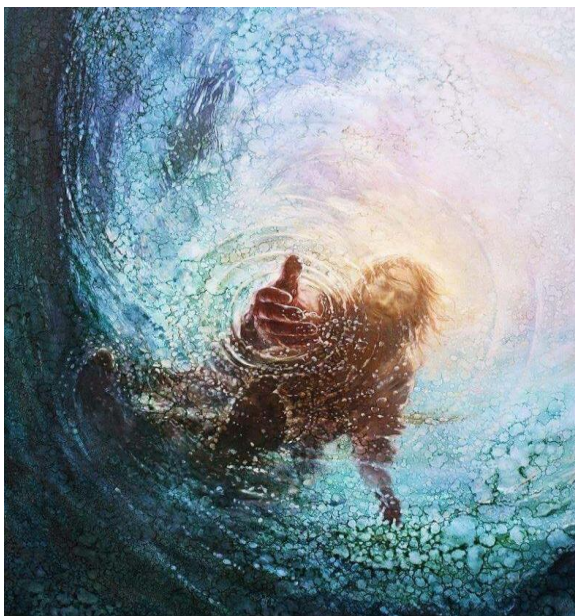




United Methodist Church of Summit



www.umcsummit.org

Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele

Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak

CYF Minister: Janice Powell

Office Manager: Kimberle Gray

Mental Health Minister: Dr. Alison Johnson

Sexton: Fred Herse

Video Ministry: Parker LaJeunesse

August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday After 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 Voluntary on the tune *Bethany*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alison Johnson

Leader: Jesus calls us beyond our fear.

People: We come to trust in His presence.

Leader: Jesus reaches out His hand.

People: We worship the One who never lets us go.

Leader: Let us lift our hearts to the One who is with us in every storm.

People: With faith, hope, and gratitude, let us worship God!

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

Alison Johnson

Gracious God, as we gather in Your presence, quiet our minds and calm our hearts. Still the storms within us so that we may hear Your voice. When fear distracts us, help us fix our eyes on Jesus. Fill us with the courage to trust, the grace to receive Your outstretched hand, and the peace that only You can give. Prepare us now to worship You with open hearts. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** UMH#377 *It Is Well with My Soul*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Janice Powell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alison Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING:

Alison Johnson

Old Testament: Psalm 105:1-6 (NRSV)

God's Faithfulness to Israel

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

New Testament: Matthew 14: 22-33 (NRSV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." *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)*
W&S #3008 *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

SERMON: *Fear Not* 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 *Near to the Heart of God*
William Teubner – trumpet

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

***CLOSING HYMN:** *(please rise as you are able)*
UMH#474 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Variations of the Hymn When Peace Like a River*

** Denotes please rise in body or spirit 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.*

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, August 9th:

9:00am-9:30am	Instrumental Rehearsal
10:00am-10:30am	Summer Choir
10:30am-11:30am	In-person/online Worship
11:30am-12:30pm	Coffee Hour (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Monday, August 10th:

7:00pm-8:15pm	Caregivers Support Group (Library)
7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Chapel, Social Hall)

Tuesday, August 11th:

10:30am-11:30am	Baby Bandstand (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Friday, August 14th:

7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)
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Saturday, August 15th:

2:00pm-3:00pm	Instrumental Rehearsal
2:00pm-10:00pm	Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Brian Johnson, Chuck Farnham; the Rodriguez Family who lost their home and possessions in a fire; the family of Kathleen Whipps; Laurie Kelly; Roydon Moreau; the family and fans of Kyle Busch; the family of Beverly Alexis; the family of David Quackenbush; the family of Millie Eichhorn; 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing of the Backpacks & School Supply Collection August 30th, 11:30AM

As we prepare for a new school year, our church will celebrate with a **Blessing of the Backpacks** during coffee hour on **August 30th**. Students, teachers,

school staff, and school backpacks will be handed out for **FREE** to students in need and blessed as we pray for a year filled with learning, growth, courage, and God's presence.



As part of this celebration, we are collecting **new backpacks and school supplies** to share with students in our community who could use a helping hand as they begin the school year. Donations may include backpacks, notebooks, folders, crayons, colored pencils, markers, pencils, pens, glue sticks, scissors, calculators, tissues, hand sanitizer, and other school essentials.

Donations may be placed in the bins at the front and rear of the Sanctuary on **Sunday mornings or dropped to the church office Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm**. Thank you for helping ensure that every child starts the school year equipped, encouraged, and reminded that they are deeply loved by God.



Fall Kick-Off Sunday – September 20!

Join us as we launch an exciting new year of worship, and fellowship at the United Methodist Church of Summit!

9:15 AM – Social Skills Class

10:30 AM – Worship Service

10:45 AM – Sunday School Kick-Off (Children begin in worship before being dismissed to their classes.)

11:30 AM – Church Picnic

12:00 PM – Petting Zoo

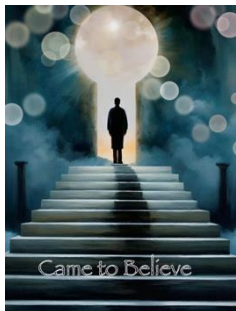
There's something for everyone! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors as we celebrate the start of a wonderful new season together.

**The Sunday School Remix:
Laugh, Learn & Launch!
Friday, September 11th
6:00–8:00 PM**

Join us for an exciting evening of food, fun, laughter, and a preview of our **brand-new Sunday**

School experience! Enjoy refreshments, a clean comedy show, music, classroom tours, and the opportunity to register your children for the upcoming year. Invite friends and neighbors—this is a great night for families to discover all that's happening in our children's and youth ministries!





"CAME TO BELIEVE"

WORSHIP SERVICE

Next Service: 9/6/26 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 coffee and refreshments! ALL are welcome!**

Caregivers Support Group

Mondays – Caregivers Support

Group is meeting weekly on Monday evenings in the Library from 7:00–8:15 p.m. This group offers 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.

YOGAFAITH

Christian Yoga is BACK! Friday mornings at 11AM in the Reeves Chapel. Come stretch your faith as we stretch our bodies! No experience necessary, \$10 suggested donation per class.