



Video Ministry: Parker LaJeunesse

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth 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 Variations on the tune *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Carol Conway

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Come with open hearts, ready to receive God's grace.

People: Come with joyful spirits, ready to praise!

Leader: God is here. God is good. God is with us.

People: Let us worship God together!

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

Carol Conway

God who knows us by name, quiet the voices that tell us who we should be. Help us hear your voice calling us beloved, forgiven, and chosen. Open our hearts to Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?" Help us know Christ, follow Christ, and remember that we belong to Christ. In His name we pray, Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** UMH#369 *Blessed Assurance*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Janice Powell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Laura Steele

***RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS:**

TFWS #2146 *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

SCRIPTURE READING:

Carol Conway

Old Testament: Exodus 1:15–17, 22; 2:1–10 (NRSV)

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

New Testament: Matthew 16:13–20 (NRSV)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates

of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. *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 #2218 *You Are Mine*

SERMON: *What’s In a Name?* 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 tune *Assurance*
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)*
Worship & Song #3105 *In Christ Alone*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Maestoso in E flat Major* for Trumpet and Organ

** 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 23rd:

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 24th:

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

Tuesday, August 25th:

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

Friday, August 28th:

7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)
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Saturday, August 29th:

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Al Lord Sr., Gary Friez, Patricia, The LaJeunesse family, 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

9:30 AM – Chancel Choir

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!

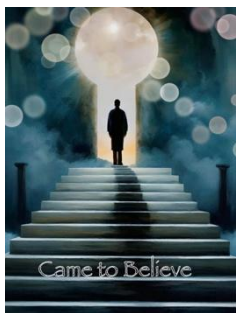
Friday, September 11th

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.



United Methodist
Church of Summit

MUSIC MINISTRY



Come and share in the wonder of making a Joyful Sound!

Let's share the excitement of beginning our Fall Season. Our Kick-Off Sunday will be September 20th. In preparation, our Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 a.m., and sing the service music at worship. Our first Saturday rehearsal will be on September 19th at 12:00 noon. The schedule of rehearsals will continue, Saturdays at 12:00 and Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Our Contemporary Ensemble will begin rehearsals on Saturday, September 19th at 1:00 p.m., as we prepare for World Communion Sunday, October 4th.

Our Bell Choir rehearsals will resume on Saturday, September 26th at 1:30 p.m., and Sunday, September 27th at 10:00 a.m., ringing praises.

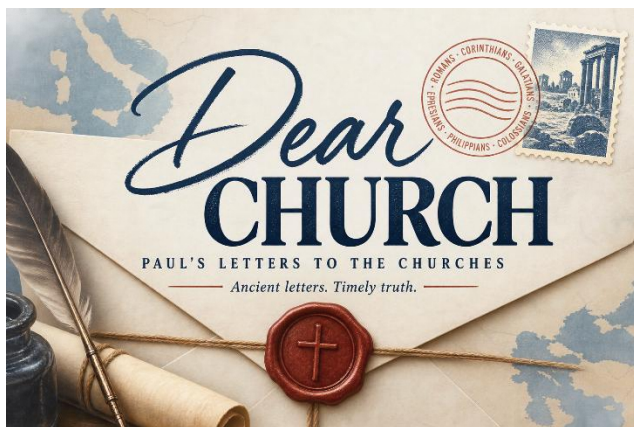
Our Singing Believers Family Choir will have our rehearsals following worship at 11:45 a.m., beginning on September 27th as we praise "We Are The Church".

Please note our starting dates as we prepare for an amazing Fall and Christmas Season. Our Christmas Concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m.

**"Serve the Lord with gladness,
come into his presence with singing."**

Make a joyful sound and share your gift of music!

Please speak to me for additional information and any questions you may have. Join a Choir! 908-277-1700 email: office@umcsummit.org



DEAR CHURCH: Ancient Letters, Timely Truth

This fall, join us for a new worship series, *Dear Church*, as we journey through Paul's letters to the early Christian communities. Paul wrote to real churches facing real challenges: conflict, change, disagreement, uncertainty, questions of faith, and the struggle to live together as the Body of Christ. Thousands of years later, his words still have something to say to us.

Each Sunday, we'll open a different letter and ask: What was Paul saying to the Church then, and what might God be saying to the Church today?

DEAR CHURCH
A Fall Worship Series
Beginning September 13
Worship at 10:30 AM

Come discover what these ancient letters can teach us about faith, community, unity, grace, and being the Church together in a very uncertain world.



Annual Charge Conference – Save the Date!!

Sunday November 15th, 2026 – 11:30AM

Our annual **Charge Conference** will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2026, immediately following worship in the Fellowship Room.**

The Rev. Sam Park will join us that morning to preach during worship and will represent District Superintendent Rev. Williams at our Charge Conference.

Church leaders, please note: All required Charge Conference paperwork must be completed and submitted **no later than September 30, 2026.** Please begin preparing your reports and necessary forms and be sure to mark these important dates on your calendar.

 **Paperwork Due:** September 30

 **Charge Conference:** Sunday, November 15, following worship

 **Fellowship Room**

Thank you to all of our church leaders for your preparation and faithful service to the ministries of UMC of Summit!