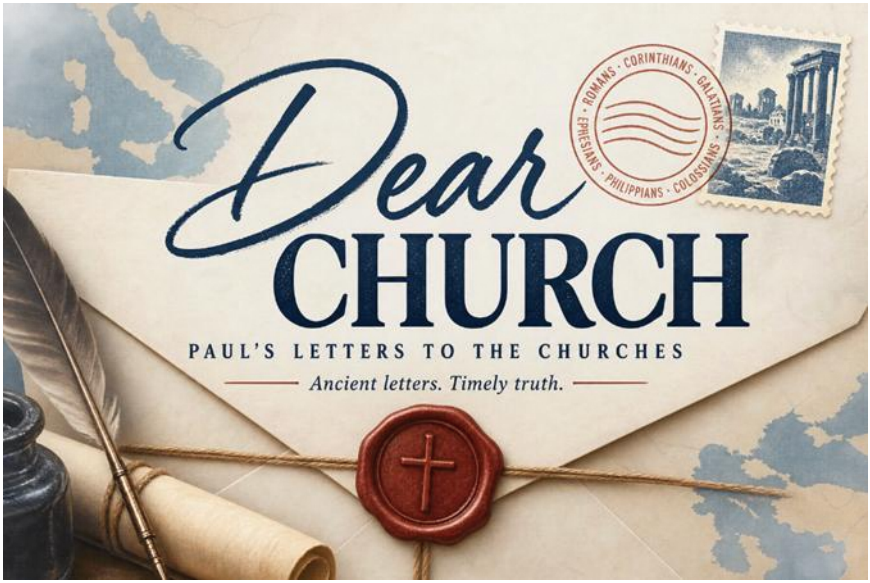
United Methodist Church *of* Summit



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
Seminary Intern: Praise Mapanda

October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost
Laity Sunday

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 *This Is My Father's World*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

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

Leader: We give thanks for those whose faith has shown us the way.
People: We remember their love and celebrate their witness.
Leader: God calls each of us to lives of faith, love, and hope.
People: Together, we are the church!
Leader: Come, let us worship our holy God!
People: With grateful hearts, we praise the Lord!

***CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)* Carol Conway
Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of your church, not simply the buildings in which we gather, but the people through whom your love is made known. Today we celebrate those who have faithfully served, we celebrate those who continue to answer your call, and we welcome new members into this family of faith. Help us to be a church known for our actions, our love, and our hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *(please remain standing as you are able)*
UMH #548 *In Christ There Is No East or West*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *(UMH p. 35-38)*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Janice Powell

ANTHEM: *In the Stillness of Grace* Joel Raney
Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Alison Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING: Carol Conway

Old Testament: Psalm 99 *(NRSV)*

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy. The King is mighty, he loves justice—you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy. Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the Lord and he answered them. He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them. Lord our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 *(NIV)*
Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. *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 #2226 *Bind Us Together*

SERMON: *Dear Church: You're Hired!* 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:
Variations on the Irish melody *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:** *(please rise as you are able)*
UMH #566 *Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Majestic Recessional in G 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.*

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The friends and family of Janice Straker, the Powell family as they grieve the passing of Marie, the Reyes family and their loved ones as they grieve the passing of Angie Reyes, Joe Eggebean and his continued recovery, Mike Stewart as he mourns the loss of his brother Ron, Joe Kunyz, Al Lord Sr., Gary Friez, Patricia, The LaJeunesse family.

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, October 18th:

9:00am-9:30am	Instrumental Rehearsal
9:15am-10:15am	Social Skills
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, October 19th:

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

Tuesday, October 20th:

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

Friday, October 23rd:

9:30am – 11:30pm	Music Together (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Saturday, October 24th:

9:30am-10:30am	Music Together (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-10:00pm	Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mental Health Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are thrilled to welcome our children back to Sunday School ! This year, we are launching a brand-new, engaging curriculum called All Stars, specially designed for children ages 5 through 12. Classes will begin promptly at 10:45 AM. Join us as we dive into fun lessons, community building, and spiritual growth. We can't wait to see your family there!

A Sweet Way to Serve Our Community!

Our Truth or Trick "Hallelujah" Event is just around the corner!

Shine the light of Jesus on **Friday, October 30, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**. The **UMC of Summit** will be handing out candy bags at the corner of **Springfield Ave. & Kent Place Blvd.**

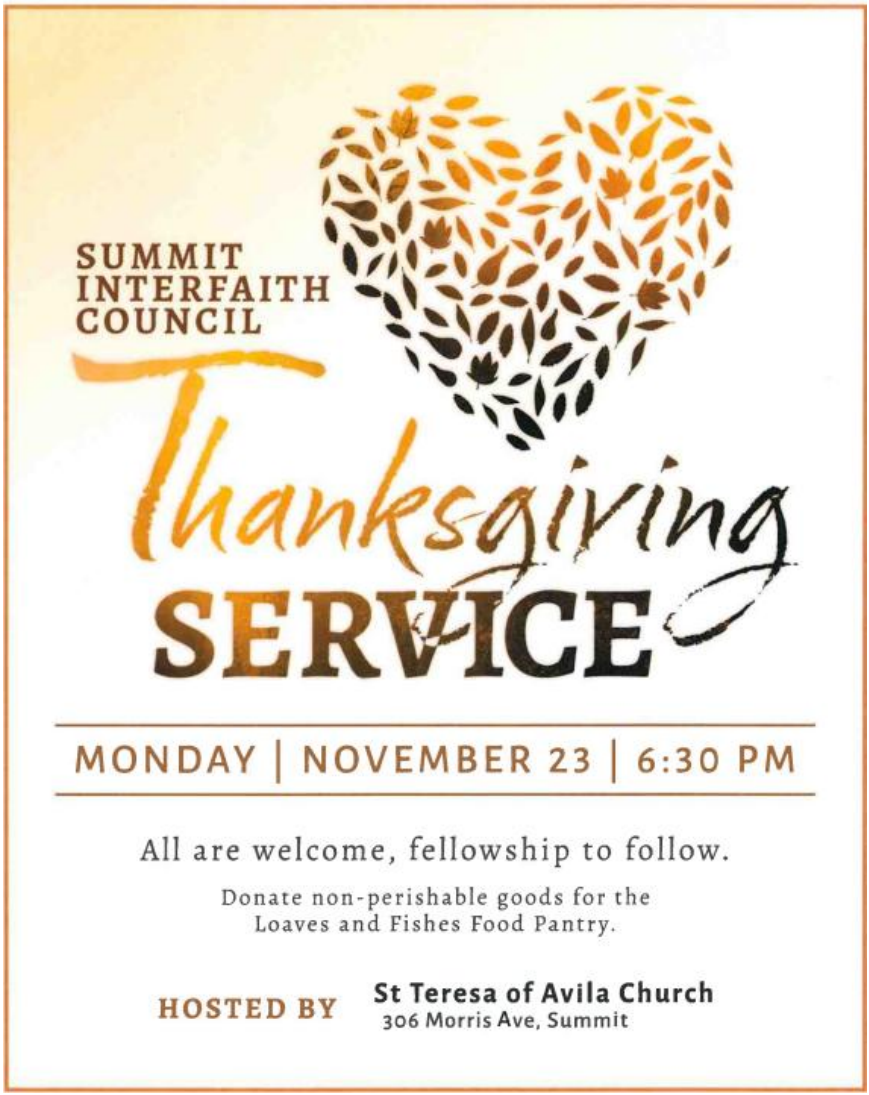
Here is how you can support this neighborhood outreach:

Donate Candy: We are collecting **allergy-free candy (strictly no nuts or common allergens, individually wrapped)** to ensure every child can safely enjoy a treat. Please drop donations in the **bin at the front of the sanctuary** during the week or on Sundays. The final deadline for donations is **Wednesday, October 21st**.

Volunteer to Pack: Come help us assemble the bags on **Saturday, October 24th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Please **RSVP no later than Tuesday, October 20th** using the sign-up sheet available at the church.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:16

Thank you for your generosity and for making this a safe, faith-filled, and joyful day for our community!



Summit Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service

Join us for the Summit Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 23, at 6:30 PM at St. Teresa of Avila Church, 306 Morris Avenue, Summit

United Methodist Church of Summit

MUSIC MINISTRY

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 1:30 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 1:00 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.

Please mark your calendars! Our Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m. Come and share in the joyful and hopeful sounds of this Blessed Season.

REMINDER!!

Annual Charge Conference

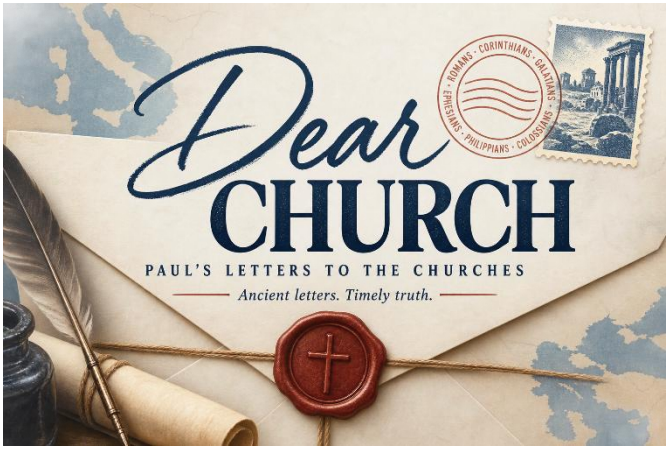
Sunday Nov. 15th, 2026 – 11:30AM

Charge Conference

New location: Chapel

October is **SOCKTOBER!**

This month, UMC Summit is joining communities around the country in collecting new socks for neighbors experiencing homelessness. It sounds incredibly simple because it is! Socks are among the basic necessities that can make a real difference for someone living without stable housing, especially as colder weather approaches. Pick up a package (or two!) of **new, unused socks** for adults or children and bring them to church anytime during October. Look for our **Socktober collection** in the Social Hall and add your contribution. Our goal isn't just to collect socks. It's to remind ourselves that acts of compassion don't have to be complicated or enormous. Sometimes loving our neighbor starts with something as simple as a pair of socks. **Let's see how many pairs UMC Summit can collect by the end of October!**



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.