PASTOR’S PEN

Succasunna UMC is in a time of transition as you say “goodbye” to Ted and myself, and prepare to welcome Pastor Stephen Yun and his family to the congregation. Part of that transition is a preparing to let go—of me as your pastor and you as my congregation.

Over the past four years we have blessed each other, cried with each other, accepted each other, and found new direction together. We have accomplished much for God and through the church. Over the last four years you have aided Ted and I in growing as stronger disciples of Jesus Christ.

At this time of transition, I am reminded of the passage from Luke 9:57-62 where three people tell Jesus they want to follow him, but they want to take care of their affairs first. Jesus’ response to them in the contemporary Bible translation The Message states, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can’t put God’s kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day."

I have no doubt you will press on, and seize the gift of a new day that God has presented before you with the leadership of Pastor Stephen. I believe this because Succasunna UMC is not my church, or your church, but it is Christ’s Church. When the Spirit of our Lord and Savior is alive, there is nothing we can do as disciples but move forward. Just like each pastor, each disciple has been given a special grace and gift that adds to the fullness of life and vitality of a congregation. Each disciple is instrumental to the Body of Christ so that the work God has called us to will be done. May you continue to plant new ideas, water fertile opportunities, care for new growth, discern times of pruning, and harvest the fruit of your service, all so that God may be glorified.

So, in the words of Hebrews 12:1-2 “let us throw off everything that hinders... and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith...” While at this time we are all experiencing a time of transition, isn’t it amazing that we are still moving in the same direction—towards the more faithful living out of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for God’s church and world!

Grace and Peace Always,
Pastor Juel and Ted Nelson

One worship service June 11 at 11am.
I attended the 2017 Annual Conference of Greater New Jersey in Wildwood, NJ, from May 21st thru May 23rd along with more than 1,400 other people, the largest number of participants ever! The theme this year was ‘Rejoice’ from 1 Thessalonians 5:16 and there was much rejoicing throughout the session in worship, learning and work.

This year’s Conference session opened on Sunday evening with a service to commission and ordain 22 clergy. Our new Pastor, Myounghun Stephen Yun, was commissioned for the work of an elder. Bishop John Schol’s powerful sermon invited leadership to choose joy over happiness, to move to the margins of faith and practice real life joy and hope in one’s leadership. On Tuesday at the closing, 37 clergy were recognized for their more than 700 years of service including Rev. Pat Bruger, the director of CUMAC in Paterson for many years.

The next morning, in the Episcopal Address, Bishop Schol challenged Greater New Jersey to rejoice in our progress and our trials. Outlining key challenges disciples face, he presented a path forward that includes four pillars: passionate faith, transformational leadership, vital mission partners and money.

An offering for the Mission Fund was taken and more than $44,500 was collected to help eliminate death from malaria and rebuild homes for people struggling to get home following Superstorm Sandy.

Key actions taken by vote at the Conference were:
♦ Approval of a $900,000 budget cut and a new Shared Ministry formula that will save money for congregations and allow them to use those savings at their local church.
♦ Approval of a ‘Next Generation’ Student Ministry that challenges GNJ leadership to: Work with congregations to have 12 or more active youth engaged in faith formation and discipleship in the community; Develop 10 college campus faith communities with 75 or more students; Reinvigorate a 21st century camping experience; Grow the IGNITE Student Conference to 5,000 participants; Develop 1,000 leaders to lead student ministries.
♦ Approval of a 10-year intercultural competency plan that will develop laity and clergy to be more culturally competent so that we strengthen and grow diversity, inclusion and collaboration.
♦ Approval of work to begin on a 2019-2023 strategic master plan.

At the Service of Remembrance, Rev. Dr. Varlyna Wright, a retiring District Superintendent, delivered a message on casting our cares and anxieties on God, relying and depending on our faith with an understanding of God’s strength and faithfulness.

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation addressed the conference on their work and partnership with Wespath Investments, the largest faith based reporting investor. Through Wespath’s socially responsible investing, United Methodists are creating change in the world and how companies do business.

Mid-afternoon on Monday, 1,100 people attended five workshops inspiring spiritual leaders with creative strategies to think big and pursue excellence in the church while 200 volunteers packed 30,000 meals in just an hour and a half to support Rise Against Hunger’s effort to feed people around the world!

On Tuesday, Guest Speaker Erin Hawkins, General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race, spoke on the subject of Intercultural Competency. She challenged United Methodists to be bridges and bridge-builders in our communities.

Retired NJ Supreme Court Justice Gary Stein spoke about segregation within New Jersey School Districts and an effort to integrate public schools through magnet schools and other innovative strategies that are being used around the country.

Liz Kihm, Lay Member to Annual Conference
WE SAY GOODBYE —
Please join us as we wish a fond farewell to Pastor Juel and Ted at a congregational celebration on June 11th and as we worship at one service at 11am followed by a time of celebration.

— AND WE SAY HELLO
Please join us and welcome Pastor Stephen Yun, his wife Soyoun Suh, and their children, Emma, Nathan and their new baby on the way, on July 2nd.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

RONALD CASE
Ron joins his wife, Elena, as a very active member of SUMC. He serves as a Trustee and when he is not working on different projects around the church building, he enjoys working on their home and spending time with family which includes six grandchildren. Ron retired from JCP&L after 37 years and looks forward to working on his ’33 Ford.

BARBARA & MICHAEL LIZUN
Barbara and Michael are both retired and reside in Randolph. When he retired from the Randolph police department, Michael started his own landscaping business. Although he no longer owns the business, both he and Barbara enjoy gardening and maintaining their own property. Attending the activities their seven grandchildren participate in also keep them very busy. Barbara and Michael were introduced to SUMC when their daughter, Lisa, joined. They have visited SUMC often and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere.

IGNITE SCHEDULE
IGNITE is a conference held by the Greater New Jersey UMC for middle school and high school youth in Wildwood NJ.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29
5:00 p.m. | Registration Opens
7:00 p.m. | Bonfire
8:00 p.m. | Session 1

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30
10:00 a.m. | Session 2
11:30 a.m. | Break for Lunch
1:00 p.m. | Breakout Sessions
2:00 p.m. | Mission Project
4:00 p.m. | Artist Meet and Greet
5:00 p.m. | IGNITE’s Got Talent
7:00 p.m. | Session 3
8:30 p.m. | Intermission
8:45 p.m. | Concert

SUNDAY, OCT. 1
10:00 a.m. | Worship at IGNITE

Coordinate IGNITE schedule with your schedule so you can experience the excitement to be amongst other Christians for a weekend of faith.

If interested in attending, please contact Tami Haupt at sumcedc@gmail.com by July 1, 2017.
For more information visit www.ignitenj.org
GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY
Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 11 and we’d like to recognize all our graduates from middle school through college in worship. Please email the church office as soon as possible the name of your 8th grade, high school or college student who graduated in January 2017 or will be graduating this May/June.

PREACHING SCHEDULE
We welcome and give thanks to the following lay servants who will assist with worship during the transition of Pastors Juel and Stephen.

June 18: Jen Antoncich will lead worship and Kim Germain will preach the sermon.

June 25: Jocelyn Hughes will lead worship and Joe Sikora will preach the sermon.

SUMMER WORSHIP
Beginning July 2, worship times will be at 9am and 10:30am.

CONFERENCE EXPECTATIONS FOLLOWING A PASTORAL MOVE

Returning to a Previous Appointment
◆ As of the effective date of a new appointment a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced at least several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to affect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.
◆ Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor.
◆ The District Superintendent must be consulted by the previous pastor in advance of any return for pastoral functions. Such visits to former churches shall require the advance approval of the District Superintendent. The present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor. Pressure to involve the previous pastors should not be generated by either the congregation or the previous pastor.

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE
The transition team attended the Pastoral Transition Workshop on April 29 along with nearly 220 local United Methodists. We met with Pastor Juel and Pastor Stephen to discuss our transition process. We as a team have collaborated to make this a seamless transition.

Pastor Stephen will be joining us on July 2nd to serve Communion. We will formally be welcoming Pastor Stephen and his family on July 9th as he delivers his first sermon at SUMC.

While speaking with Pastor Juel and Pastor Stephen we talked about what their needs are and how we will fulfill them as a church. The transition team will be meeting with SPRC to discuss these needs. Please feel free to direct any questions regarding this transition to the Staff Parish Relations Committee.
THANK YOU

On behalf of Lori Hollis and her family, we would like to express deepest thanks to our church family after the recent loss of my mother. The prayers and support from everyone here at SUMC provided great comfort to all of us during a very difficult time. And I have to give a special mention for the Spaghetti Dinner that would not have happened if it weren’t for the efforts of many volunteers who stepped in to make it happen on extremely short notice. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful community thriving at SUMC.

Thank you all so very much.

Lori, Mike, Connor, Jake, and Grace

EDUCATION UPDATE

On June 11th, the last day of Sunday school, there will be one service at 11am. This will be a blended worship service with organ music and music by the praise band, followed by a church-wide picnic. Each class has prepared a presentation for the Sunday school celebration on this day.

We really don’t say goodbye though, because Vacation Bible School begins the week of July 17th – 21st from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. This year the theme is “HERO CENTRAL”. We will take kids on an awesome adventure alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. Visit the church’s website at sumcnj.org under the “Grow” tab to register for this FREE event thanks to a generous donation from MJM Contracting, LLC.

June 11th will also be Pastor Juel's last Sunday, which is bittersweet for us. She has been a great support to the Sunday school program and we will miss her.

Have a memorable summer and in all you do stay safe.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday School 2017-2018 is looking for a few volunteers for the Pre-K to 1st grade class and a third teacher to join the teaching team for the 2nd and 3rd graders. Please contact Carol Toby or Tami Haupt at sumcedc@gmail.com for more details.
SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

BUILDING BETTER WOMEN

Join us at all the women of the church for their support this year with BBW. We will see you all in October!

TABS (TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY)

Would you like to know the Bible better? Whether you’re brand new to the Bible or know it inside and out, you’re welcome to join us! Bring your Bible and a little something to share for our potluck lunch. We provide beverages, a lively study and discussion of the scriptures. Bring a friend!

We meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays (June 13 and 27) at 12 noon till about 2pm in Wesley room A. Currently, we’re continuing our study of women of the Bible.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The ministry meets every Monday from 7 to 9pm. New knitters or crocheters are always welcome—yarn, needles and hooks are provided. If interested in joining the ministry, have any questions or would like to have a shawl for someone in need, please call Melanie Newton at 973-396-7885. Our last meeting will be June 5 and then we will break for the summer, resuming on September 11.

GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE

Thank you to everyone who supported the United Methodist Men’s Gertrude Hawk candy. With your help we raised $758 to send our youth to the Christian Outreach Project.

MEN’S STUDY

Join us at 7:30am in Fellowship Hall for our continuing study of “90 Minutes in Heaven” by Don Piper.

On his way home from a church conference in 1989, Don Piper’s car was hit head-on by a semi truck. Emergency personnel responded and pronounced him dead on the scene. A passing minister received permission to enter Don’s car and began praying over the lifeless body. Ninety minutes later, Don returned to life on earth with vivid memories of God’s perfect place—Heaven. Thirty-four operations and years of recovery forced Don and his family to find a “new normal.” His inspirational story has touched millions around the globe, helping many to find hope following tragedy and loss.

For more information contact Lee Pitea at 862-223-7101 or pitea.1@osu.edu.

FAMILY BREAKFAST

Save the date! The whole family is invited to the United Methodist Men sponsored family breakfast on Saturday, June 17 at 8am. Look for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins.
TRUSTEES REPORT

Check out the prayer garden in the back of the church. Jonny Reinhardt has been hard at work creating this oasis for our parishioners. Jonny is one of our youth and is very active in UMYF and the Boy Scouts. He chose to complete his Eagle Scout project by adding this quiet center in the back of the church so that people can gather their thoughts, reflect and pray. As with all of our other Eagle Scouts, Jonny’s project is amazing and a wonderful addition to our church grounds.

The Trustees are at it again! The parsonage is being prepared for the new pastor. As Pastor Juel and Ted move out, the Trustees will be painting, installing a new dishwasher, updating blinds and doing a good cleaning so that Pastor Stephen and his family will move in to a beautiful home. We do have one request; Pastor Stephen does not have a bedroom set for the master bedroom. If anyone has a bedroom set that they are not using, or know of one, please consider donating this to the church. Traditionally, pastors bring their own bedroom sets, but family and educational commitments have precluded Pastor Stephen from having one. Any help would be appreciated.

The St. Therese carnival is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7 through Saturday, June 10. The funnel cake sale is one of our most profitable fundraisers and as always your help in manning the funnel cake booth at the carnival as a cook, cashier, runner, server, etc. is needed to make this a success for our church. There’s a place for you! Contact Roger Hendrickson at 973-927-5662 / rh@sesi.org to sign up to help.

MISSIONS UPDATE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
SUMC will be sending a work team to help with Morris County Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, August 5. The worksite may be in Succasunna, Dover or Budd Lake. Participants will have the opportunity to learn new skills, serve in our community and help build a home for new community members! A Habitat site supervisor is in charge of the work and volunteers for the project. No special skills are required. Ages 16 and older are welcome!

The site includes two six-plexes with each building consisting of four three bedroom and eight two bedroom condos.

We are looking for 5-15 volunteers to work on this project from 8:30am—4pm with a half-hour lunch break. We will meet at the church at 8am. Volunteers are asked to bring a bag lunch.

If you are interested, please contact Jill Roland at 973-615-3321 or jroland1@optonline.net before July 22.

BREAKFAST DRIVE
The Missions Committee is sponsoring a breakfast drive for Roxbury Social Services through June 18th. During summer months there is a great demand for breakfast foods because families provide breakfast for their children they would receive while in school.

Items suggested are cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup and Pop-Tarts. Last year we collected over 80 boxes of cereal. Let’s set a goal of over 100 items this year!

During the remainder of June, we’ll be collecting healthy snacks like Jello, canned fruit and pudding. Questions? Contact Peggy Groh at pjgroh@optonline.net.

THRIFT SHOP
The Thrift Shop is open year round for purchases on Wednesdays from 9:30am to 1:30pm and is open to receive donations on Tuesdays from 9-11am.
MISSIONS UPDATE (continued)

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
FOUND MONEY - $166!! Every 10 cents counts. This was the total amount of Box Tops that have been clipped to be sent to Red Bird since January 2017. I’d like to thank EVERYONE that has taken the time to cut and save them for me. Red Bird is so appreciative for all that we are doing to help provide the necessary items needed at the Mission. I’ll be bringing more labels with me in July, so PLEASE keep them coming. We can also use Labels for Education found on many soup cans.

GOD BLESS, Janet Fischlein

FLOWER FUNDRAISER
Thanks to all who bought flowers during our Mother’s Day flower sale. Over $400 was raised for our mission trip to Red Bird, Kentucky this year!

CUMAC (Center for United Methodist Aid to the Community)
While it might seem like a long time off, our next day of service at CUMAC will be on Saturday, July 22nd. If you are interested, please let me know. We will plan to leave SUMC at 9AM and hopefully return no later than 1PM. We are also still collecting the plastic grocery shopping bags to donate that day to CUMAC.

SOCIAL SERVICES FOOD PANTRY
On behalf of the Township of Roxbury Social Services Department, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to your congregation for your continued support of Roxbury Social Services and Food Pantry.

Your support and the spirit of giving and care you have shown has always been a significant element in our ability to reach our ultimate goal, that being to assist those less fortunate families in Roxbury.

Thank you and God bless. Janet Wald, Director

HELP WANTED

Wanted: Director of Youth and Family Life
Succasunna United Methodist Church, a dynamic, growing congregation, is seeking to hire a Director of Youth and Family Life. We are looking for an individual who enjoys working with youth and families, has the energy and enthusiasm to attract youth and their families to our church and the ability to provide meaningful activities to help them grow spiritually. An ability to collaborate with other church leaders and assist with events as well as coordinating new events is necessary. The position requires 10 hours per week with two of those spent at church each week. The intended start date for this position is August 1, 2017. Please submit your cover letter and resume to Jim Haupt, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair, at tball19@aol.com. Any questions can be directed to the church office at 973-584-7349.
FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

YOUR SUMC FINANCE TEAM
April was a strong financial month and we were able to reduce our year-to-date expense deficit to $2,000. Your weekly offerings continue to bless and support our ministries and we are grateful. We are also thankful for our active thrift shop as they continue to strongly support our finances. Thank you to those of you who work tirelessly week in and week out in your service to the community and in financial support of this church. Your generosity is changing lives. Thank you.

This month we’d like to introduce another member of your 2017 SUMC Finance team. Marge Peletier is SUMC’s internal auditor. Marge carefully checks the accuracy of all church bank accounts, compares payments with invoices and expenses, and examines our financial records. We are grateful to Marge for her commitment to our ministry here at SUMC. Dick Couch had been our auditor for many years until his retirement a few months ago. We were and are blessed with their gifts of talent and time. Thank you.

Next month... a few more members of your Finance Team!

ONLINE GIVING
Although you may be on summer vacation, the ministry at SUMC does not stop, but during the next few months it kicks into high gear with the Christian Outreach Project, Red Bird Mission, CUMAC, Habitat for Humanity and Vacation Bible School. Therefore it’s a perfect time to sign up for Vanco Online Giving so that your financial support of your church goes uninterrupted even while your on vacation. See our website to sign up and to learn more at http://sumcnj.org/give/.

SHOPRITE AND SUSSEX MARKET GIFT CARDS
Gift cards are sold by Bruce Hopper in Fellowship Hall between services. For each ShopRite gift card purchased the church receives a 5% donation.

Also available are Sussex Market (formerly known as Sussex Meatpacking) food cards. SUMC receives a 10% donation from the purchase of these cards. We thank you for your support of this program.

OUR MISSION
Succasunna United Methodist Church is a caring fellowship called to love and serve according to Jesus’ example, welcome all people, worship God and grow as Christian disciples.
# June 2017

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<td>4  Youth Choir Rehearsal 12pm</td>
<td>5 Office Closed NA (Closed) Meeting 6:30- 9pm FH Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm</td>
<td>6 Thrift Shop Donations 9am—11am Special Charge Conference 7pm followed by Church Council Mtg Scouts 7pm Aldersgate</td>
<td>7 Thrift Shop 9:30am— 1:30pm Praise Band Practice 7pm St. Therese Carnival Funnel Cake Sale 6pm</td>
<td>8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm St. Therese Carnival Funnel Cake Sale 6pm</td>
<td>9 St. Therese Carnival Funnel Cake Sale 6pm</td>
<td>10 Men’s Study 7:30am St. Therese Carnival Funnel Cake Sale 6pm</td>
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<td>11 Worship Service 11am only Pastor Juel Farewell Celebration and Picnic</td>
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<td>13 Thrift Shop Donations 9am—11am TABS 12 pm Scouts 7:30 FH/Wesley</td>
<td>14 Thrift Shop 9:30am— 1:30pm Scouting FH/Backyard 5pm Praise Band Practice 7pm Trustee Mtg 7:30pm</td>
<td>15 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm</td>
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<td>17 Men’s Study 7:30am Family Breakfast 8am COP Tool Time 11am</td>
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<td>18 NA FH/Epworth 1-5pm BASIC Picnic—Wilson’s</td>
<td>19 Office Closed NA (Closed) Meeting 6:30- 9pm FH</td>
<td>20 Thrift Shop Donations 9am—11am Scouts 7:30pm FH</td>
<td>21 Thrift Shop 9:30am— 1:30pm Praise Band Practice 7pm</td>
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<td>25 COP Swartswood Lake</td>
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### Notes:
- **Office Closed**
- **NA (Closed) Meeting**
- **Special Charge Conference**
- **TABS**
- **COP Tool Time**