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WELCOME TO SUNDAY WORSHIP!

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.

LOVE. SERVE. GROW.

**MARCH 19, 2023 - 11 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

THEME 2023

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8)



Please stand in the places marked by an asterisk () if you are able.*

Words in bold type are spoken by the people together.

WELCOME

Jennifer Antoncich

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Toby

PRELUDE

Audrey Schultz

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Carol Toby

Make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Worship God with gladness.

Come into God's presence with singing.

We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Give thanks to the Lord; bless God's holy name,

for God's steadfast love is present now and endures forever.

***OPENING HYMN**

"For the Healing of the Nations"

UMH #428

UMH refers to the blue United Methodist Hymnal.

UNISON PRAYER

Together

Loving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Adapted from ministrymatters.com

SILENT CONFESSION

Let us prayerfully offer our silent confessions to God, trusting in God's grace and mercy to forgive and heal.

RESPONSIVE WORDS OF ASSURANCE & THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives. The grace of God is given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings and upholds us in love. **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen!**

In the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ, let us stand and share signs of peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

LENTEN MOMENT

Jocelyn Hughes

SCRIPTURE LESSON I

Psalm 100

Carol Toby

This is the Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

HYMN

“In the Lord I'll be ever thankful”

FWS #2195

SCRIPTURE LESSON II

Esther 4:12-17

Carol Toby

This is the Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

Chancel Choir

SERMON

“If I Perish, I Perish”

Rev. Hun Choi

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“My Hope Is Built” (v.1-2)

UMH #368

As we pass the offering plates, let us offer our gifts and hearts to God.

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING – the Doxology

UMH #94

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, as we present these offerings, may we be reminded of the many blessings you have shared with us as individuals, and as a community of believers. May our sharing this day reveal our priorities and our promises, for we belong to you and offer you our gifts, that they may be used in mission and in ministry to bring glory to you. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

UMH #431

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Stephen

*POSTLUDE

Audrey Schultz

**The flowers today are given by Sandy Sestak,
in memory of Donald, Charles, and Joseph.
Forever in her heart**

SCRIPTURES FOR DAILY REFLECTION

Monday, March 20: Psalm 19

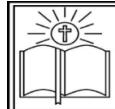
Tuesday, March 21: Psalm 20

Wednesday, March 22: Psalm 21

Thursday, March 23: Psalm 22

Friday, March 24: Psalm 23

Saturday, March 25: Psalm 24



SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 100

¹Shout for joy to the LORD, everyone on earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come to him with songs of joy.

³Know that the LORD is God.

He made us, and we belong to him.

We are his people.

We are the sheep belonging to his flock.

⁴Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple.

Give praise as you enter its courtyards.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever.

It will last for all time to come

Esther 4:12-17

¹²When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

¹⁵Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

¹⁷So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS

A Prayer Guide

The Psalms have long been used in prayer by believers. If we're going to be a people that learn to bring our whole selves to God in honest prayer to be formed into the people He created us to be, we need to learn to "Pray the Psalms."

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Psalm 19 | Psalm 20 | Psalm 21 | Psalm 22 | Psalm 23 | Psalm 24 |

1. READ AND PRAY WITH THE PSALMS DAILY

The book of Psalms can guide us into a deep and genuine relationship with God. The Psalms teach us how to pray to God honestly. Start your day by reading a Psalm in the morning and meditate on it while you drive, walk, eat, exercise, or rest. Reflect on your day, questions, feelings, and problems in the context of the psalms you read and offer your heart's true condition to God in prayer.

2. WRITE SPIRITUAL POEMS

What do the Psalms say about your own experiences and feelings? What do you want to say and pray to God? What is God telling you about your words? Discern the true condition of your heart and try to put it into words, whether or not you find them poetic. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through the process and give you a discerning heart. As a church, we will work on an acrostic poem (**F.I.N.D. J.E.S.U.S**) during this Lenten season. This week, I invite you to work on the words "J" and "E" and submit your poem.

| | |
|----|----|
| F. | J. |
| I. | E. |
| N. | S. |
| D. | E. |
| | S. |

3. COLOR THE PSALMS

Please consider coloring the Psalms as a weekly spiritual exercise. While you put color to the pages to create your unique work of art, repeat and memorize the words of Psalms on the page. This exercise will help you give color to your daily experiences, drawing on God's perspective. Take this time as a silent moment to quiet your soul and pray for those whom you believe need to hear the message.

Bring your prayerful artwork to the church on Sundays. We will display them in Fellowship Hall on Palm Sunday. After Easter Sunday, we will laminate and share them with our homebound members and those in nursing homes.

This Week at Church

| | 3/19/2023 | 3/26/2023 |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Liturgist | Carol Toby | Roberta Haag |
| Hospitality | Hospitality Team | Hospitality Team |
| Fellowship | Special Fellowship Hour | |
| Meetings & Events | | Times |
| Monday 3/20 | Office Closed Prayer Shawl Team -Wesley Room (WR) NA Meeting - Fellowship Hall (FH) | 2:00 pm 7:00 pm |
| Tuesday 3/21 | Thrift Shop open for donations Social Justice Ministry Team (FH) | 8:00 am - 11:00 am 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday 3/22 | Thrift Shop open for shopping Lenten Soup Suppers and Study (FH) | 9:30 am - 11:30 am 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm |
| Thursday 3/23 | Scouts (WR) Chancel Choir Rehearsal Church is Open for Prayers | 7:00 pm 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| Friday 3/24 | | |
| Saturday 3/25 | Men's Study | 7:00am - 9:00 am |

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SuccasunnaUMC

Church Website: www.sumcnj.org

Online Giving: www.sumcnj.org/give/

Sunday Schedule:

9am Contemporary Worship

10am Sunday School / Special Fellowship Hour

11:00am Traditional Worship

SPECIAL THANKS TO GUEST SPEAKER

REV. HUN CHOI

Today we welcome Rev. and Mrs. Hun Choi, a missionary to Ukraine, who will share a message with us. We will hear him witness how God has worked through his missions for the people of Ukraine even during the war.

SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP HOUR at 10am

Please join us after this service for a Special Fellowship Hour sponsored by the Worship Committee. There will be interactive educational stations regarding Lent & Easter events and light refreshments to enjoy.

EASTER EGG HUNT - Sunday, April 2

Save the date for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 2 at 12:15pm. All are welcome!

DONATIONS FOR EASTER EGG HUNT

We are looking for candy, crafts, food & decoration donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. Contact Tami Haupt at education@sumcnj.org if you would like to volunteer to help with the hunt.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & LESSONS

Our Wednesday night Lenten Soup Supper series will continue on Wednesday, March 22 (thru March 29 from 6pm-8pm). This is a family event where a light meal (Soup and Bread) is served and followed by a lesson from the book "Finding Jesus in the Psalms" by Barb Roose. This week's theme is "Finding Jesus as Our Strength," based on Psalm 69. Children are welcome.

CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRAYERS ON

THURSDAYS, 4 pm - 6 pm

Does anyone in your life need prayers? You don't know what to pray for? The Holy Spirit who dwells within us intercedes for us with wordless groanings (Romans 8:26). Come and find the quiet center in the presence of the Holy Spirit. The church will be open for prayers on Thursdays between 4 to 6 pm. Stop by the church for a time of prayer as we seek to be empowered by the Holy Spirit together as a church!

ROXBURY FOOD PANTRY

To prepare for Easter needs, through Easter, we will support the Roxbury Food Pantry by collecting hams and lasagna and healthy children's snacks such as granola and cereal bars and dried fruit boxes and pouches. Please contact Peggy Groh or Linda Diffley for your donations ham & lasagna donations.

Otherwise, donations can be placed in the bin by the back door of the church.

2023 SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SUMC is excited to be able to hold our annual Vacation Bible School this summer the week of July 17-21, 2023. The theme this year is "Hero Hotline". See Friday weekly email for registration information. Registration is now OPEN!

YOUTH GROUP BOWLING EVENT

Our youth will enjoy going bowling on Sunday, March 26 at 2pm. Please contact Jennifer Antoncich if interested at jantoncich@sumcnj.org

WE NEED YOUR 2023 GRADUATES!

Do you have someone in your family who is graduating from middle school, high school, or college this year? If so, please contact the church office by email at office@sumcnj.org or 973-584-7349. We will then ask you to fill out of form to tell us about your graduate as we celebrate their success.

SUMC STAFF

Myoung hun Stephen Yun, Pastor

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Jennifer Antoncich,

Director of Youth & Family Life

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Audrey Schultz, Director of Music

Angie Stierch, Praise Band Leader

Caryn Porter, Administrative Assistant

Aura Smith, Sexton