

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, July 23, 2023
8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Announcements: Dan Tagatac

Introit: "Even You Are Welcome" Mitch Samu

Welcome: Rev. Christina Zito

*Call to Worship: Rev. Christina Zito

Leader: Skeptics, new believers, and faithful alike;

People: You are welcome in this place!

Leader: Rich, poor, and all who are in between;

People: You are welcome in this place!

Leader: Workers, travelers, preachers and doubters;

People: Gather around, for you are welcome in this place!

All: We are the church, so let us worship God!

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

Gracious and most loving God, we pray that this would be a safe space for us to gather, pray, find encouragement, and hear your Word proclaimed. Be with us as we build community, build your church, baptize new believers, encourage the faithful, and strive to do your work in the world. Remind us again and again, that we are enough, not because of what we have, but because of who you are. Empower us to offer radical hospitality that all may meet you in this place. We lift this up in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "God of the Women" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*Praise Song: "Here I Am to Worship" Tim Hughes

Introduction to Prayer: Rev. Christina Zito

[For those joining us online, please submit your prayer requests in the comments on the virtual attendance sheet, or email the church office. Your prayer requests will be lifted up in next Sunday's service.]

Prayer Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UMH #431

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Christina Zito

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Friendship Moment

[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form:

www.freeholdmethodisst.org]

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:13-15, 40 Ed Bowen

Message: "Strong Women of Faith: Lydia" Rev. Christina Zito

Offering Time: **Giving Page:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "3 Notes" Mitch Samu
(Mitch Samu, piano)

*Doxology: "Thank You God" Mitch Samu

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Lord, we thank you for the gift of community and encouragement found in this place. We pray that through the gifts and the givers, that we might extend that love and hospitality beyond the walls of our church, and into the neighborhood, and around the world, that all might experience your Good News. Even in a culture of scarcity, help us to see your abundance and provision this day and every day. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Closing Hymn: "The Trees of the Field" TFWS #2279

*Benediction: Rev. Christina Zito

*Postlude

Scripture Passage **Liturgist: Ed Bowen**
Acts 16:13-15, 40 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed[a] there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

⁴⁰ After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home, and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

**Introit:
Even You Are Welcome
Mitch Samu**

Even you are welcome
Even I am welcome
Even they are welcome
To touch the face of God
Everybody's welcome
Even we are welcome
All of us together
Can hold the hand of God
(2x)

If you're not here
There's something that is missing
Without you here we all are incomplete
Because if you are not invited
Then count me out as well
The God I know has room for us all

Even you are welcome
Even I am welcome
Even they are welcome
To touch the face of God
Everybody's welcome
Even we are welcome
All of us together
Can hold the hand of God
(2x)

All of us together
Can hold the hand of God

**Opening Hymn:
God of the Women
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth –
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susannah, and more –
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking, "Who smiled at my birth?" –
In Jesus' dying you showed us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day –
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.

**Praise Hymn:
Here I Am to Worship
Tim Hughes**

(Verse 1)

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made
This heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

(Chorus)

Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

(Verse 2)

King of all days,
O so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came
To the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

(Chorus 2x)

So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
And you're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

(Bridge)

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

(Chorus 2x)

So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
And you're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

**Prayer Hymn:
Let There Be Peace on Earth
UMH #431**

(Verse 1)

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our creator,
Children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

(Verse 2)

Let peace begin with me;
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

**Doxology:
Thank You God
Mitch Samu**

Thank you God,
Thank you God,
Thank you God,
For giving me this life I get to live.

Thank you God,
Love you God,
Praise you God,
Forever I will give all I can give.

Amen!

Closing Hymn:
The Trees of the Field
TFWS #2279

You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy,
And all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field
Will clap their hands,
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands,
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
While you go out with joy.

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. We are glad you are with us.

Today's **Altar Flowers** donated by Carol and Susan Davison, "In memory of our dear mother, Nancy Davison". And by Verl and Joanne McKinney, in celebration of their 68th wedding anniversary, and in celebration of Sean and Lea's 1st anniversary.

Anne Mayer needs some help after service today to move some furniture in the Parsonage so that the floors in the dining room can be refinished next week before Pastor Yoseb returns from Korea. Anyone willing to help should see Anne immediately following service.

Join us on **Saturday, August 5, 2023 from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.** for **Olde Freehold Day at Lake Topanemus!** If you would like to provide some baked goods for the famous Freehold UMC Bake Sale Table, please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall or see Kathy Kane.

Save the Date: The United Theatre Company will perform "**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**" on Saturday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 13th at 1:00 p.m. on the F.U.M.C. stage! Fun for all ages! Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under. Tickets can also be reserved through our website: unitedtheatreinc.org

If you are still interested in attending the **August 3rd BlueClaws game**, please give your payment (\$17 per ticket) to Carol Davison, Susan Zuckerman, or contact Gayle Trulli. We need 10 people in order to get the group rate.

July Birthdays

(6) Diane Mulholland	(24) Christine Calcao
(9) Carolyn Heuser	(26) Lan Wilson
(9) Elise Tagatac	(26) AnnMarie Meredith
(13) Carolyn Dahl	(27) Larry Jamison
(15) Luanne Kip	(30) Jan Hall
(18) Greg Schwarzkopf	(30) Gabby Sterling
(19) Paula Taylor	(31) Rev. Christina Zito

August Birthdays

(3) Corbett Cory	(21) Verl McKinney
(4) Carolyn Brach	(21) Sandra Hernandez
(5) Cassie Sterling	(25) Lindsey Hennessey
(17) Jessica Cronin	(26) Anita Ritchie
(18) Gayle Trulli	(27) Ernest Peart
(19) Ken Budka	(30) Shawn Darby