

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost**

Announcements: Linda Gatti

Prelude

Welcome: Linda Gatti

*Call to Worship: Led by Linda Gatti

Leader: Amid the forces of death and destruction,

People: It takes a village to save us.

Leader: Amid the rivers that would carry us out to sea,

People: It takes willing souls to pull us from the water.

Leader: Amid the fear and hatred in our world,

People: It takes ordinary people to reveal God's mercy.

Leader: Come, let us worship.

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison) Led by Linda Gatti

Gracious God, we present our very lives as holy and living sacrifices to your purposes. During this time of worship, we seek the renewal of our minds and the strengthening of our spirits. Show us your will, that we may know what is good, acceptable, and perfect in your sight. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Take My Life, and Let It Be" UMH #399

*Praise Song: "Go Light Your World" Chris Rice

Children's Moment: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Introduction to Prayer: Rev. Wil Wilson

[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 Song: "Breathe" Marie Barnett

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Wil Wilson

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Romans 12:1-8 Bob Sterling

Friendship Moment and Passing of the Peace

*[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form:
www.freeholdmethodist.org]*

Message:

“The Courage to Save”

Rev. Wil Wilson

Offering Time: The Special Offering for August will benefit our collection of **Backpacks and School Supplies for The Freehold Learning Center**. Giving Page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory:

“In Christ Alone”
FUMC Choir

Keith Getty

*Doxology:

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #895

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Faithful God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen.

*Closing Song:

“Fear Not”

Phil Pringle

*Benediction:

Rev. Wil Wilson

*Postlude

Scripture Readings: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Romans 12:1-8

Liturgist: Bob Sterling

Exodus 1:8-2:10

The Israelites Are Oppressed

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “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.” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews^[a] you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Birth and Youth of Moses

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ 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. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, ^[b] "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Romans 12:1-8

The New Life in Christ

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. ^[a]

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn:
"Take My Life, and Let It Be"
UMH #399

(Verse 1)

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

(Verse 2)

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

(Verse 3)

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Praise Song:
Go Light Your World
Chris Rice

(Verse 1)

There is a candle in every soul
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit, who brings a fire;
Ignites a candle and makes His home.

(Continued...)

(Chorus)

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn.
Hold out your candle for all to see it;
Take your candle and go light your world.
Take your candle and go light your world.

(Verse 2)

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle some other way.
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to;
Still holds a candle without a flame.

(Chorus)

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn.
Hold out your candle for all to see it;
Take your candle and go light your world.
Take your candle and go light your world.

(Verse 3)

We are a family whose hearts are blazing,
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky.
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus;
Make us a beacon in darkest times.

(Last Chorus)

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness,
Seek out the helpless, deceived and poor.
Hold out your candle for all to see it;
Take your candle and go light your world.
Carry your candle run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn.
Hold out your candle for all to see it;
Take your candle and go light your world.
Take your candle and go light your world.

(Ending)

Mmm mmm

Prayer Song:
"Breathe"
Marie Barnett

(Verse)
This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe,
Your holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread,
This is my daily bread,
Your very word spoken to me.

Chorus
And I, I'm desperate for You.
And I, I'm lost without You.

(Verse)
This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe,
Your holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread,
This is my daily bread,
Your very word spoken to me.

(Chorus)
And I, I'm desperate for You.
And I, I'm lost without You.
(2X)

(Ending)
And I, I'm desperate for You.
And I, I'm lost without You.
This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe.

Closing Song:
"Fear Not"
Phil Pringle

(Chorus 2X)
Fear not, for I am with you;
Fear not, for I am with you;
Fear not, for I am with you,
Says the Lord.

(Verse)
I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name;
Child you are Mine.
When you walk through the waters
I will be there, and through the flame;
You'll not (no way) be drowned,
You'll not (no way) be burned,
For I am with you.

(Repeat All)

Doxology:
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. Whether you join us in person or virtually, we are happy you are with us.

Today's ALTAR FLOWERS are provided by FUMC in celebration of Verl's 91st birthday, and by Ed Bowen, in celebration of Ed and Melanie's 52nd Wedding Anniversary.

This is your last chance to get your tickets for Faith and Family Night at the Lakewood BlueClaws on August 27th. Tickets are \$19 and include a hot dog, soda, and ice cream sandwiches, as well as a boardwalk game ticket! There will be music on the stage and the first 1000 people to enter will receive a commemorative bucket. See Gayle Trulli to reserve your tickets.

Join us next Sunday, August 30th for our "Hymn Singing Sunday" service. There will be a special time during service when you can request your favorite hymns. Then, "Come One Come All to our ICE CREAM SOCIAL!" following our "Hymn Singing Sunday" service. Enjoy a refreshing bowl of ice cream (or two), and good fellowship as we celebrate the end of summer together.

Save the Date and Reserve Your Spot! Elizabeth Circle of FUMC Day Apart Sat. Sept. 26, 2026 - 9am-4pm

Home of Melanie Bowen - 66 East Milan Blvd., Farmingdale

Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world". A powerful reminder. Don't be imprisoned by your circumstances. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its mold. Attitude is so important. Through scripture, discussion, and exploring lively ways to color our world with hope, gratitude, commitment we will come to realize that attitude colors our world and determines who we are and how we live day by day.

Cost \$20.00 (includes program, breakfast bagels and lunch!)

Reserve your spot (limited to 20 women) by contacting Melanie Bowen: 908-770-6596 mbowennj@gmail.com

Do you have a favorite song you'd like Chloe to play during service? Submit your request through the "Chloe's Memories and Melodies" link in the Newsletter.

Unable to make it to church? There are several ways you can join us virtually: Find us on:

- Our website: www.freeholdmethodist.org/livestream
- Youtube.com: search Freehold Methodist Church
- Our Newsletter: Click on the service title picture.
- ZOOM:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2890014881?pwd=QnpGZkxudzR4cU9zV0hYcnlQV0hjZz09&omn=82251952816>

One tap mobile

+1-305-224-1968,,2890014881#,,,*851247# US

+1-309-205-3325,,2890014881#,,,*851247# US

Meeting ID: 289 001 4881

Passcode: 851247

This Week at a Glance (August 24 – August 30)
Church Office Hours this Week: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday: *** (No events scheduled)
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Classroom)
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
Friday: ***
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary)
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Joyful Noise Warm-Up (Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. - Choir Warm-Up (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. - Worship **"HYMN SINGING SUNDAY"** (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m. - **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!** (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 p.m. - iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)

August Birthdays

(03) Corbett Corey	(19) Ken Budka	(26) Anita Ritchie
(04) Carolyn Brach	(21) Verl McKinney	(27) Ernest Peart
(05) Cassie Sterling	(21) Sandra Hernandez	(30) Shawn Darby
(17) Jessica Cronin	(25) Lindsey Hennessey	(31) Emily Ward
(18) Gayle Trulli		

Ways to Give to the Church:

- 1) **Sign-up for Subsplash!**
- 2) Download the FUMC church app! Go to the app store on your smartphone or tablet and search "First UMC Freehold". Look for a blue icon with the Methodist cross and flame.
- 3) Go to our website: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give
- 4) Text-to-give_by texting "freeholdumc" to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483)
- 5) Mail a check to 91 West Main St. Freehold, NJ 07728
- 6) **VENMO**@FumcFreehold.
- 7) Scan the **QR code** on the card located in the pew card holders.



Pastor, The Rev. Yoseb Jeon: pastor@freeholdmethodist.org

Church Office: office@freeholdmethodist.org 732.462.1745

Website: www.freeholdmethodist.org

Wi-Fi access - SSID: FUMC Guest – Password: Lower-Room2