

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, February 22, 2026
1st Sunday in Lent**

Time of Silence *[Please take this time to prepare your heart and mind for worship]*

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: We come bringing what we have, whether it feels enough or not.

People: God receives every gift offered in love.

Leader: We gather to worship the One who sees the heart.

People: We offer our whole selves to God.

Leader: Let us worship with gratitude and trust.

People: Let us pour out our love in worship.

***Opening Prayer: (In Unison)**

God of extravagant love, you welcome us just as we are, and receive what we bring with grace. You see beyond appearances and measure devotion not by its size, but by its love. As we gather for worship, free us from fear of not being enough, and open our hearts to give ourselves fully to you. Fill this space with your presence and shape us into people who love without calculation. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" UMH #117

***Praise Song:** "When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise" TFWS #2216

Children's Moment: Pastor Doby Amos

Introduction to Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

[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: "In His Time" TFWS #2203

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: John 12:1-8 Rev. Christina Zito

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:

An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story
Week 1: "Unlikely Offering – Mary of Bethany"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we confess that we often hold back from you. We cling to what feels safe and hesitate to offer our whole selves. We worry about what others will think and forget that you call us simply to love. Forgive us for the times we have measured our devotion instead of trusting your grace. Free us from fear and renew in us hearts that are generous and open. Amen.

Offering Time: The February Special Offering benefits our **First Responders**.

Giving page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory:

"I Know That I Know"

Mitch Samu

*Doxology:

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #95

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Generous God, you have poured your love into our lives in ways beyond measure. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our desire to follow you more closely. Use what we offer to bring healing, hope, and compassion into the world., and teach us to live as people whose lives are an offering of love. Amen.

*Closing Song:

"Cry of My Heart"

TFWS #2165

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

John 12:1-8

Mary Anoints Jesus

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them^[a] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it^[b] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
UMH #117

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne,
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting, thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all who breathe away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come;
Be thou our guide while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Praise Song:
“When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise”
TFWS #2216

When we are called to sing your praise
With hearts so filled with pain
That we would rather sit and weep
Or stand up to complain,
Remind us, God, You understand
The burdens that we bear;
You, too, have walked the shadowed way
And known our deep despair.

(Continued...)

When we are called to sing Your praise
And cannot find our voice,
Because our losses leave us now
No reason to rejoice,
Remind us, God, that you accept
Our sad laments in prayer;
You, too, have walked the shadowed way
And known our deep despair.

When we are called to sing Your praise
And life ahead looks grim,
Still give us faith and hope enough
To break forth in a hymn,
A thankful hymn, great God of Love,
That You are everywhere;
You walk the shadowed way with us
And keep us in Your care.

Prayer Hymn:
“In His Time”
TFWS #2203

In His time in His time
He makes all things beautiful
In His time
Lord please show me every day
As You're teaching me Your way
That You do just what You say
In Your time

In Your time in Your time
You make all things beautiful
In Your time
Lord my life to You I bring
May each song I have to sing
Be to You a lovely thing
In Your time

Offertory:
"I Know That I Know"
Mitch Samu

I know that I know that I know
That my God loves me.
I know that I know that I know
God is my friend.
I know that I know that I know
God's always with me;
And I know that I know that I know
That God cares.

I know that I know that I know
That Jesus loves me.
I know that I know that I know
He is my friend.
I know that I know that I know
He's always with me;
And I know that I know that I know
Jesus cares.

I know that I know that I know
You are my brother.
I know that I know that I know
You are my friend.
I know that I know that I know
You are my sister;
And I know that I know that I know
That you care.

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.

Closing Song:
"Cry of My Heart"
TFWS #2165

It is the cry of my heart
To follow You.
It is the cry of my heart
To be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart
To follow
All of the days of my life.

Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord,
So I can walk in Your truth.
Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord,
And make me wholly devoted to You.

It is the cry of my heart
To follow You.
It is the cry of my heart
To be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart
To follow
All of the days of my life.

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more,
And make me wholly devoted to You.

It is the cry of my heart
To follow You.
It is the cry of my heart
To be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart
To follow
All of the days of my life.

(2X)

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

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated by Anne Mayer, in celebration of Laura's birthday.

Please stay for a few minutes following today's service to help pack **lunch bags for E.H.A.P.** This will only take a few minutes and any time you can give is appreciated. Our goal is to pack **100** lunch bags!

This is the final Sunday to give to our Collection for First Responders: Monetary donations should be put in a "Special Offering" envelope (located in the pews). Checks should be labeled "First Responders" (in the memo line). The money will be divided three ways and given to each branch. Our First Responders are always so grateful for your generosity.

Join us this **Tuesday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m.** in Wesley Hall for our February Soul Supper. The menu will be Ham, Roasted Vegetables, Salad and Dessert. Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

Andrea Garcia is collecting "**thinking of you**" and "**best wishes**" cards for Olivia as she completes her semester-long study abroad program in Sorrento, Italy. Andrea is traveling to Italy in March and would like to bring cards for Olivia to open when she is feeling homesick. If you would like to participate, please drop them off in the shoebox in Fellowship Hall or hand them to Andrea in church.

This Week at a Glance (February 23 – March 1)

Monday:	2:00 p.m. - Elizabeth Circle Meeting (Wesley Hall)
	7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Tuesday:	8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
	6:00 p.m. - Soul Supper (Wesley Hall)
Wednesday:	10:00 p.m. - Bible Study (Coffee Room)
	7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
	7:30 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Lounge)
Thursday:	8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
	2:00 p.m. - Stitcher's Circle (Coffee Room)
	7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Friday:	***
Saturday:	9:00 a.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall till 4:00 p.m.)
	5:00 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church Youth Social (Wesley Hall)
Sunday:	8:30 a.m. - Seeker's Study (Seeker's Classroom)
	8:45 a.m. - Youth Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:00 a.m. - Joyful Noise Warm-Up (Sanctuary)
	9:30 a.m. - Choir Warm-Up (Sanctuary)
	10:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time and Refreshments (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 p.m. - iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)

(Nursery care for our youngest members is available during worship service.)

***No Events Scheduled

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



FREEHOLD CLERGY ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES 2026

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PRAY, LEARN, AND EAT TOGETHER



TOPIC: BREAKING OPEN THE SYMBOLS OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

12:00 NOON: LUNCH

12:30 PM: PRAYER

1:00 PM LUNCH

February 25	The Reformed Church 67 W. Main Street	Rev. David Groeneveld "The Cross"
March 4	First Assembly of God 272 Jackson Mills Road	Msgr. Sam Siriani "Ashes"
March 11	First United Methodist Church 91 W. Main Street	Rev. Matt Jones "The Torn Curtain"
March 18	Bethel AME at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine 61 Georgia Road	Bishop Fred Rubin "The Wash Basin & The Towel"
March 25	The Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Ballarmine 61 Georgia Road	Rev. Ruth Scott "The Alabaster Flask"

Good Friday:

April 3	Freehold Baptist Church 81 West Main Street	Rev. Jonathan Glass-Riley "The Crown of Thorns"
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NO LUNCH – MEETING BEGINS AT 12 PM

February Birthdays

(2) Dan Tagatac	(6) Lori Beauregard	(22) Pamela Wentworth
(3) Lynne Beach	(12) Don Johnson	(23) Becky Gorman
(5) Betsy Healton	(18) Nancy Mongano	(28) Colin Budka
(5) Lucero Velazquez-Alvarez	(18) Tanika Peart	

March Birthdays

(3) Nenita Zurick	(10) Dylan Pierce	(16) Brittany Kaiser	(23) Thomas Healton
(4) Rev. Yoseb Jeon	(11) Sue Hager	(16) Andy Schwarzkopf	(24) Gregg Kaiser
(4) Mary Sterling	(12) Abigail Davala	(17) Susan Zuckerman	(27) Glenn Meredith
(4) Ben Sciortino	(15) Bryan Sampieri	(19) Laura Gatti	(30) Rob Zuckerman
			(31) In memory of Joan McKinney (90th)