

First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin

Sunday, September 12, 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship:

Leader: We come to worship God --

People: with our mouths, our voices, our hearts.

Leader: We come to honor God --

People: by honoring the power of our words.

Leader: We come to receive grace

People: and let grace sing out through our lives.

Leader: God guides and empowers us.

People: God saves and sustains us. Amen.

Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

God, you spoke and the world was ordered. Through worshipping you today, may we remember the power of our speech, too. May we recommit to speak in ways that help create hope and not harm, justice and not suffering. May our words flow forth faithfully and truthfully to honor you and care for each other. Amen.

Opening Song: "Open My Eyes, That I May See" UMH #454

Song: "Cry of My Heart" TFWS #2165

Prayer Hymn: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UMH #420

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Wil Wilson

The Lord's Prayer UMH #895

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12 Jane Heulton

Sermon: "Living Faith: Do No Harm" Pastor, Wil Wilson

Offering: *Our Special Offering for September will benefit **UMCOR: Disaster Relief.***

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

Offertory Prayer Pastor, Wil Wilson

Jesus, you are the living Word. Through our lives and our words, we pray that you will work your justice and mercy. Accept our gifts and use them to not only heal pain and suffering, but to work against any harm that might come to your people and all creation. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Passage for Sunday, September 12, 2021**Liturgist: Jane Healton****James 3:1-12 – The Message****When You Open Your Mouth**

3 ¹⁻² Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

³⁻⁵ A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

⁵⁻⁶ It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

⁷⁻¹⁰ This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

¹⁰⁻¹² My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Opening Song:
Open My Eyes, That I May See
UMH #454

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

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.

All of the days of my life (4X)

Prayer Hymn:
Breathe on Me, Breath of God
UMH #420

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Till all this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Closing Hymn:

Spirit of God

TFWS #2117

Spirit of God, bright Wind,
Breath that bids life begin,
Blow as you always do; create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing,
Lifted on soaring wing,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Dove,
Grant us your peace and love,
Healing upon your wings for all living things.
For when we live your peace,
Captives will find release,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Hands,
Even in far off lands
You hold all the human race in one warm embrace.
No matter where we go,
You hold us together so,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Flame,
Send us in your holy name,
The power to heal, to share your love everywhere.
We cannot fail or fall,
Or know defeat at all,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God in all,
We gladly hear your call,
The life in our hands that sings,
The power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise,
Love shining in our eyes,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!