

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, February 26, 2023
1st Sunday in Lent**

Announcements: Linda Gatti

Prelude: "Ready for a Change" Boyden, Edwards, & Miller

Welcome: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was tempted to save himself.

People: We often look for the good things for ourselves first, before the well-being of others.

Leader: Jesus was offered salvation if he turned stones to bread; if he accepted wealth and power, if he tested God's commitment to him.

People: In all these things, Jesus remained strong in his commitment to God.

Leader: May our commitment be as strong.

People: May our lives be placed in God's caring hands throughout our journey. AMEN.

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

Righteous God, we need your presence in our lives if we are to resist temptation. Send your angels to minister to us when the tempter comes to call. Put not our hearts to the test, but shelter us in your protective love. For you are our God, and we are your people. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" UMH #133

*Praise Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" UMH #519

Prayer Hymn: "Sweet Hour of Prayer" UMH #496

Pastoral 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.]

The Lord's Prayer: (In Unison) UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12 Susan Zuckerman

Sermon: "The Wide Circle" Pastor, Lan Wilson

Offering Time: We are continuing to collect for our First Responders, but we are also collecting for UMCOR Disaster Relief to help the victims of the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. If you are giving by cash or check, please specify the donation on the envelope or memo line of the check. **Please make ALL CHECKS out to First United Methodist Church.**

Offertory: "The 23rd Psalm" Mitch Samu
(FUMC Choir)

*Doxology:

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #95

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Merciful One, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Still, we seek your blessing upon this offering, for many are hungry and need food, many are naked and need clothes, many are homeless and need shelter. May these gifts reflect the depth of our gratitude as they go into the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Closing Hymn:

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Light & Miller

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Scripture Passage for Sunday, February 26, 2023

Liturgist: Susan Zuckerman

Isaiah 58:1-12 (New revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

False and True Worship

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they delight to draw near to God.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[b] shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Prelude:
Ready for a Change
Boyden, Edwards, & Miller

Take this broken spirit,
Create in me a clean heart
Heal this wounded healer
And point me to the good road.

Lord, I'm ready for a change,
Only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change,
Only you can make me change,
Only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change.

Wipe away these tears, Lord
And end my night of weeping,
Wash away the old ways,
Replace my pain with your joy!

Lord, I'm ready for a change,
Only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change,
Only you can make me change,
Only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change.

Give my life a new start
And plant in me a seed that grows
And blossoms into the fruit of blessing.

Lord, I'm ready for a change,
Only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change,
Only you can make me change,
Only you can make me change,
Lord, I'm ready for a change.

Opening Hymn:
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
UMH #133

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Chorus)

Leaning, Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus*)
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus*)
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

O How sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Chorus)

Leaning, Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus*)
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus*)
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Chorus)

Leaning, Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus*)
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus*)
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Praise Hymn:
Lift Every Voice and Sing
UMH #519**

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
That the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope
That the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way
That with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path
Through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
Our God, where we met Thee;
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine
Of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

**Prayer Hymn:
Sweet Hour of Prayer
UMH #496**

Sweet hour of prayer!
Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer!
Sweet hour of prayer!
The joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!

With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer!
Sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.

And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

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 Hymn:
Draw the Circle Wide
Light and Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone,
We'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone.
We'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song:
No one stands alone.
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

February 26, 2023

Announcements:

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

On Monday, **February 27th** at 2:00 p.m., all women are welcome to join the **Elizabeth Circle** meeting in Wesley Hall. Melanie Bowen will be leading the program “Women of Faith”. We will be celebrating our unique gifts as women of faith and discussing how we can create space for other women to feel welcomed and empowered. Before the meeting, please think about the women in your lives who have inspired you. Please remember to bring your 2023 dues – the suggested donation is \$20. Also, check out the new Elizabeth Circle flier in the Newsletter. It is also posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Reservations are still being taken for the **women’s spiritual retreat April 30 – May 2** at the Carriage House Bed & Breakfast in Ocean Grove. Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please see Rita Curven or Christina Zito.

We will be hosting the **Lenten Lunch and Prayer Service** on **Wednesday, March 8th**. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon, prayer service will be held at 12:30 p.m. and lunch will resume at 1:00 p.m. A complete schedule of the Lenten Lunch and Prayer services can be found in your bulletin, in Fellowship Hall, Missions Hall, and in the Newsletter.

Our collection for our **First Responders** has been extended to March 12th. Representatives from each branch will be joining us on March 19th for a blessing. For monetary donations, please mark your envelope "First Responders". If you are giving a check, please put “First Responders” in the memo line (please make the check payable to FUMC).

Save the Date – Support Becky & Marshall Gorman and Ken Budka as they perform with the **Monmouth Civic Chorus** on Sunday, March 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the Parish of St. Mary in Colts Neck. More information can be found on the posters in Fellowship Hall, Missions Hall and in the Newsletter.

Grocery Cards (Shop Rite, Acme, and Stop & Shop) will be sold after service.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall following service for **fellowship time and refreshments**.

Now, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

GREATER FREEHOLD LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES

Lunch at 12 PM, Prayer at 12:30 PM, Lunch at 1 PM

March 1

Co-Cathedral of St. Robert
Lunch will be provided

Rev. Alan Olson
First Presbyterian Church

March 8

First United Methodist
Lunch will be provided

Msgr. Sam Siriani
Co-Cathedral of St. Robert

March 15

Reformed Church
of Freehold
Lunch will be provided

Rev. Ronald Sparks
Bethel A.M.E. Church

March 22

Co-Cathedral of St. Robert
Lunch will be provided

Bishop Fred Rubin
Community Refuge
Church of Christ

March 29

First Assembly of God
Lunch will be provided

Rev. Hosie Scott
Foundational Truth Bible
Study Ministries

Good Friday
April 7

First Baptist Church
12:30 PM Service
Lunch will not be provided

Rev. Matthew Jones
First Assembly of God