

First United Methodist Church of Freehold  
Bulletin

Sunday, March 19, 2023  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Announcements: Verl McKinney

Prelude

Welcome: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Call to Worship:

Leader: Once you lived in darkness.

**People: Now the light of God has shown upon us.**

Leader: Find what is pleasing to God and follow God's ways.

**People: The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God's light.**

Leader: Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

**People: Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your light of salvation. AMEN.**

\*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

**Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness, and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" UMH #152

\*Praise Song: "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" Newton, Tomlin, Giglio

Prayer Hymn: "Spirit of the Living God" UMH #393  
(Sing 2 Times Through)

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: UMH #895

**Blessing of First Responders**

Welcome: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Prayer for First Responders: (In Unison)

**Almighty God, you lend your strength to all those who are there for us in times of crisis, fear, and hurt. You give courage to the first responders who continue to do this important work they are called to do, looking beyond the risk for the sake of those who need your help and protection.**

**We give you thanks for the many ways they give of themselves, their skills, knowledge and help in troubling times. Protect them, o Lord. Extend your shielding hand over them and comfort their hearts when they are tired and heartbroken.**

**God, we also lift up prayers of thanksgiving and comfort for the families of first responders and all who support them. Give them hope and courage. Surround them with your loving presence and give them peace when their loved ones run toward uncertainty. All this we pray in your name. Amen.**

Presentation of Gifts:

Linda Gatti & Sharon Shutzer

\*Congregational Response:

Pastor: People of faith! What is your response to these community servants?

**People: We have too often taken your service for granted. We are thankful for your service and want to recognize the hours, days, and years you have contributed to make this community safe. We thank you for healing those broken in body and spirit. As you receive our gift, please remember that we will be praying for you.**

Prayer of Blessings:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Scripture Reading:

John 9:1-11

Lyn Johnson

Message:

“Simply Be Compassionate”

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering Time: Today’s Special Offering will benefit **The Maker’s Place**. Donations can be made through our Giving Page: [www.freeholdmethodist.org/give](http://www.freeholdmethodist.org/give)

Anthem:

“And No Bird Sang”

Douglas Wagner

\*Doxology:

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #95

\*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

**Loving shepherd, gentle savior, we give you thanks for this day: for rest in green pastures, for refreshment beside still waters, for health and wholeness for our souls. As we rejoice in your goodness and mercy, we offer you our gifts this day. Through our offering, may others be blessed, as we have been blessed from your hand. Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Closing Hymn:

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

TFWS #2214

\*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Postlude

## Scripture Passage for Sunday, March 19, 2023

Liturgist: Lyn Johnson

### John 9:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

#### A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We<sup>[a]</sup> must work the works of him who sent me<sup>[b]</sup> while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

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#### Opening Hymn:

#### I Sing the Almighty Power of God UMH #152

(Verse 1)

I sing the almighty power of God,  
That made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
And build the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
And all the stars obey.

(Verse 2)

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
Who filled the earth with food,  
Who formed the creatures thru the Word,  
And then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,  
Where'er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
Or gaze upon the sky.

(Verse 3)

There's not a plant or flower below,  
But makes Thy glories known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
By order from Thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from Thee  
Is ever in Thy care;  
And everywhere that we can be,  
Thou, God, art present there.

**Praise Hymn:**  
**Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**  
**Newton, Tomlin, Giglio**

**Verse 1**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found,  
Was blind but now I see.

**Verse 2**

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear.  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

**Chorus**

My chains are gone I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains.  
Unending love amazing grace.

**Verse 3**

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

**Chorus**

**(2x)**

My chains are gone I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains.  
Unending love amazing grace.

**Verse 4**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow;  
The sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine.  
Will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

**Prayer Hymn:**  
**Spirit of the Living God**  
**UMH #393**

Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.

(Repeat)

**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:**  
**Lead Me, Guide Me**  
**TFWS #2214**

Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(Repeat)

**March 19, 2023**  
**Announcements:**

**Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold, we are glad you are with us. Today we welcome our First Responders.**

**Special Church Conference** – We will be holding a Special Church Conference via ZOOM on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to:

- 1) Approve the changes to the Endowment Fund By-Laws, and,
- 2) Elect Gene Sampieri as a new member of the Board of Trustees. All church members are invited to attend. The scheduled Administrative Council meeting will follow. The Zoom meeting information will be sent out in the next week.

**A survey regarding communications has been included in this bulletin. Please print and fill out the survey and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience.**

**Support the Diaper Drive:** We are collecting diapers for **The Maker's Place**. We are collecting sizes 4, 5, and 6. Our goal is to collect 250 cases of diapers before our **diaper packing event** on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please place cases of diapers in Missions Hall.

Remember to order your **Easter Flowers!** Order forms can be found in the Newsletter, or picked up in Fellowship Hall.

All children and grandchildren are invited to our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**, Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the church parking lot.

**Calling all Singers and Musicians** – Come support United Theatre's first community outreach/fundraising event: **"Open Mic Night" – Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall.** Whether you want to show off your talent, or just relax and enjoy the entertainment, it's sure to be a good time. Tickets are \$5. Concessions will be sold at the event. Find us on Facebook and Instagram at United Theatre Inc. Or contact us at: [unitedtheatreinc@gmail.com](mailto:unitedtheatreinc@gmail.com) to sign up.

We are collecting items for **"Blessing Bags"**. Blessing Bags should contain enough toiletry items to last 2 weeks and are handed out to the homeless. Most needed items are **travel size toothpaste, disposable razors and small size soaps**. Please place donated items in the bin on the E.H.A.P. table in Missions Hall.

**Pull Together and Make a Difference! We are collecting pop-tabs from aluminum cans as an on-going mission to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House.**

Pop tabs can come from any aluminum can. Bring your tabs to the church and place them in the wicker cabinet drawer in Fellowship Hall. It's labeled "Soda Tabs" for Ronald McDonald House.

**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 contact Rita Curven or Christina Zito.

# GREATER FREEHOLD LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES

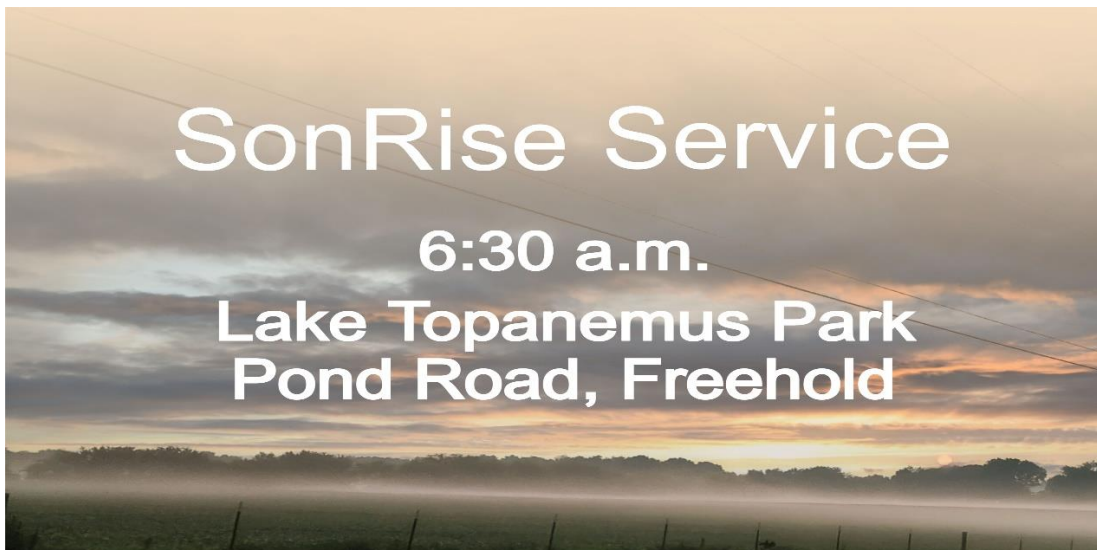
Lunch at 12 PM, Prayer at 12:30 PM, Lunch at 1 PM

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

## SonRise Service

6:30 a.m.

Lake Topanemus Park  
Pond Road, Freehold



# FUMC Comms Team Survey

This survey is prepared by the FUMC Communication Team in an effort to better communicate with our members and develop a strategic plan for internal and external church communication.

This will take about 5-8 minutes to complete. The results will be shared with our members. Please stay tuned via our newsletter.

The survey will be closed on Sunday, March 26th. Please make some time to fill it out.

## Please choose your age group.

- The Silent Generation: Born 1920-1945
- Baby Boomers: Born 1946-1964
- Generation X: Born 1965-1980
- Millennials: Born 1981-1996
- Generation Z: Born 1997-2012
- Prefer not to answer

## On a scale of 1 to 5, how informed do you feel about what's going on at FUMC?

1	2	3	4	5
1 - I rarely know what's going on and it is difficult for me to find information.			5 - I know a lot about what's going on and where to find that information.	

## Which of the following methods have you used in the last two months to access information or inspirational content from FUMC? (Check all that apply)

- Church bulletin/News & Announcement
- Weekly newsletter
- TV screens during Sunday service
- Church Website (freeholdmethodist.org)
- Other printed materials (flyers, post cards, mailings, etc.)
- FUMC Instagram Account
- Emails from FUMC
- Emails from Individual Clergy or Staff
- FUMC YouTube
- FUMC Facebook Page

## If you have visited the church website recently, which of the following resources were you looking for/interacting with? (Check all that apply)

- Confirming Sunday worship details
- News & Weekly announcement sheet
- Checking church calendar
- Making a financial gift
- Live streaming
- Watching past sermon videos
- Other (please specify)

## Outside of FUMC and your work/school, which of the following platforms do you use most often? (Select your top 4)

- Internet browsers (e.g. Explorer, Google Chrome, Safari)
- Email
- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube/Vimeo
- Twitter
- Snapchat
- Mobile Apps
- Podcasts
- Other (please specify)

**What are your preferred/ideal methods to receive informational content such as church announcements, calendar information, upcoming events, etc.? (Select your top 4)**

- Church bulletin/News & Announcement
- Weekly newsletter
- FUMC mobile app
- Email
- Church Website (freeholdmethodist.org)
- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube/Vimeo
- Podcasts
- In person/word-of-mouth
- Automated phone call
- Text message

**What are your preferred/ideal methods to receive inspirational content (e.g. past sermons, e-devotions, stories, etc.)? (Select your top 4)**

- Church bulletin/News & Announcement
- Weekly newsletter
- FUMC mobile app
- Email
- Church Website (freeholdmethodist.org)
- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube/Vimeo
- Podcasts
- In person/word-of-mouth
- Automated phone call
- Text message

**Which communication methods do you wish FUMC used more frequently? (Select all that apply)**

- Church bulletin/News & Announcement
- Weekly newsletter
- FUMC mobile app
- Email
- Church Website (freeholdmethodist.org)
- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube/Vimeo
- Podcasts
- In person/word-of-mouth
- Automated phone call
- Text message
- Other (please specify)

**On a scale of 1 to 5, how relevant does FUMC content (emails, events, videos, social media posts, etc.) feel to you?**

1	2	3	4	5
1 – Not at all relevant			5 – Highly relevant	