

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, July 9, 2023
6th Sunday after Pentecost**

Announcements: Linda Gatti

Prelude

Welcome: Rev. Christina Zito

*Call to Worship: Rev. Christina Zito

Leader: We come to worship to offer ourselves willingly.

People: God has called us here!

Leader: We come to sing songs of praise and thanksgiving.

People: We will bless the Lord!

Leader: As a community we listen for God's voice in our midst.

People: We will trust in God and become a blessing to others!

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

Lord, you call us to do great works in your name. Even in the face of overwhelming and daunting struggles, you empower us to act with courage, strength, and resilience. We give you thanks that you equip us to hear you, to act, and to go forth in relationship with others. Through our worship give us the confidence to say "yes" to serve your purposes. Give us the faith to believe that you will win the battles we face. And, in all that we say and do, may we return with songs of rejoicing and praise for you are a good and loving God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "God of the Women" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*Praise Song: "But My God" Kathy Mulholland

Introduction to Prayer

[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: "Purify My Heart" Jeff Nelson

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Christina Zito

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Judges 4:4-11, 5:1-9 Pamela Wentworth

Friendship Moment

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

Message: "Strong Women of Faith: Deborah" Rev. Christina Zito

Offering Time: **Giving Page:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "God Is the Lord of All" Handel / Hopson
(F.U.M.C. Choir)

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Holy God, Three in One, pour out your blessing on the gifts we offer. As our individual gifts come together and are multiplied by your grace, may we accomplish far more in community than we ever could on our own. Take all of our gifts and graces and use them to achieve your purposes locally and beyond. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Closing Hymn: "How Great Is Our God" Tomlin, Reeves & Cash

*Benediction: Rev. Christina Zito

*Postlude

Scripture Passage #1
Judges 4:4-11

Liturgist: Pamela Wentworth

⁴ At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶ She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷ I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand.' " ⁸ Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." ⁹ And she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰ Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and ten thousand warriors went up behind him, and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites,^[a] that is, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had encamped as far away as Elon-bezaananim, which is near Kedesh.

Scripture Passage #2

Judges 5:1-9 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

The Song of Deborah

5 Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:

2 “When locks are long in Israel,
when the people offer themselves willingly^[a]—
bless the LORD!

3 Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the LORD I will sing;
I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.

4 LORD, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled,
and the heavens poured;
the clouds indeed poured water.

5 The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai,
before the LORD, the God of Israel.

6 In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, caravans ceased,
and travelers kept to the byways.

7 The peasantry prospered in Israel;
they grew fat on plunder,
because^[b] you arose, Deborah,
arose as a mother in Israel.

8 When new gods were chosen,
then war was in the gates.
Was shield or spear to be seen
among forty thousand in Israel?

9 My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel
who offered themselves willingly among the people.
Bless the LORD.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

**Opening Hymn:
God of the Women
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth –
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susannah, and more –
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking, "Who smiled at my birth?" –
In Jesus' dying you showed us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day –
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.

**Praise Hymn:
But My God
Kathy Mulholland**

I'm a rock, strong and unyielding.
No one can touch me. My defenses are raised.

I'm a stone. No one can sway me.
I won't be changing, because change is decay.

But my God,
How much you love me.
How well you know me
In this skin that I'm in.
But my God,
How much you move me,
How you have saved me
From myself and my sin.
But my God.

I am weak, I am a shadow.
I'm barely breathing the air of this world.

Pass me by. Don't even notice.
Don't look upon me. I am nothing to you.

But my God,
How much you love me.
How well you know me
In this skin that I'm in.

But my God,
How much you move me,
How you have saved me
From myself and my sin.
But my God.

I'm a mom with lovely children,
A loving husband, and a beautiful home,

But the void rises inside me,
Threatens to own me, and nobody knows

But my God,
How much you love me.
How well you know me
In this skin that I'm in.

But my God,
How much you move me,
How you have saved me
From myself and my sin.

Here I stand before the throne.
And I cannot stand alone
All my shame and grief and loss
Is hanging from the cross
Hanging from the cross,
Hanging from the cross!

But my God,
How much you love me.
How well you know me
In this skin that I'm in.

But my God,
How much you move me,
How you have saved me
From myself and my sin.
But my God.

But my God.

Prayer
Purify My Heart
Jeff Nelson

(Chorus)

Purify my heart,
Touch me with Your cleansing fire,
Take me to the cross,
Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe Your life in me,
Kindle a love
That flows from Your throne.
O, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.

Doxology
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

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
How Great Is Our God
Tomlin, Reeves & Cash

The splendor of the King,
Clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice,
Let all the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light,
And darkness tries to hide;
It trembles at His voice,
It trembles at His voice.

How great is our God!
Sing with me,
“How great is our God!”
And all will see how great,
How great is our God!

And age to age He stands,
And time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End.

The Godhead, Three in one,
Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb,
The Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God!
Sing with me,
“How great is our God!”
And all will see how great,
How great is our God!

(Bridge)

Name above all names,
Worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing,
“How great is our God!”

How great is our God!
Sing with me,
“How great is our God!”
And all will see how great,
How great is our God!

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. We are glad you are with us.

Altar Flowers donated by Anne Mayer and Dan Tagatac in honor of Elise's birthday.

Join us on **August 3rd** for **Faith and Family Night** with the Jersey Shore BlueClaws! Tickets are \$17 (for groups of 10 or more) and include a hot dog, soda, chips, ice cream, a game ticket for the 'boardwalk' area, and an exciting baseball game. Payments are due by July 20th and can be brought to the church office.

Join us on **Saturday, August 5, 2023** for a day of **Olde Freehold Family Fun!** Food, Games, Paddle Boats, Contests, Kidz Zone, Music and, of course, the famous Freehold UMC Bake Sale Table! Kathy Kane is asking for volunteers to bake, set up and break down the table, and sell the baked goods. Please see Kathy Kane after service if you are able to help out.

Save the Date: The United Theatre Company will perform **"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"** on Saturday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 13th at 1:00 p.m. on the F.U.M.C. stage! This British pantomime version of this classic tale is fun for all ages. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under.

Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program Inc. is a Freehold-based nonprofit that helps the homeless and those at-risk of eviction. **They are in need of volunteers.** There are many ways you can serve: accounting; casework; communications; office reception; website management; marketing; and storage room organizing. They are also preparing for an office expansion and desperately need strong individuals to help move boxes and light furniture to a storage facility over the summer. Contact Nina Rizzo, director of operations – nrizzo@ehapinc.org or 732-431-2600 ext. 210 for more information. Thank you!

Grocery Cards (Shop Rite, Acme, and Stop & Shop) are sold after service in the coffee room.

Please see the 2nd Quarter Update from the Finance Committee on the following page:

July Birthdays

(6) Diane Mulholland	(24) Christine Calcao
(9) Carolyn Heuser	(26) Lan Wilson
(9) Elise Tagatac	(26) AnnMarie Meredith
(13) Carolyn Dahl	(27) Larry Jamison
(15) Luanne Kip	(30) Jan Hall
(18) Greg Schwarzkopf	(30) Gabby Sterling
(19) Paula Taylor	

Update from the Finance Committee: 2nd Quarter of 2023 :

In terms of the Operating Fund, the church income includes that received in general offerings and other income sources such as building rental and fundraising activities. Church expenses include salaries, insurance, utilities, maintenance, conference obligations and other costs to keep the church operating.

FUMC Operating Fund Update			
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	year to date
income	\$ 65,759	\$ 65,693	\$ 131,452
expenses	\$ 61,917	\$ 65,240	\$ 127,157
net income	\$ 3,842	\$ 453	\$ 4,295
Operating Fund Balance			
start of the year			\$ 19,235
end of 2nd quarter			\$ 20,846
change			\$ 1,611

Note: The difference between the net income and the change in the balance involves fluctuations in the amount of grocery cards currently held.

Note: Major property maintenance and improvement projects are covered by the Trustees who maintain a separate account.