

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, August 31, 2025
12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Announcements: Verl McKinney

Prelude: *Chloe's Memories and Melodies*
"Christ Arose" Robert Lowry

Welcome: Verl McKinney

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

People: God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor.

Leader: To proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind.

People: To let the oppressed go free.

Leader: Come, let us be empowered by God's presence.

People: We worship with joy and go forth with power.

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

**Mighty God, You do not leave us on our own. You fill us with the Spirit, equipping us for every good work.
As we worship You today, empower our faith, strengthen our witness, and inspire us to serve with boldness.
Through Christ, who sends us into the world, we pray, Amen.**

*Opening Hymn: *"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"* UMH #158

*Praise Song: *"Spirit of God"* TFWS #2117

Children's Moment: Pastor Dobyoy Amos

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 Song: *"Kum Ba Yah"* UMH #494

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Baptism of Alina Eliana Nerad
(See Baptism Liturgy Insert)

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-9; 2:1-4 Susan Zuckerman

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: Sermon Series: "Encounter, Engage, Empower"
Week 3 - Empower: "Living by the Spirit's Strength" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Dedication of Nursery Room:

(See Insert)

Offering Time: The Special Offering for the month of August will benefit The Freehold Area OPEN DOOR.

Giving Page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory:

"3 Notes"

Mitch Samu

*Doxology:

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #95

*Offering Prayer – UMC Discipleship (In Unison):

God of abundance, You empower us to be Your hands and feet. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to share Your love. Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

*Closing Song:

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

TFWS #2120

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude:

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"
(Reprise)

TFWS #2120

Scripture Passage for Sunday, August 31, 2025

Liturgist: Susan Zuckerman

Acts 1:1-9; 2:1-4

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering^[a] he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying^[b] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[c] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

² When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"
UMH #158

Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!

He is our Guide and Friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet the Lord again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise 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!
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

(Continued...)

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!
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!
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!
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!
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Prayer Song:
"Kum Ba Yah"
UMH #494

Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah.
Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah.
Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah.
O, Lord, kum ba yah!

(2). Someone's praying, Lord...

(3). Someone's crying, Lord...

(4). Someone needs You, Lord...

(5). Someone's singing, Lord...

(6). Let us praise the Lord...

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:
"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"
TFWS #2120

(Chorus)
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness
Calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

(Continued...)

You moved on the waters,
You called to the deep,
Then You coaxed up the mountains
From the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons
You called to each thing:
Wake from your slumbers
And rise on your wings.

(Repeat Chorus)

You swept through the desert,
You stung with the sand,
And You goaded Your people
With a law and a land;
And when they were blinded
With their idols and lies,
Then You spoke through Your prophets
To open their eyes.

(Repeat Chorus)

You sang in a stable,
You cried from a hill,
Then You whispered in silence
When the whole world was still;
And down in the city
You called once again,
When You blew through Your people
On the rush of the wind.

(Repeat Chorus)

(Verse 4)

You call from tomorrow,
You break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow
The captives dream dreams,
Our women see visions,
Our men clear their eyes,
With bold new decisions
Your people arise.

(Repeat Chorus)

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

Altar Flowers are donated by Rev. Yoseb Jeon.

September 7th is Rally Sunday. This special service will include a variety of members participating through music, poetry, kids dancing, and crafts. We'll celebrate the new program year with Frankie Fed's Food Truck after worship and host a ministry fair to introduce our committees, mission groups and small groups.

We will be having a special time during worship to bless our children as they return to school, so please bring in your children's backpacks for the blessing. Invite your family and friends to this very special Sunday!

Another \$50 was collected from the loose change jar! Thank you!

August Birthdays

(01) Nathaniel Lawrence Tolas	(18) Gayle Trulli	(25) Lindsey Hennessey
(03) Corbett Corey	(19) Ken Budka	(26) Anita Ritchie
(04) Carolyn Brach	(21) Sandra Hernandez	(27) Ernest Peart
(05) Cassie Sterling	(21) Verl McKinney (90 th)	(30) Shawn Darby
(17) Jessica Cronin	(23) Garrett Ian Englert	(31) Emily Ward

September Birthdays

(02) Diana L. Dreyer	(13) Rich Budalich
(03) Rachel Englert	(15) Jaslin Davison
(04) Charlie Mongano	(18) Bob Sterling
(06) Dora Moore	(25) Dawn A. Tephford
(10) Susan Mulholland	(30) Katelyn Cronin

This Week at a Glance (September 1 – September 7)

Monday:	Labor Day
Tuesday:	8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
Wednesday:	7:30 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Classroom)
Thursday:	8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
Friday:	***
Saturday:	9:00 a.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall till 4:00 p.m.)
Sunday:	Rally Sunday!
	9:00 a.m. - Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	9:30 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	10:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m. - Ministry Fair and Food Truck Event

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

*** No Events Scheduled

The church office will be closed September 1st (Labor Day) - September 5th
Regular office hours will resume Monday, September 8th.

HOLY BAPTISM

BAPTISM CANDIDATE: ALINA ELIANA NERAD

PARENTS: MICHAEL ROBERT NERAD & BRITTANY ALINA NERAD

SPONSORS: COURTNEY KAISER & BIANCA MIRANDA

AUGUST 31, 2024

REV. YOSEB JEON

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Brothers and sisters in Christ:
Through the Sacrament of Baptism
 we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
 and given new birth through water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE:

Verl McKinney, Lay Leader

I present **ALINA ELIANA NERAD** for baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Parents and other sponsors respond:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
 reject the evil powers of this world,
 and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
 to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
 in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
 to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you nurture this child, **ALINA ELIANA NERAD**,
 in Christ's holy Church,
that by your teaching and example she may be guided
 to accept God's grace for herself,
 to profess her faith openly,
 and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

The congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
 and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include this child now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround her
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that she may grow in her service to others.**

**We will pray for her,
that she may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

The congregation, the parents and sponsors respond together:

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy *catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.

*Almighty God, the life you birthed in us
by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.
Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.*

Your healing river flows.

Your Spirit blows where you will.

We cannot stop you, God!

*But sometimes we try.
We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit,
or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream
that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power.
We parch ourselves.*

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters.

Come upon these waters.

*Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.
Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.*

*Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.
Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.*

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Christian, **ALINA ELIANA**, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome
our new child in Christ.

**Through baptism
you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.
We are all one in Christ Jesus.
With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you
as a member of the family of Christ.**

PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God,
I commend this child to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase her faith,
confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

The congregation responds:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of the First United Methodist Church of Freehold,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

BLESSING

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Dedication of the Davison Nursery Room

Leader: Today we give thanks to God, who calls us to welcome children as a gift and blessing in the life of the church.

People: We rejoice in this new nursery room, a place where our children will be safe, nurtured, and surrounded by God's love.

Leader: We remember with gratitude the faithful witness of the Davison family, beloved members of this church.

People: Their love, service, and devotion remain a blessing, and we honor their memory with thanksgiving.

Leader: In naming this space the Davison Nursery Room, we dedicate it for the care of children and families, entrusting it to God's purposes.

People: May this room be filled with laughter, learning, and love, and may every child here know they belong to God and to this church family.