First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin

Sunday, November 22, 2026
26th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements: Pamela Wentworth

Prelude

Welcome: Pamela Wentworth

*Call to Worship:
Leader: Jesus calls to us, just as he called the first disciples: "Follow me."
People: We hear his call and seek the courage to respond.
Leader: Christ calls us beyond what is familiar, beyond what is comfortable, and into a life of faithful service.
People: We may not know where the journey will lead, but we trust the One who calls us.
Leader: Let us come together to worship the God who gives us grace and calls us to live that grace each day.
People: With open hearts and willing spirits, we come to worship and follow Jesus Christ!

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)
Lord Jesus Christ, you called ordinary people to leave their nets and follow you, and you continue to call us today. We confess that we often hesitate, holding tightly to what is familiar and comfortable. Yet your grace invites us into a life of deeper faith, greater courage, and more generous love. As we worship today, help us listen for your voice and respond with willing hearts. Give us the humility to serve our neighbors, and the strength to overcome evil with good. May our worship lead us beyond words into lives that reflect your love and grace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "We Gather Together" UMH #131

*Praise Song: "Two Fishermen" TFWS #2101

Children's Time: Ken Budka

Introduction to Prayer: Rev. Christina Zito
[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: "Sanctuary" TFWS #2164

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Christina Zito

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:18-22; Romans 12:16-21 Anita Ritchie

Friendship Moment and Passing of the Peace: Rev. Christina Zito
[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form: [www.freeholdmethodist.org]

Message: Sermon Series: Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Week 2): "Simple Obedience" Ray Ritchie & Dan Tagatac

Offering Time: The Special Offering for the month of November will benefit **United Methodist Student Day**. Your gift helps provide loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students. **Giving Page:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "Healer of My Heart" Johnson & Robinson
FUMC Choir

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison) Rev. Christina Zito

Generous God, you have blessed us with gifts and opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. As we offer these gifts, remind us that discipleship is not simply what we believe, but how we live. Help us to give with generous hearts, willing to serve and act when others are in need. Bless these offerings and guide our church to be a community where faith becomes action and love becomes visible in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Closing Song: "My Savior, My God" Shust & Greenwell

*Benediction: Rev. Christina Zito

*Postlude

Scripture Reading: **Liturgist: Anita Ritchie**

Matthew 4:18-22
Jesus Calls the First Disciples
18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his
brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make
you fishers of people." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw
two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee,
mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Romans 12:16-21
16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser
than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is
possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave
room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." 20 Instead, "if your
enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will
heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn:
"We Gather Together"
UMH #131

(Verse 1)
We gather together
To ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens
His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing
Now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name;
He forgets not His own.

(Verse 2)
Beside us to guide us,
Our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining
His kingdom divine;
So, from the beginning
The fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side,
All glory be Thine!

(Verse 3)
We all do extol Thee,
Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still
Our Defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation
Escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised!
O Lord, make us free!

Praise Song:
"Two Fishermen"
TFWS #2101

Two fishermen, who lived along
The Sea of Galilee,
Stood by the shore to cast their nets
Into an ageless sea.
Now Jesus watched them from afar,
Then called them each by name.
It changed their lives, these simple men;
They'd never be the same.

"Leave all things you have
And come and follow me,
And come and follow me."

And as he walked along the shore
'Twas James and John he'd find,
And these two sons of Zebedee
Would leave their boats behind.
Their work and all they held so dear
They left beside their nets.
Their names they'd heard as Jesus called;
They came without regret.
"Leave all things you have
And come and follow me,
And come and follow me."

O Simon Peter, Andrew, James,
And John beloved one,
You heard Christ's call to speak good news
Revealed to God's own Son.
Susanna, Mary, Magdalene
Who traveled with your Lord,
You ministered to him with joy
For he is God adored.
"Leave all things you have
And come and follow me,
And come and follow me."

And you, good Christians, one and all
Who'd follow Jesus' way,
Come leave behind what keeps you bound
To trappings of our day.
And listen as he calls your name
To come and follow near;
For still he speaks in varied ways
To those his call will hear.
"Leave all things you have
And come and follow me,
And come and follow me."

Prayer Song:
"Sanctuary"
TFWS #2164

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.

(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 Song:
"My Savior, My God"
Shust & Greenwell

(Verse 1)
I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed, what God has planned;
I only know at His right hand
Stands One who is my Savior.

(Verse 2)
I take Him at His word and deed;
Christ died to save me, this I read.
And in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior.

(Pre-Chorus)
That He would leave His place on high
And come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange so once did I
Before I knew my Savior.

(Continued…)

(Chorus 2X)
My Savior loves, my Savior lives,
My Savior's always there for me,
My God He was, my God He is,
My God is always gonna be.

(Verse 3)
Yes, living, dying, let me bring
My strength, my solace from this spring,
That He who lives to be my King,
Once died to be my Savior.

(Pre-Chorus)
That He would leave His place on high
And come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange so once did I
Before I knew my Savior.

(Chorus 4X)
My Savior loves, my Savior lives,
My Savior's always there for me,
My God He was, my God He is,
My God is always gonna be.

(Ending)
My Savior lives, My Savior loves,
My Savior lives, My Savior loves,
My Savior lives!

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.

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are provided by Sue Hager, in honor of grandchildren.

Christmas Is Coming! We will be giving children's winter hats and gloves or mittens to Open Door again this year. They will be distributed as part of **Open Door's Christmas gift program.**
There is one big difference this year. The items donated are to be gender neutral.
To share Christmas joy with a child, please take a tag or two from the tree. Each tag has an age range for the hat and mittens. All donations are to be returned to the church by Sunday, Dec. 6. Thank you for supporting this program to benefit our community.
~ Pam Wentworth

Invite family and friends to a very special service on **December 6th**. Our Music Director, Mitch Samu will lead our talented choir as they present a **Christmas Cantata**. You won't want to miss it!

Refreshments for Fellowship Time: There are a few open dates left to sign up to provide refreshments for Fellowship Time. Refreshments can be store-bought; they do not have to be homemade. Any date you can sign up for is appreciated. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall.

The choir is asked to stay for rehearsal after service today and each Sunday leading up to the Christmas Cantata.

COMMUNITY EVENT:

Back by popular demand, our very own FUMC Music Director, Mitch Samu, along with his wife, Kristen, will be providing live music at Frankie Fed's in Freehold this evening, **November 22, 2026 from 5:30 pm - 7:30** pm. Come enjoy a wonderful Italian meal or Fed's famous crispy thin-crust pizza while listening to Mitch's music. It promises to be a great evening. You may make reservations with Carol Davison or call Frankie Fed's directly. Any questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to Carol.

This Week at a Glance (November 23 – November 29)

Monday:	2:00 p.m. -	Elizabeth Circle (Wesley Hall)
	7:00 p.m. -	United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Tuesday:	8:30 a.m. -	Walking Group (ZOOM)
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m. -	Seventh Day Adventist Church (Classroom)
Thursday:	***	**THANKSGIVING DAY**
Friday:	6:00 p.m. -	Seventh Day Adventist Church (Coffee Room)
Saturday:	9:30 a.m. -	Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)
Sunday**:**	8:30 a.m. -	Seekers Class (Seeker's Classroom)
	8:45 a.m. -	Children's Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:00 a.m. -	Joyful Noise Warm-Up (Sanctuary)
	10:00 a.m. -	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m. -	Refreshments and Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 a.m. -	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	5:00 p.m. -	iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)

November Birthdays

(2) Ed Bowen
(3) Nora Wentworth
(5) Carrie Healton
(5) Stephanie Palmer
(7) Gilbert Healton
(15) Allie Budka
(16) Connie Martz
(17) Gene Sampieri
(24) Tad Wentworth
(25) Kathy Mulholland

Unable to make it to church? There are several ways you can join us virtually: Find us on:

- **Our website**: www.freeholdmethodist.org/livestream
- **Youtube.com**: search Freehold Methodist Church
- **Our Newsletter**: Click on the service title picture.
- **ZOOM:** **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2890014881?pwd=QnpGZkxudzR4cU9zV0hYcnlQV0hjZz09&omn=82251952816**

One tap mobile
+1-305-224-1968,,82834704102#,,,,*995308# US
+1-309-205-3325,, 82834704102#,,,,*995308# US

Meeting ID: 828 3470 4102
Passcode: 995 308

Ways to Give to the Church:

1) **Sign-up for Subsplash!**
2) Download the FUMC church app! Go to the app store on your smartphone or tablet and search "First UMC Freehold". Look for a blue icon with the Methodist cross and flame.
3) Go to our website: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give
4) Text-to-give by texting "freeholdumc" to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483)
5) Mail a check to 91 West Main St. Freehold, NJ 07728
6) **VENMO**@FumcFreehold.
7) Scan the **QR code** on the card located in the pew card holders.



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Wi-Fi access - SSID: FUMC Guest – Password: Lower-Room2