

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, August 25, 2024
14th Sunday after Pentecost**

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Introit: "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" Brian Doerksen

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: We gather to celebrate the goodness of God,

People: Who brings comfort to those who mourn and hope to the humble.

Leader: We come with hearts open to God's presence,

People: Seeking peace, mercy, and a pure spirit.

Leader: In this place, we find strength in our weakness,

People: And joy in the promise of God's kingdom.

Leader: Come, let us worship with grateful hearts,

People: For God's blessings are ever near.

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

Gracious and loving God, You have called us to this place of worship, where Your blessings overflow. As we gather, we are reminded of the Beatitudes, the teachings of Jesus that turn the world's values upside down. Open our hearts to receive Your Word with humility and grace. May we find comfort in Your promises and courage in Your call to live as Your blessed people. Fill us with the Spirit of Christ, that we may be merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers in a world longing for Your peace. Guide us in this time of worship, and may Your name be glorified in all that we say and do. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn: "Here I Am, Lord" UMH #593

*Praise Song: "Blest Are They" TFWS #2155

Introduction to 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.]

Prayer Song: "Purify My Heart" Jeff Nelson

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Blessing of Maxwell Bowen
(See Order of Liturgy Insert)

Special Music: "Love Is Forever" Joseph M. Martin
Chloe Jeon, Violin; Daniel Jeon, Cello; Yoonjung Park, Piano

Scripture Reading): Matthew 5:1-12 Anne Mayer

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]*

Special Message from Missionaries, David and Allie Houle.

Offering Time: Today's Special Offering will benefit the **Blessing Center of Thailand Now.**

Giving Page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "How Can I Keep from Singing" Arr. R. Kingsmore
FUMC Choir

*Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95
*Tune of "O Blessed Spring" TFWS #2076

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Generous God, in Your wisdom, You have blessed us in ways that go beyond our understanding. As we offer these gifts to You today, we do so with grateful hearts. May our offerings reflect our commitment to live as Your blessed people. Use these gifts to bring comfort to those who mourn, peace to those in conflict, and hope to the humble in spirit. May Your love be made known through our giving, and may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Closing Song: "Over My Head" TFWS #2148

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude: "Over My Head" TFWS #2148
(Reprise)

Scripture Passage: Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Introit:
"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"
Brian Doerksen

(Chorus)
Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

(Verse)
One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now.

(Chorus)
Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

(Verse)
One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now.

(Repeat Verse 2x)

(Chorus)
Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

(Ending)
Come. Come.
Just as you are, come.
Come.

Opening Hymn:
"Here I Am, Lord"
UMH #593

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

(Chorus)
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

(Repeat Chorus)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

(Repeat Chorus)

**Praise Song:
"Blest Are They"
TFWS #2155**

Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
They shall be consoled.

(Chorus)
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones;
They shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst;
They shall have their fill.

(Repeat Chorus)

Blest are they, who show mercy;
Mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
They shall see God!

(Repeat Chorus)

Blest are they, who seek peace;
They are the children of God.
Blest are they, who suffer in faith;
The glory of God is theirs.

(Repeat Chorus)

Blest are you who suffer hate;
All because of me.
Rejoice and be glad; yours is the kingdom.
Shine for all to see.

(Repeat Chorus)

**Prayer Hymn:
"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.
Oh, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.

Doxology:

**"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
*Tune of TFWS #2076**

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:
"Over My Head"
TFWS #2148

(Chorus)

Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
There must be a God somewhere.

Oh, when the world is silent, *I hear music in the air;*
Oh, when the world is silent, *I hear music in the air;*
Oh, when the world is silent, *I hear music in the air;*
There must be a God somewhere.

(Repeat Chorus)

And when I'm feeling lonely, *I hear music in the air;*
And when I'm feeling lonely, *I hear music in the air;*
And when I'm feeling lonely, *I hear music in the air;*
There must be a God somewhere.

(Repeat Chorus)

Now when I think on Jesus, *I hear music in the air;*
Now when I think on Jesus, *I hear music in the air;*
Now when I think on Jesus, *I hear music in the air;*
There must be a God somewhere.

(Repeat Chorus)

ORDER OF LITURGY FOR THE BLESSING OF MAXWELL BOWEN

Parents: Jonathan and Blake Bowen

August 25, 2024

Rev. Yoseb Jeon



Welcome and Introduction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Let us Pray.

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of life and the blessing of family. As we gather to celebrate Maxwell's life, we ask for your presence among us. May this ceremony be filled with your love, peace and guidance. Bless this family as they commit to raising Maxwell in a home where both faiths are honored, and love abounds. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading (Jewish Tradition):

Blake Bowen

Psalms 121:1-8

"I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber."

New Testament Reading (Christian Tradition):

Jonathan Bowen

Mark 10:13-16

"People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'

Words of Reflection:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Today, we gather to honor Maxwell Bowen, a child born into a family blessed by two rich traditions. In this moment, we reflect on the importance of love, guidance, and the spiritual heritage that will shape his life. As his parents commit to nurturing him with the values of both their faiths, we are reminded of the beauty of unity and diversity. This blessing is not just a ceremony but a declaration of the love and care that will surround Maxwell as he grows.

Parental Commitment

Pastor:

As parents, you are entrusted with the sacred responsibility of nurturing Maxwell Bowen, guiding him in love, and helping him grow in wisdom and understanding. Today, we recognize the unique and beautiful blend of traditions that shape your family and the commitment you make to instill these values in Maxwell. As you seek to raise him with the knowledge and respect of both your faiths, I ask you now to affirm your commitment before God and those gathered here.

Pastor (to Blake and Jonathan):

Do you, as Maxwell Bowen's parents, commit to raising him with love, compassion, and understanding, teaching him the values of both your faith traditions, and guiding him as he grows into the person God has created him to be?

Parents:

We do.

Pastor:

Do you promise to support and nurture Maxwell in both your religious heritages, honoring the teachings and practices of your faiths, while also allowing him the freedom to explore and understand his own spiritual journey?

Parents:

We do.

Pastor:

Do you commit to creating a home filled with love, peace, and respect, where Maxwell can grow in the knowledge of God's love and the richness of both his Christian and Jewish heritage?

Parents:

We do.

Pastor:

May God bless you with wisdom, patience, and joy as you fulfill these promises. And may Maxwell grow in grace, surrounded by the love and guidance of God and his family.

Congregational Commitment

Pastor (to the First UMC congregation):

As a community of family, friends, and fellow believers, we also share in the responsibility of nurturing Maxwell Bowen. We are called to support him, and his family, as they raise him in the light of God's love. Will you, as a community, pledge to support Maxwell Bowen and his family by offering your prayers, love, and encouragement?

Congregation:

We will.

Pastor:

May God give us all the strength and grace to fulfill this commitment, supporting Maxwell and his family as they journey together in faith and love.

The Blessing of Water

Pastor:

Water has always been a powerful symbol in our faith traditions. It represents life, renewal, and the outpouring of God's grace. From the waters of creation to the waters of baptism, we see how God uses water to cleanse, refresh, and bring forth new life. Though we will not use this water to baptize Maxwell today, we recognize its sacredness and the blessing it carries. Just as water sustains life, so too may God's grace sustain Maxwell Bowen throughout his life. Therefore, we bless this water, acknowledging its sacredness and the ways it symbolizes God's presence among us.

Pastor:

Let us hear these words from the scriptures that speak to the power and significance of water.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:3-4

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.

New Testament Reading

John 4:13-14

Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

Prayer of Blessing Over the Water

Pastor:

Let us pray.

Gracious and life-giving God, we thank you for the gift of water. Through the waters of creation, you brought forth life; through the waters of the Red Sea, you delivered your people; through the waters of the Jordan, you led your people to the Promised Land; and through the waters of baptism, you give us new life in Christ.

We ask now that you bless this water, that it may be for us a symbol of your life-giving power and grace. May it remind us of the ways you refresh and renew us each day. As we use this water in the blessing of Maxwell Bowen, may it be a sign of your Spirit at work in his life, nurturing him, guiding him, and filling him with your love. In the name of God the Creator, we pray. Amen.

Symbolic Use of the Water

Pastor:

May this water remind us of all of the grace that flows from God, renewing us, refreshing us, and giving us life. May Maxwell Bowen always be surrounded by the living waters of God's love. Amen.

Blessing of the Child

Pastor (placing a hand on Maxwell's heart):

Maxwell Bowen, may you always walk in the light of God's love, and may your life be a beacon of hope and peace to all who know you. Amen

Communal Prayer

Pastor:

Let us pray together.

Loving and eternal God, we ask your blessing upon Maxwell Bowen. Surround him with your love and fill his life with joy, peace, and purpose. May he grow strong in body, mind, and spirit, always knowing that he is cherished and loved by God. Guide him in the paths of righteousness, and may he always feel your presence beside him. Bless this family as they nurture him, and may their home be filled with the warmth of your love. Amen.

Presentation of a Gift

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Announcements:

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, we welcome Missionaries, David Houle and his wife Allie Houle. We are looking forward to hearing them speak about their mission work in Thailand.

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated by Nancy and Charlie Mongano, "In memory of our granddaughter, Angela DeCarlo".

Reminder: Sunday, September 8th – Seekers Study begins at 8:30 a.m. and our Sunday School class will start at 8:45 a.m.

Sunday, September 8th - Join Jane and Gilbert Heaton for a Pot-Luck Luncheon following service as we celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Remember: September 15, 2024 is our Food Truck Event at FUMC! We will enjoy a delicious lunch provided by the Frankie Fed's Food Truck while we enjoy fellowship and a Special Music Presentation prepared by Mitch Samu. There will even be a bounce house for the children! The lunch is free – compliments of FUMC. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. Contact the church office to RSVP.

There is still time to sign up for the **Elizabeth Circle Women's Retreat in Ocean Grove**. Melanie Bowen will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the retreat.

We are always collecting food for **OPEN DOOR**. A few items specifically in need are: Pancake Mix, Cake Mix and Canned Pasta.

This Week at a Glance (August 26 – September 1)

Monday: ***
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – Walking Group (ZOOM)
Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. – Seventh Day Adventist Church (Lounge)
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
Friday: ***
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. – Worship (Sanctuary)

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

***No events scheduled

August Birthdays

(3) Corbett Corey	(18) Gayle Trulli	(23) Garrett Ian Englert
(4) Carolyn Brach	(19) Ken Budka	(25) Lindsey Hennessey
(5) Cassie Sterling	(21) Verl McKinney	(26) Anita Ritchie
(17) Jessica Cronin	(21) Sandra Hernandez	(27) Ernest Peart

September Birthdays

(2) Diana L. Tephford	(6) Dora Moore	(18) Jaslin Davison
(3) Rachel Englert	(10) Susan Mulholland	(18) Bob Sterling
(4) Charles Mongano	(13) Rich Budalich	(25) Dawn A. Tephford
		(30) Katelyn Cronin