

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent**

Announcements: Dan Tagatac

Prelude

Welcome: Dan Tagatac

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: In the waiting and in the silence, God is near.

People: Even when our prayers feel unanswered, God is still at work.

Leader: The light of hope flickers in the long night.

People: God's promise will not fail, though it may seem delayed.

Leader: Come, people of faith. Bring your questions and your longing.

People: We come to worship the God who remembers and renews.

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

God of steadfast love, we come before you in this season of waiting. When our hope feels faint, strengthen us. When your promises seem delayed, remind us that your timing brings life. Let our worship awaken trust in your goodness and prepare our hearts for your coming. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: **The Candle of HOPE** Youth Group

Reader 1: Today we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope. In times of waiting and uncertainty, God's promise still holds.

Reader 2: When hope feels too late, God's mercy arrives right on time. Like Zechariah and Elizabeth, we wait and wonder if God still remembers us.

Reader 3: Yet God is faithful, bringing life where we least expect it. We light this candle to remind us that hope is born even in silence. Come, Lord Jesus. Kindle your hope in our hearts again.

Together: God of hope, as this light shines, renew our trust in your promises. When our waiting grows weary, strengthen us with your faithfulness. Make us bearers of hope in our world. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196

***Praise Song:** "In the Waiting" Kathy Mulholland

Time for Hanging of the Greens: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

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: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Luke 1:5-25 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)**The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold**

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹ The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

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:

"An Unlikely Advent: When Hope Feels Too Late"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

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

Offertory:

"Prepare the Way"

Bethel Music

*Doxology:

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #95

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Gracious God, you remember your people and fulfill your word in ways beyond our sight. Receive these gifts as our act of hope. Use them to bring light where there is waiting and healing where there is loss. Through Christ our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

*Closing Song:

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

Spiritual

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Opening Hymn:
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
UMH #196

(Verse 1)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

(Verse 2)

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Praise Song:
“In the Waiting” (*Tune of “In the Singing”*)
Kathy Mulholland

In the waiting is the growing'
Stronger in the hope of peace.
In believing is the knowing
That our bondage is release.
As the road is our arriving, and the sacrifice to own,
All our broken dreams and longings
Nourish fields where hope is sown.

In the hunger, in the yearning
Lies the appetite for joy.
As the barren world is turning,
Love designs a little boy.
For the love unchanged and ever
Shining from a mother's eyes
Is the love that spins the planets
And sustains a paradise.

Days of darkness, nights of fever,
Hours of terror lost in time
Swirl in ever winding madness
That consumes each human mind.
But a thread of hope is weaving
Through the cold, chaotic wild,
That in time becomes a blanket
Tucked around a tiny child.

Thus, our waiting is our worship
And our watching is our prayer.
Feed the hungry from the manger;
Soon our God will greet us there.
This creation, full of promise,
Realized imperfectly
Huddles at a humble stable
Waiting for the Word to be.

Prayer Hymn:
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"
UMH #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called, Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called, Emmanuel.

Offertory:
"Prepare the Way"
Wohrle, Cleveland, Bowe, Hulse, Amundrud

(Verse 1)
We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory;
Spirit of God come do it again.
Miracle-working power;
Moving in signs and wonders;
Spirit of God come do it again.

(Chorus)
Prepare the way, He's coming through,
Ready or not, our God's on the move.
We're gonna see heaven on earth;
Come Holy Spirit, awaken Your church.

(Verse 2)
God You're just getting started,
A testimony of more to come;
Spirit of God come do it in us.
We join in the faith of heaven,
And prophesy Your kingdom here on earth;
Spirit of God come do it in us.

(Chorus - 2X)
Prepare the way, He's coming through,
Ready or not, our God's on the move.
We're gonna see heaven on earth;
Come Holy Spirit, awaken Your church.

(Bridge - Repeat as the Spirit leads)
Fire fall, wind come blow,
We're ready for more, ready for more.
Break down the walls, push back the doors,
We're ready for more, ready for more.

(Continued...)

(Chorus - 2X)
Prepare the way, He's coming through,
Ready or not, our God's on the move.
We're gonna see heaven on earth;
Come Holy Spirit, awaken Your church.

(Ending)
We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old-time glory;
Spirit of God come do it again.

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:
"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"
Spiritual

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Altar Flowers are donated by Gloria Susini, in memory of her husband.

Congregation - Mitch and The Choir want to invite anyone who would like to join in a limited time event for the Holiday Season. We will be doing parts of a Celtic Christmas Celebration titled "Season of Joy" on December 14th during service. If you have ever wanted to sing with the choir this is a great time to be involved. Let one of us know if you are interested in being a part of this beautiful program.

A MESSAGE FROM S/PRC CHAIR, MELANIE BOWEN: The Staff Parish Committee will be collecting money for our 6 wonderful staff members to distribute to as their holiday gift. Contributions can be placed in the offering plate, (please clearly mark your envelope "Staff Gift"), or given directly to S/PRC Chair, Melanie Bowen. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Open Door Thanksgiving collection. We donated 14 turkeys and many bags of food to help our neighbors celebrate Thanksgiving.

Thank you to everyone who donated mittens, gloves and hats to the Open Door Christmas gift program. You are part of making neighborhood children happy.

Join Us for Our Christmas Services:

Thursday, December 18th
5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

December 24th – Christmas Eve Services:
4:30 p.m. – Family Friendly Service
10:00 p.m. - Traditional Service



November Birthdays

(2) Ed Bowen	(7) Kylie Ann Tesseyman	(15) Allie Budka	(20) Amber Taylor
(3) Nora Wentworth	(7) Gilbert Heulton	(16) Connie Martz	(24) Tad Wentworth
(5) Carrie Heulton	(12) Rob Beauregard	(17) Eugene Sampieri	(25) Kathy Mulholland
			(30) Amy Wilson

December Birthdays

(1) Sandy Kaiser	(8) Ashley Moore	(13) Chloe Jeon	(28) Nancy Schwarzkopf
(5) Ryan Brigid Mento	(8) Ray Ritchie	(26) Cathy Rupner	(29) Sean Cronin
(5) Rebecca Leader	(11) Kristine O'Donnell	(27) Linda Gatti	(31) Lorena Catalina Lawrence
(6) Susan Moore	(12) Erika MacDonald	(27) Opal Peart	

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

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
7:30 p.m. - Board of Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (Coffee Room)
7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
7:00 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: 8:30 a.m. - Seekers Class (Seekers Classroom)
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Classrooms)
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. - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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

*** No Events Scheduled

COMMUNITY:



UNITED THEATRE PRESENTS: LITTLE WOMEN THE MUSICAL

December 12 & 13 at 7:00 p.m.

December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

On the Wesley Hall Stage.

Directed by Nell Hickey

Book by Allan Knee

Music by Jason Howland, Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Tickets: \$20 (Adult), \$15 (Student), \$10 (Ages 10 and under)

For more information and ticket orders, please visit our website: Unitedtheatreinc.org

Little Women the Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

AT 4:00 P.M.

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH THEATRE

COUNT BASIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

RED BANK, NEW JERSEY

MONMOUTHCIVICCHORUS.ORG

