

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, March 15, 2026
4th Sunday in Lent**

Time of Silence *[Please take this time to prepare your heart and mind for worship]*

Welcome and Announcements:

Dan Tagatac

Prelude

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: Christ calls us to walk the road of love.

People: Even when the journey is unexpected.

Leader: We gather to follow the One who carries the cross.

People: We walk together in faith and compassion.

Leader: Let us worship the God who walks with us.

People: Let us worship with willing hearts.

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

Jesus, you meet us on the road and invite us to share in your work of love and compassion. When we feel unprepared or uncertain, remind us that you are with us. As we worship, open our hearts to your call and shape us into people who are willing to walk alongside others in their time of need. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:**

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

UMH #454

***Praise Song:**

"Guide My Feet"

TFWS #2208

Children's Moment:

Pastor Doby Amos

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:

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

TFWS #2158

Pastoral Prayer:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer:

UMH #895

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23:26-31

Ed Bowen

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 Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story
Week 4: "Unlikely Companionship – Simon of Cyrene"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate God, we confess that we often turn away from the burdens of others. We choose comfort instead of compassion and distance instead of presence. Forgive us and soften our hearts so we may learn to walk with those who suffer, and reflect your love in our lives. Amen.

Offering Time: The March Special Offering benefits our **Annual Diaper Drive**.

Giving page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "Love Is Sending a Savior" Black & Smith
FUMC Choir

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Faithful God, you call us to share in your work of love in the world. Receive these gifts and use them to bring comfort, justice, and hope to those in need. Help us to offer not only what we have, but who we are in service to you. Amen.

*Closing Song: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS #2129

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Luke 23:26-31

The Crucifixion of Jesus

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
“Open My Eyes, That I May See”
UMH #454

(Verse 1)

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

(Chorus 1)

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

(Verse 2)

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.

(Chorus 2)

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

(Verse 3)

Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

(Chorus 3)

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

Praise Song:
“Guide My Feet”
TFWS #2208

(Verse 1)

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

(Verse 2)

Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

(Verse 3)

Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

(Verse 4)

I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

(Verse 5)

Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

(Verse 6)

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Prayer Song:
"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
TFWS #2158

(Verse 1)

I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

(Verse 2)

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

(Verse 3)

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy shore, dear Lord, to Thy shore

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

Closing Song:
"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
TFWS #2129

(Verse 1)

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.

(Verse 2)

The world behind me, the cross before me.
The world behind me, the cross before me.
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back.

(Verse 3)

Tho' none go with me, still I will follow.
Tho' none go with me, still I will follow.
Tho' none go with me, still I will follow,
No turning back, no turning back.

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

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated by Gloria Susini.

On March 23 at 2:00 p.m. the Elizabeth Circle will be stuffing 150 plastic Easter Eggs for FUMC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt (which is open to the community and is to be held on Sat. April 4). Your help would be appreciated by donating "goodies" to put inside the eggs; things like: **Small toys (2 inches or less), Wrapped candies, and Stickers.** There is a basket on the table in "Missions Hall" to put your donations. Thank you.

Annual Diaper Drive: We'll be collecting diapers from now until Sunday, April 12. Our goal is 30,000 diapers. We're doing this again in conjunction with Child Care Resources in Neptune. All diapers will be given to families in need right here in Monmouth County. The diaper collection area is in the sanctuary.

It's time to order your **Easter Flowers**. Please fill out the form included and return it with payment by Palm Sunday, March 29th. Orders can be placed in the Offering Plate or handed to Carol Davison.

This Week at a Glance (March 16 – March 22)

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|------------|---------------------|---|
| Monday: | 7:00 p.m. - | United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall) |
| Tuesday: | 8:30 a.m. - | Walking Group (ZOOM) |
| | 7:30 p.m. - | Reading Between the Vines (Coffee Room) |
| Wednesday: | 10:00 a.m. - | "Oasis" Bible Study Group (Coffee Room) |
| | 7:00 p.m. - | United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall) |
| | 7:30 p.m. - | Seventh Day Adventist Church (Lounge) |
| Thursday: | 8:30 a.m. - | Walking Group (ZOOM) |
| | 7:00 p.m. - | United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall) |
| Friday: | *** | |
| Saturday: | 9:00 a.m. - | Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall till 4:00 p.m.) |
| Sunday: | 8:30 a.m. - | Seeker's Study (Seeker's Classroom) |
| | 8:45 a.m. - | Youth Sunday School (Classrooms) |
| | 9:00 a.m. - | Joyful Noise Warm-Up (Sanctuary) |
| | 9:30 a.m. - | Choir Warm-Up (Sanctuary) |
| | 10:00 a.m. - | Worship (Sanctuary) |
| | 11:00 a.m. - | Fellowship Time and Refreshments (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 11:00 a.m. - | Choir Rehearsal (Wesley Hall Stage) |
| | 5:00 p.m. - | iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall) |

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

***No Events Scheduled

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,,2890014881#,,,,*851247# US

+1-309-205-3325,,2890014881#,,,,*851247# US

Meeting ID: 289 001 4881

Passcode: 851247



FREEHOLD CLERGY ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES 2026

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PRAY, LEARN, AND EAT TOGETHER

TOPIC: BREAKING OPEN THE SYMBOLS OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

12:00 NOON: LUNCH

12:30 PM: PRAYER

1:00 PM LUNCH

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| March 18 | Bethel AME at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine 61 Georgia Road | Bishop Fred Rubin “The Wash Basin & The Towel” |
| March 25 | The Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Ballarmine 61 Georgia Road | Rev. Ruth Scott “The Alabaster Flask” |

Good Friday:

| | | |
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| April 3 | Freehold Baptist Church 81 West Main Street | Rev. Jonathan Glass-Riley “The Crown of Thorns” |
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NO LUNCH – MEETING BEGINS AT 12 PM

FUMC Holy Week Service Schedule:

- April 2 – 6:00 p.m. - **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (Last Supper, Holy Communion, Hand Washing) – Wesley Hall
- April 3 - 7:00 p.m. – **GOOD FRIDAY** – Sanctuary
- April 5 10:00 a.m. – **EASTER SUNDAY** - Sanctuary



April Soul Supper - Save the Date!
Maundy Thursday: April 2, 2026
6:00pm

Join us on Thursday, April 2nd in Wesley Hall at 6 p.m. as Pastor Yoseb leads us in our Maundy Thursday service. After that, we’re going to enjoy a simple meal of soup (Turkey Noodle, Broccoli Cheese or Beef Vegetable) and bread. Please sign the sheet in Fellowship Hall by March 29th if you plan to attend. If you want to help with the food prep, we will be meeting in the kitchen on April 1st at 1p.m.

March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| (3) Nenita Zurick | (10) Dylan Pierce | (16) Brittany Kaiser | (23) Thomas Heulton |
| (4) Rev. Yoseb Jeon | (11) Sue Hager | (16) Andy Schwarzkopf | (24) Gregg Kaiser |
| (4) Mary Sterling | (12) Abigail Davala | (17) Susan Zuckerman | (27) Glenn Meredith |
| (4) Ben Sciortino | (15) Bryan Sampieri | (19) Laura Gatti | (30) Rob Zuckerman |
| | | | (31) In memory of Joanne McKinney (90th) |