

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold  
Bulletin**

**Sunday, April 19, 2026  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Welcome and Announcements:

Sharon Shutzer

Prelude

**\*Call to Worship:**

Leader: We come as we are

**People: doubting Thomases, fearful disciples,  
sorrowing exiles, rejoicing psalmists!**

Leader: You come as you are

**People: Risen Christ, Christ of peace  
Holy Spirit, Spirit of forgiveness  
God of life, God of new birth!**

Leader: Meet us here, Risen Lord.

**People: Show us the fullness of your joy!  
Show us the path of life and living hope!**

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

**Stand among us once again, Risen Christ and bless us with your greeting: "Peace be with you". Breathe upon us your promised Spirit. Stand among us once again, you who have escaped death, and have given us the hope of salvation. We come before you from different paths: some of us certain of your joyful presence in our lives, some of us not so certain, still doubting. Yet we are all here reaching out to you for understanding, for forgiveness, for your grace and your mercy, for all that is imperishable. Meet us here today in all your power and empower us to go forth born anew with living hope. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:**

"Christ Is Alive"

UMH #318

**\*Praise Song:**

"How Great Is Our God"

Tomlin, Reeves & Cash

Children's Time:

Pastor Doby Amos

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:

"When the Night Is Falling"

D. Jernigan

Pastoral Prayer:

Rev. Christina Zito

The Lord's Prayer:

UMH #895

Scripture Reading:

John 20:19-31

Jane Healton

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](http://www.freeholdmethodist.org)]*

Message:

“Too Good To Be True”

Rev. Christina Zito

Prayer of Dedication: (In Unison)

**Even though we have come through the joy of Easter and the triumphant Easter songs, yet we doubt, Lord. Like Thomas, we sometimes still have trouble believing in the resurrection of Jesus. We easily slip back into the darkness of doubts. We move the joy of Easter into the past and continue in a downward path to confusion. Shine your bright light of joy upon us. Lighten our dark path. Help us to believe, even though we have not seen you or touched your hands and side. Remind us again that through all our troubles, doubts, and fears, your power, mercy and love are with us. Help us to proclaim Jesus as our Lord --- Lord of life, Lord of peace, Lord of love, throughout eternity.. Amen.**

Offering Time: The Special Offering for April will benefit **Open Door, The Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program (E.H.A.P.), and Habitat for Humanity.** Giving Page: [www.freeholdmethodist.org/give](http://www.freeholdmethodist.org/give)

Offertory:

“Were You There”

Spiritual

Joan Kinney, Becky Gorman, Stephanie Palmer

\*Doxology:

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #95

\*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

**Gracious God, you have met us in our questions and called us into your peace. As we offer these gifts, receive them as signs of our trust and our desire to follow you. Use what we bring to share your love, to serve those in need, and to bear witness to your living presence in the world. Shape us to be a people who not only believe, but live out that faith with generosity and courage. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

\*Closing Song:

“Ain’t No Grave (Can Hold My Body Down)”

R. Tharpe

\*Benediction:

Rev. Christina Zito

\*Postlude

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### **Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

### **Jesus and Thomas**

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

### **The Purpose of This Book**

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Opening Hymn:**

**“Christ Is Alive”**

**UMH #318**

(Verse 1)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.

(Verse 2)

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
To distant years in Palestine,  
He comes to claim the here and now  
And dwell in every place and time.

(Verse 3)

Not throned afar, remotely high,  
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life,  
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

(Verse 4)

In every insult, rift, and war,  
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
He suffers still, yet loves the more,  
And lives, though ever crucified.

(Verse 5)

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
Good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and all creation ring with joy,  
With justice, love, and praise.

**Praise Song:**

**“How Great Is Our God”**

**Tomlin, Reeves & Cash**

The splendor of the King  
Clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice,  
All the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light,  
And darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at His voice,  
And trembles at His voice.

**(Chorus)**

**How great is our God,  
Sing with me,  
How great is our God;  
And all will see how great,  
How great is our God.**

And age to age He stands,  
And time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End,  
Beginning and the End.

The Godhead, Three in One,  
Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb,  
The Lion and the Lamb.

**(Chorus)**

**How great is our God,  
Sing with me,  
How great is our God;  
And all will see how great,  
How great is our God.**

**Bridge (2X)**

Name above all names,  
Worthy of all praise;  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God.

**(Last Chorus)**

**How great is our God,  
Sing with me,  
How great is our God;  
And all will see how great,  
How great is our God.**

**Prayer Song:**  
**“When the Night Is Falling”**  
**Dennis Jernigan**

(Verse 1)  
When the night is falling  
And the day is done  
I can hear You calling, “Come”  
I will come, while You sing over me.

(Verse 2)  
When the night surrounds me –  
All my dreams undone –  
I can hear You calling, “Come”  
I will come, while You sing over me.

(Pre-Chorus)  
When the night would hide my way,  
I will listen until I hear You say,

(Chorus 1)  
“How I love you child! I love you!  
How I love you child! I love you!  
How I love you!”  
“How I love you child! I love you!  
How I love you child! I love you!  
How I love you!”

(Bridge)  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!

(Verse 3)  
When this life is over,  
And the race is run,  
I will hear You calling, “Come”  
I will come, while You sing over me.

**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:**  
**“Ain’t No Grave Can Hold My Body Down”**  
**Rosetta Tharpe**

It was early one morning  
Just about the break of day.  
Angels came from Glory  
Rolled that stone away.  
When the women came along, child  
And found that their savior was gone.  
Ain’t no grave can hold my body down.  
  
Ain’t no grave can hold my body down,  
Ain’t no grave can hold my body down,  
When that first trumpet sounds – Yes!  
I’m gonna get up out of the ground.  
Ain’t no grave can hold my body down!

Well look yonder, Gabriel.  
Stand on the land and sea.  
Don’t want you to blow that trumpet  
‘til you get orders from me.  
And the night is almost gone, yes,  
And the day is coming on.  
Ain’t no grave can hold my body down.

Ain’t no grave hold my body down,  
Ain’t no grave hold my body down.  
When that first trumpet sounds – Yes!  
I’m gonna get up out of the ground.  
Ain’t no grave hold my body down!

Ain’t no grave can hold my body down,  
Ain’t no grave can hold my body down,  
When that first trumpet sounds – Yes!  
I’m gonna get up out of the ground.  
Ain’t no grave can hold my body down!

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.

**Save the Date:** The First United Methodist Church of Freehold Presents:  
**Vacation Bible School 2026** “Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God”  
June 29 – July 2 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
For children Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.  
Children will enjoy games, crafts, music, bible stories & more!



**This Week at a Glance (April 20 – April 26)**

|            |              |                                                                       |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday:    | 7:00 p.m. -  | United Theatre Rehearsal (Sanctuary)                                  |
| Tuesday:   | 8:30 a.m. -  | Walking Group (ZOOM)                                                  |
|            | 7:00 p.m. -  | United Theatre Rehearsal (Sanctuary)                                  |
|            | 7:30 p.m. -  | “Reading Between the Vines (ZOOM)                                     |
| Wednesday: | 10:00 a.m. - | “Oasis” Bible Study Group (Coffee Room)                               |
|            | 7:00 p.m. -  | United Theatre Rehearsal (Sanctuary)                                  |
|            | 7:30 p.m. -  | Seventh Day Adventist Church (Lounge)                                 |
| Thursday:  | 8:30 a.m. -  | Walking Group (ZOOM)                                                  |
|            | 7:00 p.m. -  | GODSPELL (Sanctuary)                                                  |
| Friday:    | 7:00 p.m. -  | GODSPELL (Sanctuary)                                                  |
| Saturday:  | 9:00 a.m. -  | Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall till 4:00 p.m.) |
|            | 7:00 p.m. -  | GODSPELL (Sanctuary)                                                  |
| Sunday:    | 9:00 a.m. -  | Joyful Noise Warm-Up (Sanctuary)                                      |
|            | 10:00 a.m. - | Worship with GODSPELL performance (Sanctuary)                         |
|            | 11:30 a.m. - | Fellowship Time and Refreshments (Fellowship Hall)                    |
|            | 5:00 p.m. -  | iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)                      |

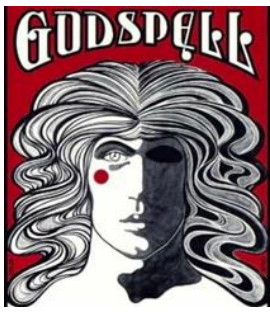
(Nursery care for our youngest members is available during worship service.)

**April Birthdays**

|                             |                         |                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Rose Kelly              | (7) Abigail W. Joseph   | (20) Ashley Sterling  |
| (4) Floyd Bennett           | (10) Jessica McQuillan  | (20) Daniel Jeon      |
| <b>(4) Pastor Doby Amos</b> | (13) Jessica Gorman     | (20) Peggy Gerin      |
| (5) Sue Strauss             | (13) Elizabeth Cortijo  | (22) Karen Bennett    |
| (5) Courtney Kaiser         | (16) Jordan Avallone    | (23) Kathy Kane       |
| (6) Camryn Calcao           | (17) Kathryn Bowen Groh | (26) Colin Gorman     |
| (7) Jane Strauss            | (19) David Tagatac      | (28) Lauren McQuillan |

## Community News:

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### United Theatre presents **GODSPELL**

April 23, 24, & 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the FUMC Sanctuary.

Tickets: Adults: \$20, Students: \$15, Children (under 12) \$10

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Book by John-Michael Tebelak.

Directed by Susan Zuckerman

*United Theatre will present a complimentary performance to the First United Methodist Church of Freehold during service on April 26<sup>th</sup>.*

For more information, and to order tickets, go to: <https://unitedtheatreinc.org/tickets/p/godspell>



### Monmouth Civic Chorus Presents: **"We Hold These Truths"**

Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Freehold

118 W. Main Street, Freehold.

*"This program features a world premiere by New Jersey composer Robert S. Cohen commissioned for the occasion, alongside a rich tapestry of shorter works uplifting American words and stories. The chorus is joined by elite professional chamber orchestra.*

For more information, and to order tickets, go to: <https://monmouthcivicchorus.org>