

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, April 7, 2024
2nd Sunday in Easter**

We will be celebrating communion this morning.

For those of you joining us from home, please have bread and juice/wine available to participate.

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

*Call to Worship: Sharon Shutzer

People: Fear and death have no claim on us!

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen!

People: Even though we have not touched his wounded hands, yet we believe.

Leader: Even though we have not heard him speak our names, yet we believe.

People: Let us celebrate God's love through the life of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief, and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage, and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps. In his name, we pray. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH #206

*Praise Song: "Spirit of God" TFWS #2117

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: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UMH #420

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31 Melanie 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: "Behind the Locked Door" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering Time: Today's Special Offering will benefit **Rise Against Hunger**. Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food and other aid to people in developing nations. **Giving Page:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "Behold the Lamb" Arr. Camp Kirkland
FUMC Choir

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Abundant God, we are grateful for all your blessings, especially for the presence of the risen Christ. Bless these gifts, that they may help bring your love and light into our community and our world. Amen.

Celebration of Communion: *Sung Responses: "Communion Settings" UMH pages 12-14
TFWS #2257 (b, c, d)

Communion Hymn: "In the Singing" TFWS #2255

Prayer: (In Unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Holy Spirit, Rain Down" Russell Fragar

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude: "Holy Spirit, Rain Down" Russell Fragar
(Reprise)

Scripture Passage

Liturgist: Melanie Bowen

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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

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

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
UMH #206

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

(Chorus)

In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

(Chorus)

In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

(Chorus)

In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Praise Song:
"Spirit of God"
TFWS #2117

Spirit of God, bright Wind,
Breath that bids life begin,
Blow as you always do; create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing,
Lifted on soaring wing,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Dove,
Grant us your peace and love,
Healing upon your wings for all living things.
For when we live your peace,
Captives will find release,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Hands,
Even in far off lands
You hold all the human race in one warm embrace.
No matter where we go,
You hold us together so,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Flame,
Send us in your holy name,
The power to heal, to share your love everywhere.
We cannot fail or fall,
Or know defeat at all,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God in all,
We gladly hear your call,
The life in our hands that sings,
The power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise,
Love shining in our eyes,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Prayer Song:
“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”
UMH #420

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Till all this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

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.

Communion Settings
TFWS #2257
(b, c, d)

Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

(Continued...)

Blest if the one who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Hymn:
“In the Singing”
TFWS #2255

In the singing, in the silence,
In the hands expectant, open,
In the blessing, in the breaking,
In the Presence at this table -

(Chorus)

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
Be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
Be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,
In the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing,
In the circle of Your people -

(Chorus)

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
Be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
Be the bread of peace.

Closing Hymn:
“Holy Spirit, Rain Down”
Russell Fragar

(Chorus 2X)

Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down,
O, Comforter and Friend,
How we need Your touch again.
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down,
Let Your power fall, let Your voice be heard,
Come and change our hearts
As we stand on Your Word.
Holy Spirit, rain down.

(Verse)

No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
No mind can know what God has in store.
So, open up heaven, open it wide,
Over Your church, and over our lives.

(Chorus)

Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down,
O, Comforter and Friend,
How we need Your touch again.
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down,
Let Your power fall, let Your voice be heard,
Come and change our hearts
As we stand on Your Word.
Holy Spirit, rain down.

(Ending)

Rain down, rain down,
Rain down, rain down,
Rain down, rain down,
Rain.

Announcements - April 7, 2024

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are donated by Jane Strauss, "Happy birthday, Cindy Schmidt!" and also in celebration of Jane's birthday.

The **Administrative Council** will meet on **Monday, April 15th** at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM. All church members are invited to attend. The ZOOM link will be included in the next Newsletter.

The **Elizabeth Circle 2024 Retreat** "Spiritual Preparation for the Storms of Life" will run from Sunday, September 29 – Tuesday, October 1st at The Carriage House, Ocean Grove. \$375/person (\$100 deposit is required to hold your space). Register with Melanie Bowen. All women of the church are invited to attend. SPACE IS LIMITED AND A WAITLIST WILL BE MAINTAINED.

Introducing AdvenChurch: Deepen friendships via shared experiences with your FUMC family, and beyond. Do you want to know about various trips and outings you can take with church friends and family? Events will range from only barely adventurous day-trips to moderately strenuous group walks; exploring local sites to trying something new. We'll strive for variety, with offerings for different ages, schedules, abilities, budgets and interests. All details will be included with each invitation/announcement. Anyone may join! Send your email address to Kathy Mulholland at kathymommy@aol.com to join the contact list or offer trip/event suggestions.

Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School** – June 25-28. All ages are welcome to attend.

Come out for an evening of music and refreshments at United Theatre's "**Open Mic Night**" – **Saturday, April 27th at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall**. Whether you want to show off your talent, or just relax and enjoy the entertainment, it's sure to be a good time. Tickets are \$5. Concessions will be sold at the event. Find us on Facebook and Instagram at **United Theatre Inc.** or contact us at: unitedtheatreinc@gmail.com to sign up.

Grocery Cards (Shop Rite, Acme, and Stop & Shop) will be sold after service.

This Week at a Glance (April 8 – April 14)

Monday: – ***
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – Walking Group (ZOOM)
7:00 p.m. - Second Tuesday Rehearsal
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (Coffee Room)
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: 8:30 a.m. – Seekers Class
8:45 a.m. - Children Sunday School (Classrooms)
9:00 a.m. – Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. – Worship (Sanctuary)
(Nursery care for our youngest members is available during worship service.)

***No events scheduled

April Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Rose Kelly | (13) Elizabeth Cortijo |
| (4) Floyd Bennett | (16) Jordan Avallone |
| (5) Sue Strauss | (17) Kathryn Bowen Groh |
| (5) Courtney Kaiser | (19) David Tagatac |
| (6) Camryn Calcao | (20) Ashley Sterling |
| (7) Jane Strauss | (20) Daniel Jeon |
| (7) Abigail Wentworth Joseph | (20) Peggy Gerin |
| (10) Jessica McQuillan | (22) Karen Bennett |
| (11) Pam Temple | (23) Kathy Kane |
| (11) David Moore | (26) Colin Gorman |
| (13) Jessica Gorman McKenzie | (28) Lauren McQuillan |