First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin

Sunday, November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

*Call to Worship:
Leader: We come to worship the God who meets us not only in strength, but also in weakness.
People: We come to worship the God who knows our suffering and walks beside us.
Leader: In Jesus Christ, God entered our world, sharing our struggles, our pain, and our humanity.
People: In Christ, we discover a love that does not turn away from suffering.
Leader: Let us open our hearts to the God who calls us to love, to serve, and to stand with those in need.
People: We come to worship the living God, whose love is revealed in Jesus Christ!

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)
Gracious and loving God, we come before you today with grateful hearts, knowing that you are not distant from our struggles, or untouched by our pain. In Jesus Christ, you entered our world, sharing our humanity and walking among the vulnerable, the forgotten, and the suffering. Open our eyes to see you in the faces of those who suffer, and open our hearts to receive the love you have revealed through Christ. As we worship today, deepen our faith, strengthen our compassion, and teach us what it means to follow Jesus, even when the path leads through difficulty and sacrifice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "In the Garden" UMH #314

*Praise Song: "When the Poor Ones" UMH #434

Children's Time: Ken Budka

Introduction to Prayer: Anita Ritchie
[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: "Make Me a Servant" TFWS #2176

Pastoral Prayer: Anita Ritchie

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:3-5; Matthew 16:13-28 Lyn Johnson

Friendship Moment and Passing of the Peace: Anita Ritchie
[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form: [www.freeholdmethodist.org]

Message: Sermon Series: Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Week 1): "God According to Bonhoeffer" Ray Ritchie & Cindy Curtis-Budka

Offering Time: The Special Offering for the month of November will benefit **United Methodist Student Day**. Your gift helps provide loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students. **Giving Page:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/give Anita Ritchie

Offertory: "Come Home" Laura Ann Page
FUMC Choir

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison) Anita Ritchie
Faithful God, all that we have and all that we are comes from your generous love. As we bring our gifts before you today, remind us that following Christ means more than offering what is comfortable or convenient. May these gifts become signs of your presence among those who are hurting, struggling, or forgotten. Use them, and us, to bring hope where there is despair, compassion where there is suffering, and love where there is fear. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Song: "Where the Soul of Man Never Dies" R. Skaggs & T. Rice

*Benediction: Anita Ritchie

*Postlude

Scripture Reading: **Liturgist: Lyn Johnson**

Exodus 20:3-5
3 you shall have no other gods before me.
4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me.

Matthew 16:13-28
Peter's Declaration about Jesus
13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection
21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.
22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

The Cross and Self-Denial

[24] Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. [25] For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

[27] "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. [28] Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn:
"In the Garden"
UMH #314

(Verse 1)
I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

(Chorus)
And He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

(Verse 2)
He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

(Repeat Chorus)

(Verse 3)
I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; thru the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

(Repeat Chorus)

Praise Song:
"When the Poor Ones"
UMH #434

When the poor ones who have nothing
Share with strangers,
When the thirsty
Water give unto us all,
When the crippled in their weakness
Strengthen others,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer
Find their comfort,
When they hope though even hope
Seems hopelessness,
When we love though hate at times
Seems all around us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When our joy fills up our cup
To overflowing,
When our lips can speak no words
Other than true,
When we know that love for
Simple things is better,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.

(Continued…)

When our homes are filled with goodness
In abundance,
When we learn how to make peace
Instead of war,
When each stranger that we meet
Is called a neighbor,
Then we know that God
Still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God
Still goes that road with us.

Prayer Song:
"Make Me a Servant"
TFWS #2176

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

(Repeat)

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:
"Where the Soul of Man Never Dies"
R. Skaggs and T. Rice

To Canaan's land I'm on my way,
Where the soul *(of man)* never dies.
My darkest night will turn to day,
Where the soul *(of man)* never dies.

No sad farewells, no tear-dimmed eyes,
Where all is peace, and joy, and love,
And the soul *(of man)* never dies.

The roses bloom in there for me,
Where the soul *(of man)* never dies.
And I will spend eternity
Where the soul *(of man)* never dies.

No sad farewells, no tear-dimmed eyes
Where all is peace, and joy, and love,
And the soul *(of man)* never dies.

The lovelight beams across the foam,
Where the soul *(of man)* never dies.
It shines and lights the way to home
Where the soul *(of man)* never dies.

No sad farewells, no tear-dimmed eyes,
Where all is peace, and joy, and love,
And the soul *(of man)* never dies.

No sad farewells, no tear-dimmed eyes
Where all is peace, and joy, and love,
And the soul *(of man)* never dies.

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's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are provided by Diana Dreyer, "In memory of my mom's birthday." And by Allein Sampieri, in celebration of Gene's birthday.

Join us on November 19th at 6:00 p.m. for our old-fashion Covered Dish Soul Supper. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Make it something from your ethnic heritage if you can. It will be so much fun to see what everyone come up with! We won't have our usual prep day for this supper, but we will need a little help setting up at 5 p.m. on the 19th. Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall if you plan to atttend.

Invite family and friends to a very special service on **December 6th**. Our Music Director, Mitch Samu will lead our talented choir as they present a **Christmas Cantata**. You won't want to miss it!

Refreshments for Fellowship Time: There are lots of open dates to sign up to provide refreshments for Fellowship Time. Refreshments can be store-bought; they do not have to be homemade. Any date you can sign up for is appreciated. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall.

The choir is asked to stay for rehearsal after service today and each Sunday leading up to the Christmas Cantata.

COMMUNITY EVENT:

Back by popular demand, our very own FUMC Music Director, Mitch Samu, along with his wife, Kristen, will be providing live music at Frankie Fed's in Freehold on Sunday evening, **November 22, 2026 from 5:30 pm - 7:30** pm. Come enjoy a wonderful Italian meal or Fed's famous crispy thin-crust pizza while listening to Mitch's music. It promises to be a great evening. You may make reservations with Carol Davison or call Frankie Fed's directly. Any questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to Carol.

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

Monday:	7:00 p.m.	United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Tuesday:	8:30 a.m. -	Walking Group (ZOOM)
	10:30 a.m. -	Reading Between the Vines (Coffee Room)
Wednesday:	2:00 p.m. -	Stitcher's Circle (Coffee Room)
	7:00 p.m. -	Seventh Day Adventist Church (Classroom)
	7:00 p.m. -	United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Thursday:	8:30 a.m. -	Walking Group (ZOOM)
	6:00 p.m. -	Soul Supper (Wesley Hall)
Friday:	6:00 p.m. -	Seventh Day Adventist Church (Coffee Room)
Saturday:	9:30 a.m. -	Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)
Sunday:	8:30 a.m. -	Seekers Class (Seeker's Classroom)
	8:45 a.m. -	Children's 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. -	Refreshments and Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 a.m. -	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	5:00 p.m. -	iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)

November Birthdays

(2) Ed Bowen
(3) Nora Wentworth
(5) Carrie Healton
(5) Stephanie Palmer
(7) Gilbert Healton
(15) Allie Budka
(16) Connie Martz
(17) Gene Sampieri
(24) Tad Wentworth
(25) Kathy Mulholland

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,,82834704102#,,,,*995308# US
+1-309-205-3325,, 82834704102#,,,,*995308# US

Meeting ID: 828 3470 4102
Passcode: 995 308

Ways to Give to the Church:

1) **Sign-up for Subsplash!**
2) Download the FUMC church app! Go to the app store on your smartphone or tablet and search "First UMC Freehold". Look for a blue icon with the Methodist cross and flame.
3) Go to our website: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give
4) Text-to-give by texting "freeholdumc" to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483)
5) Mail a check to 91 West Main St. Freehold, NJ 07728
6) **VENMO**@FumcFreehold.
7) Scan the **QR code** on the card located in the pew card holders.



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Wi-Fi access - SSID: FUMC Guest – Password: Lower-Room2