

First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin

Sunday, July 16, 2023
7th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements: Dan Tagatac

Prelude

Welcome: Rev. Christina Zito

*Call to Worship: Rev. Christina Zito

Leader: The world may label you as this or that.
People: God knows us as beloved.

Leader: You may feel empowered or not enough.
People: God can still use our gifts.

Leader: Come and worship just as you are, for you are God's child.
People: Let us praise with bold hope and deep love!

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)
Almighty God, we come to you knowing that you are always doing a new and unexpected thing in our lives and in the world. Open our hearts to see others as you see them, to serve others as you would serve them, and to trust you in all our circumstances. Open our minds that we might not underestimate all that you can do when we courageously and boldly serve your purposes. Open our doors to shelter your people with love and acceptance. We pray this in the mighty name of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "God of the Women" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*Praise Song: "Open the Eyes of My Heart" P. Baloche

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 Hymn: "Spirit Song" UMH #347

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Christina Zito

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Friendship Moment
*[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form:
www.freeholdmethodist.org]*

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:1-14 Susan Zuckerman

Message: "Strong Women of Faith: Rahab" Rev. Christina Zito

Offering Time: **Giving Page:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "God Don't Make No Junk" K. Mulholland
Kathy Mulholland, Soloist

*Doxology: "Thank You God" M. Samu

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Loving God, thank you for the holy courage of this congregation that shows their faith in you. Thank you for the boldness of the givers and the gifts. Use them now to transform the world in your likeness and love. This we pray, trusting that you, O God, are continually doing a new thing in our midst. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Closing Hymn: "Over My Head" TFWS #2148

*Benediction: Rev. Christina Zito

*Postlude

Scripture Passage

Liturgist: Susan Zuckerman

Joshua 2:1-14 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Spies Sent to Jericho

2 Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there. **2** The king of Jericho was told, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land." **3** Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come only to search out the whole land." **4** But the woman took the two men and hid them.^[a] Then she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. **5** And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them." **6** She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. **7** So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof **9** and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that dread of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you. **10** For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea^[b] before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **11** As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The LORD your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. **12** Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the LORD that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith **13** that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death." **14** The men said to her, "Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the LORD gives us the land."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

**Opening Hymn:
God of the Women
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth –
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susannah, and more –
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking, "Who smiled at my birth?" –
In Jesus' dying you showed us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day –
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.

**Praise Hymn:
Open the Eyes of My Heart
Paul Baloche**

(Chorus)

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You,
I want to see You.**

(Repeat)

(Verse)

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing, "Holy, holy, holy."

(Chorus)

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You,
I want to see You.**

(Repeat)

(Verse)

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing, "Holy, holy, holy."

(Bridge)

Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see You.

Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see You.

(End)

Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see You.

Prayer
Spirit Song
UMH #347

O let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love.
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let Him have the things that hold you,
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill Your lambs.

O come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
O give Him all your tears and sadness;
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill Your lambs.

Offertory
God Don't Make No Junk
Kathy Mulholland

So I got some whole new sounds
And it's really making rounds
On the social and the raves
Yeah, my name is cutting waves.
When you see me on the street
And I'm jammin' to my beat
You might think that I'm a punk
But my God don't make no junk.

Bored or lonely, here's my cell,
And I'll be your wishing well.
If you're nervous, don't you fear;
I'm the best in my career.
It's a thousand for a day,
'Cause I've got my bills to pay.
On your arm or in the bunk,
Honey, God don't make no junk.

Got a pocket full of pills
That supposed to cure my ills,
But they put me in a haze
So I go without for days.
When my meds are on the shelf
And I'm talking to myself,
Though I'm feeling kinda sunk
I know God don't make no junk.

In the cell, thirty to life,
Solving problems with a knife.
Can't trust no one in this place
And the sun don't see my face.
Guess I earned this walk I walk
But to hear the preacher talk,
It sounds like a load of bunk
Saying God don't make no junk.

I remember being young
Before liquor hit my tongue.
How am I? You may well ask.
Trapped inside this poison flask.
Deep inside I know it's true,
But I need to hear from you.
Can't remember when I'm drunk,
Tell me God don't make no junk.

**Doxology:
Thank You God
Mitch Samu**

Thank you God,
Thank you God,
Thank you God,
For giving me this life I get to live.

Thank you God,
Love you God,
Praise you God,
Forever I will give all I can give.

Amen!

**Closing Hymn:
Over My Head
TFWS #2148**

Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
There must be a God somewhere.

Oh, when the world is silent, *I hear music in the air;*
Oh, when the world is silent, *I hear music in the air;*
Oh, when the world is silent, *I hear music in the air;*
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
There must be a God somewhere.

And when I'm feeling lonely, *I hear music in the air;*
And when I'm feeling lonely, *I hear music in the air;*
And when I'm feeling lonely, *I hear music in the air;*
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
There must be a God somewhere.

Now when I think on Jesus, *I hear music in the air;*
Now when I think on Jesus, *I hear music in the air;*
Now when I think on Jesus, *I hear music in the air;*
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
There must be a God somewhere.

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. We are glad you are with us.

Today's **Altar Flowers** donated by Kathy Kane, in memory of Jimmy's birthday.

Ticket orders for the August 3rd Jersey Shore BlueClaws game are due Thursday, July 20th. Tickets are \$17 (for groups of 10 or more) and include a hot dog, soda, chips, ice cream, a game ticket for the 'boardwalk' area, and an exciting baseball game. Payments can be brought to the church office.

Join us on **Saturday, August 5, 2023** at Lake Topanemus for a day of **Olde Freehold Family Fun!** Food, Games, Paddle Boats, Contests, Kidz Zone, Music and, of course, the famous Freehold UMC Bake Sale Table! Kathy Kane is asking for volunteers to bake, set up and break down the table, and sell the baked goods. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall. **The event runs from 12 noon – 5 p.m.**

Save the Date: The United Theatre Company will perform **"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"** on Saturday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 13th at 1:00 p.m. on the F.U.M.C. stage! This British pantomime version of this classic tale is fun for all ages. Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under.

Next Sunday is collection day for **Open Door**. Please place your donations on the Open Door table in Missions Hall.

Grocery Cards (Shop Rite, Acme, and Stop & Shop) are sold after service in the coffee room.

Please see the 2nd Quarter Update from the Finance Committee on the following page:

July Birthdays

(6) Diane Mulholland

(9) Carolyn Heuser

(9) Elise Tagatac

(13) Carolyn Dahl

(15) Luanne Kip

(18) Greg Schwarzkopf

(19) Paula Taylor

(24) Christine Calcao

(26) Lan Wilson

(26) AnnMarie Meredith

(27) Larry Jamison

(30) Jan Hall

(30) Gabby Sterling

Update from the Finance Committee: 2nd Quarter of 2023:

In terms of the Operating Fund, the church income includes that received in general offerings and other income sources such as building rental and fundraising activities. Church expenses include salaries, insurance, utilities, maintenance, conference obligations and other costs to keep the church operating.

FUMC Operating Fund Update			
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	year to date
income	\$ 65,759	\$ 65,693	\$ 131,452
expenses	\$ 61,917	\$ 65,240	\$ 127,157
net income	\$ 3,842	\$ 453	\$ 4,295
Operating Fund Balance			
start of the year			\$ 19,235
end of 2nd quarter			\$ 20,846
change			\$ 1,611

Note: The difference between the net income and the change in the balance involves fluctuations in the amount of grocery cards currently held.

Note: Major property maintenance and improvement projects are covered by the Trustees who maintain a separate account.