First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin

Sunday, November 29, 2026
1st Sunday of Advent

Announcements: Andrea Garcia

Prelude

Welcome: Andrea Garcia

*Call to Worship:
Leader: Advent begins with a promise: God is not finished with us yet.
People: We come with hope, trusting in God's renewing grace.
Leader: We carry memories of joy and sorrow, of love and regret.
People: Yet our past does not have the final word.
Leader: In Jesus Christ, God opens the door to new beginnings.
People: We wait with hope and welcome the One who makes all things new.
All: Come, Lord Jesus! Fill our hearts with hope as we worship you.

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)
God of hope and new beginnings, as we enter this season of Advent, we bring before you all that we are, our joys and regrets, our cherished memories and unfinished stories. Remind us that our past does not define our future, and that your grace is always at work, making renewal possible. Open our hearts to the coming of Christ, who brings light into our darkness and hope into our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: **The Candle of HOPE** Children & Youth
Reader 1: Today we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope. As we begin this season of waiting, we remember that God comes to us with the promise of new beginnings.
Reader 2: We all carry stories from our past, moments of joy and love, but also regrets, disappointments, and missed opportunities. Sometimes we wonder if things can ever change.
Reader 3: Yet, Advent reminds us that our past does not have the final word. God's grace reaches into every part of our story, opening the way to healing, forgiveness, and new life. We light this candle as a sign of the hope we have in Christ.
Together: God of hope, shine your light into our hearts. Help us to trust that no life is beyond your grace and no story is beyond your redemption. As we wait for Christ, renew our hope, and lead us toward the new beginnings you have promised. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" UMH #133

*Praise Song: "Prepare the Way" Wohrle, Cleveland, Bowe, Hulse, & Amundrud

Time for Hanging of the Greens: Rev. Yoseb Jeon
Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is formed in faith, hope and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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: "Shine on Us" M. W. Smith & D.D. Smith

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 Dan Tagatac

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: The Redemption of Scrooge (Week 1): "The Remembrance of Christmas Past" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering Time: The Special Offering for November will benefit **United Methodist Student Day**. Gifts to United Methodist Student Day provide loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university and graduate students. **Giving Page:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Wesley & Prichard
Mitch Samu, Piano

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

God of hope and light, you have promised to shine your light upon those who walk in darkness. As we offer these gifts, we give thanks for your grace that renews our lives and opens the way to new beginnings. Use our offerings to bring hope to those who are struggling, comfort to those who are hurting, and light to those who feel lost. May our generosity reflect the love of Christ, whose coming we await with joyful hope. Amen.

*Closing Song: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" Spiritual

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Scripture Passage **Liturgist: Dan Tagatac**

Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined. 3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden and the bar
across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots
of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child
has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Great will be his authority, and there shall be
endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn:
"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"
UMH #133

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus)*
Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus)*
Safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus)*
Leaning, (*leaning on Jesus)*
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Repeat Chorus)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Repeat Chorus)

Praise Song:
"Prepare the Way"
Wohrle, Cleveland, Bowe, Hulse, Amundrud

(Verse 1)
We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory;
Spirit of God come do it again.
Miracle-working power;
Moving in signs and wonders;
Spirit of God come do it again.

(Chorus)
Prepare the way, He's coming through,
Ready or not, our God's on the move.
We're gonna see heaven on earth;
Come Holy Spirit, awaken Your church.

(Verse 2)
God You're just getting started,
A testimony of more to come;
Spirit of God come do it in us.
We join in the faith of heaven,
And prophesy Your kingdom here on earth;
Spirit of God come do it in us.

(Chorus - 2X)
Prepare the way, He's coming through,
Ready or not, our God's on the move.
We're gonna see heaven on earth;
Come Holy Spirit, awaken Your church.

(Bridge - Repeat as the Spirit leads)
Fire fall, wind come blow,
We're ready for more, ready for more.
Break down the walls, push back the doors,
We're ready for more, ready for more.

(Chorus - 2X)
Prepare the way, He's coming through,
Ready or not, our God's on the move.
We're gonna see heaven on earth;
Come Holy Spirit, awaken Your church.

(Ending)
We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old-time glory;
Spirit of God come do it again.

Prayer Song:
"Shine on Us"
Smith & Smith

(Verse 1)
Lord, let Your light,
Light of Your face, shine on us.
Lord, let Your light,
Light of Your face, shine on us
That we may be saved,
That we may have life,
To find our way in the darkest night.
Let Your light shine on us.

(Verse 2)
Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand, fall on us.
Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand, fall on us
That we may be saved,
That we may have life,
To find our way in the darkest night.
Let Your grace fall on us.

(Verse 3)
Lord let Your love,
Love with no end, come over us.
Lord, let Your love,
Love with no end, come over us
That we may be saved,
That we may have life,
To find our way in the darkest night.
Let Your love come over us,
Let Your light shine on us.

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:
"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"
Spiritual

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

(Repeat)

Altar Flowers are donated by Ray & Anita Ritchie in memory of Ray's parents.

Sharing at Christmas: Remember to pick one tag or more from the tree in the sanctuary. The tags represent a hat and mittens or gloves for a child as part of Open Door's Christmas gift program. Our church has committed to 100 sets. Each tag gives an age range. The winter wear is to be gender neutral.
Please return your gifts to the church by Sunday, December 6. Thank you for being a part of this local mission project.

Faithful Stitchers is pleased to share that they will be selling knit and crocheted hats and mittens to support the church's upcoming collection for Open Door. Their hope is to create a convenient shopping experience for church members while offering unique, handmade pieces.
Please visit "Allein's Craft Corner" (in Fellowship Hall) after service on November 29th and December 6th to see this special collection of hats and mittens. All proceeds will be contributed to the church.

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: A volunteer is needed to provide refreshments on **December 6th.** Refreshments can be store-bought; they do not have to be homemade. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall. **The sign-up sheet for 2027 is now available!**

The choir is asked to stay for rehearsal after service today.

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

December Birthdays

(1) Sandy Kaiser
(5) Rebecca Leader
(8) Ray Ritchie
(11) Kristine O'Donnell
(12) Erika MacDonald
(13) Chloe Jeon
(26) Cathy Rupner
(27) Linda Gatti
(28) Nancy Schwarzkopf
(29) Sean Cronin
(31) Lorena Catalina Lawrence

This Week at a Glance (November 30 – December 6)

Monday:	7:00 p.m. -	United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Tuesday:	8:30 a.m. -	Walking Group (ZOOM)
	7:00 p.m. -	Board of Trustees (ZOOM)
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. -	Oasis Bible Study (Coffee Room)
	7:00 p.m. -	United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
	7:00 p.m. -	Seventh Day Adventist Church (Classroom)
Thursday:	8:30 a.m. -	Walking Group (ZOOM)
	7:00 p.m. -	Administrative Council Meeting (ZOOM)
	7:00 p.m. -	United Theatre Rehearsal (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**:**	8:45 a.m. -	Children's Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:00 a.m. -	Choir Warm-Up (Sanctuary)
	10:00 a.m. -	**Worship with Christmas Cantata** (Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m. -	Refreshments and Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 p.m. -	iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall)

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

COMMUNITY:

UNITED THEATRE PRESENTS: ROALD DAHL'S WILLY WONKA THE MUSICAL

December 11 & 12 at 7:00 p.m.
December 13 at 1:00 p.m.
On the Wesley Hall Stage.
Directed by Leah Zuckerman

Tickets: $20 (Adult), $15 (Student), $10 (Ages 10 and under)
For more information and ticket orders, please visit our website: Unitedtheatreinc.org

Willy Wonka the Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.



Sunday, December 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Hackensack Meridian Health Theatre
Count Basie Center for the Arts
99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, New Jersey

SING HALLELUJAH!

A CELEBRATORY HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA AND SOLOISTS.

Sing Hallelujah! continues Monmouth Civic Chorus's beloved annual tradition, presenting singalong carols alongside classics from Handel's *Messiah*. Three takes on '*Hallelujah'* – from Handel, Beethoven, and Margaret Bonds – anchor this program which traces the contours of the Christmas story and its joyful message of peace. The chorus is joined by top-tier soloists and an elite professional orchestra to *ring in* the holiday season with cheerful singing!

Premium Seating: Adult $62, Senior $52, Student $20, Group (10 or more) $48 plus fees
Regular Seating: Adult $42, Senior $37, Student $15, Group (10 or more) $37 plus fees
MONMOUTHCIVICCHORUS.ORG