

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold  
Bulletin**

**Sunday, April 28, 2024  
Safe Sanctuary Awareness Sunday**

Announcements: Verl McKinney

Prelude

Welcome: Verl McKinney

\*Call to Worship: Verl McKinney

Leader: God of Refuge, we gather in your presence, seeking your safety and peace.

**People: We come as children of your sanctuary, committed to creating a space of safety and grace.**

Leader: In your wisdom, you teach us to guard the vulnerable, to protect the innocent.

**People: Help us to embody your love, to act justly, and to serve diligently.**

Leader: As we worship, let us celebrate the sanctuary you provide, and commit to extending it to all.

**People: We are ready to learn, to grow, and to reflect your sanctuary in our lives.**

\*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

**Lord, as we gather today in your sacred space, we ask for your guidance and blessings. Illuminate our hearts with your divine wisdom as we strive to uphold the sanctity of your sanctuary. Help us to remember the importance of protecting all who enter our doors, especially the most vulnerable among us. May our actions and decisions reflect your compassion and righteousness, and let our community of faith be a beacon of safety and love, where all can feel secure and valued. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” UMH #384

\*Praise Song: “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” TFWS #2120

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: “Change My Heart, O God” TFWS #2152

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Readings: Matthew 25:34-40 Jane Heulton

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)]*

Safe Sanctuary Congregational Training: Pamela Wentworth

Offering Time: The Special Offering for the month of April will benefit **Rise Against Hunger**.

**Giving Page:** [www.freeholdmethodist.org/give](http://www.freeholdmethodist.org/give)

Offertory: "Movement 4 from Sonata #3" Handel  
Featuring Lynne Beach, Violin

\*Doxology: "Thank You God" Mitch Samu

\*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

**Gracious God, with humble hearts, we bring our gifts to you today, grateful for the sanctuary and the safety your love provides. Bless these offerings, that they may be used to strengthen our church's commitment to being a safe sanctuary for all. May our resources enable us to train, support, and equip our community to better protect and cherish every soul that seeks refuge with us. Guide us in your grace and wisdom as we use these gifts for your glory and the good of those we serve, In Jesus' name, Amen.**

\*Closing Song: "The Trees of the Field" TFWS #2279

\*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Postlude: "The Trees of the Field" TFWS #2279  
(Reprise)

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**Scripture Passage**  
**April 28, 2024**

**Liturgist: Jane Healton**

**Matthew 25:34-40**

<sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Opening Hymn:**  
**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**  
**UMH #384**

(Verse 1)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart.

(Verse 2)

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit;  
Let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

(Verse 3)

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

(Verse 4)

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfect restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Praise Song:**  
**“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”**  
**TFWS #2120**

(Chorus)

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,**  
**Blow through the wilderness**  
**Calling and free;**  
**Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,**  
**Stir me from placidness,**  
**Wind, Wind on the sea.**

(Verse 1)

You moved on the waters,  
You called to the deep,  
Then You coaxed up the mountains  
From the valleys of sleep;  
And over the eons  
You called to each thing:  
Wake from your slumbers  
And rise on your wings.

**(Repeat Chorus)**

(Verse 2)

You swept through the desert,  
You stung with the sand,  
And You goaded Your people  
With a law and a land;  
And when they were blinded  
With their idols and lies,  
Then You spoke through Your prophets  
To open their eyes.

**(Repeat Chorus)**

(Verse 3)

You sang in a stable,  
You cried from a hill,  
Then You whispered in silence  
When the whole world was still;  
And down in the city  
You called once again,  
When You blew through Your people  
On the rush of the wind.

**(Repeat Chorus)**

(Continued...)

(Verse 4)

You call from tomorrow,  
You break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow  
The captives dream dreams,  
Our women see visions,  
Our men clear their eyes,  
With bold new decisions  
Your people arise.

**(Repeat Chorus)**

**Prayer Song:**

**“Change My Heart, O God”**

**TFWS #2152**

Change my heart, O God,  
Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God,  
May I be like you.

You are the Potter,  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me,  
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God,  
Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God,  
May I be like you.

**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:**

**“The Trees of the Field”**

**TFWS #2279**

You shall go out with joy  
And be led forth with peace;  
The mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you;  
There'll be shouts of joy,  
And all the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field  
Will clap their hands,  
The trees of the field  
Will clap their hands,  
The trees of the field  
Will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy.

## Announcements

April 28, 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.**

Please stay for a while after church today to help pack **E.H.A.P. Lunch bags** (in Fellowship Hall).

Everyone is invited to participate in our **Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event** on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

Have you reserved your spot for the **Elizabeth Circle 2024 Retreat** “Spiritual Preparation for the Storms of Life”? The retreat will run from Sunday, September 29 – Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

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

### This Week at a Glance (April 29 – May 5)

Monday: 7:30 p.m. – Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary)  
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – Walking Group (ZOOM)  
7:30 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary)  
Wednesday: **10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (Coffee Room)**  
7:30 p.m. – Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary)  
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’s Sunday School (Classrooms)**  
**9:00 a.m. – Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)**  
**10:00 a.m. – Worship (Sanctuary)**  
**11:15 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)**  
**2:00 p.m. - RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT (Wesley Hall)**

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

\*\*\* No events scheduled.

### Community News:

Monmouth Civic Chorus Presents “All That Sparkles – Your Favorites from our First 75 Years”.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Freehold.

Tickets: [Monmouthcivicchorus.org](http://Monmouthcivicchorus.org)