

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 21, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent**

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude: "Huit Morceaux 2. Havotte" R. Glière op. 39
Chloe Jeon – Violin, Daniel Jeon - Cello

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: In quiet fields, heaven's glory breaks forth.

People: Peace be to all who dwell on the earth.

Leader: God's message comes not to the mighty but to the humble.

People: We, too, are called to hear and to share the good news.

Leader: Let our worship echo the song of the angels.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to every heart.

***Opening Prayer: (In Unison)**

God of peace, you come quietly among us and make holy the common ground of our lives. We thank you for your presence that meets us where we are. Still our anxious hearts and fill us with your calm. Let our worship echo the song of the angels: Glory to you and peace on earth. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: **The Candle of Peace** **Jonathan & Blake Bowen**

Reader 1: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. God's peace meets us not in grand places, but in simple moments. When heaven finds the ordinary, peace is born on earth.

Reader 2: The shepherds heard your angels sing, "Glory to God, and peace to all." May that same song echo in our hearts and homes today.

Reader 3: We light this candle to remind us that peace is your gift and your call. Come, Lord Jesus. Make us instruments of your peace.

Together: God of peace, still our anxious minds and restless hearts. Let your presence dwell among us and through us. Grant peace to our world and to all who long for your coming. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH #211

***Praise Song:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH #240

Children's Moment: Pastor, Doby Amos

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: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UMH #431

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 Cindy Curtis- Budka

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: An Unlikely Advent: "When Heaven Finds the Ordinary" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Special Music Presentation: Biotech High School Chamber Orchestra

- "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" A. Warrell
- "Jingle Bell Rock" Beal & Boothe
- "Moon River" H. Mancini

Chloe Jeon (Violin), Siddhi Omesh (Piano), Ishita Varia (Violin), Hayden Lam (Cello & Piano), Johanna Kang (Flute), Rachel Wormald (Flute), Srinikesh Gundumogula (Violin), Khatar Casano (Tenor Saxophone), Dalton Siecinski (Baritone Saxophone), David Seetoo (Drums)

Offering Time: The December Special Offering will benefit **Local Charities: Open Door, The Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program (E. H.A.P.) and Habitat for Humanity.** Giving Page:

www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "In the Bleak Midwinter" UMH #221

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Loving Shepherd, you call us by name and entrust us with good news. Bless these offerings and all who give. May they bring peace to troubled hearts and hope to the forgotten. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

*Closing Song: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Liturgist: Cindy Curtis- Budka

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Opening Hymn:
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
UMH #211**

(Verse 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(Verse 2)

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(Verse 3)

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(Verse 4)

O come, thou Root of Jesse’s tree,
An ensign of thy people be;
Before thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on thy mercy call.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Praise Song:
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
UMH #240

(Verse 1)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

(Verse 2)

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

(Verse 3)

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Prayer Hymn:
"Let There Be Peace on Earth"
UMH #431

(Verse 1)

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our creator,
Children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

(Verse 2)

Let peace begin with me;
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

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:
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"
UMH #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called, Emmanuel.
God with us, Revealed in us,
His name is called, Emmanuel.

Altar Flowers are donated by Barbara Pellichero, in loving memory of her parents', Ed & Pamela Temle's anniversary.

Poinsettias are donated by those listed in the bulletin insert.

Staff Gifts: Today is the final day to donate to staff gifts for our church staff as their holiday gift. Contributions can be placed in the offering plate, (please clearly mark your envelope "Staff Gift"), or given directly to S/PRC Chair, Melanie Bowen. Thank you!

Cookie Tray Sale Cancelled: Due to unforeseen circumstances the cookie tray sale has been cancelled. We plan to resume the cookie tray sale next year! Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

The church office will be CLOSED December 29 – January 1st.

From the Financial Secretary:

For those of you who plan to fulfill your 2025 pledge, I would appreciate having all contributions mailed to the church office (*Attention: Financial Secretary*), put in the offering plate during church services or done with online giving prior to Monday, December 29, 2025. A final bank deposit of cash/checks will be made the next day. Additionally, I will be completing the final entries into the church's financial management program in order to prepare end-of-year contribution statements. Any money received after the December 29th date will be credited for the new year, 2026. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

****Also, anyone who has not sent in their 2026 estimate of giving/pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. If you've misplaced yours, contact me for a new one.*

Thank you,

Carol Davison

CDavison12@aol.com

732-919-1744

Join Us for Our Christmas Services:

December 24th – Christmas Eve Services:

4:30 p.m. – Family Friendly Service with Children's Pageant

10:00 p.m. - Traditional Service



This Week at a Glance (December 22 – December 28)

Monday: ***

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)

Wednesday: **CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:30 p.m. - Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

7:30 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Classroom)

10:00 p.m. - Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Friday: ***

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall till 4:00 p.m.)

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

10:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time and Refreshments (Fellowship Hall)

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

*** No Events Scheduled

December Birthdays

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



MONMOUTHCIVICCHORUS.ORG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

AT 4:00 P.M.

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH THEATRE

COUNT BASIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

RED BANK, NEW JERSEY





Poinsettias
December 2025

In Memory of:

Our Sons, Rob & Keith
Our Loved Ones
Our Loved Ones
Our Parents

Given by:

Ed & Rita Curven
Verl & Joanne McKinney
Ray & Anita Ritchie
Gene & Allein Sampieri

In Honor of:

Our Grandsons: Willem, Sebastian, Capel & Gus
Our Loved Ones
Our Loved Ones
Our Children, Bryan & Alein
Our Faith-Filled Pastor and His Family

Given by:

Lyn & Don Johnson
Verl & Joanne McKinney
Ray & Anita Ritchie
Gene & Allein Sampieri
Rev. Christina Zito

Flowers may be picked up following the later Christmas Eve service by those who have donated them. Appreciation is expressed to Gayle Trulli for arranging the Christmas poinsettia orders and receiving the flowers.