

First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin

Sunday, January 4, 2026
Epiphany Sunday

We will be celebrating communion this morning.

For those of you joining us from home, please have bread and juice/wine available to participate.

Announcements:

Verl McKinney

Prelude

Welcome:

Verl McKinney

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Blessed be the God and Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

People: **We come, not by our own worth, but in Christ.**

Leader: In Christ, we are adopted. In Christ, we are claimed as God's beloved children. In Christ, we belong to God and to one another.

People: **Come, let us worship God, who gathers us and gives us life in Christ.**

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

God of grace, we begin this new year trusting not ourselves but your love. In Christ, you have called us your children and gathered us as one body. As we worship, open our hearts to your word, shape us by your grace, and root our lives more deeply in Christ. Amen.

*Opening Hymn:

"Mary, Mary"

Avery & Marsh

*Praise Song:

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

TFWS #2098

Children's Time:

Pastor Dobyo 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 Hymn:

"Still, Still, Still"

Arr. Dean McIntyre

Pastoral Prayer:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Gilbert Heaton

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:

"In Christ"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Wesley's Covenant Renewal:

(See Insert)

Offering Time: Today's Special Offering will benefit **Human Relations Day**. Your gift supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs.

Giving Page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" UMH #244

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Generous God, all that we have comes from your hand. As we offer what you have given, receive these gifts with gratitude and use them to build your church, to bless others, and to make your love known in the world, in Christ. Amen.

Celebration of Communion: UMH 12-14

*Sung Responses: "Communion Settings" TFWS #2257 (b, c, d)

Communion Hymn: "Agnus Dei" Michael W. Smith

Prayer: (In Unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Song: "There's No One in This World Like Jesus" Trad. Zimbabwe

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Liturgist: Gilbert Heaton

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us^[a] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known^[b] to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ^[c] ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee^[d] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,^[e] to the praise of his glory.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

The Invitation

Leader: Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

People: Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.

Leader: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

People: I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty.

Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.

Leader: Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Now confirm this truth in holy covenant. Make it a reality in your life in these ways:

First, set apart time in your day, more than once, to be spent alone with the Lord. Seek to perceive God's special care for you and gracious acceptance of you. Carefully think through the words of this covenant and its conditions. Examine your heart, even if you have freely given your life to Christ. Name the sins in your life. Reflect on whether you are willing to choose Christ's holy laws and strict commands. Be sure you are clear in all of these so you do not lie to God!

Second, uphold a serious spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant. Do not trust in your own strength and power but rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength. In this way, He will empower you to keep your promise.

Fourth, be determined to be faithful. You have given your heart and life to God. You have opened your mouth to dedicate yourself to the Lord. With God's power, never go back to your former way of living.

And last, be prepared to renew your covenant with God. Fall on your knees. Lift your hands. Open your hearts.

The Covenant Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:

People: My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.

Leader: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

People: From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

People: Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the only way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

People: Jesus, I here and now accept You and the only new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that You are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take You for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will as my law.

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

People: Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.

Leader: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

People: I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden. All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

People: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the

Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY:

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSİON AND PARDON

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader to people:
Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and people:
Glory to God. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

¶ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest (3X)
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest (3X)**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

¶ **Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest (3X)**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

¶ **Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest (3X)**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Opening Hymn:
"Mary, Mary"
Avery & Marsh

(Chorus)
Mary, Mary,
What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 1
Slaves are we
And looking for a master.
Why don't you call Him Lord?
Let's all call Him Lord.
Mary, Mary,
What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 2
We like our sheep
Need someone to guide us.
Why don't you call Him Shepherd?
Let's all call Him Shepherd.
Mary, Mary,
What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 3
Hungry and poor,
We need someone to save us.
Why don't you call Him Savior?
Let's all call Him Savior.
Mary, Mary,
What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 4
Kings of the world,
We seek someone to rule us.
Why don't you call Him King?
Let's all call Him King.
Mary, Mary,
What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

End
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Praise Song:
"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"
TFWS #2098

(Verse 1)
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they say that His name is Jesus.

(Chorus)
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! Believer! Oh, yes! Believer!
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.

(Verse 2)
The angels sang when the baby was born,
The angels sang when the baby was born,
The angels sang when the baby was born,
And they say that His name is Jesus.

(Repeat Chorus)

(Verse 3)
The shepherds came where the baby was born,
The shepherds came where the baby was born,
The shepherds came where the baby was born,
And they say that His name is Jesus.

(Repeat Chorus)

(Verse 4)
The wise men saw where the baby was born
The wise men saw where the baby was born
The wise men saw where the baby was born
And they saw that His name was Jesus

(Repeat Chorus)

Prayer Song:
"Still, Still, Still"
Arr. Dean McIntyre

Still, still, still,
The night is cold and chill.
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
Warm and safe the Christ child holding.
Still, still, still,
The night is cold and chill.

Dream, dream, dream,
He sleeps, the Savior king.
While guardian angels watch beside him
Mary tenderly will guide him.
Dream, dream, dream,
He sleeps, the Savior king.

Offertory:
"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"
UMH #244

(Verse 1)
'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark,
The tender babe was found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves their nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

(Continued...)

The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory
On the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him kmnelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
**Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.**

O children of the forest free,
O seed of Manitou,
The holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
**Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.**

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

**Communion Hymn:
"Agnus Dei"
Michael W. Smith**

(Verse)
Alleluia, alleluia!
For the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia!
For the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia.

(Chorus)
(You are) Holy, holy,
Are You Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.
You are holy, holy,
Are You Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.
Amen.

**Doxology:
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
(Tune of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*)
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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

"Communion Settings"
TFWS #2257
(b, c, d)

Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Closing Song:
“There’s No One in This World Like Jesus”
Trad. Shona, Zimbabwe

(2X)

There’s no one in this world like Jesus,
There’s no one in this world like him;
There’s no one in this world like Jesus,
There’s no one, there’s no one like him.

(2X)

I’m running, running, searching, searching,
I’m turning, turning, searching, searching.
I’m searching, searching everywhere.
There’s no one, there’s no one like him.

(2X)

Hakuna wakaita sa Jesu
Hakuna wakaita sa ye;
Hakuna wakaita sa Jesu,
Haku, haku chi na.

Nda-mha-nya, mha-nya, Kwe-se, kwe-se.
Nda-te-nde re-ra, kwe-se, kwe-se.
Nda-tsva-ka, tsva-ka, kwe-se, kwe-se,
Haku, haku, chi-na

(2X)

There’s no one in this world like Jesus,
There’s no one in this world like him;
There’s no one in this world like Jesus,
There’s no one, there’s no one like him.

Announcements:

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.

The new **Flower Chart** for 2026 is on its way! Please keep an eye out for it and sign up to supply the altar flowers.

Don't forget to check out our new **Mission Fair Booklet** on the table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to AnnMarie Meredith for the beautiful job she did putting it together.

Finally, 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 Carol for a new one.

This Week at a Glance (January 5 – January 11)

Monday: ***
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – Walking Group (ZOOM)
 7:30 p.m. - Board of Trustees Meeting (ZOOM)
Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. – Seventh Day Adventist Church (Lounge)
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. – Seeker's Study (Seeker's Classroom)
 8:45 a.m. - Youth Sunday School (Classrooms)
 9:00 a.m. – Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 10:00 a.m. – Worship (Sanctuary)
 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall and Coffee Room)

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

***No Events Scheduled

January Birthdays

(1) Ed Beach	(21) Gabrielle Lux
(7) Cindy Curtis-Budka	(21) Gilliane Lux
(12) Melanie Bowen	(21) Gerhard Lux
(18) Olivia Garcia	(31) Beth Avallone