

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026
3rd Sunday in Lent**

Time of Silence *[Please take this time to prepare your heart and mind for worship]*

Welcome and Announcements:

Pamela Wentworth

Prelude

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: We gather as people who live by grace.

People: Christ has set us free through love.

Leader: We come remembering the cost of mercy.

People: We stand in awe of God's compassion.

Leader: Let us worship the One who redeems us.

People: Let us worship with grateful hearts.

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

God of mercy, we come before you as people who have received grace beyond what we could ever earn.

You meet us in our brokenness and offer us new life through Christ. As we worship today, help us

remember the depth of your love and awaken in us a deep gratitude that shapes the way we live. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

UMH #127

***Praise Song:**

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

Newton, Tomlin, Giglio

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:

"Lord, I Need You"

Nockels, Carson, Reeves, Stanfill,
Maher

Pastoral Prayer:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer:

UMH #895

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 27:15-26

Karen Bennett

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 Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story
Week 1: "Unlikely Freedom – Barabbas"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we confess that we forget how deeply we depend on your grace. We live as if we can earn your love and ignore the cost of forgiveness. Forgive us for taking your mercy for granted and renew our hearts with humility and gratitude. Teach us to live as people who are truly free. Amen.

Offering Time: The March Special Offering benefits our **Annual Diaper Drive**

Giving page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "Grace Alone" Brown & Nelson
FUMC Choir

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

God of abundant grace, everything we have is a gift from you. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude for the freedom we have in Christ. Use them to bring hope to those who long for a new life and to share your love with the world. Amen.

*Closing Song: "Your Grace Is Enough" Matt Maher

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

Matthew 27:15-26

Barabbas or Jesus?

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus^[a] Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus^[b] Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"^[c] ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"^[d] All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

Pilate Hands Jesus Over to Be Crucified

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood;^[e] see to it yourselves." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
UMH #127

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; *(want no more)*
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
(strength and shield)
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee; *(give to thee)*
I will ever give to Thee.

Praise Song:
“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”
Newton, Tomlin, Giglio

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear.
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

(Continued...)

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains.
Unending love amazing grace.

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Chorus

(2x)

My chains are gone I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains.
Unending love amazing grace.

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow;
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

Prayer Hymn:

“Lord, I Need You”

Nockels, Carson, Reeves, Stanfill, Maher

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You,
Every hour I need You;
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.
Where grace is found, is where You are.
And where You are Lord, I am free;
Holiness, is Christ in me.

(Continued...)

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You,
Every hour I need You;
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

So, teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You,
Every hour I need You;
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

(End)

My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

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:

**"Your Grace Is Enough"
Matt Maher**

(Verse 1)

Great is Your faithfulness, O God.
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy.
And nothing can keep us apart.

(Continued...)

(Pre-Chorus)

(So) remember Your people,
Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, O God.

(Chorus 1)

Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.

(Verse 2)

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob.
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation,
And all Your people sing along.

(Pre-Chorus)

(So) remember Your people,
Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, O God.

(Chorus 1)

Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.
Yeah, your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.

(Pre-Chorus)

Remember Your people,
Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, O God.

(Chorus 2)

Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.
Yeah, Your grace is enough.
Heaven reaches out to us.
Your grace is enough for me.
God, I sing, Your grace is enough.
I'm covered in Your love.
Your grace is enough for me,
For me.

(End)

It's enough for me.

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. Whether you are joining us in person, or virtually, we are glad you are with us.

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated by Jane Strauss, in celebration of Charley's 5th birthday.

FUMC will be hosting the Lenten Lunch and Prayer service on March 11th. Help is needed to provide food for the luncheon...and we all know we have AMAZING cooks and bakers here! There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please see Gayle Trulli.

On March 23 at 2:00 p.m. the Elizabeth Circle will be stuffing 150 plastic Easter Eggs for FUMC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt (which is open to the community and is to be held on Sat. April 4). Your help would be appreciated by donating "goodies" to put inside the eggs; things like: **Small toys (2 inches or less), Wrapped candies, and Stickers.** There is a basket on the table in "Missions Hall" to put your donations. Thank you.

Annual Diaper Drive: We'll be collecting diapers from now until Sunday, April 12. Our goal is 30,000 diapers. We're doing this again in conjunction with Child Care Resources in Neptune. All diapers will be given to families in need right here in Monmouth County. The diaper collection area is in the sanctuary.

This Week at a Glance (March 9 – March 15)

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|------------|---|
| Monday: | 7:00 p.m. - Jersey Girls (Wesley Hall) |
| | 7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| Tuesday: | 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM) |
| | 10:00 a.m. - "Oasis" Bible Study Group (Coffee Room) |
| | 7:00 p.m. - "Second Tuesday" Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| Wednesday: | 12:00 p.m. - Lenten Lunch and Prayer Service (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall) |
| | 7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall) |
| | 7:30 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Lounge) |
| Thursday: | 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM) |
| | 7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall) |
| Friday: | *** |
| Saturday: | 9:00 a.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall till 4:00 p.m.) |
| 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 Warm-Up (Sanctuary) |
| | 9:30 a.m. - Choir Warm-Up (Sanctuary) |
| | 10:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary) |
| | 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time and Refreshments (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 11:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Wesley Hall Stage) |
| | 5:00 p.m. - iZion Christian Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall) |

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

***No Events Scheduled

Unable to make it to church? There are several ways you can join us virtually: [Find us on:](#)

- **Our website:** www.freeholdmethodist.org/livestream
- **Youtube.com:** search Freehold Methodist Church
- **Our Newsletter:** Click on the service title picture.
- **ZOOM:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2890014881?pwd=QnpGZkxudzR4cU9zV0hYcmlQV0hjZz09&omn=82251952816>

One tap mobile

+1-305-224-1968,,2890014881#,,,,*851247# US

+1-309-205-3325,,2890014881#,,,,*851247# US

Meeting ID: 289 001 4881

Passcode: 851247



FREEHOLD CLERGY ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES 2026
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PRAY, LEARN, AND EAT TOGETHER



TOPIC: BREAKING OPEN THE SYMBOLS OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

12:00 NOON: LUNCH
12:30 PM: PRAYER
1:00 PM LUNCH

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| March 11 | First United Methodist Church 91 W. Main Street | Rev. Matt Jones “The Torn Curtain” |
| March 18 | Bethel AME at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine 61 Georgia Road | Bishop Fred Rubin “The Wash Basin & The Towel” |
| March 25 | The Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Ballarmine 61 Georgia Road | Rev. Ruth Scott “The Alabaster Flask” |
| Good Friday: | | |
| April 3 | Freehold Baptist Church 81 West Main Street | Rev. Jonathan Glass-Riley “The Crown of Thorns” |
| NO LUNCH – MEETING BEGINS AT 12 PM | | |

FUMC Holy Week Service Schedule:

April 2 – 6:00 p.m. - **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (Last Supper, Holy Communion, Hand Washing) – Wesley Hall
 April 3 - 7:00 p.m. – **GOOD FRIDAY** – Sanctuary
 April 5 10:00 a.m. – **EASTER SUNDAY** - Sanctuary

March Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| (3) Nenita Zurick | (10) Dylan Pierce | (16) Brittany Kaiser | (23) Thomas Heulton |
| (4) Rev. Yoseb Jeon | (11) Sue Hager | (16) Andy Schwarzkopf | (24) Gregg Kaiser |
| (4) Mary Sterling | (12) Abigail Davala | (17) Susan Zuckerman | (27) Glenn Meredith |
| (4) Ben Sciortino | (15) Bryan Sampieri | (19) Laura Gatti | (30) Rob Zuckerman |
| | | | (31) In memory of Joanne McKinney (90th) |