

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent**

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

Introit: From: A Celtic Christmas
"Thorn and Thistle"
Vocals: Joan Kinney & Ken Budka;
Violin: Chloe Jeon; Cello: Daniel Jeon; Piano: Mitch Samu; Guitar: Alan Davala

Welcome: Verl McKinney

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: Into a world ruled by fear and pride, God sends love.

People: Love that is humble, patient, and kind.

Leader: Not from thrones or armies, but from a manger.

People: God's love takes flesh in a child.

Leader: Let every heart make room for Christ.

People: We come to worship the love that casts out fear.

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

God of mercy, your love is stronger than all the powers that divide and destroy. When we are tempted to protect our comfort or cling to control, soften our hearts. Teach us again that true strength is found in compassion. Make our worship a place where your love is born anew. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: **The Candle of LOVE** Gloria Susini, Rita Curven, Christina Zito

Reader 1: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. Christ's love comes not through force, but through humility. When power cannot love, love still finds a way.

Reader 2: The world chases control and status, but love enters through weakness and grace. God's love turns the proud hearts toward compassion and peace.

Reader 3: We light this candle to remind us that love is the truest power. Come, Lord Jesus. Teach us to love as you love.

Together: God of Love, soften our hearts where fear has taken root. Shine your love into every place of division and hurt. Let your love be born again in us and through us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH #203

***Praise Song:** "Let the King of Glory Come" Michael Joncas

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: "Love Round" Jay Stocker

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Scripture Reading: Mathew 2:1-18 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 Advent:
"When Power Cannot Love" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering Time: Today's 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: "The Wexford Carol" Arr. Daniel Semsen
FUMC Choir / Ken Budka, Soloist

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

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

God of transforming love, we give not to impress, but to serve. Take these gifts and use them to lift the lowly, feed the hungry, and bring justice near. May all we offer reflect the love we have found in you. Amen.

Celebration of Communion: UMH pages 12-14
*Sung Responses: "Communion Settings" TFWS #2257 (b, c, d)

Communion Hymn: "Come, O Redeemer, Come" Fernando Ortega

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 Hymn: "Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord)" Stephen Schwartz

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude

The Visit of the Magi

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east^[b] and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd^[d] my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi^[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph^[h] got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi,^[i] he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.^[j] ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

Opening Hymn:
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"
UMH #203

(Verse 1)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

(Verse 2)

He comes with succor speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in His sight.

(Verse 3)

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him, on the mountains,
Shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

(Verse 4)

To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever;
That name to us is love.

Praise Song:
"Let the King of Glory Come"
Michael Joncas

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches:
Let the King of glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people:
Let the king of glory come!

Who is the King of glory?
Yah-weh, holy and strong!
Who is the Lord of majesty?
Yah-weh, mighty and strong!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches
Let the King of glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people.
Let the king of glory come!

Come, O come, Emmanuel:
Come and dwell with us!
Come, O come you Lord of might:
Banish death and fear!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches
Let the King of glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people.
Let the king of glory come!

Come, O come, bright Wisdom:
Come and make us wise!
Come, O come, you Dayspring:
Love, unclothe our eyes!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches
Let the King of glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people.
Let the king of glory come!

Come, you Key of David, come:
Open our heavenly home!
Come, Desire of nations, come:
Bring us into your peace!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches
Let the King of glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people.
Let the king of glory come!

**Prayer Song:
"Love Round"
Jay Stocker**

Love. Love. Love. Love.
Christians, this is your call:
Love your neighbors as yourself,
For God loves us all.

(Repeat)

**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.

**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 if the one who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

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:
"Come, O Redeemer, Come"
Fernando Ortega**

(Verse 1)
Father, enthroned on high, Holy, holy;
Ancient eternal Light, hear our prayer.

(Verse 2)
Lord, save us from the dark of our striving, faithless
And troubled hearts, weighed down.

(Chorus)
Come, O Redeemer, come,
Grant us mercy.
Come, O Redeemer, come,
Grant us peace.

(Verse 3)
Look now upon our need, Lord, be with us.
Heal us and make us free from our sin.

(Repeat Chorus)

**Closing Hymn:
"Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord)"
From Godspell by Stephen Schwartz**

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!

(All)
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!

Let me hear you sing!

(All)
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!

Announcements

December 7, 2025

Altar Flowers are donated by Susan and Jeff Hager in celebration of the blessing of grandchildren.

Staff Gifts: The Staff Parish Relations Committee is collecting money for our 6 staff members to distribute to 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!

All women of the church are invited to join the Elizabeth Circle for lunch on Tuesday, December 16th at 12:00 noon at Woody's Tavern in Farmingdale. Please RSVP to Anita Ritchie no later than December 9th if you plan to attend.

On **December 14th** we will enjoy a special choir presentation, "**Seasons of Joy**" during service. Invite family and friends to join us for this special service of wonderful music.

It's time to order **Christmas Poinsettias** to decorate the altar for Christmastime. Please return your order form with payment no later than next Sunday, December 14th.

Kathy Kane will be organizing the **Cookie Tray Sale** again this year. Cookies are due on Saturday, December 20th, at 1:00 p.m. at the church. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those who would like to contribute cookies. Please make 6 dozen cookies. **Cookie trays will be sold on Sunday, December 21st.**

Join Us for Our Christmas Services:

Thursday, December 18th
5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

December 24th – Christmas Eve Services:
4:30 p.m. – Family Friendly Service
10:00 p.m. - Traditional Service



December Birthdays

(1) Sandy Kaiser	(8) Ashley Moore	(13) Chloe Jeon	(28) Nancy Schwarzkopf
(5) Ryan Brigid 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	

This Week at a Glance (December 8 – December 14)

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (Coffee Room)
7:00 p.m. - United Theatre Rehearsal (Wesley Hall)
7:30 p.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Classroom)
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - Walking Group (ZOOM)
Friday: 7:00 p.m. - "Little Women the Musical" (Wesley Hall)
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sanctuary & Wesley Hall till 4:00 p.m.)
4:00 p.m. - Gospel Mass Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:00 p.m. - "Little Women the Musical" (Wesley Hall)
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Seekers Study (Seekers Classroom)
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Classrooms)
9:00 a.m. - Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. - Choir Warm-Up for "Seasons of Joy" (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. - Worship with "Seasons of Joy" presentation (Sanctuary)

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

*** No Events Scheduled

COMMUNITY:



UNITED THEATRE PRESENTS: LITTLE WOMEN THE MUSICAL

December 12 & 13 at 7:00 p.m.

December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

On the Wesley Hall Stage.

Directed by Nell Hickey

Book by Allan Knee

Music by Jason Howland, Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Tickets: \$20 (Adult), \$15 (Student), \$10 (Ages 10 and under)

For more information and ticket orders, please visit our website: Unitedtheatreinc.org

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

AT 4:00 P.M.

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH THEATRE

COUNT BASIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

RED BANK, NEW JERSEY

MONMOUTHCIVICCHORUS.ORG





Freehold Area OPEN DOOR

We served over 4,000 households this past month!

We are in great need of the following items:

Instant Coffee, Bread Crumbs, Vinegar

Cookies	Jelly
Salt & Pepper	Canned Chicken
Italian Dressing	Canned Beef Stew
Ranch Dressing	Canned Salmon
Ketchup	Canned Pinto Beans
Mayonnaise	Grits
Mustard	Instant Coffee
Cooking Oil	Baby Wipes
Vinegar	Tissues
BBQ Sauce	Toilet Paper
Canned Olives	Paper Towels
Bread Crumbs	Shampoo
Orzo	Toothbrushes
Egg Noodles	Toothpaste

****No jumbo or bulk sized items****

Nonperishable Donations - Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at our back door in the Broad Street parking lot entrance behind our building at 39 Throckmorton St.

Kindly DO NOT leave anything outside when we are not here. Items left outside will be thrown away.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Remember to place your order for poinsettias, which will grace the altar through Christmas Eve. (Please leave your flowers on the altar for both Christmas Eve services.) Cost: \$10.00 each. They may be given in memory or in honor of someone.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING AND ACCOMPANYING PAYMENT IS SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025. We will be ordering all the varieties available. There is no need to choose a color. If you have placed an order, you may take home the same number of plants, corresponding to your order, following the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service or after December 25th.

Please order for me _____ poinsettia(s) at the cost of \$ _____.

Make checks payable to Freehold UMC. Check or cash must accompany order.

PLEASE PRINT.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Phone _____

YOU MAY BRING THIS FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE IN WORSHIP, OR MAIL TO: The First United Methodist Church, 91 West Main Street, Freehold NJ 07728

NOTE: A gift to the Memorial Tribute Fund can be a meaningful alternative to flowers. Envelopes are available on tables in the rear of the sanctuary or in the narthex or you may mail a contribution to the church office.