

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Announcements: Pam Wentworth

Prelude: "Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)" Tomlin & Cash
FUMC Choir

Welcome: Pam Wentworth

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: God gathers the overlooked and the waiting.

People: We celebrate God's unexpected joy!

Leader: God invites the outsider to share in the story.

People: Our joy grows because God remembers us.

Leader: Come, worship with joy in the God who delights in us!

People: We worship and rejoice together!

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

Radiant God, we welcome you as you rise over us like new morning light. Fill us with joy, not because life looks finished, but because you come first. Tune our hearts to gratitude, wonder, and celebration, and let joy overflow through our worship today. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: **The Candle of JOY** Myra Pierce & Sandra Hernandez

Reader 1: Arise, shine, for your light has come. We light this candle in joy, trusting God who comes to us first.

Reader 2: The glory of the Lord rises over you. Our hearts rejoice in God's lasting love and unchanging faithfulness.

Reader 3: Gifts are brought from near and far. We give with joy, celebrate with praise, and walk with trust.

Together: God of joy, open our eyes to see your light guiding us. Let your joy be our song when life feels uncertain. Make our lives shine with gladness that draws others to you. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH #57
(v. 1, 2, 3)

***Praise Song:** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH #206

Children's Moment: 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 Song: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord's Prayer:

UMH #895

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ed Bowen

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]

FUMC Christmas Choir Presentation: **"Season of Joy"**

Arranged by Daniel Semsen

- "Joy Has Dawned" with "Angels We Have Heard on High" Getty & Townend
- "The Wexford Carol" with "I Wonder as I Wander" – Ken Budka, Soloist Arr. D. Semsen
- "By Faith" Getty, Getty & Townend

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:

"The Carolin' Reel"

Arr. Arr. D. Semsen

*Doxology:

"Thank You God"

Mitch Samu

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

God of generous joy, we give not out of pressure, but out of celebration. Multiply the joy of what is offered, and shape us into joyful witnesses who give gladly, trust deeply, and love freely. Amen.

*Closing Song:

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

UMH #216

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude (*Congregation, please remain seated*):

"Celtic Christmas Blessings"

Getty & Getty

Opening Hymn:
“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v. 1, 2, 3)
UMH #57

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thru all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Praise Song:
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
UMH #206

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

(Chorus)
In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

(Chorus)
In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

(Continued...)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

(Chorus)
In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Prayer Hymn:
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”
UMH #204

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

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 Song:
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
UMH #216

(Verse 1)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As those of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

(Verse 2)

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

(Verse 3)

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

Scripture Reading:
Isaiah 60:1-6
(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

60 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their
nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought
to you;

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Altar Flowers are donated by Carolyn Brach, “In memory of my dear husband, our dad & pop-pop, Morton R. Brach, Sr.”

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. **Gifts will be collected up to December 21st.** Thank you!

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.**

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:

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

**December 24th – Christmas Eve Services:
4:30 p.m. – Family Friendly Service with
Children’s Pageant
10:00 p.m. - Traditional Service**



Poinsettia Orders with payment are due TODAY.

This Week at a Glance (December 15 – December 21)

Monday: ***

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

12:00 p.m. - Elizabeth Circle Luncheon (Woody’s Taern, Farmingdale)

7:30 p.m. - Reading Between the Vines (ZOOM)

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (Coffee Room)

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

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

5:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service (Sanctuary)

Friday: ***

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

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 (Sanctuary)

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

11:00 a.m. - **Cookie Tray Sale** (Fellowship Hall)

4:00 p.m. - Monmouth Civic Chorus Presents: “A Joyous Day” (Count Basie Center for the Arts)

(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	

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

