

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.
Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.
Hymnals: **UMH is Red or Purple-TFWS is Black-W&S is Green**
Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER

As you settle into worship, you are invited to meditate on the images adorning our altar. During this sermon series, you will see childhood games that provide more than just a playful spirit, they provide foundational life lessons that also reflect our faith. What memories and joy come forth in you as you gaze upon this altar-scape?

PRELUDE *The Love of God* arr. Baroni
As you settle into the sanctuary, please open your phone and share the live service from your Facebook page as a way of inviting the larger community to worship.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please take a moment to fill out the “Fellowship Pads” located in the pews at the center aisle. Be sure to note the church family worshipping in the row with you.

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TFWS 2271, v.1
Come! Come! Everybody Worship
Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise!
Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always!
Worship and remember to keep the Sabbath day.
Take a rest and think of God; put your work away!

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP
Praise be to God the Creator,
who breathes life into being.
Praise be to God the Redeemer,
who saves us from ourselves.
Praise be to God the Sustainer,
who binds us together as one body.
Come, children of the Triune God,
we come to worship our wild and wonderful Maker.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST
We invite you to turn to the person next to you and greet them saying,
“Peace be with you.”
You are invited to respond,
“And also with you.”

*SONG OF PRAISE *We Are Called* TFWS 2172

CENTERING PRAYER
We thank you, O Lord, that you guide us through this journey of life. For those who are in the midst of struggle, grant your wisdom and insight from above. For those who are burdened with anxiety and fear, offer your wise assurance in times of need. For those facing

decisions about family or career, bless them with your wisdom on high. For those entering a new chapter in their lives, be it the birth of children, enrolling at a new school, starting new jobs, celebrating a marriage, finding a place to live, or entering retirement, guide them on the proper path and bless them with a sense of peace. This we pray in the name and wisdom of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Help Me Find It* McDonald, Frey, & Ingram
Praise Team

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

PSALTER *Psalms 143:8-11* Pew Bible, OT 580

SONG OF RESPONSE *My Life Is in You, Lord* TFWS 2032

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 12:13-21* Pew Bible, NT 74

For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us
Thanks be to God

SERMON *Well Played Life* Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
Game of Life: Priorities Matter

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS
During this time, you are invited to name your prayers for the congregation.
After each prayer request, the congregation will respond...
Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD’S BELOVED PEOPLE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD
Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.
You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS TFWS 2271, v.3
Come! Come! Everybody Worship
Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise!
Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always!
Worship and remember your blessings great and small.
Give to God an offering; show your thanks for all!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless your church, your people, your creation. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Seek Ye First* UMH 405

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD W&S 3180
As We Part for the Towns and Cities
**As we part for the towns and cities,
where you summon us to go, guide us, Lord,
give us strength and courage, teach us all we need to know.
Keep us humble, fixed on you, forever seeking, born anew.
Kindle holy fires within us; may your Holy Spirit glow.**

*POSTLUDE

**Our Service Of Worship Has Ended
Our Worship Through Service Begins**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given in loving memory of Betty Lou Beckmann by Peggy Ann.
Given in loving memory of the wedding anniversary of Dr. & Mrs. M. Alexander Glasmire by Barbara & Larry MacPherson.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Welcome to this service of worship. We pray this service offered an opportunity to engage with the Divine. If we can be of service to you in any way, please let us know. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining together with us, where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- There are **hearing devices** to assist you to experience the service more clearly, with our streaming team, in the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.
- A **rocking chair** is available for the comfort of parent and baby, in Blair Chapel, behind the pews.
- To access the **restrooms**, please exit the side door to the right of the lectern/chancel area. In the hall, make a left into Fellowship Hall and follow the signs.
- There are **infant changing tables** available in the restrooms.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM THIS MORNING
Greeter/Usher: Alice Coleman/Ron Danielson
Acolyte: Kitty Amato
Lay Reader: Randy Danielson
Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

This Week We Hold in Prayer...



Our Homebound: David Miller, Bev Itell, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

Sunnyside at Wall: Nancy Burt

**The church has a team of prayer warriors, known as the Prayer Chain.

If you have a prayer need, please contact the office.

**If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or revjmhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MADONNA HOUSE in Neptune is currently looking for items for their shop. One of our church members, Diane Plumser, is a volunteer there and will deliver the items to them. This is the list of items needed: baby lotion, baby bath wash, Desitin, wipes, baby towels & wash cloths, newborn diapers, and underwear for both children & adults. Items may be brought to the church office.

MERCY CENTER: Please continue to support our ongoing mission to Mercy Center. Currently they are seeking dried beans, nut butters, canned fruit in juice, no-sodium vegetables, canned tuna in water, brown rice, whole grain pasta, non-microwave popcorn, unsweetened applesauce, low-sugar cereal, canola oil, dried fruit, & broths.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY is running low again. After our appeal on Facebook brought in donations, those donations went quickly. Needed at this time are powdered milk, stew, whole grain cereal, hygiene products, applesauce, canned chicken, canned salmon, canned ham, olive oil, crackers, spices, dried fruit, instant mashed potatoes, nuts, peanut butter, & shelf-stable milk.

FREE COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER-Sunday, September 21st at 5 pm. You may eat in or take out a meal of salad, bread, spaghetti with or without meatballs and sausage, and dessert. This is not only an outreach to our congregation but to our community. Please invite your friends, neighbors, & family.

COFFEE CANS: Wesley Nursery School is currently collecting 10.3 or 11 oz. coffee cans with lids. You may drop them off at the church office.

SAVE THE DATE-October 4th for the UWIF garage sale. Please check *The Cornerstone* for specifics.

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry
where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

Sunday, TODAY

Service of Worship In Person & Online 9:30 a.m.

Monday, August 25

AA – Wesley Hall 7:30 a.m.

Alanon – Wesley Hall 10 a.m.

12 Step Study – Fellowship Hall 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26

Women’s Covenant Group – Library 8:30 a.m.

Java With Jill – Blue Swan Diner 10 a.m.

Naranon – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.

Thursday, August 28

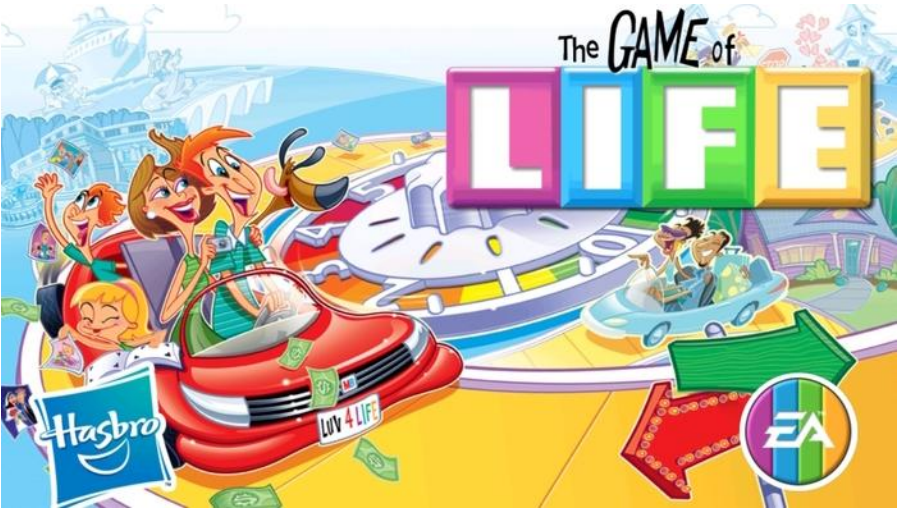
Alanon – Wesley Hall 10 a.m.

Friday, August 29

AA – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 31

Service of Worship in Person & Online 9:30 a.m.



*Well-Played Life:
Lessons of Faith in Childhood Games*

The First United Methodist Church

103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755

732-531-1150

FUMCOakhurst@outlook.com

Oakhurst.umchurches.org

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOakhurst>

Follow us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchofOakhurst>

CCLI #1588788

*The First United Methodist Church of Oakhurst
Is a community of faith committed to Christ,
seeking to learn the needs of our members,
friends, and neighbors and responding with Christian love.*

Pastor: Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

Secretary: Joy More

Director of Music: Denise Furda

Sexton: Lisa Costello

Streaming Team: Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci

Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington

Music Director Emeritus: Gary Farquhar