

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025
9:30 a.m. at First UMC
11:00 a.m. at Old First UMC

\*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

PRELUDE
Toccata in C
Seixas
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 (9:30)
More Like You
TFWS 2167
More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Fill my heart with your desire to make me more like you.
More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Touch my lips with holy fire and make me more like you.

\*INVITATION TO WORSHIP
With our lips and with our hearts:
we bless God in every moment of our lives.
With our ears and with our hearts:
we will hear the cries of our sisters and brothers, in every painful moment, in every broken place.
With our hands and with our hearts:
we will serve God and all of God's children, with every moment of our lives.

\*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 by saying,
“And also with you.”

\*HYMN OF PRAISE
Breathe on Me, Breath of God
UMH 420

CENTERING PRAYER
Gracious God to whom the kingdom of heaven belongs; we come longing to know your presence and your blessing. We come to acknowledge our poverty of spirit; for this is how we open ourselves to blessing. We offer ourselves to you again, in worship and service, in lives committed to the purposes and practices of your love; for in this way, we are blessed as we become a blessing to others. Amen.

ANTHEM (9:30)
Praise You
Chancel Choir
arr. Nevue

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

PSALTER LESSON
Psalm 34:1-8
Pew Bible OT 508
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

GOSPEL LESSON
Matthew 5:1-3
Pew Bible NT 4
HYMN OF RESPONSE
Blest Are They
TFWS 2155, vs.1
Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

SERMON
Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit, for Theirs is the Kingdom in Heaven

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS
At the 9:30 service, 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

\*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS
UMH 94
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
May our gifts be used to answer the needs of those who seek you,
O God, delivering them from their fears, listening to their cries for help, offering refuge to those who are searching for hope. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION
Blessed Assurance
UMH 369

\*SENDING FORTH

\*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD
Christ Beside Me
TFWS 2166, vs. 2
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me – shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising – light of my life.

\*POSTLUDE
Diapason Movement
Goodwin
Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.
An Adult Study is offered in FUMCO’s Wesley Hall at 11:00 a.m., located on the lower level of the building
Our Service Of Worship Has Ended.
Our Worship Through Service Begins.

ALTAR FLOWERS AT FUMCO

Given in loving memory of Inhong Hur by Soon, Kathy, & Elizabeth.
Given by Noel Worthington in loving memory of her mother, Nancy Quinn.

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 AT FUMCO

- 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.

The United Methodist Church is a Global and Connectional Church which welcomes and invites the church communities to share resources and ministries. The First UMC of Oakhurst and Old First UMC have been linked with the invisible thread of heritage and now by their pastor, Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith. All are invited to share in all our joint ministries, missions and prayers shared in this bulletin.

**OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS THIS MORNING**

**Greeter/Usher at 9:30:** Randy Danielson/Chip Stoll

**Acolyte at 9:30:** Garry Smith

**Lay Reader at 9:30:** Robin Whitney

**Lay Reader at 11:00:** Garry Smith

**Counters at 9:30:** Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

**Counter at 11:00:** Donna Ahrens

**ANNOUNCEMENTS-FUMCO**

**Mission Trip**-A mission trip to W.V. is planned for the end of January or early February. If you are interested, please let the church office or Robyn Korsen know. (FUMCO & Old First)

**Church Conference**-October 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at St. John's UMC, Hazlet. All are invited to attend this important meeting of our churches. (FUMCO & Old First.)

**Garage Sale**-October 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-2. Donation drop off is October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-6. Please, no books, no heavy furniture, no curtain or drapery rods, no linens, and no heavy exercise equipment.

**Jave With Jill**-will meet on Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10. Join Pastor Jill and friends at the Blue Swan Diner in Ocean for a chat and a nibble. (FUMCO & Old First)

**This Week We Hold in Prayer...**



Our churches, leaders, & ministries. All neighbors, friends, and all God's children.

**COMFORT & HEALING:** Avery Fallon,

her parents, Tom & Katie and her grandparents, Barbara & Len Gruezke, Kristine Dudley & family on George's passing. The Steneck family on Lynn's passing. The Debruin family on Ruth's passing. Ed Ahrens as he continues to recuperate. Terry Frazier as she continues to build strength after successful surgery. June Holder, Debbie (Bette Dibling's friend), Arlene Shaw (Tammy's aunt), Rose Byrne, Jackie Gilman, Ed Foran, George Murphy's brother Charles, Ginny & Vicky (Tammy's cousins).

**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

\*\*FUMCO has a team of prayer warriors, known as the Prayer Chain.

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

\*\*If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact our pastor, Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or [revjmhs@gmail.com](mailto:revjmhs@gmail.com).

**Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry**

**where together we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.**

FUMCO: First UMC at 103 Monmouth Rd.

Old First UMC: 197 Locust Ave.

**Today**

Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m. FUMCO
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m., FUMCO
Service of Worship in Person & Posted	11 a.m. Old First

**Monday, September 15**

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m., FUMCO
Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m., FUMCO
12 Step Study – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m., FUMCO

**Tuesday, September 16**

Women's Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m., FUMCO
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m., FUMCO
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m., FUMCO

**Wednesday, September 17**

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m. FUMCO
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**Thursday, September 18**

Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m., FUMCO
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	6:30 p.m., FUMCO

**Friday, September 19**

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m., FUMCO
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**Sunday, September 21**

Service of Worship in Person & Online	9:30 a.m., FUMCO
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m. FUMCO
Service of Worship In Person & Posted	11 a.m., Old First
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m. FUMCO



**First UMC of Oakhurst**

*...is a community of faith committed to Christ, seeking to learn the needs of others and responding with Christian love.*

**9:30 a.m. Worship Every Sunday Morning In Person & Streaming**

**103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755**

**732-531-1150**

[FUMCOOakhurst@outlook.com](mailto:FUMCOOakhurst@outlook.com)

**Oakhurst.umchurches.org**

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

Follow us on YouTube:

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

CCLI #1588788

**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

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**11:00 a.m. Worship Every Sunday Morning In Person**

**& Posted to Facebook**

**197 Locust Avenue**

**West Long Branch, NJ 07764**

[office@oldfirstumchurch.org](mailto:office@oldfirstumchurch.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Jill Marie Hubbard-Smith

**Music Director:** George Murphy

**Sexton:** Bill Strong

**Administrative Assistant:** Donna Ahrens

**Streaming Team:** Alex Eckert & Justin Wortmann