

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 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 *I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go* arr. Clark
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
We come, those who seek to trust in God.
We commit ourselves to do as Jesus would do for those around us.
We come, delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.
We would not worry, but open ourselves to God's heart.
We come, waiting patiently for God to speak.
We will be still, listening for God's words of hope, of truth, of wisdom, of direction, of peace.

*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 *Be Still, My Soul* UMH 534

CENTERING PRAYER
Lord, you have called us here this day for healing, hope, and transformation. As we listen to the Scriptures, pray our prayers, sing our hymns, and hear the words of wisdom; open our hearts to hear your claim for our lives. Teach us to live God-controlled lives with both humility and courage. Show us the moments in which to engage with our words and actions that we may serve you faithfully and joyfully. Amen.

ANTHEM (9:30) *As the Deer* Nystrom
Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

PSALTER LESSON *Psalms 37:1-11* Pew Bible OT 510
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 5:5* Pew Bible NT 4

HYMN OF RESPONSE *Blest Are They* TFWS 2155, vs.2
Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
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 Meek, for They will Inherit the Earth

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

SHARING OUR RESOURCES (9:30)
*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
Almighty God, as we present our offerings before you, we share our hearts filled with gratitude. May our gifts reflect your abundant blessings and be for your glory. Teach us as we give, to come with joy and humility, recognizing all we have is yours. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord* UMH 352

*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 *In Nomine* Alwood
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 honor of Scott & Russel Danielson's 7th wedding anniversary.
Given by Carol Whyte in loving memory of her son, Scott Gill.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-FUMCO

Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends Event-Wednesday October 22, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Shop in-store or online. For a donation of \$5 which goes to the UWIF for their mission projects, you will get a 25% off shopping pass. You may buy your pass from any UWIF member or stop in the church office.

Little Free Pantry-We thank our community and church family for helping out these past 2 weeks, but the mission goes on. Please help stock soup, whole grain cereal, baby food, canned chicken, SPAM, olive oil, dried herbs, dried fruit, meals in a box, peanut butter, & powdered milk.

Blessing Of The Animals-October 12th at 1:30 p.m. in the field next to the playground. All well-behaved animals are welcome! Please spread the word to your family and friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-OLD FIRST

Today-There will be a special charge conference in the sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. to vote on a sale bid for the Education Building. All church members are encouraged to attend. A walk through the building will follow the vote.

Men’s Emmaus Walk-October 16-19.

This Week We Hold in Prayer...



The UM church, Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi, our church’s leadership and ministry, our friends, neighbors, community, world, and all God’s children.

COMFORT & HEALING: Kristine & family on George’s passing, the Steneck family on Lynn’s passing, the Debruin family on Ruth’s passing, George Eitel (Diane Wortman’s dad), Don Whittaker (Peter Wortman’s coworker struggling with health issues), Ed Ahrens as he continues to recuperate, Terry Frazier as she continues to build strength after a successful surgery, June Holder, Debbie (Bette Dibling’s friend), Arlene Shaw (Tammy’s aunt), Rose Byrne, Jackie Gilman, Ed Foran, Charles (George Murphy’s brother), 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

AT HOME: Avery Fallon, Bill Strong

**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 revjimhs@gmail.com.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS THIS MORNING

Greeter/Usher at 9:30: Barb Gruezk/Scott Danielson
Acolyte at 9:30: Kayleigh Becker
Lay Reader at 9:30: Soon Hur
Counters at 9:30: Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines
Counter at 11:00: Donna Ahrens
Fellowship Host at 9:30: Pamela Lynch

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

Children’s Sunday School – Downstairs	9:30 a.m. FUMCO
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
Free Community Dinner – Fellowship Hall	5 p.m. FUMCO

Monday, September 22

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 23

Women’s Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m. FUMCO
Java With Jill – Blue Swan Diner	10 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m. FUMCO
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m. FUMCO

Wednesday, September 24

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m. FUMCO
Miriam Circle Meeting – Wesley Hall	10 a.m. FUMCO
Praise Team Rehearsal – Sanctuary	6:30 p.m. FUMCO

Thursday, September 25

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

Friday, September 26

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m. FUMCO
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Sunday, September 28

Service of Worship in Person & Online	9:30 a.m. FUMCO
Children’s Sunday School – Downstairs	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

Oakhurst.umcchurches.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

Pastor: Rev. Jill Marie Hubbard-Smith	Music Director: George Murphy
Sexton: Bill Strong	Administrative Assistant: Donna Ahrens
Streaming Team: Alex Eckert & Justin Wortman	