

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 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 *Fairest Lord Jesus* 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 **(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
Come, beloved of God, and hear again the call of Christ.
We come, seeking mercy and ready to learn mercy.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
We come, not because we have it all figured out,
but because we need God’s love.
In God’s presence, judgment is set aside, forgiveness flows,
and grace abounds.
Together, let us worship the One who is merciful and kind! Amen.

*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.”

*SONG OF PRAISE *10,000 Reasons (9:30)* Redman & Myrin
Chorus
Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul,
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.
Verse 1
The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
it's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
the end draws near and my time has come.
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
ten thousand years and then forevermore

Ending

Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (11:00) UMH 400

CENTERING PRAYER
God of Grace and Mercy, we pray that You would light a spark of true forgiveness and mercy in our hearts, toward all who have harmed or hurt us, whether deliberately or unintentionally. Root out any lingering bitterness or malice that is lurking within our hearts and may Your mercy and love take root and grow, reminding us of the mercy You show us each day. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC (9:30) *Greater* Cochran, et al
Praise Team

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 6:31-38* Pew Bible NT 64
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 5:7* Pew Bible NT 4

HYMN OF RESPONSE *Blest Are They* TFWS 2155, vs.3
Blest are they, who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!
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 Merciful, for They will be Shown Mercy

SPECIAL MUSIC (9:30) *Goodness of God* Cash, et al
Jack Coleman, Soloist

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

MISSION MINUTE *World Communion*

*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
Merciful God, we bring you our gifts as praise and thanksgiving for your abiding love for each of us. Bless these gifts that they may be active ministries of love in the world today. Strengthen us to serve those who need healing, those who are hungry, and those who need a friend or community. May we notice each and every person as you do, extending your touch of mercy and offering your gracious love and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*SONG OF DEDICATION *You Are Good* W&S 3014

*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
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 Kelly Pettit’s birthday by Hudson, Owen, & her family.
Given in loving memory of Betty Lou Smith by Jeff & Melody Ragle.

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.

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.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS THIS MORNING

Greeter/Usher at 9:30: Len Gruezke/Kitty Amato

Acolyte at 9:30: Bonnie McNamara

Lay Reader at 9:30: John Montgomery

Counters at 9:30: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Counter at 11:00: Donna Ahrens

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 29

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 30

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, October 1

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m. FUMCO
Knitting Ministry – Library	1 p.m. FUMCO

Thursday, October 2

Garage Sale Set Up – Fellowship Hall	9 a.m. FUMCO
Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m., FUMCO
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	6:30 p.m., FUMCO

Friday, October 3

Garage Sale Set Up – Fellowship Hall	9 a.m. FUMCO
AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m., FUMCO

Saturday, October 4

UWIF Garage Sale – Fellowship Hall	8 a.m. FUMCO
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Sunday, October 5 World Communion

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

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 Wortmann