



March 29, 2026 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 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

PRELUDE

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

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST (9:30 a.m.)

A Wilderness Wandering People W&S 3113, v.1

We are a wilderness wandering people on a journey of the soul.

May we find our destination in our longing to be whole.

Our Holy God is calling to us.

**With Jesus by our side may compassion be our compass;
may the Spirit be our guide.**

PROCLAMATION *Mark 11:1-11* Pew Bible, NT 47

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Hosanna! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven! To thee, Redeemer, King.

We welcome the way of the Lord with anthems of praise!

*SHARING THE LOVE OF THE CHRIST

We invite you to turn to the person next to you and greet them saying,

"May the great I AM be with you"

You are invited to respond by saying,

"And also, with you"

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* UMH 278

CENTERING PRAYER

Mighty God, this is a day of celebration. There is joy in the air. We are ready to offer our coats and gathered branches to prepare the way today. We will join in singing the songs of praise and will dare to shout hosanna if others do. Free us, we pray, to receive the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ and enter into the joy and gladness of welcoming the One who comes in your name. Draw us into a relationship of trust in you that will help us day by day to discern more clearly the way, the truth, and the life you intend for your children. AintHelp us, in humility, to follow Jesus; that our lives may reveal your mighty acts of love and compassion to a waiting world. Amen.

ANTHEM (9:30 a.m.) *Ain't No Rock Gonna' Shout for Me* Larson
Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY Pathways of Israel

"I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life"

GOSPEL LESSON *John 14:1-7* Pew Bible, NT 108

May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

HYMN OF RESPONSE *Christ is the Truth and Way*
Words on back page/Hymn tune UMH 327

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

When we face a complicated situation that challenges us to see what God wants us to do, we can remember Jesus saying to his friends,

"I am the Way."

When we find ourselves wondering if we're really accepted by God, we can take comfort in remembering the grace embodied in Jesus who said,

"I am the Way."

When we are tempted to believe that we know who's in and who's out, we can remember that Jesus welcomed outsiders and outcasts and said,

"I am the Way."

When we fall into the trap of thinking that faith is about rules, we can remember the call to relationship found in Jesus' words,

"I am the Way."

When we wake in the morning and wonder what God asks of us in that day's encounters, we can find our model and our answer in the one who said,

"I am the Way."

CHORAL PRAYER *Music In Pews, v. 2*

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud

Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine, Shepherd, Savior,

Servant, Lamb, Well and Water, Bread and Wine,

Way who leads us to I AM:

**May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name
but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.**

SERMON *Patterned Personalities* Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
Knowing God's Way

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 *Mercy Center*

*PRESENTATION *My Tribute* UMH 99

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,

to God be the glory for the things he has done.

With his blood he has saved me, with his power he has raised me;

to God be the glory for the things he has done.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Blessing of the Palms*

We praise and bless you, ever-living God, for the acts by which you redeem the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way.

Let these branches and offerings be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them may always acclaim Jesus the Messiah, by walking the way of his suffering and cross; that dying and rising with him, we may enter into your Kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* UMH 280

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD (9:30 a.m.)
As We Go W&S 3183

As we go, may your Spirit go before us.

As we go, may we follow where you lead.

**May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,
and be a light unto the world as we go.**

*POSTLUDE

Please join us at 10:30 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. All are welcome.

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

Our Lenten Worship and Study Series is based on *The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus.* by Rob Fuquay. Our hymn of response this week was by Elise Eslinger and found in *The Upper Room Worship Hymnal* on page 93.

Christ is the Truth, the Way

Christ is the Truth, the Way, the Center of our life.
Christ shares the struggles of our day, our earthly joy and strife.
Redeeming what is lost, and healing those in pain,
Christ walks the valley of the cross, the Servant's glad domain.

2. Christ is the power of peace, of lasting harmony.
In Christ, the wars of earth shall cease; Christ is our unity.
The lion shall lie down in peace beside the lamb.
The mighty shall lay down their crowns before the great "I Am."

3. Christ is the Living Bread, the source of grace outpoured;
our deepest hungers shall be fed; in Christ, life is restored.
Earth's hungry shall rejoice, for they shall all be filled.
The good shall welcome with one voice the justice God has willed.

4. Christ is the Living Head, our sole authority.
By Christ's own Spirit we are led to serve humanity.
We follow where Christ leads when others' pain we bear;
responding to our neighbors' needs, Christ's cross and crown we share.



Holy Week Services
Palm Sunday
 March 29th 9:30 a.m.
 & 11:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday
 April 2nd 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday
 April 3rd 7:00 p.m.
Easter Service
 April 5th
 6:30 a.m. **Prayer Garden**
 9:30 a.m. **Sanctuary**
 with a Children's Message
 & Special Music
 11:00 a.m. **Sanctuary**

Our Leadership Team This Morning (9:30)

- Acolyte: Kitty Amato
- Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll
- Fellowship Hosts: Bonnie McNamara
- Greeter: Jack Coleman
- Lay Reader: Chip Stoll
- Usher: Jim Scisco

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 us, where we help one another grow in faith, love, and service.

Holy Week Daily Devotional: Available on the tables at the entrances of the Sanctuary.

Please Join Us in Mission and Ministry

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

TODAY:

- Children's Sunday School-Downstairs 9:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.
- Worship In Person 11 a.m. (Old First)

Monday, March 30

- AA – Wesley Hall 7:30 a.m.
- Alanon – Wesley Hall 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 31

- Women's Covenant Group – Library 8:30 a.m.
- Lenten Study – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1

- AA – Wesley Hall 7:30 a.m.
- Lenten Study – Wesley Hall 12 p.m.
- Knitting Ministry – Library 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 2

- Alanon – Wesley Hall 10 a.m.
- OA – Wesley Hall 6:30 p.m.
- Worship in Person & Online 7 p.m.

Friday, April 3

- AA – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.
- Worship in Person & Online 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 5

- Worship in Person & Online* 6:30 a.m.
- Worship in Person & Online 9:30 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School – Downstairs 9:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m.
- Worship In Person 11 a.m. (Old First)

*Prayer Garden



“I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

No one has ever seen God, except God's only Son, who has come to make God known.

Paraphrased from John 1:18

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

FUMCOakhurst@outlook.com

Oakhurst.umcchurches.org

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

Follow us on YouTube:

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

CCLI #1588788

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11:00 a.m. Worship Every Sunday Morning In Person at First UMC located at 103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst

Mailing Address: PO Box 214, West Long Branch, NJ 07764

office@oldfirstumchurch.org

Reflective Questions

How have you heard people use Jesus' words, "No one comes to the Father except through me?"

Remember that Jesus did not say these words to a large crowd but to his twelve disciples. Knowing the dialogue that precedes Jesus' words, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life", how does that shape your understanding of the "I Am" sayings?

Thinking about the audience for whom the Gospel is written, perhaps Christians who have endured or are possibly facing persecution for their faith, how do you think John wanted readers of his Gospel to understand Jesus' words here?"

How do you relate to this idea of "way" as referring to right-living versus right belief? How does this understanding impact your interpretation of John 14:6?

What is the difference between a church that focuses on helping people know Jesus versus a church that focuses on making people members?

What do you think it meant for disciples to make Jesus a way of life?

How do you make Jesus a way of life in your ordinary living?

What does it mean to focus on Christ when you are restless?

How have you experienced Christ as the Good Shepherd?

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Challenges to Grow in Discipleship

Jill has given a challenge at the close of each sermon during Lent.
Below are the challenges...

Week One: Complete this phrase: "I Am _____."

List the attributes you give to God and remember, they are also your attributes as you are not created by God but of God.

Week Two: Try a spiritual discipline during these weeks of Lent such as fasting from judgment, specific foods, technology, unnecessary spending, or harsh words and use the time or resources to focus on Christ as a source of satisfaction. Make room for disciplines such as prayer, serving others, spending more time with family.

Week Three: Find a quiet place & light a candle.
Thank God for God's presence.
Thank God for blessings in your life.

Make your request known, state your challenge, share what you need.
Wait and be still.

Write down what comes and don't process the thoughts.

Do this for several days. Sense the direction.

Ask God to show you the next step – not the end of the path.

Week Four: Do the meditation of Week 3

As you wait, imagine and focus on Christ's care for the lost sheep.

End your time with the Shepherd closing the gate of what was and allow yourself the joy and freedom of a new field in which to live.

Week Five: Spiritual energy audit: Pruning & Clinging to the Vine.

Write down the areas in your life that deserve greatest energy.

IE: self-care, family...

Estimate the hours or % of your week you give them.

Now list the tasks that rob you of your best energy...

...can you delegate or redirect?

Are your time and energy apportioned appropriately?

Week Six (Today):

Jesus is our pattern for living: *What Would Jesus Do?*

1. Stay connected with Jesus in a small community or small group.
2. Pattern life after Jesus with spiritual practices such as...
Prayer, Bible Study, Meditation, Journaling, or Fasting.
3. Adopt a practice of sacrifice.
4. Show compassion to people. Release prejudices.
Reach out to those who you might have avoided.
Notice people to help. Extend grace to others.

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