

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 202610:00 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*Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*Bach
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
*Sanctuary*TFWS 2164
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP
God welcomes us into this time of worship, with our joys and celebrations, our heartaches and struggles.
We bring our whole selves, trusting that God makes everything beautiful in its time.

God turns the scattered, broken pieces of our experiences into a beautiful design. We trust that God is always working in our favor, even when we cannot see His vision.
Open our eyes, Lord!
Teach us to find joy in our labor and purpose in our daily lives.
We remember that God is always cultivating pathways, putting us in awe of the wondrous plans He has for us.
Let us worship the God who gathers our brokenness and pulls every piece together into a meaningful masterpiece!

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE*Trust and Obey*UMH 467

CENTERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you know the season each of us carries today. You know the triumphs we want to sing, and the heartaches that we try to hide. When life feels like a collection of brokenness, you remind us that your light is shining through. Help us twist our perspective to see your masterpiece. Even in our lowest times, no struggle goes unnoticed and no celebration is overlooked. Comfort us in our darkest hours. Teach us to use our hands for your glory, by aligning

our fragmented pieces into place. All in your time and vision, O God. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

HEBREW LESSON*Ecclesiastes 3:10-13*Pew Bible, OT 616
May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE*Through It All*UMH 507

EPISTLE LESSON*Romans 8:28*Pew Bible, NT 158

MESSAGELydia Smith
Leadership Lesson from the Toy Box: The Kaleidoscope

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS
After each prayer request the congregation is invited to respond...
Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD’S BELOVED PEOPLELORD’S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC*Thank God I Do*Daigle et al.
Soloist: Lydia Smith

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD
*PRESENTATION*In Unity We Lift Our Song*TFWS 2221, v. 1
In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration, for brothers brave and sisters strong.
What cause for celebration!
For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress, who’ve shared with us our plight, who’ve held us in the night, the blessed congregation.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Generous God, we bring You our offerings—ourselves, our resources, our time, and our unique gifts knowing You will weave them together for the good of our community. Use us and these gifts to feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and show our neighbors the beauty of Your love in action. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION*Something Beautiful*UMH 394

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD
*The Lord Bless and Keep You*TFWS 2280
The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious, gracious.
The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance on you and give peace, give you peace.
Shalom. Shalom.

POSTLUDE*Air*Battishill

All are invited to a BBQ luncheon outside beginning at 11:30.
While we wait, you are invited to hear about 180 Turning Lives Around and fill lunchboxes for children and youth surviving domestic abuse.
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Our Service Of Worship Has Ended.
Our Worship Through Service Begins.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given in loving memory of Lou Sama by Peg.
Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her husband, Kevin.

Our Leadership Team This Morning

Acolyte: Kitty Amato
Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll
Greeter: Len Gruezk
Lay Reader: Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
Usher: Robin Whitney

For Your Information

- There are **hearing devices** to assist you to experience the service more clearly with our streaming team, at 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.
- There are **large print hymnals and Bibles** available. Please ask the usher.



This Week We Hold in Prayer...

The Gilman family, Marley, Jagger, Naomi, Don
Whittaker, Debbie, Rose Byrne, Ed Foran,
Charles Murphy, Ginny, Vicky, Morgan, Jean Holder, Jackie Gilman,
George Murphy
Our Homebound: Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens,
Carey Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould, Terry Frazier, June Holder,
Louise Kinsey
Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller
At home: Carol Steinat
The Rehab Center at Wedgwood Gardens: Nancy Burt
All American Assisted Living: Arlene Shaw

**FUMCO has a team of prayers, 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 at 732-209-4563 or revjmhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STUDY APP: The Eastern PA & Greater NJ Conferences announced a study app-BeADisciple Study App. The app is currently offering a six-week study of the book Following Jesus: Finding Home in an Age of Anxiety by Henri Nouwen. The study includes daily prayer practices & video clips of Nouwen from the Henri Nouwen Society.

FUMCO’S AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING benefits disaster relief- whether it be local, international or through UMCOR. Please use the LOVE envelopes for your offering.

FUMCO’S UWIF KIT NIGHT: August 18th at 7 p.m. The UWIF has been collecting items for hygiene kits that will be donated to Church World Service. This is the night that they will be assembled and readied for shipping. EVERYONE is invited to participate in assembling the kits. Then stay for an ice cream treat and fellowship.

FREE COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER: Everyone is invited to this monthly dinner sponsored by Old First UMC & FUMCO. No matter your financial position or food security status, you, your friends, neighbors, & family are invited to eat and share in fellowship. Date: August 16 Time: 5 p.m. Place: FUMCO’s Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNION IN THE PRAYER GARDEN: On September 6th at 8 a.m. you are invited to worship in FUMCO’s Prayer Garden. The service will offer communion, music, scripture, and a message.

FAITH-FILLED FIELD TRIP: Join Pastor Hubbard-Smith & friends as they explore BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Hindu Temple in Robbinsville. For dress code information please see *The Cornerstone*. RSVP to FUMCO’s church office, 732-531-1150.

Please Join in Mission and Ministry		
...where together we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.		
TODAY:		
BBQ, Speaker, & Kit Assembly		11:30 a.m.
Old First Church Council Meeting*		12 p.m.
Monday, August 10		
AA – Wesley Hall		7:30 a.m.
Alanon – Wesley Hall		10 a.m.
12 Step Study – Fellowship Hall		7 p.m.
Tuesday, August 11		
Women’s Covenant Group – Library		8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, August 12		
AA – Wesley Hall		7:30 a.m.
Thursday, August 13		
Alanon – Wesley Hall		10 a.m.
OA – Wesley Hall		6:30 p.m.
Friday, August 14		
AA – Wesley Hall		7 p.m.
Sunday, August 16		
Worship in Person & Online		9:30 a.m.
Worship In Person		11 a.m. (Old First)
Free Community Dinner – Fellowship Hall		5 p.m.
*Wesley Hall		



Leadership Lessons from the Toy Box

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

Oakhurst.umcchurches.org

FUMCOOakhurst@outlook.com

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Follow us on YouTube:

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

CCLI #1588788

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We believe we are called to grow in Christ and serve by loving and feeding the members of our community in mind, body, and spirit so they may be strengthened by the Bread of Life.

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

Phone Number: 732-222-4232