

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026 9:30 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 *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

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 Adapted from Tim Graves
We gather as people on a journey.
We believe and we have doubts; we are both beautiful and broken.
We are imperfect humans and still beloved by God.
Love and grace. Hope and faith.
These are the essence of the one we call God,
the one we gather now to worship!

*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 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* UMH 140

CENTERING PRAYER By David Inglis
God whispers to each of us:
you are my beloved, created in love for love.
My spirit answers, “Here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.”
God calls the small and helps them do great things.
God calls the weak and reveals their hidden gifts.
God calls the dejected and opens their eyes to their worth.
Here we are Lord, humble and waiting.
Then let us gather, old and young, small and great,
to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.
Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us,
and send it through us to those in need. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM See Insert

HYMN OF RESPONSE *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry* TFWS 2051

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD
HEBREW LESSON *Isaiah 49:13-16* Pew Bible, OT 679
May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Across the Lands You’re the Word of God* arr. Nix

EPISTLE LESSON *1 John 4:7-19* Pew Bible, NT 241

SERMON *Toy Story, Our Story*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD
SHARING OUR PRAYERS
The congregation is invited to respond after each request...
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 *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
We have received much that we did not earn...the dancing
colors of the seasons, the early morning music of birds, the
laughter of friends, and the love of family, our very lives, and
your grace that gives our lives meaning and hope. These things
we have received as gifts. In gratitude we respond, trusting
that your grace will transform our offerings into signs of love in
our world. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Grace Alone* TFWS 2162

*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 *Diapason Movement* Goodwin
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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 Inhong Hur by Soon, Kathy, & Elizabeth.
Given by Noel Worthington in loving memory of her mother, Nancy Quin.

Our Leadership Team This Morning
Acolyte: Joy More
Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll
Greeter: Jeff Ragle
Lay Reader: Jill Hubbard-Smith
Usher: Chip Stoll

- 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...

Barbara Novick
Our Homebound: Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob

Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Carey Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

At home: Carol Steinat

The Rehab Center at Wedgwood Gardens: Nancy Burt

All teachers, school employees, bus drivers and students:

Wesley Nursery School

Our college students: Ashley Bailey, Lydia Smith, Mallory Mitchell,

Alex Tanta-Nanta, Sophi Tanta-Nanta, Ellie Hill, Alexandra Nissim

If there are other young adults in our FUMCO family in college, please let the office know.

**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 in need of pastoral care, please contact Jill

Hubbard-Smith at 732-209-4563 or revjmhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BISHOP’S DAYS ON THE DISTRICT: Bishop Moore-Koikoi is making a visit to our Raritan Shore district. Please save the date of November 13th. Time and place will be announced at a later date.

HISTORIC HERITAGE MONTH RESOURCES: Discover resources to celebrate the diverse contributions of Hispanic/Latine siblings this Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). Check *The Cornerstone* for suggested links.

CHURCH CONFERENCE: October 31, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. All are invited to attend here at FUMCO.

WESLEY NURSERY SCHOOL is collecting new birth-2-year-old toys for MMC’s pediatrics department. New or used DVDs may also be donated. Drop off your donations to the church office.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR, REV. DR. DARRYL STEPHENS: October 13th at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Stephens is the author of *Reckoning Methodism: Mission and Division in the Public Church*. Stay tuned for more details.

PEN PAL MISSION: America’s Keswick’s addiction program is seeking persons to write notes of encouragement to their participating members. See *The Cornerstone* for details.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, November 1st-10 a.m. service-All Saints Sunday.

Please Join 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 – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.
Worship In Person	11 a.m. (Old First)
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.

Monday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 15

Women’s Covenant Group – Library	8:45 a.m.
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Wednesday, September 16

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
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Thursday, September 17

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

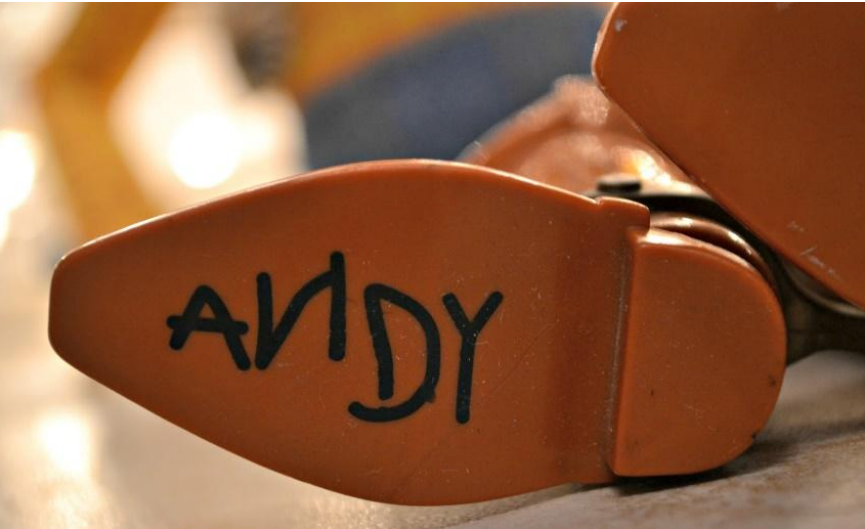
Friday, September 18

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.
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Sunday, September 20

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

*To be determined



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

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