

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026 9:30 a.m. for FUMCO
11:00 a.m. for 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

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)

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service UMH 581, v. 3

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving your abundant life to share.

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP

God comes to us in the heat of the day, in the ordinary moments, in the guests who knock at our door, and the strangers we meet along our path.

We are invited to open our lives, to make room, to offer welcome without hesitation.

Christ meets us in those we receive — the hungry, the thirsty, the weary, the overlooked — and says, “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me.”

We come to worship the God who draws near in unexpected guests and transforms simple acts of kindness into holy encounters.

*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.”

*SONG OF PRAISE

Welcome

TFWS 3152

CENTERING PRAYER

Gracious and ever-welcoming God,
You come to us disguised in need, in vulnerability, and in the faces we might overlook. Quiet our hurried spirits so we may notice Your presence in the ones who cross our paths. Help us see the weary travelers and run to greet them. Teach us to move toward others with generosity rather than caution and openness rather than fear.

Center us in Your hospitality, the spaciousness of Your love, the warmth of Your mercy, and the wideness of Your welcome.

Shape our hearts so that what we offer to others reflects what You continually offer to us: compassion, dignity, and delight.

Make us ready to receive You in every guest we meet. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Make Me a Servant

TFWS 2176

FAITH AND FASCINATION

Welcome

Barroux

Our youngest disciples are invited to sit on the first pew for a special message before Sunday school.

SPECIAL MUSIC (9:30)

Draw the Circle Wide

Light

Praise Team

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

HEBREW LESSON

Genesis 18: 1-8

Pew Bible OT 14

May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:34-40

Pew Bible NT 29

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come to the Table

Glover, McDonald, Frey

Denise Furda, Soloist

SERMON

Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

The Importance of Extending Hospitality

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

During the **9:30** service, the congregation is invited to respond after each request...

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD’S BELOVED PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (9:30)

UMH 46-49

Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church and bid you welcome to this congregation of the First UMC. With you we renew our vows to uphold the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD

MISSION MINUTE (9:30) *World Communion Sunday*

*PRESENTATION

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service UMH 581, v. 1

Lord, whose love through humble service

bore the weight of human need,

who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed:

we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but

heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of open doors and generous tables,

You entrust us with the sacred gift of welcoming the

strangers. May these offerings we place before You provide

the means for this holy work of hospitality. Bless these gifts

that they may nourish the hungry, comfort the lonely,

strengthen the weary, and reveal Christ’s presence in every

act of kindness. May our lives be offerings of welcome so that

all we do provides a glimpse into Your generous heart. Amen.

*SONG OF DEDICATION

TFWS 2223

They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD (9:30)

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service UMH 581, v. 4

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go

to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;

hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid,

and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom

may your mercy know, and live.

POSTLUDE

*Please join us at **10:30** in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.*

*Adult Sunday School is offered in FUMCO’s Wesley Hall at **11:00 a.m.**,*

located on the lower level of the building. All are welcome.

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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 Stuart A. Serine by Diane & Joy.
Given in honor of all first responders by Bonnie McNamara.

Our Leadership Team This Morning

Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara
Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery
Greeter: Pamela Lynch
Lay Reader: Steve Skoulas
Usher: Kitty Amato

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, Debbie Eckert, Naomi, Don Whittaker, Debbie, Rose Byrne, Ed Foran, Charles Murphy, Ginny, Vicky

Our Homebound: Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Carey Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould, Terry Frazier, June Holder, Louise Kinsey, Millie Ricci

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

At home: Carol Steinat, Barbara Novick

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.

Mark Your Calendars:

- **TWO (2) Community Services at 10:00 a.m.**
October 4th - *World Communion Sunday*
November 1st - *All Saints Sunday*
- **Annual Church Conference at 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**
October 31st – FUMCO is the host location for 12 churches. If you can assist with hosting, please let the office know.

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.
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall -	11 a.m.
Worship In Person	11 a.m. (Old First)
Old First UMC Council Meeting	12 p.m.

Monday, September 28

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

Tuesday, September 29

Women's Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
The Art of Hospitality Study – Library	7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
The Art of Hospitality Study - Library	11 a.m.

Thursday, October 1

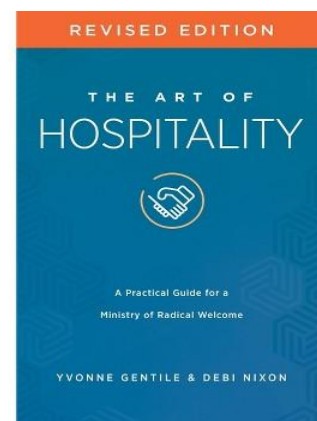
Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.
OA – Wesley Hall	6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 2

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.
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Sunday, October 4

Children's Sunday School – Downstairs	9:30 a.m.
Worship in Person & Online	10 a.m.
Fellowship – Fellowship Hall	11 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11:30 a.m.



The Art of Hospitality

FIVE WEEK STUDY

Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 27

Note: Not on Oct. 20

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 28

Note: Not on Oct. 21



The Ministry of Hospitality

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.umchurches.org

FUMCOakhurst@outlook.com

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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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