



The First United Methodist Church

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CCLI #1588788

***The First United Methodist Church of Oakhurst
Is a community of faith committed to Christ,
seeking to learn the needs of our members,
friends, and neighbors, and responding with Christian love.***

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

9:30 a.m.

*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.

Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

UMH is the **Red Hymnal** **TFWS** is the **Black Hymnal** **W&S** is the **Green Hymnal**

Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER

As you settle in 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.

PRELUDE

The Love of God

arr. Baroni

River Flows in You

Yiruma

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Make Me a Servant

TFWS 2176

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We don't always get it right.

So, we learn from one another.

Sometimes our conversations cause pain-

but we are called to speak with love.

Forgiveness is key to working together,

just as God forgives us.

We are called to do everything out of love,

because God loved us first!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Here I Am to Worship

W&S 3177

CENTERING PRAYER

God of us all, thank you that we do not have to do this life of faith alone. Thank you for the community both near and far that walks alongside us. When we experience division in your beloved family, help us to remember our common bond in

Jesus Christ. Give us your Spirit of compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and love in our relationships with one another. May our life together show the world what is possible with you. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Cornerstone
Praise Team

Mote

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

Pew Bible, NT 201

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE

We Are the Body of Christ

TFWS 2227

SERMON

Rediscovering Our UM Roots:

Connectional

Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

During this time, 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

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

UMH 45-49

Judy Gorra, Garry Smith, Mike Zemo, Ryan Henderson

INTRODUCTION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP OF UMC & FIRST UMC

WELCOME

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD...

Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.

You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

*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

**Uniting God, we give today knowing and trusting that
you will use our gifts to strengthen our bond with United
Methodists and Christians all around the world. As our
bonds grow stronger, may our light shine brighter so that
when people look at us, they see your son, Jesus Christ,
the light of the world. It is in his name we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

The Servant Song

TFWS 2222

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

UMH 664, vs. 1

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.**

**The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.**

*POSTLUDE

***Our Service of Worship Has Ended
Our Worship Through Service Begins***

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given in loving memory of Stuart A. Serine by Diane & Joy.
Given in honor of Scott & Russel Danielson's 6th wedding
anniversary.

Our Leadership Team Serving Us This Morning

ACOLYTE:	Gayle Fitzmaier
COUNTERS:	Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery
USHER:	Mike Sheckler
GREETER:	Buster Stoll
LAY READER:	Barbara Gruezke
FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:	Scott & Russel Danielson

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

- 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 the rear of the sanctuary, 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.



This Week We Hold In Prayer...

Our homebound: David Miller, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Connie Bruckmann, Jack Johnson, Sandy Elias, Madeline Starkey

**The church 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 732-209-4563 or revjimhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CONFERENCE will be held on October 5th at St. John's UMC in Hazlet. Start time is 9 a.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

UWIF'S GARAGE SALE will be held on October 19th starting at 8:30 a.m. and running until 2 p.m. Donations are welcome. You may drop them off on October 17th until 7 p.m. or October 18th until 6:30 p.m.

CROP WALK is happening on October 20th. CROP is a program of Church World Service that seeks to combat hunger both in local and world communities. If you would like to walk or sponsor a walker speak with Jeff Danielson.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are needed for October & November. Sign up in the upstairs kitchen or speak with Bonnie McNamara.

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS shopping passes are available in the church office or from any UWIF member. For a donation of \$5 to UWIF's mission endeavors, you can shop online or in-store receiving 25% off your purchases.

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry

Sunday, TODAY

Service of 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.
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.

Monday, September 23

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

Tuesday, September 24

Women's Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
Java with Jill - Blue Swan Diner	10 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Miriam Circle – Wesley Hall	3 p.m.

Thursday, September 26

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

Friday, September 27

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.
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Sunday, September 29

Service of 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.
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.

Pastor: 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

Director of Music Emeritus: Gary Farquhar