

Ascension Sunday

May 17, 2026

9:30 a.m. FUMCO

11:00 a.m. 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 (9:30 a.m.) *Trumpet Voluntary* Goodwin
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.)

Breath of God, Breath of Peace W&S 3145, v.2

**Word of God, Word of peace, Word of love, Word of life,
Word of justice, Word of passion, Word creating, Word of healing,
Word of singing, Word of praying, Come upon us,
come restore us, come inspire us, Word of God.**

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP

How shall we live in the love of God?

We will treat one another with fairness and dignity.

How shall we witness God's forgiving love?

We will reach out to others with compassion.

Come, let us worship God who has always loved us.

Let our worship of God be reflected in our lives of hope and peace.

*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 *For the Healing of the Nations* UMH 428

CENTERING PRAYER *For Our Country* UMH 429

ANTHEM (9:30 a.m.) *O Young and Fearless Prophet* Dykes
Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 22:13-17 Pew Bible, OT 724

HYMN OF RESPONSE

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations UMH 569

EPISTLE LESSON *Romans 12:14-18* Pew Bible, NT 162

*Inspired by God and entrusted to us,
these are holy words for holy living.*

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Political Community* Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

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

*PRESENTATION UMH 97, v. 2

For the Fruits of This Creation

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of great gifts, you have given us so much, accept these
gifts from our hands as our faithful response to your abundant
grace. May these resources give witness of your love and unite
this beautiful world in peace. Amen.**

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *This Is My Song* UMH 437

*SENDING FORTH

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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing UMH 664, v. 2

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.**

**With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ
and that name which we bear.**

*POSTLUDE (9:30 a.m.) *Serenade* Haydn

*Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.
During this Sermon Series, there is a discussion guide on the tables for discussion
if you choose. Jill will be located near the stage for discussion as well.*

*An Adult Study is offered in FUMCO's Wesley Hall at 11:00 a.m.,
located on the lower level of the building.*

**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 (9:30 a.m.)

Given in loving memory of Lou Sama by Peg Kuchen.

Given in loving memory of Jean Gillette by Diane Maher & Joy More.

Our Leadership Team This Morning (9:30 a.m.)

Acolyte: Ian Furda

Counters: Randy Danielson & Jane Gittines

Fellowship Hosts: Pamela Lynch & Jeff Danielson

Greeter: Pamela Lynch

Lay Reader: John Montgomery

Usher: Buster 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...

Marley, Jagger, Debbie Eckert

Our Homebound: Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob

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

At home: Bonnie McNamara, Mike Zemo

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

Sunnyside Manor: Nancy Burt

**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 revjmh@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTHOUSE: THE MORRIS MERGER: A free traveling art installation at Morristown UMC tells the story of 8 courageous local plaintiffs who challenged segregation in Morristown’s public schools helping shape a more just community. May 29th, kickoff at 6 p.m., panel discussion at 7 p.m. May 30th, 1-3 p.m. & 5-7 p.m. May 31st, 1-3 p.m.

FIELD TRIP: Pastor Hubbard-Smith is introducing a new opportunity to explore faith in new locations. This new ministry begins with a trip to the Cloisters in Manhattan on June 11th. Please RSVP to FUMCO’s church office. There is a cost for entrance into the Cloisters.

MERCY CENTER: FUMCO’s Outreach Committee continues their monthly collection for Mercy Center in Asbury Park. Some ideas for the Center’s pantry are canned fish, lentils, pasta, whole-grain cereals, canned fruits, peanut butter, and nonperishable oils. Please place your donations in the bins in the foyer at FUMCO.

JAVA WITH JILL: Join Pastor Hubbard-Smith and friends at the Blue Swan Diner in Ocean for an informal gathering to share conversation and perhaps a treat of your choice. The next date is May 26th at 10 a.m.

FEMININE HYGIENE COLLECTION: During the month of May, FUMCO’s Outreach Committee will be collecting feminine hygiene items to be donated to Mercy Center. These items are not covered by SNAP benefits and are a necessary expense. You may drop off items at FUMCO’s church office.

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT KESWICK MINISTRY: Debbie Eckert of Old First UMC is making and selling small, beaded crosses to support the Keswick ministry. Keswick provides a program for addiction recovery at an extreme discount to participants. The crosses are available from Debbie on Sunday mornings.

SUPERNATURAL: THE PLAY: Morristown UMC presents a staged reading of collected monologues sharing Black women’s experiences surrounding natural hair, identity, beauty, bias, & belonging. May 23rd, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

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, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

Women’s Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
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Wednesday, May 20

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Wesley Nursery School Art Show*	6 p.m.

Thursday, May 21

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

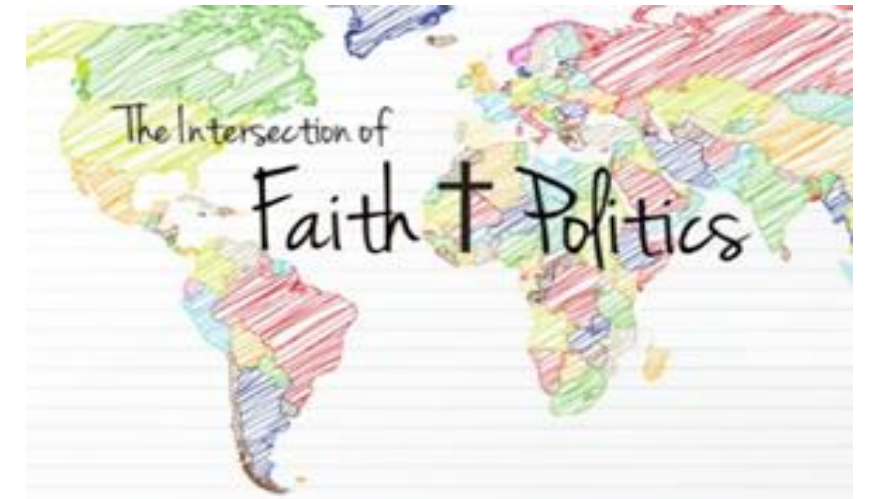
Friday, May 22

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.
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Sunday, May 24

Worship in Person & Online	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.
Worship In Person	11 a.m. (Old First)
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.

*Fellowship Hall



Faith In Action:

Exploring Our Social Principles

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

FUMCOOakhurst@outlook.com

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

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