

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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

*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

Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

**With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.**

And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.

**God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.**

Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

**Lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice. Teach us to be co-creators, with you, of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us. Praise be to God. Amen.**

### \*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

*Morning Has Broken*

UMH 145

### CENTERING PRAYER

**God of the Universe, we thank You for Your many good gifts - for the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants. Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for**

**granted and wasted what You have given us. Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and share, to touch the earth with gentleness and with love. We pray for all who suffer because of our waste, greed, and indifference. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species and help us to willingly share Your gifts today and always. Amen.**

### FASCINATION AND FAITH

Our youngest disciples are invited to sit toward the front center aisle for a special message before heading to Sunday School.

SPECIAL MUSIC (9:30 a.m.) *Resurrection Power* Cash, Ellis, & Brown Praise Team

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

### LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

*Genesis 1:26-31a* Pew Bible, OT 1

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

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE (9:30) *Step by Step* W&S 3004

HYMN (11:00) *For the Beauty of the Earth* UMH 92, v. 1-2 & 6

SERMON *Community of Creation* 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

MISSION MINUTE *United Methodist Communities*

\*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 the world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, you have blessed us with the resources to share the good news of your love for all creation. We dedicate these gifts and pray that they may bring healing, wholeness, and hope to the world, that future generations may also know your graciousness and love. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION (9:30) *Hallelujah* W&S 3027

\*HYMN (11:00) *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77, v. 1-2

\*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;  
united 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

*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*

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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 by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her son-in-law, Buddy.

Given in loving memory of Viola Miller by David & Janice Hiers.

## Our Leadership Team This Morning (9:30)

Acolyte: Susan McRae

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Fellowship Host: Kitty Amato

Greeter: Randy Danielson

Lay Reader: Judy Gorra

Usher: Jay Aretino

**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, Donna & Ed Ahrens, Louise Kinsey, Alex & Debbie Eckert, Naomi, Don Whittaker, Terry Frazier, June Holder, Arlene Shaw,

Rose Byrne, Jackie Gilman, Ed Foran, Charles Murphy, Ginny, & Vicky.

**Our Homebound:** Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens,

Carey Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

**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 [revjimhs@gmail.com](mailto:revjimhs@gmail.com).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

APRIL'S COMMUNION OFFERING benefits Mercy Center. Please use the LOVE envelopes for your offering.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin a new study on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The study is based on Max Lucado's best selling book *Never Alone*. The class meets at 11 a.m. in Wesley Hall.

FUMCO'S PRAISE TEAM will participate with other area praise teams in a free coffeehouse at Presbyterian Church on the Hill in Ocean. The event is on May 1<sup>st</sup> and begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

FIELD TRIP-Pastor Jill is planning a field trip to the Cloisters in Manhattan on June 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join in, please RSVP to FUMCO's office.

JAVA WITH JILL-the next date is May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Join Pastor Jill and friends at the Blue Swan diner for a time of fellowship.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THE 9:30 A.M. SERVICE are needed for May 17<sup>th</sup> & May 24<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Diane Maher, 732-513-8413 if you would like to donate. Price is \$20 per bouquet.

FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER-May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The dinner is hosted by Old First UMC & FUMCO in FUMCO's Fellowship Hall.

**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, April 27**

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

**Tuesday, April 28**

Women's Covenant Group – Library 8:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, April 29**

AA – Wesley Hall 7:30 a.m.

**Thursday, April 30**

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

**Friday, May 1**

AA – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.  
 Trustees Workday 9 a.m.

**Sunday May 3**

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.  
 Worship In Person 11 a.m. (Old First)  
 Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.  
 \*Praise Team Coffeehouse 7 p.m.

\* Presbyterian Church on the Hill, Ocean



*Faith In Action:  
 Exploring Our Social Principals*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@oldfirstumchurch.org)**