



January 25, 2026
10:00 AM

Third Sunday after Epiphany

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

118 WEST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Linda Goeddel
Director of Music: John Cavicchio
Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9am-12pm
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*Please stand if you are able

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *In Christ Alone* Saxophone Quartet

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:

All: **those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them
light has shined.**

Liturgist: We are not people of darkness.

All: **We are people of light!**

Liturgist: Come, let us turn our faces to the light of Christ and worship
our good and gracious God!

Hymn #12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Call to Confession (spoken by the liturgist)

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance.

Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bond of our oppression and covers us in mercy.

For this is the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Gloria Patri (Hymn #581)**

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Passing of the Peace*A Time for Children****Anthem *Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Vivaldi*****Prayer for Illumination (unison)**

God of light and life, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Jesus, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Ps 27:1, 4-9 (Old Testament pg. 503)**Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:12-23 (New Testament pg. 3)****Sermon *Seeing the Light* Rev. Linda Goeddel****Responding to the Word*****Hymn #620 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*****Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (unison)**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,*

*was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Offering He's Been Faithful Matthew DeMarco

***Doxology (Hymn #606)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

*We give our thanks through our talents, our time, and our treasure.
Thanks be to God; whose love creates us!
Thanks be to God; whose mercy redeems us!
Thanks be to God; whose grace leads us into the future! Amen.*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal pg. 35)

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.*

***Hymn #846 Fight the Good Fight**

***The Holden Prayer**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Benediction Dresden Amen**

Postlude To God be the Glory Saxophone Quartet

We welcome Rev. Linda Goeddel into the pulpit today.

Rev. Linda Goeddel is retired after serving as a Church Educator and most recently as a Chaplain for a senior community. She serves on the Council for the Presbytery of the Coastlands and on the Ministry Resources Committee. Linda and her husband, Tom, grew up in the Midwest, but have lived in Fair Haven for more than 40 years. They worship at the Rumson Presbyterian Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Communion & Casa Sundays: We'll be collecting non-perishable food items for **Casa Freehold** on the first Sunday of the month. Bring what you can for our neighbors in need. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



The 2025 Giving Statements will be mailed out before January 31st. For those of you who donate using the online service, you can obtain your 2025 contribution statement by logging into your account on the Vanco website at: www.vancopayments.com.



Inclement Weather Announcements: During the winter months, when there is a threat of inclement weather, the Session and the Property Commission will determine whether or not it is safe to hold worship services or other activities at the church. When the weather is threatening, please check for emails from FPC. We will also post notifications of closures on Facebook, but email should be the first thing you check.

Pastoral Search Steering Committee: Our temporary Pastoral Search Steering Committee meets weekly and is diligently working to ensure that our congregation's weekly pulpit and pastoral needs are met. We are grateful for the guest ministers who are blessing us with their leadership during this time of transition. As we search for an Interim Pastor, please know that once an Interim is in place, a formal search committee will be established. At that time, the congregation will engage in a self-study and discernment process to help guide the search for our next settled pastor. If you have questions about this process, please feel free to speak with any member of the Steering Committee: Berwin Guttormsen, Sue Craig, Sandra Whitehill, Julie Heinsohn, Sue Stoia, or Tammy Ciok.

The Session will continue to meet during our pastor search. The next session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th. We are grateful to Reverend Robin Palmer-Burton, pastor at Old Tennent Presbyterian Church, for serving as our temporary moderator for our meetings. If you have any questions, please see an elder. You can also reach out to the church office for assistance.



Prayer Requests: Please call or email the church office during the week to let us know of any requests for prayer you have. If you have a prayer request on Sunday morning, please use the Prayer Cards in the narthex to write out your requests. A greeter or usher can assist you with any questions you may have. Your prayer requests are important. Thank you for helping us stay on top of your requests.

Welcome

We're Glad You're Here!

First Presbyterian Church of Freehold – January 25, 2026

LITURGIST	Chim Munthali
USHERS	Charlie Lloyd & Tom Morrice
Next Week	Bob DiSogra & Carol Matino
OPENER	Pat Kirk
Next Week	Pat Kirk
CLOSER	Charlie Lloyd
Next Week	Samantha Daesener
COUNTERS	Barbara Lloyd & Tom Morrice
Next Week	Beth Nadolny & Samantha Daesener



Today's Guest Musicians:

Matthew DeMarco, Soloist

Saxophone Quartet

Riley Talerico-Dovel, Soprano Sax

Joe Farrell, Alto Sax

Izzy Miraglia, Tenor Sax

Luciana Rattino, Baritone Sax



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Follow Us on Facebook!



When you follow us on Facebook, you'll enjoy:

- Photos** from recent church events and activities
- Reminders** about upcoming services and special programs
- Clips** from worship services and sermons
- Music highlights** from our talented musicians
- A chance to **connect** with your church family throughout the week

Let's grow our online community and share the love and life of our church with each other!

