**OPENING PRAYER:**

*God who works wonders, we invite you into this place.*

*Jesus we light this candle as a sign of your presence.*

*Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.*

*We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.*

When people were hungry, Jesus didn’t say, “Now is that political, or social?” He said, “I feed you.” Because the good news to a hungry person is bread.” Desmond Tutu

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

* What did you pack for lunch as a kid?
* Who are you a fan of (ie. Sports, music – something else?)? Where did you follow them to?

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

*Read John 6:1-14.*

* What strikes you about this passage?
* Has there been a time in your life when you gave up because the task seemed too big?
* Andrew continued to search for an answer. In the end, he spotted the boy in the crowd. What do you think Andrew expected Jesus to do?
* The people who were following Jesus were hungry. First he taught them and then he broke bread and fed them; Jesus provided for both spiritual and physical needs. What are people hungry for around us?
* Nothing is too little for God to use. What resources do we have to offer?
* What is the miracle in this story?

**NEXT STEPS:**

* How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week’s scripture, lesson and/or sermon?
* When the crowds see what United Methodists of Greater New Jersey have done through Miracles Everywhere, they will say, “Jesus is among us.” How will you participate in God’s miracles in your church and Greater New Jersey Annual Conference?
* In all miracles, we are active participants. In the first week, the fisherman went fishing for the miraculous catch. In week 2 the people unbound Lazarus. In week 3 the friends carried the paralyzed man to Jesus. This week the boy offers his lunch and there were leftovers. What gift can you offer in making miracles happen?

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Dear Lord, We thank you for all the times when you have feed us. For the people who opened their hearts and have shared when we have been in need. We pray for those who are hungry - for food, for shelter, for education, for healthcare and so much more. We ask for your help to see the gifts you have given us so that we could share with others. Gifts of time, talent and resources. We pray that we as individuals and as a congregation are generous. We thank you for the miracles. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen

*This week, it would be nice for a pastor to offer Holy Communion to the group. If this is not possible then a sharing of a Love Feast would tie in too.*