



First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

From the Pastor's Desk.....

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"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me." Isaiah 49:15-16, CEB

Isaiah 49:15 has always struck me as an odd verse because the comparison seems misplaced. If I was trying to assure someone of God's faithful presence with them and His ability to never forget them, I feel like "losing a remote," "misplacing my keys," or "forgetting where I put my phone" are a better contrast to God's faithfulness than "a mother forgets a baby." But, alas, that is what scripture offers us. Why? Perhaps it's the odd notion of a mother forgetting a newborn. It is unlikely, yet it's not impossible. While not often, there are times when a mother might neglect her newborn. Even that which we think is certain is still not as certain as God's faithful remembrance of us. Our best example of faithful care, a mother and a baby, still does not compare to God's care towards us.

This summer, 17 students and adults are headed to Mayfield, Kentucky, to bring that message of hope: God has not forgotten you. When the tornado pummeled the Mayfield community in December 2021, many likely inquired upon God's presence and wondered as to His care of them. A year and a half later, after first responders and disaster agencies have left and gone to support others, the community is left rebuilding.

Sometimes long distance mission trips (an 11 hour drive) for a short amount of time (five days) don't seem practical and well-placed when there are needs here in our local community. While, yes, only so much work will be accomplished in five days, there is still a great value in the effort. For as we swing a hammer, help rebuild a porch, or layer one last coat of paint on a bedroom wall, we are bringing a tangible answer to a hurting community: You are not forgotten; God cares. He cares so much that he will bring, from 11 hours away, a church willing to share in your pain and help carry your burden, if even just for 5 days. The word of hope offered by Isaiah are the words of hope we bring to Mayfield: "The walls you're rebuilding are never out of my sight" (Isaiah 49:16 MSG).

As our team carries this message of hope to the Mayfield community, I pray you would carry that same reminder with you wherever you go this summer. You are never out of God's sight. We serve a God who cares deeply and loves faithfully. Whether you're rebuilding after a disaster or embarking on a summer adventure, He is there. Take great hope in His promise, and seek to connect to the Lord that is with us in all times, all places, and all circumstances.

Pastor Lisa

New Sermon Series

Summer Sermon Series | Story Time: Echoes of Faith 2

Last summer, we introduced a sermon series for all ages, "Story Time: Echoes of Faith." Each Sunday, we read a popular children's book that echos valuable lessons for Christian living, not just for kids, but for everyone. The series was so well received that we're back this summer with "Story Time: Echoes of Faith 2." More summer fun with books! More timely biblical lessons! Join us in-person or online!

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 16 | The Word Collector by Peter H. Reynolds
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105 |
| July 23 | Worrysaurus by Rachel Bright and Chris Chatterton
"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring enough worries of its own." Matthew 6:34 |
| July 30 | The Friend Ship by Kat Yeh and Chuck Groenink
"Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 |
| Aug. 6 | Mighty, Mighty Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker and Tom Lichtenheld
"Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many." 1 Corinthians 12:14 |
| Aug. 13 | Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev and Taeun Yoo
"Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Matthew 4:19 |
| Aug. 20 | Oh! The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 |

Lifelong Learner



Adult Discipleship Opportunities

Whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple or becoming a fully devoted follower, there is always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

- **Daily Bible Reading Plan**

God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan in our weekly worship bulletin and on our church website (fumchurch.com).

- **Sunday School | Sundays, 9:45 a.m.**

Looking for learning and relationship-building while you are at church for worship on Sundays? This July and August, we will offer one combined class for adults entitled, "Inspired by God." A collection of Bible lessons, mission presentations, and a hands-on mission activity, this series focuses on the ways God transforms the world through us when we use the spiritual gifts He has given us. Bible lessons will be held in room 123 (the Guyer Classroom), mission presentations will be held in the multipurpose room and the mission activity will be held in Fellowship Hall.

- ◇ July 2 | *The Spiritual Practice of Wisdom-Seeking* (James 1:2-8)
- ◇ July 9 | *The Spiritual Practice of Self-Control* (James 3:1-12)
- ◇ July 16 | *The Gift of True Biblical Wisdom* (James 3:13-18)
- ◇ July 23 | Youth Mission Presentation: Mayfield, Kentucky Mission Trip
- ◇ July 30 | Mission Presentation: One80 Ministries
- ◇ Aug. 6 | Mission Presentation: Josh & Megan Herring (DiscipleMakers)
- ◇ Aug. 13 | *Using Your Gifts to Serve Others* (1 Kings 11:1-13)
- ◇ Aug. 20 | Mission Activity: CARE Kits for Mission Central (for all ages!)
See the Mission Moment article for more details on what we are collecting in July and August to prepare for CARE Kit assembly.
- ◇ Aug. 27 | *Does God Forgive Our Self-Centeredness?* (John 13:21-30)

- **Wednesday Men's Group | First and Third Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m.**

Join a group of First Church men at the home of Barry Eaton as they continue studying, "Faith Commander." In this study, Korie Robertson and Chrys Howard (of the hit television show, Duck Dynasty) discuss some of the Bible's most beloved parables and how their lessons apply to your life. Contact Barry (theeaton5@verizon.net) if interested.

Zoe Mazi | Mondays 7:15-8:45 p.m.

Are you a college student at home for the summer? A young adult looking for Christian community? Zoe Mazi (which means "Life Together") is a ministry group that welcomes young adults (18+) from a variety of churches in the Mechanicsburg area. On the first and third Monday of each month, they meet at Strock's Corn Crib for a large group gathering that features of worship and teaching from a local speaker. On the second and fourth Mondays, they meet at the home of Zoe Mazi Executive Director Shannon Zimmerman for a time of small group discussion. Find more details and get connected at zoemazi.org



From the Library

July – a month that I always think of as the heart of the summer. In the good old days, as I'm sure some of you remember, school vacation ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Not only did I ride my bike to the public pool every day, but I frequently went to the library to stock up as many books as I could fit in my bike basket. My days of bike riding to the library are long gone, but when I look for books that I would like to read or buy for the church library, that same feeling of joy comes over

me. Not only do I search for books that I would like to read, but also I try to decide what you would like to read. I always welcome your input on new Christian authors or titles. For now, let's check out some firecracker-worthy new reads for July.

When I write these newsletter articles, I usually look at online reviews to see what other people think of a book. When I checked out *Counter Attack* by Patricia Bradley, the reviewer said she got no housework done on the day she received the book – she couldn't stop reading to the very end. I knew this was my kind of book. The main character, Alexis Stone, has just been sworn in as interim sheriff for Russell County, Tennessee, when a killer strikes again. Dubbed the Queen's Gambit Killer because he leaves chess pieces and a note detailing a chess move at each crime, this killer must be caught. Alexis had planned to be in Russell County only a short time, with her sights set on her real prize job of being the first female police chief of Chattanooga. But, how can she leave with this fiend on the loose? Also on the hunt is Nathan Landry, chief of police of Pearl Springs. He and Alexis were high school sweethearts, and he has never stopped loving her. Can he keep her safe while giving her space to do her work? Since I never spoil the ending, you'll just have to read this suspenseful book yourself. And, I give you permission to let the housework go until you finish!

The library has a new writer of romantic suspense just in time for the theme of "firecracker reads." Lisa Phillips is writing a series called "Benson First Responders," and the first book is *Allegiance*. The whole town thinks that police detective Lucas Westbrook is a disgrace to the uniform. What they don't want to believe is that he's not only an upright man of God, but also a man with a dangerous secret. EMT Freya Olson has been loyal to Lucas, as she knows he is a good man. But, a new case tangles them both in a web that seems to have no way to escape. How far can Freya take loyalty when she doesn't know Lucas's secret? I would say this story has a chance of a happy ending, but you'll have to navigate all the twists and turns to find out. Did I mention Lucas has a secret — you might be interested in finding out what that might be. Let me know if you like this title, as there are more books that could round out the series.

On another note, the library is accepting gently used books, puzzles, CDs, and DVDs for our Aug. 19 Book Sale. Both adult and children's items are welcome, but we cannot accept VCR tapes, textbooks, or encyclopedias. Small donations can be left by the library door (clearly marked) at any time. If you have a large donation, please contact Donna Nichols or Pam Van Kirk to facilitate drop-off. After clearing your shelves, mark your calendar for the sale where you can stock up for the next year. This sale supports the library for the year and keeps the latest in Christian books at your fingertips with very little wait time.

See you in the library!

Pam, Sue, Mary, Marge, Deb, Annette and Donna





Join Super Meer
the Meerkat
and become a
hero at VBS!



July 17-21
9 a.m.-12 p.m.



For kids age 4
through completed
fifth grade



\$5 per child
(scholarships available!)



**REGISTER NOW FOR
SUMMER CAMP!**

GROW IN FAITH // MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS
ENJOY NATURE // HAVE FUN

SPECIAL OFFERS:

Sibling Discount - Register the one at full price, and additional siblings receive a \$15 discount.

Invite-a-Friend Gift - Invite a friend who has never been to camp and receive a special gift after they register.

Financial Assistance - First Church will pay half of your camp fees!



Visit suscrm.org to register
and see a complete list of
2023 camps!

Sign up on Church Center or
contact our Camp Coordinators
to become a prayer partner!

TO LEARN ABOUT:

- Financial assistance for campers
- Details on discounts
- What to expect at camp
- Becoming a prayer partner
- Volunteering as a camp dean, nurse or counselor
- Working at camp
- Campsite workdays

**CONTACT OUR FIRST CHURCH
CAMP COORDINATORS!**

DEB NOSS: SDPPP@MSN.COM
AMY ORTIZ: AMY.OGDEN7@GMAIL.COM

Congrats, grads!



Congratulations to all our graduates and their accomplishments!

Your First Church family is proud of all that you have achieved and the dedication you put into receiving your degrees.



RYAN CLARK

Graduating from Cumberland Valley High School

ABIGAIL WERTZ

Graduated from Messiah University

Bachelor of Science in Economics, Minors in English, Math and International Business

Future Plans: Attending American University for Masters in Economics

LINDSAY ALDERMAN



Graduating from York College of Pennsylvania

Master of Arts

TAYLOR NESMITH



Graduating from Saint Francis University

Masters of Education

Future Plans: Continue teaching in Cumberland Valley School District

KALIE NUSS



Graduating from Liberty University

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science

Future Plans: Attending University of South Florida Morsani School of Medicine for M.D.

ETHAN SPENCER



Graduating from West Virginia University

Masters in Music Performance

Future Plans: University of Florida for a PhD in Musical Arts

Praying Follower



Monthly Prayer Focus: "Information Fast"

How do you feel when you eat too much... bloated and uncomfortable? The same is true for our minds and our spirits. There are so many books, TV shows, podcasts, movies and more for us to feast on! But, to have the abundant life that Jesus promises (John 10:10), we must feed our minds and spirits *less* from this world in order to make more space for God to fill us instead. During the months of July and August, let's try an "information fast." What might this look like for you?

- Be mindful of what kinds of media and how much you are consuming. Awareness is the first step to change, so take note of all the books, TV, movies, etc. you take in.
- Once you're aware of all that you consume each day, take note of how it makes you feel. (As an example, The American Psychological Association reports that more than 50% of Americans say the news causes them stress and anxiety.)
- Once you're aware of what you are consuming and how it makes you feel, consider what can be reduced or eliminated in order to make more space for God, increase your joy and improve your overall well-being.
- After eliminating some of the information you take in, spend that time with God in prayer. Maybe you'll take a walk in nature, simply sit in the quiet, read your Bible or use a devotional as a guide... no matter where you are and what you do, simply take the time you've created through fasting to be with God.

Know that not every day will be perfect during your "information fast." Just enjoy the quiet time you create and pay attention to how it helps deepen your relationship with God.

Passionate Worshipper



Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Search for First UMC of Mechanicsburg, and click on the playlist titled Where Words Fail, Music Speaks. For non-Spotify users, click this link to listen to the playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5rbHEYefHei97cUI8rjwNJ?si=q-zOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>



Handbell Mini Camp

Want to try out playing handbells, enhance your technique, or just spend time with other ringers? Sign up for our Handbell Mini Camp! Whether you're a player or a director, have played handbells for years or have never picked one up, everyone age 10 and up is invited to join us! Morning and evening sessions will be offered July 24-27. Mix and match sessions and come to as many or as few as you'd like — just be sure to sign up by July 18! For more details and to register, visit our website (funchurch.com), contact Kathie Bittenbender (rbittenben@verizon.net) or pick up a brochure in the church office.



2023 Youth Mission Trip | July 1-7

On the night of Dec. 10, 2021, residents in Mayfield, Kentucky, were awoken by one of the worst tornadoes in U.S. history. The tornado ripped through Kentucky and the surrounding states, though Mayfield was hit hardest. Two years later, disaster relief work is still occurring. First Church Youth is currently planning a summer mission trip with Adventures In Mission to serve in Mayfield alongside the local church and other volunteers. Our youth mission trips are designed to help students to experience service and missions in a variety of ways and in a variety of places. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we get to impact the community and people we are serving by extending God's love. We also prioritize working with local churches and local service providers to assure that our help creates long-lasting benefits for those on the ground beyond our stay, throughout the year. We are excited for the opportunity to serve through disaster relief and incredibly grateful to you, our church family, for helping to make these experiences possible for our students. Please pray for our students and leaders as they travel and serve together!



Gleaning | Wednesday, July 5 and Aug. 2, 6 p.m.

This growing season, we're excited to once again partner with Oak Grove Farms to provide fresh produce to families receiving monthly groceries from Fishing Creek Salen UMC's food pantry. We plan to glean four times this season, starting in June. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112) to be added to our 2023 Glean Team communications!

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, July 19 and Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Isaiah 61 Ministries serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County through a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and life groups. First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions or would like to carpool, please contact Tiffany Holland (tholland1967@gmail.com).

CROP Walk Save the Date

Help end hunger locally and globally through supporting our local CROP Walk! This year's walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. You can also support the CROP Walk through the Hoss's Community Day fundraiser on Thursday, Sept. 7. Find more details about both events and register for this year's walk at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/mechanicsburgpa>.



July/August Hospitality Tip: "Hospitality Goggles"

Hospitality is an essential ministry in the church because so many people in our communities are hurting or feel alone. Intentional hospitality is vital to ensuring that people who visit our church and are searching for God can feel welcome and comfortable in a new setting. During these summer months, keep an eye out for newcomers – surprisingly, this is when many people check out churches! As you put on your "hospitality goggles," look for these things:

- Are there clear directions at the entrances and in the common areas of the church directing folks to worship and restrooms?
- Are the announcements in the bulletin clear enough for those who are visiting to understand what's going on, or is it assumed that everyone already knows?
- Do our common areas feel warm and welcoming?
- Are groups of church members talking and blocking hallways so that a guest must work their way through an obstacle course to get into worship?

- Are we warm and welcoming, striking up conversation with newcomers, or are we only talking to people we already know?

It is so very important for us to look through a guest's eyes so that we can open doors for all to know Jesus! If you have any feedback or are interested in welcoming others to First Church as a door greeter or usher, please contact Patti Herring or Tina Eaton.

Men's Breakfast | Saturday, July 1 and August 5, 7:30 a.m.

Join other First Church men for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday of each month at Brothers Restaurant (705 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg). Please contact Barry Eaton (theeaton5@verizon.net) to RSVP.



Widows/Widowers Fellowship | Tuesday, July 11 and Aug. 8, 11:30 a.m.

In July, the group will meet at Theo's Restaurant (Hartzdale Drive), and in August, the group will dine at Perkins (Erford Road). If you plan on attending or need transportation, please contact Bonnie Guyer (717-766-0145).

Free Summer Movie Nights | Friday, July 28 and Aug, 25

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a free picnic and movie night! Enjoy hotdogs, chips and drinks for dinner in our Community Green Space starting at 6 p.m. followed by a "super" movie in the multipurpose room at 6:30. July's movie will be DC League of Super-Pets, and in August we will watch Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse!

Senior Ice Cream Social | Tuesday, July 12, 2:30 p.m.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of friendship while enjoying a refreshing ice cream treat with toppings! Jeff Hoffnagle, our favorite games-how host, has agreed to offer some entertainment! Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112) with questions.



Pickleball in the Park | Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.

Join us on the pickleball court at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park (across from the pool) for some fun and games! No experience is necessary, and paddles and balls will be available to borrow. In the event of bad weather, we will play in the multipurpose room (enter via the gym door directly across from the flagpole by the office entrance). Contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611, ext. 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions.

Connect with KidsMinistry!

Did you know First Church Kids has a Facebook page? We upload videos, family activities, resources and more for families to use each week. Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/groups/fumckids) or reach out to Miss Katie (kidscount@fumchurch.com) for more information.

Third Friday Food Trucks | July 21 and Aug. 18, 4:30-8 p.m.

Each month, we welcome several gourmet food trucks that serve a variety of delicious and fun foods! This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere. If you are interested in lending a hand with setting up or taking down the tables and chairs, we'd love to have you! Contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) for more details. For July, we welcome Mad Dash, The Italian Job, Grapplin' Crab, ShreddRRz, Quinn's Coffee Bar (featuring Mr. Sticky's Sticky Buns) and Whistle Stop on Wheels. In August, we welcome 717 Burritos, Grapplin' Crab, Potato Coop, Momo BBQ, Quinn's Coffee Bar, and Whistle Stop on Wheels. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page for updates!



Greeting Cards to Share!

Want to send well wishes for a happy birthday or speedy recovery to a friend? Stop by our greeting card display in the lobby outside the multipurpose room and help yourself to a card! If you'd like ideas of church members who would appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611).

Trinity Concert on the Lawn | July 21, 7 p.m.

Join our neighbors at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (132 E. Main St., Mechanicsburg) for a free concert, featuring the Greater Harrisburg Concert Band. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. You can visit our Third Friday Food Trucks for a delicious dinner, then enjoy live music at Trinity!

Mechanicsburg Community Day | Saturday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Mechanicsburg Borough and Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership are pleased to announce Community Day at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park. This event features live music, an old-fashioned baseball exhibition, inflatables and games, food trucks, craft vendors, chicken barbecue (to benefit the fire company), and more. All are welcome to attend this free, family-friendly outdoor event. Be sure to stop by the First Church Kids table and say hello to Miss Katie!

The Power of White Allies in Congregational and Public Spaces Webinar | Aug. 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

What does it mean to be a white ally? Why is it so important? How can your Christian faith and love be expressed as a white ally when tensions are rising in our communities, our nation and our world? Come join the learning and dialogue around how to best support and collaborate with people of color in the variety of settings where you live and serve. This webinar experience is sponsored by the Beloved Community Commission and will be led by Pastor Debra Mason, the Diversity Development and Inclusion Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. In her role, Pastor Debra provides support to ethnic clergy and those placed in cross-cultural appointments; consults on racism, diversity and inclusion concerns; leads trainings; and facilitates train-the-trainer programs for implicit bias awareness. Register for this free event here: <https://forms.gle/K7T5YPHG6BXmeVzXA>.

Generous Giver



Financial Report

Through May 31, 2023
42% of year

General Fund

2023 budget	\$900,886
Expected income – YTD	\$375,369 (42% of budget)
Actual income – YTD	\$409,781 (45% of budget)
Actual expenses – YTD	\$370,802 (41% of budget)

Income for the four-Sunday month of May was \$75,639, more than our average four-week budget. We continue to run ahead of our YTD budget by about \$34,000. In May, expenses were a bit over an average 4-week budget due to the timing of payments. The good news is year-to-date expenses remain \$5,000 below expected spending.

We're grateful to be entering the summer season of worship to see how our new Green Space will enhance our worship and offerings to the community. We thank you all for supporting the work of First Church, as we serve the Lord by opening doors for all to know salvation through Jesus. We continue to ask for your prayers, your presence and your support toward the mission of our First Church family.

The bell tower work is well on its way to completion. This project is expected to cost upwards of \$300,000, of which the Trustees' maintenance funds covered \$100,000. To make up the difference, our congregation has approved a loan for the remaining \$200,000, to be reduced by fundraisers and the generosity of our congregation. So far, the Endowment fund has contributed \$10,000, and fundraisers and donations have helped reduce the final expected loan amount. But, there is still time to reduce our loan with a gift that goes directly to the bell tower repairs. You can give on the Church Center app or with a check. Please contact the office for more information. As always, thank you for your talents, faith and gifts that help First Church serve the Lord.

VBS Donations

Looking for a way to support First Church's VBS? We're in need of toilet paper or paper towel rolls and boxes of chocolate, vanilla or butterscotch Tastykake treats. You can drop your donations off in the basket in the main entrance hallway or at the church office.

Community Dinner, July 23

We're looking forward to the next Community Dinner on Sunday, July 23, at 5 p.m. at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on Main Street. This dinner is for the Mechanicsburg downtown community and includes a free meal, music and door prizes. At the last dinner, we served over 130 of our neighbors!

If you'd like to help in any way, please contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). We will serve pulled pork BBQ, chicken and macaroni and cheese at this dinner. Find more ways to get involved in our Service opportunities email or on the Church Center app!

Camp Fancy Gala | Saturday, Sept. 9, 4-8 p.m.

If you value the power of Camp and Retreat experiences to change lives, join us for an evening of inspiration, fun and generosity. Camp Fancy means you can choose your attire, from prom night outfits to outdoor gear – just be sure to have one part of your outfit that is “fancy” as part of the celebration.

New for this year, the event will be held at the Conference Center at Central Penn College (600 College Hill Road, Summerdale). We're also excited to announce that this year's volunteer honorees are our very own Mike and Nadine Ogden!

The event features a catered meal, special music, auction items and the chance to honor Mike and Nadine as we raise funds for the Susquehanna Conference's Camp and Retreat Ministry.

Registration and donation information will be made available very soon. Check the Camp and Retreat website for updates at suscrm.org. Contact Camp and Retreat Ministries board members Steve Noss (sdppp@msn.com) or Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) with any questions about the gala, volunteering, making a donation or contributing an auction item. Thanks for your support!

Little Free Pantry

Thanks so much for your support of the Little Free Pantry through your donations and monetary contributions. We are slowly building up our supply to stock the pantry, but we still welcome your donations! You can drop off donations at the church office or in the marked basket at the alley entrance. You're also welcome to place items in the pantry anytime. We are blessed to be able to offer this barrier-free access point to food to our neighbors. If you have questions about the Little Free Pantry, please contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

Share the Harvest

If you have extra fruits, vegetables, herbs or flowers from your garden, we invite you to share your bounty at our Share the Harvest table! Feel free to bring items to share or help yourself to what has been placed on the counter by the sofas in the lobby. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112) with questions.

Yard, Book and Bake Sale | Saturday, Aug. 19, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

We're looking forward to the annual United Women in Faith Yard, Book and Bake Sale! There's something for everyone at the sale!

- **Yard sale spots** in the parking lot (2 parking spaces) can be reserved for \$15. You may reserve up to two spots. Proceeds benefit the United Women in Faith missions. To secure your spot, sign up on the Church Center app or by clicking on this link: <https://fumchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/180783>. Signups open for church members on **July 1** and to the public on **July 8**. Those outside of our church will be able to sign up beginning July 8. You may cancel up to Aug. 1 with a refund, but no refund after that date (we will consider it a donation to the United Women in Faith).
- Support our youth ministry by **donating your treasures!** The youth will sell the items to raise funds for future mission trips. Last year, they made over \$2,000 at the sale! The collection will start **Aug. 7** in the multipurpose room during office hours. Please bring only clean, unbroken and working items. If you have questions about your donations, contact Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com) or Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).
- The Children's Department will once again hand out **free school supplies** in handmade pouches to children who visit the sale.
- The **Church Library** will have a variety of books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs available for purchase. The library is also asking for donations of gently used children and adult books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs (Please no VHS videos, cassettes or encyclopedias). Proceeds from the sale keep the most current Christian fiction on our shelves for your reading pleasure. Donations can be left outside the church library (near alley entrance) on Sunday mornings or in the multipurpose room starting Aug. 7. If you have a large donation, call Pam Van Kirk (717-903-9196) or Donna Nichols (djnichols43@hotmail.com or 717-574-9894) to coordinate dropoff.
- The **Handbell Choir** will have food available for purchase to support their music ministry.

- Enjoy tasty treats from the United Women in Faith **Bake Sale!** We will be asking for donations of baked goods, so start thinking of something yummy to make! To donate baked goods, contact Denise Swank (dmom64@gmail.com or 717-795-8747).

Change for Water

Water is the foundation of our very lives. Yet, according to CDC estimates, only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water! Help us to support well digging in Sierra Leone by dropping your loose change (or even paper bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket located in the lobby in front of the multipurpose room. Donations from June totaled \$29.20.

Bless the Paetzold Family

Keri Paetzold has taught classes at Little Friends Preschool since 2013. Several years ago, Keri's husband, Phil, received news that he had a cancerous tumor in his brain. Since then, Phil has had multiple operations and rounds of chemotherapy and numerous hospital stays. He has also been in and out of work due to complications from his illness. Despite treatment, Phil's tumor has continued to grow. In an effort to improve the chances of stopping the growth, he had an operation to insert a shunt that will allow the treatment to be administered directly into his brain. All of these changes, challenges and uncertainties have left Phil unable to work and placed a huge strain on him, Keri, and their three young daughters. Keri considered taking a second job over the summer to supplement their income, but with Phil's situation the way that it is right now, she decided that her priority needs to be taking care of Phil and their girls, and spending as much time together as a family as they possibly can. Some of our Little Friends Preschool staff have organized a fundraiser to help this family make as many sweet memories together as they can without having to worry so much about making ends meet. We encourage you to keep the Paetzold family in your prayers. If you'd like to make a donation and offer a word of encouragement, visit the GoFundMe page here: <https://gofund.me/3d108c67>

First Church Mission Moments...

Mission Moment: Mission Central

Mission Central is a Mechanicsburg-based nonprofit dedicated to connecting God's resources with human need. Mission Central partners with over 800 different organizations to provide resources to groups who are doing humanitarian work across town, across the country and across the globe! First Church is blessed to serve as a partner organization with Mission Central, and several of our church members serve there weekly in many different ways!

Additionally, one of Mission Central's biggest operations involves responding to natural disasters. During July and August, many places are particularly susceptible to devastating hurricanes, heat waves, wildfires and other catastrophic events. Mission Central stands ready to respond, and First Church will support this effort through collecting supplies and assembling CARE Kits. Our goal is to provide Mission Central with at least 75 CARE Kits, which we will assemble at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 20. We invite you to join us in the joy of serving by donating items and helping us assemble the kits.



**MISSION
CENTRAL**

CARE KIT DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items (as they will be considered used). Please remove all packaging except for toothbrushes and soap. All kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into other countries, it is important that kits contain these exact items:

- Hand towels (bath, kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels)
- Wash cloths (adult size)
- Combs (any size or shape, including picks and pocket combs)
- Metal nail files or toenail clippers (no emery boards)
- Bath-size soaps (2.5 oz. and larger; no Ivory, Jergens or Lisa brand soaps)
- Toothbrushes (adult size; ensure packaging is completely sealed)
- Adhesive bandages (6 3/4" to 1" width; Band Aid brand preferred)
- Gallon-size reclosable plastic bags (Ziploc-style)

Learn more about Mission Central and drop off your donations at the display table in the main entrance hallway. Be sure to join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Aug. 20, at 9:45 a.m. to help assemble the CARE Kits!

Daily Bible Readings July & August 2023

JULY

Saturday, July 1	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, July 2	Worship: Preaching <i>Rev. Marian Hartman</i>
Monday, July 3	Genesis 24:34-49
Tuesday, July 4	Genesis 24:50-67
Wednesday, July 5	Psalms 45:10-17
Thursday, July 6	Romans 7:15-25
Friday, July 7	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Saturday, July 8	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, July 9	Worship: Preaching <i>Luke Wertz</i>
Monday, July 10	Genesis 25:19-34
Tuesday, July 11	Psalms 119:105-112
Wednesday, July 12	Romans 8:1-11
Thursday, July 13	Matthew 13:1-9
Friday, July 14	Matthew 13:18-23
Saturday, July 15	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, July 16	Worship
Monday, July 17	Genesis 28:10-19a
Tuesday, July 18	Psalms 139:1-12
Wednesday, July 19	Psalms 139:13-24
Thursday, July 20	Romans 8:12-25
Friday, July 21	Matthew 13:24-43
Saturday, July 22	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, July 23	Worship
Monday, July 24	Genesis 29:15-28
Tuesday, July 25	Psalms 105:1-11
Wednesday, July 26	Romans 8:26-39
Thursday, July 27	Matthew 13:31-35
Friday, July 28	Matthew 13:44-52
Saturday, July 29	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, July 30	Worship
Monday, July 31	Genesis 32:22-31

AUGUST

Tuesday, August 1	Genesis 32:22-31
Wednesday, August 2	Psalms 17
Thursday, August 3	Romans 9:1-5
Friday, August 4	Matthew 14:13-21
Saturday, August 5	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, August 6	Worship: Echoes of Faith
Monday, August 7	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-29
Tuesday, August 8	Psalms 105:1-25
Wednesday, August 9	Psalms 105:26-45
Thursday, August 10	Romans 10:5-15
Friday, August 11	Matthew 14:22-33
Saturday, August 12	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, August 13	Worship: Echoes of Faith
Monday, August 14	Genesis 45:1-15
Tuesday, August 15	Psalms 133
Wednesday, August 16	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Thursday, August 17	Matthew 15:10-20
Friday, August 18	Matthew 15:21-28
Saturday, August 19	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, August 20	Worship
Monday, August 21	Exodus 1:8-2:10
Tuesday, August 22	Psalms 124
Wednesday, August 23	Romans 12:1-8
Thursday, August 24	Matthew 16:1-12
Friday, August 25	Matthew 16:13-20
Saturday, August 26	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, August 27	Worship
Monday, August 28	Exodus 3:1-15
Tuesday, August 29	Psalms 105
Wednesday, August 30	Romans 12:9-21
Thursday, August 31	Matthew 16:21-28

Church Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller
717-766-4611, ext.103
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

Director of Worship Arts:

Sarah Pugh
717-766-4611, ext.119
worship@fumchurch.com

Director of Discipleship:

Tina Eaton
717-766-4611, ext.104
adultministry@fumchurch.com

Director of Congregational Care:

Janice Bowen
766-4611, ext.112
wecare@fumchurch.com

Director of Office Management and Communications:

Jennifer Myers
717-766-4611, ext.105
communications@fumchurch.com

Youth Pastor:

Lisa Aronson
717-766-4611, ext.113
uthrock@fumchurch.com

Director of Children and Family Ministry:

Katie Knorr
717-766-4611, ext.102
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Administrative Assistant:

Dawn Fisher
717-766-4611, ext.101
office@fumchurch.com

Facilities Coordinator:

Tom Ziegler
717-766-4611, ext.109
facilities@fumchurch.com

Custodian:

Jeremiah Bumbaugh
717-766-4611, ext.109
maintenance@fumchurch.com

Director of Finance:

Amy Erno
717-766-4611, ext.120
financedirector@fumchurch.com

Sounds of Worship Director:

Flossie Ryder
missflossie42@gmail.com

Director of Bell Choirs:

Kathie Bittenbender
rbittenben@verizon.net

Praise Team Director:

Sarah Pugh
worship@fumchurch.com

Organist/Accompanist:

Karen Philp

Director of Little Friends Preschool:

Jemma Church
717-796-0723
director@littlefriendspreschool.org

Timeless Connections:

Patti Vogl
717-319-7318
pvogl@timelessconnections.org

News and Notes....

I wanted to express a hearty thank you to everyone who took the time, care, expense and effort to prepare food for the Homeland Hospice casserole (and soup) program! This is a tremendous comfort to local families receiving hospice services at a tender time. I really appreciate your donations of loving food gifts from your kitchen!

—Janice Bowen



Charlotte Hess.....July 5
Veloice Washburn.....July 6
George Snoke.....July 16
Mary Jo Skoglund.....July 19
Dianne Burgard.....July 20
Marian Eichinger.....July 22
Harry Woods.....July 27
Jean Adams.....July 28

Marty Coover.....August 1
Grace Koser.....August 2
Barry Adams.....August 5
Helen Kelly.....August 10
Joan Maybee.....August 10
Pauline Trace.....August 12
Al Maybee.....August 14
Becky Yost.....August 16
Jerry Sheely.....August 18
Kay Coldren.....August 25
Jo Barth.....August 27
Jeanne Mullikin.....August 29
Dean Otto.....August 31



- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. John Behel married 50 years July 7, 1973.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Larry Buddenbaum married 56 years July 1, 1967.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Gensler married 50 years July 1, 1973.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Gary Klinger married 58 years July 24, 1965.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Pat Rainelli married 55 years July 6, 1968.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Marlin Simmons married 57 years July 2, 1966.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Ron Burgard married 63 years August 27, 1960.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Fred Junkins married 57 years August 9, 1966.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Al Maybee married 58 years August 21, 1965.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mullikin married 57 years August 6, 1966.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sheely married 65 years August 24, 1958.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Harry Woods married 70 years August 23, 1953.

FIRST NEWS FIRST
EDITORS: Dawn Fisher
Jennifer Myers

The **deadline** for submitting articles
for the September 2023 issue is **August 15**.
Early submissions always appreciated!