



# First News First

*Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors*

From Pastor Denny's Desk...

"WIJD?"

Several years ago many of us wore "WWJD?" bracelets. Asking ourselves "What Would Jesus Do?" reminded us to live as Jesus would live if he were in our shoes. In my sermon Easter Sunday, I suggested a different question. Not, "What Would Jesus Do?" as if Jesus lived only in the past and we already know everything there is to know about Jesus. But, "WIJD?" "What *Is* Jesus Doing?" We serve a Risen Savior! Jesus is alive and active!

Recently, I asked our church staff to reflect on "WIJD?" in the life of First Church. Here are a few signs they have seen the Risen Lord doing recently:

- Jesus is alive and active in our worship. In-person worship attendance is building on Sunday morning and at special services. It's a joy to see new faces, and to see more and more of our members returning. Our music ministry, traditional and modern and the growing volume of our congregational singing, invites us into the presence of the Risen Christ!
- Jesus is alive and active in the response to our 40-Day Lenten Prayer Challenge using "Draw the Circle," by Mark Batterson. Many of us have testified to answered prayer and witnessed to where they've seen God at work in their lives, in our church, and in the world.
- Jesus is alive and active in the outpouring of love for Ukraine. Many of you have made financial contributions to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. You have also joined in making donations of health kit supplies for Ukraine to Mission Central.
- Jesus is alive and active in the installation of our new sound system and in the dedicated support of our sound and media team. We are excited as we plan for the new system to be up and running in May!
- Jesus is alive and active in God's provision for our ministry. We celebrate the support of our ministry and mission through weekly offerings and the time and talent of volunteers. We also celebrate the growth of our Endowment Fund, enabling us to accomplish new initiatives like the Green Space Project planned for this summer.
- Jesus is alive and active in multi-generational ministry, like the Passion Play Watch Party on Palm Sunday. We give thanks that at just the right time God sent Katie Knorr, our new Director of Children and Family Ministries, and for each positive step we see toward building this ministry.
- Jesus is alive and active in the unity of the churches in our community, as evidenced in the Good Friday Prayer Walk, the community Easter Egg Hunt, and the support of missions that reach out to our neighbors in love.

"WIJD?" One member of our staff aptly said, "Once you see Christ at work, you see him more and more." "Behold, I make *all things new*." (Revelation 21:5) Each day is filled with reminders that Jesus is alive and active. Seeing them brings life, hope, new possibilities! I look forward to what he will do next!

Serving our Risen Savior with you,  
Pastor Denny

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## Adult Discipleship

How is your journey with Jesus going? Is your faith deepening? Are you growing into a more mature disciple? Are you becoming a fully devoted follower? No matter where you are in this journey, there is always something new to learn, and 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, which is posted on our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com).

- **Next Step - New Member Class**

If you are ready to take your next faithful step by exploring church membership, contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to be added to the contact list for a class to be scheduled later this year.

- **NEW Steps Beyond This Spring**

- **7-Session Study: The Book of Titus** - The Growing Christ Sunday School Class invites all who are interested to join them beginning May 1 for this study (written by Chip Ingram, a teaching pastor for 30 years and CEO of Living on the Edge, an international discipleship ministry). When the gospel has truly taken root in our lives, it produces the fruit of godliness. As we pass these things on to future generations, the Church stands in bright contrast to the darkness of the world. This hybrid class meets Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. both in-person in Fellowship Hall and on zoom. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) if interested.
- **10-Session Study: Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today** – The Christian Fellowship Sunday School Class invites all who are interested to join them beginning May 1 for this study (written by Adam Hamilton, well-known pastor and author). Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. This class meets Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in room B003. Contact: Wayde Leister at [waydeleister@outlook.com](mailto:waydeleister@outlook.com) if interested.
- **Wednesday Women's Study** – A new mid-day study is set to begin May 18. Stay tuned for more details in the weekly bulletins or contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details.
- **Wednesday Evening Study** – A new study with Pastor Denny will begin later in May. Stay tuned for more details in the weekly bulletins or contact Pastor Denny at [pastordenny@fumchurch.com](mailto:pastordenny@fumchurch.com) for more details.
- **Study Gateway** – Don't have time for a group study? Study Gateway makes it very easy to stay in the Word with guided studies that you can do on your own time! Study Gateway, an online streaming library, provides a vast number of video-based studies for adults, youth and children. To set up your FREE account, please contact Tina at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).

## From the Library

I hope you had a blessed Easter. And now that the holiday is past, you can concentrate on your spring and summer reading list. April seems like bonanza month as we have received several new books this month. I know I say that every month, but only because it is true. I have lots to tell you, so let's get started.

I enjoy Denise Hunter's books because even though I rarely read romance books, her books seem more plausible, down to earth, and usually have some comedy added to them. In the fall the library received **Riverbend Gap** the first book in her series of the same title. Her second book **Mulberry Hollow** has now arrived. Avery Robinson is a workaholic doctor in the tiny mountain town of Riverbend Gap, North Carolina. She has guarded her heart from love for fear of possibly succumbing to the same illness that claimed her mother's life. Wes Garrett is hiking on the Appalachian Trail in memory of a friend who died saving his life, but he becomes ill and collapses on Avery's doorstep. The attraction they both feel for each other can't be denied. What would it be like to live fearlessly and free? How much courage would it take to risk everything for love? I will let you find out for yourself. You can look forward to the third book in the trilogy, **Moon Harvest**, arriving in Sep-

tember.

If you have been waiting for the conclusion of Lisa Harris's *US Marshals trilogy*, wait no longer. **The Catch** is now on the shelf. Although the cases in the previous two books, **The Escape** and **The Chase**, have been solved, Deputy Marshal Madison James is still looking for the answer of who killed her husband. Meanwhile, she and Deputy Marshal Jonas Quinn are trying to find a missing woman and her endangered child in connection to the murder of a judge's wife. What appears to be a straightforward case, has many twists and turns that will knot this plot up to the very end. Better brew some extra strong coffee—this will keep you up way past your bedtime.

And last but not least, for those of you who look forward to an Amish selection is the **Bookseller's Promise** by Beth Wiseman. This is the first book in her new series, *The Amish Bookstore Novels*. Amish store owner, Jake Lantz, promised his grandfather that he would never sell a rare book in his grandfather's collection. But Texan Yvonne Wilson has come to Indiana to try and change his mind about selling. Meanwhile Eva Graber, who has worked for Jake for several years and yearned for him to notice her, is afraid that Yvonne has caught Jake's eye. None of them has ever read this book and together they decide to discover what is so valuable in it. They have some surprises coming their way about life, death, love, loss, and the impenetrable purposes of God! Still not spoiling this ending, I will let you discover this mystery on your own.

If none of these wonderful books are quite what you are looking for, stop in and let one of our volunteers help you find just the right book!!

See you in the library,

~Pam and Donna

## Praying Follower



### May Prayer Focus: National Day of Prayer

Did you know that our country's National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 and, every year since then, our president has called upon the citizens of our nation to pray? The significance of this is powerful! It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, ask for His guidance to enlighten our leaders and seek His grace for all people. This year, the theme calls us to glorify and express our thankfulness to God: "Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us" is inspired by Colossians 2:6-7, "Therefore as you have received Christ, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude." In response to this, First Church is hosting a gathering on our National Day of Prayer, and all are invited to participate in any way that you are able. The hour-long gathering will be held on Thursday, May 5th at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. There is no need to RSVP – even if you cannot stay for the entire time, just come when you can. And if you are not able to attend, you are invited to pray from your home or place of work. Prayer guides are available at the Welcome kiosks and on our website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com). Together let's exercise one of our most precious freedoms... the right to gather, turn to God and pray. If you have questions, contact Tina Eaton at [adult-ministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adult-ministry@fumchurch.com).

### Health and Wellness Spring Presentation – May 22, 2022

**Grief and Loss: Then and Now** – May 22 at 9:45 a.m., multipurpose room  
**Patti Vogl's** topic of 'Grief and Loss: Then and Now,' will include discussion on navigating personal losses in today's public world of social media and how to hold onto hope during seasons of darkness. Patti will also share more about her counseling ministry with *Timeless Connections* based here at First Church.



### Good Friday Prayer Walk Update

We were blessed with amazing weather on Good Friday for the prayer walk! Several churches and community members came together to walk and pray for the Mechanicsburg community. After the prayer walk, children ages 2 to 12 enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran

Church. If you were not able to attend the event, you can pick up a prayer guide, located near the Attendance Greeters. You can pray on your own or with a friend for your community! Questions, contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).

### Weekly FirstLink Prayer Letter

If you have not already done so, we invite you to sign up for First Church's FirstLink Prayer Letter to receive updated prayer requests and praises from our church family once a week. Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) to share joys, requests and to sign up for the Prayer Letter email..

## Passionate Worshipper



### Sound & Media Upgrades Updates

We have liftoff! Our sound and media teams went through some extensive training on the new digital system in early April. We successfully rolled out the new system the next day in the Gathering service! Throughout the month, our efforts have been to continue training with hands-on experience, fine-tune some pop-up issues regarding the pastors' microphones, and preparing for the complete switchover in the Foundation service in May. God is certainly at work opening doors to the potential that this new system offers to both worship ministry, and the life and mission of First Church



### 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=qzOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>

### Handbell Concert

Our **Annual Handbell Concert** here at First Church will be Sunday, May 22, at 7pm. Mark your calendars now! Our theme this year is "When In Our Music God is Glorified". We pray that we glorify our Lord as we play for you on Sundays throughout the year. The concert is free (a free-will offering will be asked to help with our upcoming trip) and refreshments will follow! We hope to see you there.



### Ecumenical Concert

Hallelujah! After a 2 year hiatus due to COVID, the **Mechanicsburg Ecumenical Choir Concert** will be happening again this year! It will be held Sunday, May 15 at 3:00pm at the St Joseph Catholic Church, 410 E Simpson St. Mechanicsburg. This concert always raises money for New Hope Ministries, a mission our church supports. We are extremely proud that both the director, Kathie Bittenbender, and the accompanist, Karen Philp are from First Church! We also have 8 or 9 choir members involved! This is a concert you are sure to enjoy, we hope you'll make time in your schedule on a Sunday afternoon to attend. First Church's Praise Ringers will also be involved as the music for the Offertory.

### Ringling In the News

The Handbell Choir of First Church is busy getting ready to attend our 4<sup>th</sup> International Handbell Symposium. Many of you have helped us travel to Liverpool, England and Vancouver, Canada. This August we are going to Nashville – in the USA! We are looking forward once again to be ringing with hundreds of other ringers from many different countries. The music will be directed by conductors from all 8 of the member countries. It's always interesting to hear the directions given and then translated for us. We have 11 ringers attending this summer – as well as a few of our family members!

## Dedicated Missionary



### Isaiah 61 Continues in Harrisburg!

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is **Wednesday, May 18** at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to carpool or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Holland [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

### Youth 2022 Summer Mission: Wasilla, Alaska

A team of 23 youth and adult leaders are making plans to return to Mat-Su Covenant Church in Wasilla, Alaska during July.

**Why Alaska?:** A goal of the youth ministry at FUMC is to help expand a student's understanding and experience of mission and service during their time as a student at FUMC. We plan trips following the mentality of Acts 1:8 – going to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth." Over our four-year rotation we venture from Harrisburg (local) to an international experience (ends of the earth). Missions and service range from disaster relief, community provider support, rural, city, and everything in between. We hope that students grow in their awareness of need in the world but also have their hearts stirred by the Spirit as to how they can use their skills and gifting to be a help to others. We partner with organizations that either have deep roots in a community or who serve by way of the local church. This way, even though our time in the area may be short, there is long lasting efforts and presence being made by the permanent organizations. While Alaska is not international, it is indeed cross cultural and is a more ideal option for us amidst of pandemic conditions.

**Partner with us in sending our team!:** We have an envelope challenge starting in March that we would love your help with! Choose an envelope number that matches an amount you are able to donate.



## **United Methodist Women Changes Name!**

United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith! The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

The new programs are fruits of research conducted over the past five years with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other Christian traditions participating in the surveys, focus groups and interviews. This input informed the prayerful discernment of staff and elected leaders. The organization remains incorporated in New York as United Methodist Women and is doing business as United Women in Faith. For more information, visit the website at <https://uwfaith.org/>.

## **United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women), MissionU**

The annual learning event will take place in person at Best Western in Lewisburg on July 15 and 16. The Express Days will be held on July 14 at the Best Western in Lewisburg and July 30 at Chambers Hill UM Church, Harrisburg (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) The theme for this year is Building Communities of Hope and Joy. All women are invited to these events. Details and registration information will be shared as it becomes available. For more information, contact Lori Hoffnagle, First UM UMW President at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). For all the information and updates about the Susquehanna United Methodist Women, see the latest newsletter here: <https://susumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Mission-u-2022.pdf>.

## *Relationship Builder*



### **Hospitality Housecalls**

Do you possess the gift of hospitality and caring for others? Our Welcoming Ministry “hospitality housecalls” team needs YOU!! This commitment involves making 3-4 phone calls one time per month to members we have not regularly seen (scripts provided to make it easy). How can we stay connected and continue opening doors for relationships with Christ and one another? We can CALL people and allow those people to feel valued and cared for as we share the love of Christ. If you feel that God is stirring your heart in this area, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).

### **Hope Blooms Garden 2022!**

Once again we look forward to growing colorful flowers in the church garden space along Frederick Street this summer! If you would like to share in the joy and care of this garden space, please contact Janice Bowen at [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 to learn more about planting, watering, cutting, and sharing flowers from the Hope Blooms garden!

### **Men of First Church**

We have taken a long break from our monthly breakfast get-togethers due to covid these past 2 years (I don't give it any props by capitalizing the “c”). However, the climate seems better to start in-person meetings once again and we'd like to invite those who are comfortable to join us at Brother's Restaurant on the first Saturday of each month beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>. Start time is 7:30am and we are usually seated to the right as you enter the main dining room. This is a great way to make connections and enjoy some wonderful fellowship. Contact Barry Eaton ([theaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theaton5@verizon.net)) or John Bowen ([bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com)) with any questions. Hope to see some of you then.

### **Pickle Ball Picnic in the Park!**

The joy of pickle ball is that new players are always welcome to join in the fun on the pickle ball court – whether a single player or a pair, there's a place for everyone in the game regardless of age and ability. In this same spirit of welcome and community, we would like to invite you to a pot-luck picnic followed by a chance to play or watch some pickle ball! If you are seeking a faith-based small group for fellowship and friendship, please join us at Memorial Park on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm (Rain Date May 10<sup>th</sup>). Bring some food to share, a place setting for yourself, and a chair – look for the pop-up picnic canopy near the pickle ball courts. Whether you decide to play pickle ball, remain in your chair to visit, or shift to the courts to cheer on the

players and learn a bit more about the game, we welcome everyone to join us --- and certainly bring a friend if you would like! Questions? Contact Carol Erno [cernorn@aol.com](mailto:cernorn@aol.com) Or Janice Bowen 717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)

### **Take Me Out to The Ballgame - Sunday June 12!**

All are invited to FNB Field to enjoy a family-friendly fellowship picnic and a Harrisburg Senators baseball game on Sunday, June 12! The buffet-style picnic (which includes hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ chicken, baked beans, pasta salad, chips, cookies, soda and water) runs from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and the game starts at 1:00 p.m. Discounted tickets are just \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 4-12! To sign up, simply click on this link: <https://forms.gle/osKXphJVvA4uc1a76> or contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com). Note: All participants must register and pay by May 22

### **Joy in the Morning**

A small group invitation! Next meeting – Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 1pm, outdoors at Bethany Village (patio near the West Apartments entrance, door marked #62) If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this spiritually-focused small group. We meet Monday afternoons once a month from 1-2 pm. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings and devotionals, including from the book, [With the Dawn Rejoicing](#). For more information, contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)

### **Opening Doors on Jubilee Day, June 16**

Did you know that our church parking lot is open to the public for free parking on Jubilee Day? Jubilee Day in Mechanicsburg is the largest, longest running one day street fair on the east coast attracting up to 70,000 attendees! As a service to the community, we provide parking for a free-will donation to benefit Youth Mission trips. If you would like to help us practice radical hospitality that day, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Lisa Aronson at [uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com). Thanks for helping us to open our doors to the community!

### **Community Dinner on the Lawn, June 26**

The community dinners resume on Sunday, June 26 at 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The dinner is a collaborative event to bless the downtown community with a meal, music and games, free of charge. The concept comes from the book 'Welcome to Dinner, Church,' which encourages churches to share a meal with their neighbors. *"Community Dinners are called to lift broken people, just as our Master did when he was on earth. It serves us well to be aware of how frustrating life is for broken people. Community dinners wrap themselves in grace, favor and courage and embrace people that 'sanitized' America would rather ignore."* Taken from 'Welcome to Dinner, Church' by Verlon Fosner. If you would like to participate or more information, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

### **Yard, Book and Bake Sale, August 20**

Start saving your treasures for the annual Yard, Book and Bake sale to benefit missions and youth mission trip! Yard Sale spots on a first come, first serve basis, starting July 1. Collecting for the yard sale will start on August 8. Watch for more details! Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

### **Covered in Love Knitting Group**

The Covered in Love Knitting Group has returned to in person meetings every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and will gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to join if you love to knit or crochet or do some other kind of crafty work. Questions? Contact Judi Buddenbaum at 717-697-2524 or [ljbuddenbaum@verizon.net](mailto:ljbuddenbaum@verizon.net).

### **Widows and Widowers Fellowship**

The Widows and Widowers fellowship group will dine at Theos in Mechanicsburg on Tuesday, May 10th at 11:30 am. If you plan on attending, please call Bonnie Guyer at 717-766-0145.

### **Third Friday Food Trucks Return in 2022!**

The Food Trucks are back for another season starting May 20! The dates are May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16 and October 21. This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere! Each month, we welcome six to seven gourmet food trucks that serve a variety of delicious and fun foods. We are always looking for help with set up and clean up. If you are interested in lending a hand with

setting up tables and chairs or putting them away, we'd love to have you! Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) for more details. The food trucks serve from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. See you there!

*Generous Giver*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2022 25 % of year

### General Fund

2022 budget	\$ 925,985	
Expected income-YTD	\$ 231,496	(25% of budget)
Actual income -YTD	\$ 227,183	(24.5% of budget)
Actual expenses-YTD	\$ 222,164	(24.0% of budget)

The current month's receipts and expenses were in line with our average weekly budget expectations. We are grateful to all our congregation and guests who continue to support 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 through service and gifts to the mission of our First Church family. Please continue to keep our congregation and our country in your prayers as you Draw a Circle around your prayer focus. We look forward to having you join us as we look forward to the Summer season, serving the King together.

**Special Note 1: the March quarterly giving statements are not being printed this year, but we will be issued June YTD. If you would like a copy of your March YTD statement, please contact the office at 717-766-4611.**

**Special Note 2: To assist our volunteer staff with processing and recordkeeping, please use your church envelopes or electronic giving. Thank you so much for helping First Church serve the Lord**

### It's time for the Diaper Derby!

We have entered into a "friendly competition" with St. John's Presbyterian in Shiresmanstown to collect disposable diapers for **Healthy Steps Diaper Bank** and **New Hope Ministries**. The Diaper Bank, founded in 2013, collaborates with local non-profits to distribute diapers to their program participants. Many low income families struggle to buy diapers. Some manage by reusing them. WIC and SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase diapers. We will be collecting disposable diapers from **May 1<sup>ST</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>**. See our display in the main hallway...you can drop off your diapers there anytime. We will also have a sign and collection box at the side entrance by the green chair area on Sunday mornings throughout the month of May. You can also donate via the Diaper Bank on line, go to [www.healthystepsdiaperbank.com](http://www.healthystepsdiaperbank.com) >diaper drives and click on the Amazon Wish List. The most needed sizes are 4, 5 and 6. Be sure to make note of the number of diapers you donate and either email your name and number of diapers to Tiffany Holland at [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com) – OR- put it on a slip at the Diaper Derby table located in the main entrance hallway. Our collection counts will be posted at the Diaper Derby table each week and the final numbers will be reported in the next newsletter. **Thank you** so much for your participation and let's win for the Diaper Bank kids! And we're off!!!

### Scholarships Available

The Trustees Scholarship forms are now available. There will be paper copies in the office or from Lisa and we will have them available electronically. They will need to be returned to Judi Buddenbaum by May 21st to be accepted. They can be put in her church mailbox or mailed to her directly.

### Little Free Pantry Update

Thanks for your support of the **Little Free Pantry** on our property. This small, but effective way to bless our community, has been very popular over the past 2 years. You are welcome to drop off items at any time, please make sure they are non-perishable and not expired. If you would like to make a financial donation to the pantry, you are welcome to do that, just make sure you indicate that on your check. If you or your Sunday School class or small group would like to do a collection for the pantry, a list of items will be provided to you. To help in any way with the Little Free Pantry, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). Thanks for



blessing our neighbors!

### **Change (or Paper) 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 the **Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone** by dropping your loose change, or even paper bills, into the blue "Change for Water" bucket located back on the Sierra Leone mission table in the Main Entrance hallway. Donations from March totaled **\$33.55**. 100% of your donations will be used to provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

## *The Ministry of First Church*

### **Children and Family Ministries**

**Sunday School for Kids is back!** We have been offering childcare for those preschool and younger during that time but now we are reopening Sunday School for our elementary kids! Join me (Miss Katie) for games, activities, and a lesson (it will be a different lesson than what they would experience at the 11:00 AM KidsWorship time) where we can learn about God in fun, exciting ways! Interested in helping out in KidsMinistry? We would LOVE to talk to you about the ways you can serve! Email Katie, Director of Children and Family Ministry at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

### **In-Person Vacation Bible School is back**

On the menu for this summer! Join us July 11-15th as we get on a roll with God for a weeklong Food Truck Party! Our VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met.

Information:

Dates: July 11-15th

Time: 9:00 AM- 12:00 NOON

Cost: \$5/child

Open to children 4 years old through completed 5th grade (entering 6th grade)

Registration opens May 1st and if you register before June 12th, your family will receive a special free gift!

[Starting May 1st, click here to complete your registration!](#)

### **Are you graduating this year?**

**Please** fill out this form <https://forms.gle/sVB2M89SHFbQTHeB7> to help us learn about those in our church family who are graduating so that we can celebrate with them. Please take a moment to fill out the form to share about your future plans and to help First Church stay in touch with you.

### **First Church Accepting Applications for the following open position:**

First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg is seeking and now accepting applications for:

**A full-time Director of Office Management & Communications.** This person will be responsible for working with staff to plan and supervise office operations, as well as all internal and external church communications, in line with the mission, vision, core values and strategic objectives of First Church. Education related to business and/or communications, or applicable experience is required. Further details describing the qualifications, skills, experience, and responsibilities related to this position can be found in the full job description. [Click here](#) to view the current job description.

Selected applicants must submit a PA State Police Criminal History Report, a PA Department of Human Services Certification, and an FBI Criminal History Report Check. Interested candidates should submit their resume to [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com).



*It's Official!*

## Summer Church Camp is a GO!

The Camp and Retreat Ministry is excited to share details and registration information about summer camps!

Visit the camping website <https://www.susumcamps.org> to see all the offerings for camp this summer in the 2022 Camp Retreat Brochure along with related registration/medical forms. Access the online link to complete your registration.

Send camping registration confirmations to our Camp Coordinators (Deb Noss or Amy Ortiz) so that we can pair you with a prayer partner. The Camp Coordinators can assist you with financial assistance (First Church will pay for one half of the camping fees!).

There are also **Sibling Discounts** as well as an **Invite-a-Friend Gift** when you invite a friend who has never been to a Conference camp. You will receive the gift after friend registers as per the instructions.

- Attend a camp, retreat or event this year, or
- Volunteer as a Dean, Nurse, Counselor or Jr. Counselor, or
- Be a prayer partner for a camper, or
- Provide financial assistance to support a camper or camp program, or
- Help with a work camp at one of the camp sites?

If you have any questions about Camp or can't access the website and need a brochure, feel free to contact Deb Noss ([sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) or Amy Ortiz ([amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com)).

**P.S.** Who doesn't like to receive mail? See what our friend **Maya** sent to us!

My name is Maya and I'm a junior at Cumberland Valley High School! Outside of school I love listening to music, going to coffee shops with friends, and working at the farmers market right down the road from where I live. I want to tell you about camp!!!! Camp is great for so many reasons!! Seeing old friends, meeting new friends, spending time with awesome counselors, having fun, and most importantly learning about Jesus together! There's even a chance to do fun crafts like gimp and spin art! Some of my **favorite summer memories** growing up, and even in recent years, were made at camp. I really encourage you to sign up for camp this summer. If you don't want to go alone, ask a friend if they would want to go to camp with you that week!! There is nothing sweeter than growing in your faith with a loving and fun community surrounding you, which is exactly what camp is!!

Maya





From the desk of

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A FORMER  
CAMPER

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## Daily Bible Readings May 2022

Sunday, May 1	Worship “We Are Witnesses: Who Are You Lord?”
Monday, May 2	Psalm 23
Tuesday, May 3	Revelation 7:9-17
Wednesday, May 4	John 10:7-21
Thursday, May 5	John 10:22-30
Friday, May 6	Acts 9:36-43
Saturday, May 7	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 8	Worship “We Are Witnesses: Get Up!”
Monday, May 9	Psalm 148
Tuesday, May 10	Revelation 21:1-6
Wednesday, May 11	John 13:31-35
Thursday, May 12	Acts 10
Friday, May 13	Acts 11:1-18
Saturday, May 14	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 1	Worship- “We Are Witnesses: What God Called Clean”
Monday, May 16	Psalm 67
Tuesday, May 17	Revelation 22:1-5
Wednesday, May 18	John 14:1-22
Thursday, May 19	John 14:23-29
Friday, May 20	Acts 16:9-15
Saturday, May 21	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 22	Worship “We Are Witnesses: Opened the Heart”
Monday, May 23	Psalm 97
Tuesday, May 24	Revelation 22:12-21
Wednesday, May 25	John 17:1-19
Thursday, May 26	John 17:20-26
Friday, May 27	Acts 16:16-34
Saturday, May 28	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 29	Worship “We Are Witnesses: Disturbing the City”
Monday, May 30	Psalm 104
Tuesday, May 31	Romans 8:14-17

# Church News and Notes

## Our love & sympathy...

To Joyce and Harry Woods on the passing of Joyce's brother, Mac Shover, on April 6.

To Norma Bingham on the passing of her Aunt, Mary Lou Bingham.

## With gratitude...

Thank you to our First Church family for the prayers and condolences after the passing of my dear father, Dean Evans. ~Debbie Karns

Thank you First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg for the beautiful flowers delivered after we arrived home from the hospital following Randy's surgery. We truly appreciate the thoughtfulness. Randy is doing well - his surgery was successful and now he will rest for his recovery. Thank you for all the prayers! ~Ruth Allen and Randy Condran



## Special Birthdays

Ann Elder ..... May 10  
 Jane Gunder ..... May 11  
 Nancy Otstot ..... May 12  
 Denny Kauffman ..... May 13  
 Marjorie Kohr ..... May 15  
 Donald Heiges ..... May 16  
 Bob Bittenbender ..... May 27  
 Flossie Ryder ..... May 31

Bill Morland ..... June 6  
 Joe Moomaw ..... June 14  
 Dolly Scholl ..... June 16  
 Bonnie Guyer ..... June 19  
 Caroline Brown ..... June 21  
 Marty Gerfin ..... June 22  
 Beryl Morgan ..... June 30

## Special Anniversaries

♥ Mr. & Mrs. Donald Karns married 50 years on May 6, 1972.



*FIRST NEWS FIRST*  
 Editor: Dawn Fisher

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
 for the **June 2022** issue is  
**May 15**

**Early submissions always  
 appreciated!**