

*Welcome to*

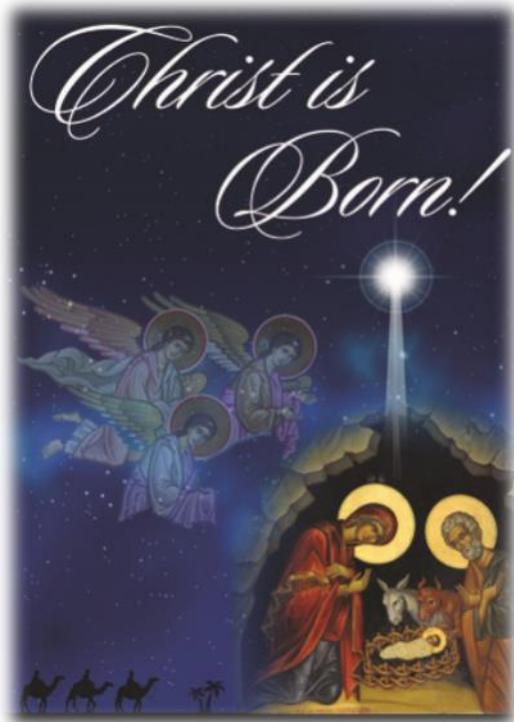
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

*Christmas Eve*

*December 24, 2018*

*5:00 pm*



135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

[www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com)



**Sunday Services**

**Worship: 8:15 AM, 10:45 AM**

**Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 AM**

***Welcome, Friends,***

*to First Church and to this celebration.  
Christmas is a time of joy, a time of remembrance,  
a time of hope, a time of sharing, a time of worship.*

*In this hour together we endeavor to focus  
our minds and spirits on the meaning  
and significance of all that is Christmas.*

*The God of the universe, the God of the ages,  
comes to us in human form, as a baby,  
not only to express God's love to us, but to save us.*

*It is an incredible, miraculous,  
wondrous event, which we remember and celebrate.*

*Your presence makes this service holy  
and pleasing to God. Thank you for coming.*

**LEADING in WORSHIP**

**LITURGISTS:** Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller, Rev. John Shellenberger

**ORGANIST:** Frank Heberlig

**DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** Dawn Fisher & Anna Harris

**SOUND TEAM:** Fred Espenshade & Ron Nichols

**ACOLYTE:** Andrew Smithmeyer

PRELUDE

GREETING

\*A CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY FOR CHRISTMAS

\*RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Tonight, we conclude our Advent journey as we light the Christ Candle, welcoming the one promised in scripture.

**People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!**

Leader: We celebrate the hope brought to earth by our Wonderful Counselor

**People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!**

Leader: We rejoice in the strength and power of a Mighty God

**People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!**

Leader: We sing of peace on earth and good will to all people.

**People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!**

Leader: And we lift our hearts in praise to our Everlasting Father.

**People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!  
Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

\*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

\*CAROL....."O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1, 3, 6)" ..... 234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain.

\*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using sins)

CAROL SINGING

..... "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1,2)..... 230

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

..... "Angels We Have Heard on High" ..... 238

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

\*RESPONSE ..... "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHILDREN'S TIME WITH PASTOR DENNY AND FRIENDS

\*CAROL..... "Away in A Manger" ..... 217

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

#### CANDLELIGHTING

\*CAROL..... Silent Night, Holy Night (vs. 1-4) ..... 239

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven a-far,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

#### \*THE BLESSING

*(The worshipers' candles are extinguished when the Pastor's candle is extinguished.)*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the  
sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his  
righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand if able.*

*Please remember to take your poinsettia home with you after the service.*



## **Ministry Staff**

### **Pastor:**

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Karen Philp

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### **Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:**

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