

Welcome to

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors

March 22, 2020



“Opening Blind Eyes”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com



Sunday Services

Worship: 8:15 AM, 10:45 AM

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 AM



WORSHIP SERVICE

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways."

Prelude

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Praise and Worship

"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

A Reading from Psalm 23

Praise and Worship

"Defender"

Proclamation and Response

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-18, 35-41 (CEB)

Sermon

"Opening Blind Eyes"

Pastor Denny

*Hymn of Response

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

The Offering

Sending Forth

*Closing Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

*Blessing

Postlude

**As you feel led, please stand or be seated.*

LEADING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

PreachingPastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader...Sarah Pugh, Kathie Bittenbender, Trent Yatsky

Accompanist.....Caleb Flick

Sound & Media....Ron Nichols, Jason Kichline, Kyle & Ryan Eaton

“Opening Blind Eyes”

John 9: 1-18, 35-41



1. Jesus is _____ even when we cannot see.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. (verse 1)



While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (verse 5)



2. Jesus opens our eyes to _____.

- Jesus' disciples see an occasion for _____.

Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" (verse 2)

- The blind man's neighbors _____.

The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." (verses 8-9)

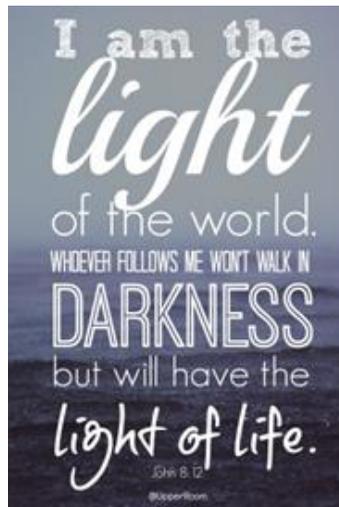
- The Pharisees _____ and _____.

Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided. (verse 16)

"Spiritual blindness or darkness is an even worse disease than physical blindness."
- Leon Harris

- The blind man _____ and _____.

The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus. (verse 38)



3. Jesus calls us to _____ in this season of

"social distancing."

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8)

- Deepen Your Spiritual Connection

"During the time of suspension we can be more intentional and be focused on the Lenten disciplines of solitude, reflection, and repentance.

This season can help us deepen our spiritual connection to Holy Week and ultimately Easter when we celebrate new life."

- Bishop Jeremiah Park

- Pray For and With Others
- Support the Continuing Ministry of the Church
- Stay Connected to Others



Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of March 22



Sunday ***“Opening Blind Eyes”***

Monday 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Tuesday Psalm 23

Wednesday Ephesians 5: 8-14

Thursday John 9: 1-11

Friday John 9: 12-41

Saturday Rest and Reflect



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

March 22, 2020

The fact that we cannot gather physically right now is challenging, but it does provide us with the opportunity to build new habits that will prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week and Easter!

Consider some of the ways that you might engage in the following spiritual disciplines during this season of solitude – deepening our commitment to these practices will draw us closer to Christ and increase the fruit we bear, which will provide a powerful Christian witness to our community and glorify God!

Lifelong Learner

Use our **Bible reading plan** to remain in God's word daily as we focus on our sermon series, "Giving it up: Our Journey to the Empty Tomb" during Lent. This reading plan is available on our church website at fumchurch.com.

Check out the **YouVersion Bible app**, available for both android and iOS smartphones/tablets, or on your laptop at bible.com. There are many wonderful devotional studies, including many for Lent. You can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests.

Although our Bible study groups are not currently meeting face-to-face, we are in the process of setting up **Zoom video conferencing** to continue some of our current studies. Keep your eye out for more information! If you would like to start a new virtual group for study and/or prayer using Zoom, please contact Tina Eaton.

Our **Wednesday evening men's group** is still meeting, using Zoom video conferencing. The next meeting is April 1 at 8:00 pm. Please contact Barry Eaton if you are interested in joining.

Praying Follower

Our love and sympathy to the Heiges family in the death of Jan Heiges, on March 9th.

Our love and sympathy to the Shuey family in the death of Gary Shuey, on March 14th.

Our love and sympathy to the Otstot family in the death of Ivan Otstot, on March 15th.

Our love and sympathy to the Erikson family in the death of Cheryl Erikson, on March 15th.

Recovering at Home: Nancy Robinson, Peggy Shenberger

We invite you to use any of the **Prayer Guides** posted on our website and spend more personal time in conversation with God and/or pray together with those at home with you. Praise God for who He is, confess your sins and ask forgiveness, practice gratitude by thanking God for what He has done and ask God your requests.

If you have not already done so, sign up for our **weekly prayer email** so that you can receive a list of praises and requests from our church family. Contact Janice Bowen to share requests and to sign up for this once-a-week list.

If you are on Facebook, you can request to join our private Facebook page, "**First Church Forum**", and share praises and prayer requests there.

Passionate Worshipper

Sermon Series for Lent - “Giving it Up! Our Journey to the Empty Tomb” Many of us give up certain things for the forty days of Lent, and doing so can be a very beneficial thing for us! This seven-week series takes that idea one step further, focusing on the things Jesus invites us to give up, not just for forty days, but forever.

March 22	“Opening Blind Eyes”	John 9: 1-41
March 29	“Untying Unbelief”	John 11: 1-45
April 5	“Laying It All Down”	Matthew 21: 1-11
April 12	“Rising Up to New Life”	Matthew 28: 1-10

Whether you are home alone, or are home with your family, we can **virtually gather** on Sunday mornings to worship together. We invite you to light a candle, symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit, and connect to our worship recording posted on our church website. Sing, pray, hear the message proclaimed and continue to respond through your weekly giving.

Dedicated Missionary

We are asking all who can to help us fill our **Little Free Pantry** – the food is going fast and your donations are needed. Go to our church website for information on what you can donate and contact Lori Hoffnagle if you have questions.

Consider donating blood. Our Nation now faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations during this coronavirus outbreak. Donating blood is a safe process, and all healthy individuals are encouraged to go to redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment today.

If you have not already done so, sign up to receive our periodic **“Service Opportunities”** email. Contact Lori Hoffnagle to share opportunities and to sign up.

Relationship Builder

Now is a great time to **connect with others** by calling or mailing notes and cards to those who are older, in nursing homes, living with chronic health challenges, are disabled, grieving or are prone to deep sadness or depression. Help to lift their spirits or offer practical help as appropriate to support them. Contact Janice Bowen if you would like suggestions on who might benefit from this kind of connection.

Despite our present circumstances, we still have opportunities to offer **hospitality** to strangers, which is a ministry of service that requires a genuine love for God and the people He places in our lives. Kindly allow someone else to have the last pack of toilet paper at the store or offer to run an errand for an elderly community member. Send meals from local restaurants to hospital staff, nursing home workers, police, etc. Think of small ways to show the genuine love of Christ to all!

Generous Giver

We encourage you to continue to respond through your weekly giving. **Offerings** can be mailed in to the church office. Alternatively, you can securely give online through our church website or our VANCO Financial “GivePlus” app. Please contact the church office for more details on electronic giving.

CHILDREN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ministry Safe Training- All volunteers who help in the children or youth areas should be watching their email for the new on-line Safe Sanctuary training. You will receive an email with a link to the training. The email will appear as it is coming from Pastor Denny. Anyone working with children or youth in any capacity is required to complete this valuable on-line training.



Get your registrations in now to hold your place for this season's wonderful life-changing experiences!

Go to the lobby narthex area for brochures and registration information

Remember to **sign up early** for the up coming SUMMER CAMPS and RETREATS.

First church will pay for half camp fees upon request.

NOTE: Please provide registration confirmations to the camp coordinators so that everyone receives a prayer partner.

QUESTIONS? Contact Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com or Amy Ogden at amy.ogden7@gmail.com.



Mission Central Gala

POSTPONED

Ministry Staff

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Director of Bell & Chime Choirs:

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Praise Team Co-Directors:

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Organists/Accompanists:

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Karen Philp

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Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:

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