

Welcome to

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors

March 29, 2020



“Unbinding Unbelief”

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

A Moment for Ministry: "The Passion Play"

Praise and Worship

"Ever Be"

Affirmation of Faith

Music Ministry

Trace Morgan

Proclamation and Response

Gospel Reading

John 11: 1-7, 17-27, 34-44 (CEB)

Sermon

"Unbinding Unbelief"

Pastor Denny

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

The Offering

Sending Forth

*Closing Hymn

"Because He Lives"

*Blessing

Postlude

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

LEADING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

PreachingPastor Dennis Keller

Worship/Music Leaders.....Sarah Pugh, Allison Ometz, Chase Gillis

Accompanist.....Caleb Flick

Sound & MediaJason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Elijah Ometz

“Unbinding Unbelief”

John 11: 1-7, 17-27, 34-44



“Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.” (verses 21, 32)

1. Jesus meets us _____ of our _____.

When Jesus arrived,... (verse 17a)



For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39)

2. Jesus _____ suffering.

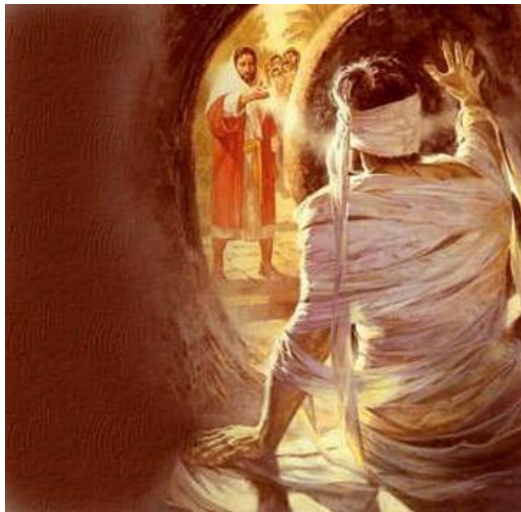
When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, “Where have you laid him?” They replied, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to cry. (verses 33-35)



3. Jesus is _____ !

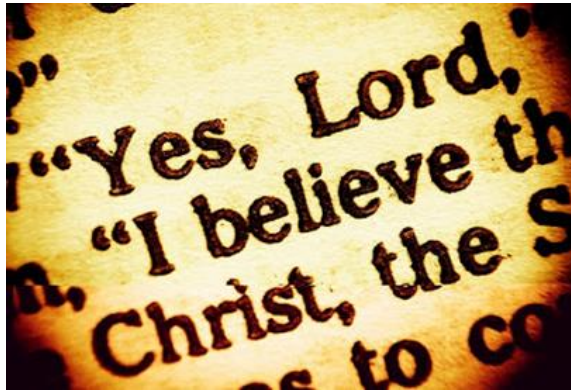
Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. (verses 5-6)

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” (verses 43-44)



4. Keep _____ despite _____.

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(Hebrews 11:1)

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of March 29



Sunday ***“Unbinding Unbelief”***

Monday Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Tuesday Psalm 130

Wednesday Romans 8: 6-11

Thursday John 11: 1-27

Friday John 11: 28-45

Saturday Rest and Reflect



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

March 29, 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 plan to use Zoom video conferencing to carry on! Don't worry - once you get the hang of it, it's easy! (And if you don't have access to a computer/iPad/smartphone you can still call into the meeting to listen.) The following **NEW Bible studies** will be starting this week... If you are interested in joining, please call or email Tina Eaton so that she can send you the information you need to join the study:

- The Power of Knowing God, a 6-week Precept Bible study, will begin on Sunday, March 29 at 6:15 pm, and will run 60-90 minutes.
- Breaking Free From Fear, a 6-week Precept Bible study, will begin on Thursday, April 2 at 6:45 pm, and will run 60-75 minutes.

In addition, our **Alpha** study will resume this week! There are 5 lessons remaining and newcomers are welcome to join at any time! If you are interested, please call or email Tina Eaton so that she can send you the information you need to join the study. There are two classes to choose from: Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 am or Wednesdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm.

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

Recovering at Home: Nancy Robinson

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 at wecare@fumchurch.com 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 29	“Unbinding 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 at outreach@fumchurch.com 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 at outreach@fumchurch.com to share opportunities and to sign up.

Relationship Builder

The **Harrisburg District Spiritual Enrichment Day** scheduled for Sunday, April 19 has been **CANCELLED**.

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.

First Church has been asked to help families in Mechanicsburg! If you feel comfortable, please pick up any combination of the list of items and drop off at Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ, 1050 S. York Street between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm in their parking lot. These items will be distributed to families in the Mechanicsburg School District.

List of items: Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned or pouches of tuna, boxed macaroni and cheese, canned soup, single serve box or bowl of cereal, individual wrapped snacks such as crackers, chips or pretzels. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. Thanks for your support!

First quarter financial giving statements are normally distributed at the end of March each year. Due to the church closure as a result of the coronavirus, these statements will be processed once the church re-opens and resumes its normal worship schedule. Statements will include all recorded giving from January 1st through the most recent Sunday at that time. If you have any questions, please contact our Finance Secretary at finance-confidential@fumchurch.com.

Thank you to everyone who has donated clothing to the Community Aid bin on our property. **Community Aid is temporarily closed, therefore, we are NOT accepting any donations to our bin.** Please hold on to your items until the bin is reopened. We will inform you when Community Aid starts collecting again. Thanks for understanding!



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

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

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller
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Associate Pastor:

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Youth Pastor:

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Sounds of Worship Director:

Flossie Ryder
florencewryder@yahoo.com

Director of Bell & Chime Choirs:

Kathie Bittenbender
rbittenben@verizon.net

Praise Team Co-Directors:

Sarah Pugh — worship@fumchurch.com
Trace Morgan — traceintune80@gmail.com

Organists/Accompanists:

Caleb Flick
Karen Philp

Director of Little Friends Preschool:

Maria Petrilak
717-796-0723

lfns@fumchurch.com

Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:

Glenn Covert
717-599-2192