

Welcome to

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors

April 5, 2020



“Laying It All Down”

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

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Leader: Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Praise and Worship

"Hosanna Loud Hosanna"

Opening Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Praise and Worship

"What a Beautiful Name"

Proclamation and Response

Children's Time

Dawn Fisher and Anna Harris

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21: 1– 11 (CEB)

Sermon

"Laying It All Down"

Pastor Denny

The Offering

Offering Prayer

Sending Forth

*Closing Hymn

"Jesus Paid It All"

*Blessing

Postlude

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

LEADING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

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

Accompanist..... Caleb Flick

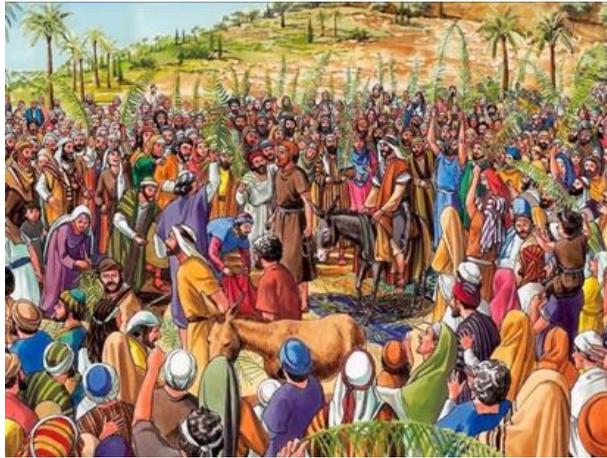
Sound & Media Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Elijah Ometz

“Laying It All Down”

Matthew 21: 1-11

1. Jesus enters into _____.

Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.” (verse 5)



“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26)

2. Jesus has come to _____ !

The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (verse 9)



Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings. When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)



"Jesus hung on a cross that was probably about six to eight feet high; crosses did not loom high over Jerusalem as they so often do in the art of the Middle Ages. He not only died as one of us; he died among us."
(Jon Meacham, The Hope of Glory)

3. Jesus calls us to _____.

They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them. (verse 7)

Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. (verse 8a)



"Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing, for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice, and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!
("Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," Jeanette Threfall, 1873)

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of April 5



Sunday ***“Laying It All Down”***

Monday Matthew 21: 1-11

Tuesday Psalm 116: 12-19

Wednesday Philippians 2: 5-11

Thursday John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Friday John 18: 1- 19:42

Saturday Rest and Reflect



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

April 5, 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 using Zoom video conferencing to carry on! If you are interested in joining any of these ongoing groups, please call or email Tina Eaton so that she can provide you with more details:

- **The Power of Knowing God**, a men's group Precept Bible study, meets at 6:15 pm on Sunday nights. Runs through May 3.
- **Breaking Free from Fear**, a Precept Bible study, meets at 7:00 pm on Thursday evenings. Runs through May 7.
- **Alpha Course**, a study that answers the fundamental questions of our Christian faith, meets at 9:30 am on Sundays or 6:45 pm on Wednesdays. Runs through the week of May 3.

Our **Wednesday evening men's group** is still meeting, using Zoom video conferencing. Their next meeting is April 15 at 8:00 pm. Please contact Barry Eaton if you are interested in joining.

Praying Follower

The rose on the alter is placed to the glory of God and in honor of the birth of Skylar Renee Robinson to Dan and Amber Robinson on March 27, 2020. Congratulations to grandparents, Al and Nancy Robinson.

Weekly Wednesday prayer gatherings with Pastor John will begin on April 8 at 11:00 am using Zoom. Pastor John will share meditations from the Celtic Daily Prayer book, and all are welcome to join in by either video conferencing or telephone call. Please contact Pastor John or Tina Eaton if interested in participating.

First Church typically participates in the **Mechanicsburg Good Friday Prayer Walk**. Members of several area congregations form groups, and walk to locations throughout our town to blanket them in prayer. Though we cannot physically meet for this year's Prayer Walk, we invite the community to join us online and for independent prayer on April 10. The schedule of events is listed below:

9:00 a.m. — Pastor Denny will start our day streaming on the Mechanicsburg and Upper Allen Area Churches' Facebook page.

Daytime — From there, you can pray from wherever you are as you feel led. A prayer guide will be posted on our website and FB page for direction.

3:00 p.m. — Pastor Marleen Griffith-Stull from St. Mark Lutheran Church will conclude our day via video stream with the Lord's Prayer.

We hope you will partner with us as we pray for healing, hope, and for God's Will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven

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

April 5	"Laying It All Down"	Matthew 21: 1-11
April 12	"Rising Up to New Life"	Matthew 28: 1-10

days, but forever.

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.

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.

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!

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.

ZOOM With Us- Watch your email for some times we set up on Wednesdays to ZOOM with your kiddos! We are also sending a Bible story and some follow up questions we can discuss during our ZOOM times.

A Passion Play Story: At Home Edition- Check your email, the newsletter or the FUMC website for this great story and a chance to help us create a passion play video from your own home. Any questions, please email Dawn Fisher or Anna Harris at kidscount@fumchurch.com.

Special Message Regarding Personal Information Security

Attorney General Josh Shapiro has alerted us that, unfortunately, scammers are taking advantage of the public during this COVID-19 pandemic. This may come in the form of fraudulent emails, phone calls or text messages regarding your federal stimulus check, your healthcare or fraudulent services stating that they can help you with unemployment claims. Please be very protective and wise when giving out any private and personal information. You can sign up for text alerts, which offer tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scam and warn about new scams, at <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/consumer-alerts/>. If you fall victim to a scam, you can file a complaint by visiting <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/scams>.

Ministry Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller
717-766-4611, x103
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

Associate Pastor:

Rev. John Shellenberger
717-766-4611, x117
pastorjohn@fumchurch.com

Director of Worship Arts

Sarah Pugh
717-766-4611, x119
worship@fumchurch.com

Director of Discipleship:

Tina Eaton
717-766-4611, x104
adultministry@fumchurch.com

Director of Congregational Care Ministry:

Janice Bowen
766-4611, x112
wecare@fumchurch.com

Outreach Director:

Lori Hoffnagle
717-766-4611, x115
outreach@fumchurch.com

Youth Pastor:

Lisa Aronson
717-766-4611, x113
uthrock@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

Dawn Fisher
717-766-4611, x118
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

Anna Harris
717-766-4611, x102
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Office Manager/Finance Secretary:

Ellen Hill
717-766-4611, x101
office@fumchurch.com

Facilities Coordinator/Custodian:

Tom Ziegler
717-766-4611, x105
facilities@fumchurch.com

Custodians:

George Canonizado, Matt Miller
717-766-4611, x109
maintenance@fumchurch.com

Director of Finance:

Nancy Robinson
717-766-4611, x120
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

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