

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

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"Waiting With Purpose"

On Easter Sunday Betsy and I were worshipping with you from our family room. At some point partway through watching the service, I had a moment. Tears started to flow. They were tears of joy. It's such a blessing to see how God is at work in our church even in this difficult time. They were also tears of sadness. My heart was breaking as I thought about the sorrowful and the suffering, the fearful and the anxious. And I was really, really missing worshipping with you in church!

We're all in a season of waiting right now. Waiting to see loved ones. Waiting to return to work or school. Waiting to get our lives back. Waiting for the church to reopen. We don't know how much longer the wait will be, but we do know that when we do finally get back, life is not going to be like it was before this pandemic. The question is, what do we do in the meantime, while we're waiting?

Waiting can be stressful, especially at a time like this. We can become impatient, anxious, and short tempered. Or, we can see in our waiting a season of opportunity. Psalm 33:20-22 invites us to wait with purpose.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Waiting on purpose means using this time, this most unique time, in ways that will deepen our fellowship with God and our relationships with others. We are at home, but we can still be together in worship, in study, and in fellowship with our Christian friends. Waiting for the Lord may not only strengthen our faith, but inspire new ways of serving or caring or giving.

My prayer for you is that you will come out of this season of waiting more connected to God and having grown like never before in your life. Beloved, keep looking up. This season of waiting will end. In the meantime, wait for the Lord. His steadfast love for you never ends. He is our hope!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Denny



Bible Reading Plan

Use our Bible reading plan to remain in God's word daily. This reading plan is available on our church website at www.fumchurch.com, and on page 8 of this newsletter.

Connect Using The Bible App

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, plus you can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests!

Bible Study Groups

Although our study groups are not currently meeting face-to-face, we are using Zoom video conferencing to carry on! Even if you were not previously a member of these groups, you are welcome to join any group at any time:

- Several **Sunday School classes** are currently meeting online on Sunday mornings:
 - ◊ Christian Fellowship – Contact Wayde Leister
 - ◊ Faith in Everyday Life – Contact Ron Guyer
 - ◊ Faithful Families – Contact Bob Wertz, Jr
 - ◊ Growing in Christ – Contact Tina Eaton
- **Men's Bible Study** – Meets at 6:15 pm on Sunday nights. Current study, "The Power of Knowing God", which runs through May 3rd. Look in the weekly bulletin or contact Ken Guise for details on upcoming studies.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** – Meets at 6:45 pm. Currently engaged in the Alpha Course, which runs through May 3rd, but look in the weekly bulletin or contact Tina Eaton or Pastor Denny for details on upcoming studies.
- **Wednesday evening men's group** - Meets at 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Currently engaged in Andy Stanley's study on David. Runs through June 3rd. Contact Barry Eaton for more details.
- **Interested in leading a new group?** Contact Tina Eaton – she can provide you with many easy to use online resources and get you started on Zoom.

The Upper Room Devotional

May is here and so is the new May/June 2020 issue of The Upper Room! If you would like to receive this devotional, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 to request your own copy.

Scholarship Form Deadline Extension

The deadline to submit scholarship applications with First United Methodist Church has been extended. Forms are now due by May 22nd and can be found on the church website, www.fumchurch.com. Look for the "Youth" tab and then click on "Youth Events and Activities" from the dropdown menu. Completed forms can be mailed to Judi Buddenbaum or the church office (135 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055).

Spiritual Enrichment Day, May 16

The Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women invite you to Spiritual Enrichment Day via Zoom conferencing on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 a.m. The topic will be Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission presented by former Conference President, Cathy Berkey. There is no fee for this event and all are welcome to attend. Please consider making a donation to Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church, as your love offering. Due to the cancellation of the in-person events, there was not an opportunity to take up an offering for Neighborhood Center. If you would like to register for the event or make a contribution to Neighborhood Center, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com for the link and details.

From the Library

I hope I am writing about the merry month of May, but in-home quarantine during all of April and most of March, has left me wary about how merry May will be. But I am seeing May as the light at the end of the tunnel! I have been buying and receiving during this time, and I hope I will be in the library checking them out to you very soon. Let me tell you about a couple of the new books, and then you can come into the library in May to find the rest of the treasure.

If you know me in the least, you know I love a good mystery and Lisa Harris is a writer who delivers on her promise of lots of suspense with a little bit of romance mixed in. **Traitor's Pawn** finds main character, FBI Jack Shannon, in Corpus Christi, Texas trying to find out who is selling secrets to the Chinese. While he is there, a senator is shot and his companion is abducted. Aubrey Grayson, the abductee, just so happens to be a woman Jack was once in love with, so he joins the hunt to find and save her. During the investigation it becomes clear the senator was not the intended victim and that Aubrey may be entangled in Jack's original case. But how? Can Jack figure this out and save Aubrey, or will he end up finding her only to arrest her? I will not spoil this ending. This is a page turner waiting for you! I know everyone doesn't like as much adrenaline in their books as I do, and readers have been asking for some historical fiction books so I purchased a trilogy by Sarah Sudin, who is new to our library but well known in this genre. The series *Sunrise at Normandy* includes **The Sea before Us, The Sky above Us, and The Land beneath Us**. Each book revolves around a Paxton brother and his life in a different arm of the military. Wyatt serves in the Navy, Adler serves in the Army Air Corp, and Clay serves in the Army Rangers. Each man has a job to do and leaves a woman waiting and praying for his safe return. You might say, "Ho and Hum - more World War II stories and we all know how it ends", but what drew me to this series is Ms. Sudin is known for historical accuracy, and she builds her story on her characters' strength of faith and finding comfort in small things. This might be just what we need in our own turbulent times. I also admire her wanting to confront the struggle of why bad things happen to good people. Many people wrestle with that. And if all that isn't a reason to read this series, the clincher is my big sister said it was a good read. Try it; you might like it, also.

If none of these books feels like a good fit for you, stop in the library and check out all the other new books or let a volunteer help you find just the right book.

See you in the library! ~ Pam and Donna

Readers!

If you find yourself having extra time to read and missing access to the public library, this may be a good time to check-out one of Mechanicsburg's 'Little Free Libraries!' Similar to our 'Little Free Pantry,' these compact, protected book shelves sit curbside with a variety of books to borrow. They are designed to be interactive, so you can leave a book or take a book. (To learn more, visit: LittleFreeLibrary.org)

Mechanicsburg's Little Free Libraries are located at:

- 120 S. Market Street (at the Rosemary House)
- 433 W. Main Street
- 212 E. Marble Street
- 124 Brindle Road
- 17 Hemlock Drive

Praying Follower



Wednesday Prayer Group

All are welcome to join Pastor John as he leads prayer and shares mid-day meditations from the Celtic Daily Prayer book. Join him "in person" using Zoom at 11:00 am or pray "in one accord" on your own using the resources he provides. Please contact Pastor John if you would like to participate.

Spotify Playlist

Starting in May, we will release a new monthly playlist on the first Wednesday of each month. Each song-- hand-picked by staff, musicians, and volunteers-- has been on our hearts, and prayed over for a holy and meaningful connection with our congregation. For Spotify users, search for the user 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>

Worship DVDs Available

If you or someone you know are unable to access the online church worship services, we have DVD copies of worship available upon request! Please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

Online Worship

Join us (and invite others!) during this Easter season to joyfully celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! All worship services are posted on our church website, fumchurch.com, and on our Facebook page, "First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA". Sing, pray, hear the message proclaimed and respond through your weekly giving.

Dedicated Missionary



Help Us Feed Those In Need

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.

Donate Blood

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are asking all interested donors call 1-800-771-0059 to make an appointment at a donor center or a blood drive nearby. Many blood drives have been canceled and due to safe social distancing we can no longer hold drives on our bloodmobiles. To ensure safe social distancing we are asking donors to make an appointment instead of showing up to a location. Please feel free to call the 800# with any concerns or questions as well. We appreciate your support during this difficult time. Stay safe and healthy!

Relationship Builder



Get Connected With Service Opportunities

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.

Hospitality Tip

Our ways of showing hospitality have certainly been stretched lately, but we can all think of our own ways to continue to show extravagant hospitality. Give someone a call - it will surely make their day! Or send a note with a special "hug". Life is going to look very different for a while, and we need to stay connected to all of those around us, in our own special ways.

The Joy in the Morning Support Group

We continue to meet virtually on Zoom! If your daily walk is complicated by the challenges of chronic health issues, we invite you to meet-up with the Joy in the Morning group. We plan to gather virtually on Zoom at 3:30 pm Monday, May 4th. For questions or to receive the Link to connect on Zoom, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com.

Connect With Others

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 at wecare@fumchurch.com if you would like suggestions on who might benefit from this kind of connection.

“First Church Forum”

If you are on Facebook, we invite you to join our private Facebook Group, First Church Forum! As a private group, the ‘First Church Forum’ is a great space to support and connect with one another during this season of sheltering at home. The First Church Forum is a "space for sharing information, encouragement, discussion, and fellowship among members and friends of First Church." Let us know how we can support you or your local business during these challenging times. Please 'Like' our page, First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA and then feel free to join the First Church Forum private group. If you have questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.



Get your registrations in now to hold your place for the best life-changing and relationship-building experiences available. Camps and retreats are for **everyone** - adults, children and youth! Register on-line through the conference website: <http://www.susumcamps.org>

Please keep the 2020 Camp and Retreat Season in your prayers.

Pray that “**NOTHING**” will stand in the way of those who desire to grow closer to our Lord!
(Reference: Romans 8:31-39)

(SPECIAL MESSAGE from the Conference Camping office)

To Our Beloved Camp and Retreat Families and Supporters,

Registration Reassurance - We are deeply sensitive to the fact that families are wondering if they will lose their deposit and registration fee if they register now and the summer camp event is cancelled or participation prohibited due to COVID 19 restrictions. **You will not.** The only cost to a family would be if there is a card transaction by a service provider. **In fact, we invite families to sign up for camp now, but not pay any camp fees until after June 1, 2020 if that is preferable for you. Our standard cancellation policy for reasons outside of COVID-19 remains in effect.**

Camper Scholarship Fund - It remains our desire that all children and youth be able to attend camp and retreat events, regardless of their ability to pay. We recognize that family and local church finances may be restricted in some cases due to impacts from the pandemic. Finances are tight for us, too, so we really empathize. Through generous donors, funds exist to assist families who do not have enough to cover the full camp fee.

Donate through the conference website or through your church.

Know that you are loved and deeply valued during these times.

With Hope and in Christ’s Service,

The Susquehanna Conference Camp & Retreat Ministry Team

NOTE: Give registration confirmations to the camp coordinators so that everyone goes to camp with a prayer partner and (if needed) financial support.

REMEMBER – CAMP’S GREAT!!! [ATTEND – VOLUNTEER – PRAY]

Contact: Deb Noss or Amy Ogden



FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2020 — 25 % of year

General Fund

2020 budget	\$ 955,000	
Actual income	\$ 213,908	(22%)
Projected income	\$ 238,750	
Actual expenses	\$ 212,756	(22%)

As anticipated, many of our members have delayed giving due to the impact of the pandemic and temporary postponement of face-to-face services. Please be sure to visit the church website for regular updates and online services. Until we gather again, we hope you will consider mailing your contributions to the church office or utilizing electronic giving via the church website. In the meantime, the church staff is working hard to reduce discretionary spending to help keep our financial position in good shape. Thank you for your continued support of the First Church ministry with your prayers and gifts.

Federally Funded Loan Received

With the approval of our Administrative Board, our church has applied for and received a federally funded loan through the Payroll Protection Plan. Since we are not holding on site services, our giving is down. This loan bridges the gap in a time of national crisis, when the ministry of our church is now needed more than ever. Your offerings by mail to the church office, through the website, or electronically are vitally important. Ellen Hill will be glad to assist you at office@fumchurch.com.

Community Aid Donations

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. We will inform you when Community Aid starts collecting again. Thanks for understanding!

Save the Date for the UMW Yard Sale!

Don't forget to save the date for the annual UMW yard sale on August 15th in the church parking lot. Many of you may be cleaning out closets and looking forward to this date, if not for an individual sale then to donate to the Youth portion of the sale. Donna Nichols will be taking reservations on July 1st as in other years. More information will become available before July! We hope to see you on this day of treasure hunting and sales.

Food Collection Update

Pastor Layne Lebo at Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ is very thankful to everyone who has contributed to the food collection for families in the Mechanicsburg School District. Dr. Leidy from Mechanicsburg School District reported that the school has distributed 25,000 meals over the past month. Pastor Layne reports that they are seeing an average of 60 to 65 people dropping off food donations at McBic each Wednesday, enabling them to contribute 300 food packs each week. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this effort! They are halting the collection, as of April 29, but watch for other ways to support our neighbors in need.

**Sunday, April 19 | Peter 1:3-9
"We Are Easter People"**

**Monday, April 20 Acts 2:14-21
Tuesday, April 21 Acts 2:22-32
Wednesday, April 22 Psalm 16
Thursday, April 23 John 20:19-23
Friday, April 24 John 20:24-31
Saturday, April 25 Rest and Reflect**

**Sunday, April 26 Disability
Awareness Sunday**

**Monday, April 27 | Corinthians 13
Tuesday, April 28 | John 4:7-21
Wednesday, April 29 Luke 7:36-50
Thursday, April 30 Psalm 136
Friday, May 1 Romans 8:31-39
Saturday, May 2 Rest and Reflect**

**Sunday, May 3 "A Beautiful Day:
Feelings Are Okay"**

**Monday, May 4 Luke 2:41-52
Tuesday, May 5 Titus 2:1-15
Wednesday, May 6 Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Thursday, May 7 Luke 15:11-24
Friday, May 8 Luke 15:25-32
Saturday, May 9 Rest and Reflect**

**Sunday, May 10 "A Beautiful Day:
It's You I Like" (Mother's Day)**

**Monday, May 11 John 14:1-14
Tuesday, May 12 John 14:15-21
Wednesday, May 13 John 14:22-31
Thursday, May 14 Revelation 21:1-6
Friday, May 15 Psalm 23
Saturday, May 16 Rest and Reflect**



50 Days of Easter Bible Reading Plan

**Sunday, May 17 "A Beautiful Day:
Anything Mentionable Is Manageable"**

**Monday, May 18 John 13:1-17
Tuesday, May 19 Luke 9:51-10:42
Wednesday, May 20 Romans 12:9-17
Thursday, May 21 Matthew 20: 20-28
Friday, May 22 Philippians 2:1-18
Saturday, May 23 Rest and Reflect**

**Sunday, May 24 "A Beautiful Day:
Look for the Helpers"**

**Monday, May 25 Psalm 104:24-34
Tuesday, May 26 Acts 2:1-13
Wednesday, May 27 Acts 2:14-21
Thursday, May 28 | Corinthians 12:3b-13
Friday, May 29 John 7:37-39
Saturday, May 30 Rest and Reflect**

**Sunday, May 31 "A Beautiful Day:
Practice, Practice, Practice"**

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to Rev. Buddy Miller and Jeanne Eakin-Miller in the death of Buddy's sister, Maxine, on March 4th.
 to the Heiges family in the death of Jan Heiges, on March 9th.
 to the Shuey family in the death of Gary Shuey, on March 14th.
 to the Otstot family in the death of Ivan Otstot, on March 15th.
 to the Erikson family in the death of Cheryl Erikson, on March 15th.
 to the Hiler and Cashner families in the death of Melissa Hiler's father, Bob Cashner, on April 4th.
 to the Van Kirk family in the death of Jim's mother, Nancy Van Kirk, on April 18th.
 to Grace and Jack Koser in the death of Grace's sister, Violet Smith, on April 19th.



Special Birthdays

Milt Dougherty	May 8th	Bill Morland.....	June 6th
Annabelle Elder	May 10th	Joe Moomaw	June 14th
Jane Gunder	May 11th	Dolly Scholl	June 16th
Grace Gensler	May 12th	Caroline Brown	June 21st
Don Heiges	May 16th	Joanne Reed	June 23rd
Vesta Rynard.....	May 18th	Beryl Morgan	June 30th

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles
 for the **June 2020** issue is
May 15th

**Early submissions always
 appreciated!**