

*Welcome to*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

*September 6, 2020*



*“Our Touch-point”*

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

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



# THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

*"Grace Greater than Our Sin"*

Morning Prayer

Praise Chorus

*"El Shaddai"*

Scripture Reading

*Exodus 12: 1-14*

Sermon

*"Our Touch-point" - Pastor Denny*

Liturgical Dance

Invitation

Confession & Pardon

Signs of Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Closing Song

*"Just As I Am"*

Blessing

Postlude

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

*Preaching* ..... Pastor Dennis Keller

*Worship Leader* ..... Pastor John Shellenberger

*Worship Team* ..... George Canonizado, Caleb Flick, Sarah Pugh, Allison Ometz

..... Dance Team (Maya Bowen & Courtney Nuss)

*Sound & Media* ..... Fred Espenshade, Michael Garman, Jason Kichline,

..... Holly Kurten, Ron Nichols

# “Our Touch-point”

Exodus 12: 1-14

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At the Lord's Table We Touch...

1. God's \_\_\_\_\_

*The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark **for you** the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year **for you**.  
(verses 1-2)*

*Then the Lord said, "**I have observed** the misery of my people who are in Egypt; **I have heard** their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, **I know** their sufferings, and **I have come down** to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey,..." (Exodus 3:7-8)*

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one **in every respect** has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)*

2. God's \_\_\_\_\_

*They shall take some of **the blood** and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. (verse 7)*



*While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins**. (Matthew 26:26-28)*

3. God's \_\_\_\_\_

*This is how you shall eat it: your **loins girded**, your **sandals on your feet**, and your **staff in your hand**; and you shall eat it **hurriedly**. It is the Passover of the Lord. (verse 11)*

## **Weekly Bible Readings:**

Week of September 6



### ***Sunday***

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

### ***"Never Forget"***

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

Exodus 14: 19-31

Exodus 15: 1-11

Exodus 15: 12-21

Rest and Reflect



# First News First

# Weekly Edition

*Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors*

## September 6, 2020

The **altar flowers** for today's service are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George and Kathryn Fishel, placed by the Van Kirk and the Taylor families.

### Lifelong Learner

Because our building remains closed right now (with the exception of Sunday worship and a few vitally important ministries), we are continuing to offer studies and groups outside or online. Even if you were not previously a member of these groups, you are welcome to join any group at any time:



- **Pastor Denny's Wednesday evening group** will meet on Zoom from 7:00 – 8:00 pm beginning September 23. This group will be reading and discussing the book "Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation" by Latasha Morrison. Study runs 9 weeks. Purchase the book on your own and contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to receive the Zoom link.
- Calling all moms of young children! **MOPS**, a group that connects moms to laugh, support and embrace the journey of motherhood together, begins meeting September 30 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Meetings will be held in the evenings outside as weather permits. For more details and information, contact Jill Bray at [jillbray19@gmail.com](mailto:jillbray19@gmail.com).
- **Wednesday evening men's group** - Meets at 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Contact Barry Eaton at [1785eaton@gmail.com](mailto:1785eaton@gmail.com) if interested.
- Several **Sunday School classes** will continue or resume meeting in September at 10:00 am on Sunday Mornings. You are invited to contact the following leaders for more information on what they are studying and how to become involved:
  - **Faith in Everyday Life** - Meets in-person at Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg. Focuses on fellowship and friendship. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture. Contact Jenell Paris at [jparis@messiah.edu](mailto:jparis@messiah.edu) for more details.
  - **Faithful Families** - Meets online. For parents in the child-raising stage of life. Focuses on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact Bob Wertz, Jr. at [wertzfive@gmail.com](mailto:wertzfive@gmail.com) for more details.
  - **Christian Fellowship** - Meets online. For all ages/stages of faith, focuses on short-term Bible studies. Contact Wayde Leister at [waydeleister@outlook.com](mailto:waydeleister@outlook.com) for more details.
  - **Growing in Christ** - Meets online. For all ages/stages of faith, focuses on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details.
  - **Helping Hands** - Meets online. A group of active seniors who focus on studies which provide encouragement and instruction on faithful living. Contact Bob Wertz, Sr. at [robert\\_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com](mailto:robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com) for more details.
  - **Guyer Class** - Independent study. A group of elders in the church who study the United Methodist quarterly adult Bible lessons. Contact John Nesbit by phone or Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details.
- Do you feel called to offer something new for a few weeks this fall? Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to get the ball rolling!



## Praying Follower

**Special Circumstances:** Bonnie Jeona

**Recovering at Home:** Carvel Markley

The September/October edition of the Upper Room is available! Contact Janice Bowen for a copy. ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112).

As your church family, we so value receiving your **prayer requests** in our desire to remain spiritually connected with you while continuing to worship from home. Please use this [google link](#) to share your joys and concerns with us! You also may share your prayer requests by contacting Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

## Passionate Worshipper



A new outdoor worship experience, *the Gathering*, is set to begin this fall each Sunday evening beginning September 13! This time of praise and worship will run from 6:00 – 6:45 pm in the church parking lot and is designed to be a casual, “come as you are” experience for all ages. Rest assured in the knowledge that all appropriate safety measures, like physical distancing and mask-wearing as necessary, will be observed.

So dress for the weather (but we will move inside in the event of a storm), bring your mask, bring your lawn chair and plan to arrive a little early (to allow for physical distancing while finding your spot). We can’t wait to share in this relaxing, Spirit-filled time of togetherness! Questions? Contact Lisa Aronson at [uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com).

**Current Worship Series — "Through the Wilderness":** How often do you hear that these are unprecedented times? Of course, like all broad statements of that kind, this is both true and untrue. It is true that most of us haven’t lived with a pandemic. Add to that the natural disasters and the political and racial unrest, and we are in a time unlike anything we've experienced before. Except we have. We’ve been here before. We call it wilderness. Wandering through the wilderness is a difficult journey at the best of times. Other times, it can seem impossible. In this series we will look to our ancestors in the book of Exodus to help us find our way through the wilderness of this time. The stories of those who trusted and obeyed God long ago can guide us through the challenges and opportunities we face today. See the corresponding sermon titles and readings below:



TODAY	Exodus 12:1-14	<b>“Never Forget”</b>	<i>(Holy Communion)</i>
September 13	Exodus 14:19-31	<b>“Into the Sea”</b>	
September 20	Exodus 16:2-15	<b>“What Is It?”</b>	
September 27	Exodus 17:1-7	<b>“Strike the Rock”</b>	
October 4	Exodus 20:1-20	<b>“Always in Awe”</b>	<i>(World Communion)</i>

As we begin to regather for in-person worship, we are VERY MUCH IN NEED of **ushers and greeters!** If you feel comfortable attending in-person worship, are available from 8:15 - 9:45 am on Sunday mornings, and would be interested in serving in this way, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) at your earliest convenience.

If you or someone you know are unable to access the online church worship services, we have two other options. Please help us identify those who may be interested in receiving **DVDs of worship or listening to the worship service on their phone.** Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

Join us and invite others to worship from home with us any day of the week! All worship services are posted on our church website, [www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com). Sing, pray, hear the message proclaimed and 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](mailto: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](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) to share opportunities and to sign up.

## *Relationship Builder*

If you're a young adult (age 22+) in search of connection and Christ-centered community, please check out a new ministry in our area: **Zoe Mazi**. Check out the Facebook page OR email Shannon Zimmerman at [zoemazi.lifetogether@gmail.com](mailto:zoemazi.lifetogether@gmail.com) for more information. (Zoe Mazi means "life together").

**First Walkers** are on the move! A new outdoor walking group, First Walkers, is forming for those who want some exercise and fellowship with other First Church members. All walking abilities and ages welcome, but the plan is to walk for 45 minutes to one hour. No need to sign up! Reminder, the church building is closed, so please use your home restroom before our walk. Karen Simmons will be leading the group. Questions? Contact Karen or Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

**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. Questions can be directed to Dawn Fisher at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

Although we may still be apart, we can continue to offer **care** through our phone calls, emails, texts, prayers, cards and notes. When someone from church comes to mind, simply reach out! If you learn of a prayer concern or practical need, or if you would like suggestions of who to reach out to, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, x112. Remember, church is not just the building - church is the people!

If you are in need of a **facemask** or supply of **greeting cards**, please contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com))





## *Generous Giver*

**Large cans needed for flowers.** We are in search of large juice cans for delivering altar flowers. If you have any cans to donate, please bring them to the church office on a weekday morning (Mon-Thurs.) or drop them off at Janice Bowen's porch anytime. Thank you! Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

**Mums the word!** Little Friends Preschool is once again selling beautiful mums this fall! They are \$10 each and come in a variety of vibrant colors. Contact Maria Petrilak, Director of Little Friends to order at [lfns@fumchurch.com](mailto:lfns@fumchurch.com) or 717-796-0723. You can also visit the Little Friends Preschool website at <https://www.littlefriendsnurseryschool.com/> for more details. Orders are due on September 18, you can pick them up on Tuesday, September 22 at 11:30 in our parking lot. Payment is due at pick up. Thanks to Patti Noggle for supplying the mums!

**Share the Harvest!** If you have garden goodies to share, we'd love to have them! New for this year, please feel free to place them on the table near our Little Free Pantry (located near the corner of Simpson and High Streets) any time! We can share with our church family and our neighbors. Bring your veggies, fruits and flowers to bless others!

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, our VANCO Financial "GivePlus" app, or by signing up for electronic giving. Please contact the church office at [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) with any questions concerning financial giving.

## **CHILDREN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Gathering-** September 13th at 6:00pm until 6:45pm. Please bring the whole family and join this new outdoor worship time on Sunday evenings in the parking lot. There will be music and a message for all ages. Bring your lawn chair, a mask (for times we cannot be distanced) and even your dinner if you like! You can contact Dawn or Anna with any questions- [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)

**BOOMERANG-** Sunday, September 27th at 5:00p-6:00p. All 3rd, 4th & 5th graders welcome to this time of fun, fellowship and strengthening our relationship with God. In this small group time we learn how to take God's teachings and apply them to our lives and how we treat and can serve others. Because in Boomerang, it's all about bringing it back to God!

## **YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Fall** is upon us and yes, youth will look a bit different this year, but we are going to navigate things together and still find ways to gather, gain, grow, and give. Stay tuned!

**TODAY! Salt 'N Light** is offering an outside worship event. Register at their webpage your vehicle and all who will be in it. If you don't have someone to attend with, let Lisa know. (Families are encouraged to attend together).

Help us **connect** with you!

**Follow us on instagram:** [fourgyouthministry](https://www.instagram.com/fourgyouthministry)

**Request to join our FB page:** 4G - First United Methodist Youth Group

Join our **Remind text list** - Text @4Gyo to 81010

Watch these platforms and your emails for **opportunities to connect and learn** with others!



To Our Beloved FUMC Camp & Retreat Families and Supporters,

The Susquehanna Conference's Camp & Retreat Ministry Board made the decision to suspend all summer camp and retreat programming through September 1, 2020.

**Good news! The Fall Retreat season has now started!**

We trust deeply in the growth and possibilities that have and will emerge as we move forward. We know God is making a way for us through this time.

**Please pray and ask how you can participate in camp or a camp-like experience.**

Let's covenant together to go on a hike or a walk and take time off from everything and go somewhere near where you live and immerse ourselves in beauty. Let's take the time to walk slow miles or some steps with God and diminish every other distraction. Take time to truly walk with God and listen to His words about our hearts, lives and futures and the future of camp. This "holy time" will cement the community together and launch us into the remainder of the camp year in very unexpected and profound ways. It's amazing what setting aside one simple day to walk with God can do.

**We hope that you will share your experiences with us!**

Funding is still required to sustain leadership, facilities, and programs critical to fulfilling the on-going mission of the Camp & Retreat ministries – not just for this year, but for years to come.

There will be opportunities for generosity in financial giving as part of the "Camp Comeback Campaign". Your generosity can be the way God provides "*streams in the wilderness.*"

**Donate through the conference website - <http://www.susumcamps.org/>.**

Please let us know if you have any registrations questions or need financial assistance.

Let us know if you plan on attending a retreat so as to provide a prayer partner.

With Hope and in Christ's Service,

*The FUMC Camping & Retreat Ministry Team*

**Questions:** Deb Noss (sdppp@msn.com) or Amy Ortiz (amy.ogden7@gmail.com)

## **Ministry Staff**

### **Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller  
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### **Associate Pastor:**

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### **Co-Director of Children's Ministry:**

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### **Director of Finance:**

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### **Sounds of Worship Director:**

Flossie Ryder  
florencewryder@yahoo.com

### **Director of Bell & Chime Choirs:**

Kathie Bittenbender  
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### **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