

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
September 20, 2020



"What Is It?"

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg
717-766-4611
www.fumchurch.com



THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"Morning Has Broken"

Prayer

Ministry of Music

*"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" - Karen Philp
arr. Mark Hayes*

Scripture Reading

Exodus 16: 2-15

Sermon

"What Is It?" - Pastor Denny

Praise & Worship

"Through the Wilderness"

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Blessing

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team Caleb Flick, Karen Philp, Sarah Pugh

Sound & Media Ryan Eaton, Kyle Eaton, Michael Garman, Jason Kichline,
..... Holly Kurten, Roger Walton

“What Is It?”

Exodus 16:2-15

So God led the people by **the roundabout way of the wilderness** toward the Red Sea.
(Exodus 13:18)

In the wilderness, God is shaping a people that:

1. Trust God to provide _____ they need.

*When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “**What is it?**” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. (verse 15)*

*Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and **each day** the people shall go out and gather **enough for that day...**” (verse 4)*

*He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that **one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** (Deuteronomy 8:3)*

*For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and **gives life to the world.**” (John 6:33)*

2. Care for _____ in the community.

*Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to **the whole congregation of the Israelites**, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to **the whole congregation of the Israelites**, they looked toward the wilderness, and the **glory of the LORD** appeared in the cloud. (verses 9-10)*

3. Enjoy Sabbath rest _____.

*On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be **twice as much as they gather on other days.** (verse 5)*

*For in six days **the LORD** made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but **rested the seventh day**; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. (Exodus 20:11)*

*Remember that **you were a slave** in the land of Egypt, and **the LORD your God brought you out** from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. (Deuteronomy 5:15)*

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of September 20



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

“What Is It?”

Psalm 78: 1-11

Psalm 78: 12-16

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

Exodus 17: 1-7

Rest and Reflect



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

September 20, 2020

The **altar flowers** for today's service are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Seig, placed by Marilyn Seig and family.

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 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.
- **Wednesday evening men's group** - Meets at 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Contact Barry Eaton at 1785caton@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 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 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 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 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 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 for more details.
- Do you feel called to offer something new for a few weeks this fall? Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to get the ball rolling!



Praying Follower

The rose on the alter is placed to the glory of God and in honor of the birth of Calvin Charles Marshall to Matt and Krissy Marshall and family on September 10, 2020.

Our **love and sympathy** to the family and friends of Grace Gensler, who passed away on September 14, 2020

Recovering at Home or Rehabilitation: Gwen Harkins, Marlin Simmons

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

As your church family, we so value receiving your prayer requests! Please use this [google link](#) to share your joys and concerns with us, or share your prayer requests by contacting Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112.



Bless Our School Sunday is today! This annual event, sponsored by Moms In Prayer International, is designed to intentionally cover all schools with prayer for the upcoming school year. This year has been unique, and more than ever, it is our privilege to bring all involved in education to the Lord's throne and ask for God's blessing upon them!

Please visit <https://momsinprayer.org/> for resources, such as prayer guides and prayer calendars, to use in your personal prayer time. In addition, you may send prayer requests for specific schools, students, teachers and staff to Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com, and these requests will be prayed over by our Moms in Prayer Group that meets on Monday evenings.

If you are interested in joining a local Moms in Prayer group, you may contact any of the following leaders:

- Monday Morning Group – Meets via conference call. Time to be determined. Focus: Grandchildren. Contact Nadine Ogden or Merri Shellenberger
- Monday Evening Group – Meets on zoom at 7:00 pm. Focus: Any school/any age child. Contact Deb Noss
- Tuesday Morning Group – Meets via conference call at 8:15 am. Focus: College/career-aged children. Contact Patti Herring
- Mechanicsburg Group – Meeting day and time to be determined. Focus: Northside, Upper Allen, MMS, MASH and Commonwealth Cyber Academy. Contact Anna Harris

There are many other groups meeting in the area either by zoom or safely in person. For more information, contact Nadine Ogden at PaRoster@momsinprayer.org or go to the momsinprayer.org website and put in a request.

Passionate Worshipper



A new outdoor worship experience, *the Gathering*, takes place on Sunday evenings! This time of praise and worship runs 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, are observed.

So dress for the weather (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 are excited to share in this relaxing, Spirit-filled time of togetherness! Questions? Contact Lisa Aronson at 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 16:2-15	“What Is It?”
September 27	Exodus 17:1-7	“Strike the Rock”
October 4	Exodus 20:1-20	“Always in Awe” (<i>World Communion</i>)

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. Sing, pray, hear the message proclaimed and respond through your weekly giving. If you, or someone you know, are unable to access the online worship service, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 for other ways to connect with our worship.

Dedicated Missionary

The annual **Mechanicsburg Crop Walk** will be held on Sunday, November 1! New this year, walkers can walk anytime to raise funds for this important organization! If you want to walk with the team on November 1, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. To support the team, visit the donation page at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa/FirstWalkers?tab=MyPage>. Reminder, the funds raised at this walk support Church World Service and also local organizations which include Mechanicsburg Meals on Wheels and New Hope Ministries!



Grab-n-Go Lunch! First Church will be partnering with the downtown churches to hand out free bag lunches near the square in Mechanicsburg, starting Wednesday, September 23 through October 28. The lunches will be served near First Church of God, close to the square in Mechanicsburg. We will be serving from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. to anyone who stops by. Watch for more details!

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 for more information. (Zoe Mazi means "life together").

Pickleball Players and Prayers — Come out on Wednesday nights at 6pm at Adam Ricci Park. Players of all experience including beginners are encouraged to join in a short time of spiritual refreshment and then some wonderful exercise as we play pickleball together. If you have questions you can contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@fumchurch.com.

Faith Feathers and Friends — For all of you bird lovers and watchers we join each Tuesday at 1pm on Zoom for a time of studying God's Word, fellowship and learning about His marvelous creation. Contact pastorjohn@fumchurch.com if you have any questions.

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.

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)



Generous Giver

We will once again be **collecting sweet potatoes/yams** for New Hope Ministries, starting on Sunday's in October. Bring your cans of sweet potatoes to the collection boxes at each entrance. Let's continue this tradition of supporting our neighbors at New Hope! Questions? Contact Debbie Karns at deborahkarns1@gmail.com.

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 or 717-766-4611 x112.

Share the Harvest! We invite you to bless others by sharing your veggies/fruits/flowers with our neighbors! Please leave your garden goodies anytime on the shelf attached to our Little Free Pantry in the church parking lot (located near the corner of Simpson and High Streets).



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 with any questions concerning financial giving.

CHILDREN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Gathering– TONIGHT 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.

BOOMERANG- Sunday, September 27th at 5:00p-6:00p, meet in the parking lot. 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!

Bible Time Anytime- Make your child’s time learning about God a priority among all the craziness of their new schedules. Bible Time Anytime is a weekly Bible lesson your child can watch any time during the week. Lessons are appropriate for ages 3 years through 5th grade. We provide materials by the month to be used with the lessons. Please email Dawn and Anna at kidscount@fumchurch.com to request the materials and for more information on how to view the lessons.

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. **Join us on Sunday evenings before The Gathering for 4G.** Watch your Remind text for weekly details.

Help us **connect** with you!

Follow us on instagram: 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)

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