

*Welcome to*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

*September 27, 2020*



***“Strike the Rock”***

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

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



# THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

*"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

Prayer of Confession

Praise Chorus

*"Give Thanks"*

Scripture Reading

*Exodus 17: 1-7*

Sermon

*"Strike the Rock" - Pastor John*

Ministry of Music

*"My Hope is Built" - John & Merri Shellenberger,*

*Kathie Bittenbender, Stu Diehl*

*Accompanist—Karen Philp*

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Announcements

Closing Hymn

*"God Will Take Care of You"*

Blessing

Postlude

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

*Preaching* ..... Pastor John Shellenberger

*Worship Leader* ..... Pastor Dennis Keller

*Worship Team* ..... Caleb Flick, Sarah Pugh

*Sound & Media* ..... Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Jim Murdoch, Ken Rapp

# “Strike the Rock”

Exodus 17: 1-7

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Introduction: The wilderness and the God Moment at Hershey Park

- 1st Before and After: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky...” (Philippians 2:14 & 15)*

Don’t allow \_\_\_\_\_ to create \_\_\_\_\_

- 2nd Before and After: \_\_\_\_\_

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?” (Psalm 22:1)*

*“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures He leads me beside still waters” (Psalm 23:1)*

- 3rd Before and After: \_\_\_\_\_

*“The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’” (John 4: 9)*

*“They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.’” (John 4: 42)*

- 4th Before and After: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*“... and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10: 4)*

Where is your Dry Place?

## Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of September 27



### *Sunday*

*“Strike the Rock”*

Monday

Psalm 19

Tuesday

Philippians 3: 1-14

Wednesday

Matthew 21: 33-46

Thursday

Exodus 20: 1-11

Friday

Exodus 20: 12-20

Saturday

Rest and Reflect



# First News First

# Weekly Edition

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

## September 27, 2020

The **altar flowers** for today's service are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Deanna Lynn Otto, placed by her 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:



- 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!

**Little Friends Preschool** has openings for a preschool teacher and a preschool director. If you are interested in one of these positions or have additional questions, please contact Devon Betz by email at [devonbetz@gmail.com](mailto:devonbetz@gmail.com).

## Praying Follower



**Recovering at Home or Rehabilitation:** Gwen Harkins, Richard Hayworth, Don Karns

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! 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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

## 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](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 17:1-7  | <b>“Strike the Rock”</b>                          |
| October 4 | Exodus 20:1-20 | <b>“Always in Awe”</b> ( <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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:zoemazi.lifetogether@gmail.com) for more information. (Zoe Mazi means "life together").



**Pickleball Players and Prayers** will now meet on Wednesdays from 5:00pm - 7:00pm (still at Adam Ricci Park, East Pennsboro Township), until it is too dark or participants are too tired to play. Persons of all levels of skill are invited to play. First timers to experienced players will find enjoyment. If you have questions you can contact Pastor John at [pastorjohn@fumchurch.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com))

## *Generous Giver*

The 19th **Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q** to benefit the Handbell choirs will be held on Saturday, October 10 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm or until sold out in the church parking lot. **New this year**, you can safely pick up the chicken by drive-thru! The meal includes a half chicken, baked potato, roll and applesauce, all for \$10! For tickets or to pre-order, contact Kathie Bittenbender at [rbittenben@verizon.net](mailto:rbittenben@verizon.net) or 717-697-6257. Thank you for your support!



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

**BOOMERANG-** TODAY at 5:00p-6:00p, meet in the parking lot (Please let Anna and Dawn know you are attending). 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](mailto: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:** fouryouthministry

**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:**

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### **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