

*Welcome to*

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

*October 11, 2020*



*un*common

**“Uncommon Grace”**

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

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



# uncommon

- Prelude  
Welcome  
Call to Worship  
Opening Hymn  
*"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*  
Opening Prayer (Unison)  
Praise Chorus  
*"Sanctuary"*  
Recognition of Pastor Lisa  
Scripture Reading  
*Matthew 22: 1-14*  
Sermon  
*"Uncommon Grace" - Pastor Denny*  
Ministry of Music  
*"Softly and Tenderly" -*  
*Mike & Nadine Ogden, Mark & Nancy Routch*  
Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (sins)  
Offering & Announcements  
Closing Hymn  
*"Together We Serve"*  
Blessing  
Postlude

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

- Preaching ..... Pastor Dennis Keller  
Worship Leader ..... Pastor Lisa Aronson  
Worship Team ..... Kathie Bittenbender, George Canonizado, Caleb Flick, Flossie Ryder,  
..... Quartet  
Sound & Media ..... Ryan & Kyle Eaton, Fred Espenshade, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten,  
..... Ken Rapp

# “Uncommon Grace”

Matthew 22: 1-14

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**Uncommon:** rare, unusual, exceptional, abnormal, unprecedented, out of the ordinary, unexpected, strange, not typical, surprising.

1. In uncommon \_\_\_\_\_ God calls us to be an uncommon \_\_\_\_\_!

*Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.*

*Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

(Romans 12:2 The Message)

2. Uncommon Grace offers an uncommon \_\_\_\_\_.

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son.*  
(verse 2)



*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)*

"Joy is God's basic character. Joy is his eternal destiny. God is the happiest being in the universe." (John Ortberg, The Life You've Always Wanted)

3. Uncommon Grace extends an uncommon \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. (verse 10)*



#### 4. Uncommon Grace requires an uncommon \_\_\_\_\_.

Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing **wedding clothes**. He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.' (verses 11-13)

"Jesus' love reached people where they were, but his love refused to let them stay as they were. Love wants the best for the beloved. Their lives were transformed, healed, changed." (N. T. Wright)

*All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*  
(Galatians 3:27)

*Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.* (Colossians 3:12,14)

*For many are called, but few are chosen.* (verse 14)

#### Weekly Bible Readings:

##### Week of October 11



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>"Uncommon Grace"</i>
Monday	Exodus 33: 12-23
Tuesday	Psalm 99
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 1: 6-10
Friday	Matthew 22: 15-22
Saturday	Rest and Reflect



# First News First

**Weekly Edition**

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

**October 11, 2020**

The **altar flowers** for today's service are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones, placed by Devon & Gary Betz.

The **maché basket** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kenneth Alan Mullikin, placed by his parents, Tom and Jeanne Mullikin.

## 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:

- **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 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

**Our love and sympathy** to the friends and family of Carvel Markley, who passed away on October 7, 2020.

**Recovering at Home or Rehabilitation:** Gwen Harkins, Steph Miller

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](tel:717-766-4611x112)).

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](tel:717-766-4611x112).

## Passionate Worshipper



An outdoor worship experience that takes place on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 6:45 pm in the church parking lot! This time of praise and worship is designed to be a casual, “come as you are” experience for all ages. 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 — *Uncommon*:** The apostle Paul writes that followers of Jesus are uncommon people. We live in the world, but we are not of the world. *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect”* (Romans 12:2). If ever there was a time the world needs the witness of an uncommon people who serve an uncommon Savior it's now! In this series, we're discovering some of the uncommon qualities of Jesus and how we can develop those same qualities as we walk with him.

TODAY	<b>“Uncommon Grace”</b>	Matthew 22:1-14
October 18	<b>“Uncommon Integrity”</b>	Matthew 22:15-22
October 25	<b>“Uncommon Love”</b>	Matthew 22:34-46
November 1	<b>“Uncommon Joy”</b>	Matthew 5:1-12 <i>(All Saints Sunday)</i>
November 8	<b>“Uncommon Wisdom”</b>	Matthew 25:1-13
November 15	<b>“Uncommon Generosity”</b>	Matthew 25:14-30 <i>(Consecration Sunday)</i>
November 22	<b>“Uncommon Gratitude”</b>	Luke 17:11-19



**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](tel:717-766-4611x112) for other ways to connect with our worship.



## Dedicated Missionary

Please remember that all **2021 budgeting** documents are due **TODAY**. Contact Nancy Robinson at [nrobinson@fumchurch.com](mailto:nrobinson@fumchurch.com) if you have any questions.

All are invited to attend First UMC's **2020 Church Conference**, which will be held via Zoom, on Tuesday, October 27th at 6:30pm. Please RSVP to Ellen Hill at [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) or **717-766-4611** by Tuesday, October 20th to receive the Zoom link and the Church Conference packet prior to the meeting.

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, every Wednesday 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

**Be Safe, Get Your Flu Shot!** Once again, Flu Shots will be offered by Sandy Leister, RN in the multi-purpose room on Sunday, October 18th, both in the morning and the evening for anyone over 18 years of age. Please pre-register to secure a time slot by signing up at the Time to Sign Up here: <https://ttsu.me/n7egdh>, and choose your preferred time. We have provided ample time between each person, to allow for cleaning and physical distancing. Please be sure to wear your mask while inside the church building. Some, but not all, insurances are accepted, so please bring your insurance information. Without insurance coverage, the flu shot costs \$35 (cash or check please, made out to VNA of Central PA). If you have any questions or do not have access to sign up on the Time to Sign Up, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or **717-766-4611 x112**.



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).

For all bird lovers and watchers, the group **Faith, Feathers and Friends** meets 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 interested.

**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

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-** Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00p-6:00p, meet in the parking lot. Bring a chair and a mask. All 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Wonderful Wednesday-** Wonderful Wednesday Returns! October 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:45pm until 6:00pm. Do you like riddles? Then you will love being a Riddle Ranger with us! For more information and to register go to <https://www.timetosignup.com/kidscount/folder/2553>. Please register by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **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](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) or Amy Ortiz ([amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com))

## **Ministry Staff**

**Pastor:**

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**Sounds of Worship Director:**

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**Director of Bell & Chime Choirs:**

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**Praise Team Co-Directors:**

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Trace Morgan — [traceintune80@gmail.com](mailto:traceintune80@gmail.com)

**Organists/Accompanists:**

Caleb Flick  
Karen Philp

**Director of Little Friends Preschool:**

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**Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:**

Glenn Covert  
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