

Welcome to

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors

November 15, 2020

*un*common

“Uncommon Generosity”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com



uncommon

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Praise Chorus

"Lord, Be Glorified"

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 25: 14-30 (NRSV)

Sermon

"Uncommon Generosity" - Pastor Denny

Consecration Sunday Skit

Making a Commitment

Song of Response

"Available"

Prayer

Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Blessing

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Speaker..... Barry Eaton

Worship Leader..... Pastor John Shellenberger

Worship Team..... Kathie Bittenbender, Caleb Flick

Sound & Media Ryan & Kyle Eaton, Jason Kichline, Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of November 15

Sunday

“Uncommon Generosity”

Monday

Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

Tuesday

Psalm 65

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 9: 6-9

Thursday

2 Corinthians 9: 10-15

Friday

Luke 17: 11-19

Saturday

Rest and Reflect





First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

November 15, 2020

The **altar flowers** for today's service are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lance and other loved ones, placed by Larry and Judi Buddenbaum and family.

The **maché basket** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paul S. Brandt, placed by his wife, Grace, and family.

The **additional basket of flowers** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Deborah Hamsher, placed by the Martha Circle of the United Methodist Women at First Church.

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 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 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 - Currently engaged in a study by Bob Goff, entitled "Dream Big", which helps participants to recapture the version of their lives they dreamed about before fear started calling the shots. For all ages/stages of faith. Contact Wayne Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com for more details and the zoom link for this online study.
 - Growing in Christ - Studying "The Good Life", a study of the Beatitudes by Pastor Derwin Gray. For all ages/stages of faith. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for more details and the zoom link for this online study.
 - 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

Our **love and sympathy** to the family and friends of Deb Hamsher, who passed away on November 8th.

Hospitalized: Paul Cain, Skip Hutter

Recovering at Home or Rehabilitation: Richard Hayworth, Ed Johnson, Alberta Knause, Tom Mullikin, Donnie Wright

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.

Passionate Worshipper



An outdoor worship experience that takes place on Sundays from 4:00 – 4:45 pm in the church parking lot! ***(Please note that November 22 will be the last Sunday for the Gathering)*** 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.

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	“Uncommon Generosity”	Matthew 25:14-30	<i>(Consecration Sunday)</i>
November 22	“Uncommon Gratitude”	Luke 17:11-19	

The **Rejoicing Spirits** service on November 22 will be a combined service with The Gathering service starting at 4:00pm in the church parking lot. Please dress in layers and bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved to the Multi-purpose room.

Join us by Zoom for a **Fireside Worship for Rejoicing Spirits** on Tuesday, December 1 at 7pm. We will sit by a fire, sing some Christmas Carols, watch as the Advent wreath is lit, open a door of the Advent calendar, hear a message about Jesus the Light, and light our Christmas candle as we sing Silent Night. Materials are being prepared and will be delivered by the Confirmation Class after November 22 to Rejoicing Spirits families. Again we encourage all families with special abilities and disabilities to join us. If you have a friend in these life circumstances, we would be glad to help make the connection. Watch for the link to be distributed or email Pastor John at pastorjohn@fumchurch.com for more information.



On Tuesday, December 15 at 7pm the Rejoicers will be Zooming together for their **Jesus Birthday Celebration**. A dramatic reading of the Christmas story, cupcakes, candles and favors will be distributed in our "Joy to the World" bag of materials for Rejoicers. We will be singing "Happy Birthday Jesus" and enjoying a time of fellowship. Again we encourage all families with special abilities and disabilities to join us. If you have a friend in these life circumstances, we would be glad to help make the connection. Watch for the link to be distributed or email Pastor John at pastorjohn@fumchurch.com 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, 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](#)

Please see page 9 of the bulletin for more information regarding ways that you can give back this year and donate to organizations like **Operation Christmas Child and New Hope!**



[Relationship Builder](#)



Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to show our **hospitality** to those in need. Even if we can't be together in person, we can still offer our love, prayers, and so much more. Reach out to anyone in need and just wish them a Happy Thanksgiving!

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").

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 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.

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](#)

Alter flowers are still needed for March 7, 2021 and July 4, 2021. If you are interested in donating flowers in memory of a loved one on either of these Sundays, please contact Marty Otto at 717-462-4198.

Would you like to purchase a **poinsettia** or give a **gift donation** in memory or honor of a loved one this Christmas? See page 8 for the order form and more information.

The Youth Department unfortunately announces the **cancellation of the 2020 Cookie Walk**. Due to the pandemic it has been decided to forgo the walk this year in order to comply with current health and safety guidelines. We look forward to being back in business next year!

Please see page 9 of the bulletin for more information regarding ways that you can give back this year and donate to organizations like **Operation Christmas Child and New Hope!**

The **Handbell choir will again be making pies** on Saturday, November 21. Order your pies by November 16 from a bell choir member, or by calling (717-697-6257) or emailing (rbittenben@verizon.net) Kathie. Pumpkin, Mincemeat, and Apple (Crumb Topping or Double Crust) are your choices, and remember to order them baked, or frozen. **Pick up time is noon to 2 pm that day.** That's very important this year as we can't hold them till Sunday at this time. Cost is \$10 a pie.

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- **TODAY** at 4:00pm until 4:45pm. Please bring the whole family and join this outdoor worship time on Sunday evenings in the parking lot. There will be music and a message for all ages. Bring your lawn chair and a mask (for times we cannot be distanced).

Wonderful Wednesday- Concludes this Wednesday, November 18th at 4:45pm until 6:00pm. See you then! Contact Dawn and Anna with any questions- kidscount@fumchurch.com.

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 after 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!



Honor your loved ones this Christmas

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on **December 13 and 20**. You have the option of purchasing a poinsettia for **\$9.50** or giving a monetary gift in memory/honor of your loved one. Gift donations will be forwarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Please complete the form below, indicating the number of “plants” or “gifts” and place it in the offering baskets or send it to Ellen Hill in the church office by

November 25.

If you plan to worship in-person on Sunday, December 27, plants may be picked up after the service.

If you are unable to attend worship in-person, other arrangements to pick up your plant can be made by contacting the church office. Plants not claimed by December 31 will be disposed of.

If you are not planning on taking your poinsettia please consider a monetary gift instead.

POINSETTIA OR GIFT ORDER FORM

Please indicate below, in the correct section, the number of plants and/or gifts that you are giving and who they are being given in memory/honor of.

1. Number of plants _____

Please circle whichever is appropriate: In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

2. Number of Gifts _____

Please circle whichever is appropriate: In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Placed by: _____

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Giving back is easy this year!



Operation Christmas Child

- Pick up your shoebox at church on November 8 (before and after each service)
- Fill your Box
- Return to church on November 15 and 22 (before and after each service)
- New this year, have the warehouse fill a box and send it for you! Send a check for **\$15.50** (includes shipping) to the church (made out to FUMC) by **November 18**. Please mark your check 'Fill Shoebox.'

Questions, contact David or Margie Mengle at 717-319-8582 or mengledm@verizon.net.



New Hope Christmas Blessings Express

- New for this year, you can support New Hope through the church's Scrip Fundraising Program!
- Check off the **\$25** amount for Wal-Mart or Target on the form (included in this month's newsletter)
- Return to the church office or Kathie Bittenbender (292 Founders Way, Mechanicsburg, 17050)
- We will deliver the gift cards to New Hope Ministries for local families.

Questions, contact Kathie Bittenbender at 717-697-6257 or Debbie Karns at 717-697-1253.



To Our Beloved FUMC Camp & Retreat Families and Supporters,

Good news! The Susquehanna Conference's Camp & Retreat has now moved into the **Fall Retreat** season. Check the Camp website for the latest news!

COMING SOON!!!

Christmas Light Drive-Thru

Beginning November 27, 2020

Mount Asbury Retreat Center – Newville

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

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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
rbittenben@verizon.net

Praise Team Co-Directors:

Sarah Pugh — worship@fumchurch.com
Trace Morgan — traceintune80@gmail.com

Organists/Accompanists:

Caleb Flick
Karen Philp

Interim Director of Little Friends Preschool:

Jemma Church
717-796-0723

lfns@fumchurch.com

Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:

Glenn Covert
717-599-2192