

# First News First

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

## "We're Still Waiting"

This year, Advent finds us waiting as perhaps we've never waited before. Virtually this entire year has been a time of waiting. We've waited during lockdowns and quarantines. We've waited on masks and cleaning supplies and toilet paper. We've waited on test results for the coronavirus, wondering whether we are positive or not. We've waited endless weeks and months, not able to visit our loved ones in hospitals and nursing homes, in order to protect them.

We've waited on our kids going back to school and waited to see if our jobs would hold out during the crisis. We've waited on unemployment checks and stimulus checks. We've waited in line to vote and waited to see if our mail-in ballot went through, and then waited on the results of the election. We've waited for a vaccine. And we've waited and waited and waited to go back to church in the old ways that were familiar and comfortable to us.

As I write this there is news of a vaccine on the horizon, but we're still waiting. In the meantime, the number of covid-19 cases in our area is spiking again. Many of us are growing weary of all the waiting. We're tired of putting life on hold and missing out on things we treasure.

This year of waiting has been difficult. However, Advent and Christmas remind us that waiting time does not have to be wasted time if we "wait upon the Lord." (Isaiah 40:31) Mary's time of waiting for the Christ Child invites us as followers of Jesus to do two kinds of waiting at the same time.

On the one hand, Mary's time of waiting had a fixed endpoint that she knew ahead of time. The closer she got to "the time for her to be delivered" (Luke 2:6) the more laborious her wait was, but she knew that in nine months the Lord Jesus would be born. Her waiting had a goal and an end, and she faithfully pursued it with God's help.

In much the same way, we're waiting to celebrate Christmas. This will be "A December to Remember." For everyone's health and safety our celebrations at church and with family and friends will be different this year. But, with God's help, we will still faithfully proclaim the Good News. We will still sing the carols and share the love of Christ as we celebrate "Emmanuel! God is with us!" (Matthew 1:23)

On the other hand, Mary's time of waiting was filled with the unknown. She made a difficult journey to Bethlehem, gave birth to Jesus in a stable, and fled with Joseph and the baby to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. In the midst of uncertainty, God was still at work in Mary's life, providing everything she needed to fulfill God's calling.

Like Mary, our present waiting is filled with the unknown. We don't know how much longer we will be in this season of waiting nor what life will look like in 2021. But do know this, "God is with us!" What new thing is ready to be born in your life, in your family, in our church, in our community? The apostle Paul has a good word for people like us that are waiting, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

May you and your dear ones in all the places where they are have a most blessed Christmas!

Yours In Christ,  
Pastor Denny

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## A December to Remember

**A Special Message from Pastor Denny** — Recently, as numbers of COVID-19 cases in our community continued to spike, members of our church staff and leaders of our church met. We came to a very difficult decision. For everyone's health and safety, we're going to take a "pause" from in-person worship for the Advent Season. Beginning Sunday, November 29, we will live stream our Sunday morning service at 8:15. A recording of that service will be available on our website so that you may worship at the time that is best for you. As we continue to monitor case numbers in December, we'll keep you informed about worship Christmas Eve and in the New Year. During the month of December we are also going to limit use of our church building only for those activities we consider essential. This includes:

- Activities related to providing online worship
- Activities considered vital to the health and well-being of our community, such as Juniper Tree Counseling, NA meetings, Little Friends Preschool, and limited care team activities
- Activities related to essential church business (We will have limited office hours)

If you have any questions about building use, our office manager, Ellen Hill, is available and happy to answer your questions. Please contact Ellen at [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611. We are living in uncommon times, but we serve a God of uncommon grace who is faithful to provide all that we need!

### Advent & Christmas Services and Events Schedule

#### November 29 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

- ☆ **Worship 8:15 am - LifeSong: Zechariah**
- ☆ **New Advent Sermon Series Begins– LifeSong:** Song is the beautiful marriage of emotion and words, heart and mind. Songs allow us to respond to God in greater capacity than words alone muster up. Song is indeed a gift from our Maker. Join us this Advent season as we dig into the praises of Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds, who each sang their own unique song to God to express their joy upon learning of God's plan for humanity through the birth of Jesus the Christ! These were the original carols, and together, we will uncover the Glory that was found in Jesus through their praises. And, as we enter into the Christmas season, may you discover your own LifeSong – the melody of your heart and joy in knowing Jesus.



#### December 1

- ☆ **Rejoicing Spirits Fireside Worship 7:00 pm (on Zoom)** — Join us for a wonderful evening of Advent worship. 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 the 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](mailto:pastorjohn@fumchurch.com) for more details.

#### December 6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

- ☆ **Worship and Holy Communion 8:15 am - LifeSong: Mary**
- ☆ **Service of Remembrance and Hope 4:00 pm** — If you are grieving this holiday season.... missing your loved ones, experiencing loss and isolation... please join us for worship and reflection to remember

and honor the memory of cherished family and friends at our *Service of Remembrance and Hope*. For those desiring in-person worship, pre-registration is required. We will gather in the sanctuary at 4 pm on December 6. (The service will be recorded and available afterward for virtual viewing from home.) Contact Janice Bowen at [717-766-4611 x112](tel:717-766-4611) or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information or to pre-register.

## December 13 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

☆ **Worship 8:15 am - LifeSong: Joseph**

☆ **Christmas Caroling 4:00 pm (rain date December 20)** — By definition, Caroling means “to sing in a joyful manner!” Join us for Christmas festivity and outdoor worship with joyful carol singing in the First Church parking lot! For an added treat, Audrey’s Cup of Sunshine Café food truck will be on-site offering hot beverages and waffles! In keeping with the format established for ‘The Gathering’ service this past fall, all appropriate safety measures will be observed at this event:

- \* Please bring along your own **chairs**.
- \* **Marked spaces** in the parking lot will ensure physical distancing
- \* **Masks** will be required at all times until you are seated in your marked space for singing or enjoying treats from the food truck
- \* A clean **restroom** will be available if needed
- \* Check the **church website** for updated information in case of rain or snow

## December 15

☆ **Rejoicing Spirits ~ Jesus’s Birthday Celebration 7:00 pm (on Zoom)** — Join the Rejoicers as they come together to celebrate Jesus birthday. 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](mailto:pastorjohn@fumchurch.com) for more details.

## December 20 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

☆ **Worship 8:15 am - LifeSong: Shepherds**

## December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services

☆ **4:00 pm ~ Outdoor Service** ~ Come as you are for this special 45-minute worship service designed for all ages. Will conclude with candle lighting. Bundle up, bring your own chair and enjoy the beauty of the evening as we celebrate our Savior’s birth!

☆ **7:00 pm ~ Sanctuary Service** ~ Enjoy all of the sights and sounds of the season inside our beautiful sanctuary at this worship service designed for all ages. Includes communion and will conclude with candle lighting outside as we sing Silent Night at 8:00 pm. ***Note: Depending on circumstances with the pandemic, this in-person service, which will also be available as a live-streamed service, may be changed to be fully online. Please check the bulletin and our church website for more details/updates closer to the date.***

☆ **Any Time ~ Family Service** ~ Designed with children in mind, this service will actively engage the whole family in a very meaningful worship experience. Pre-recorded (and available on our church website) so that you can worship any time that is convenient for your family. Contact our Children’s Directors, Dawn Fisher/Anna Harris at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com) ahead of time to receive a special Christmas kit, which contains items to be used during the service!

## Other Christmas Events and Giving Opportunities

### *Interested in more Christmas Caroling?*

If your family would like to bring the joy of Christmas caroling to some of our members at home, we are organizing small groups to do so in a Covid-safe manner. For additional information, please contact Janice Bowen at [717-766-4611 x112](tel:717-766-4611) or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

***It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!***

New for 2020, Mt. Asbury will be offering a Christian Christmas Light Drive Thru, starting November 27! Mt. Asbury Retreat Center is located at 1310 Centerville Road, Newville. There is a \$10 per vehicle suggested donation for the drive thru. They will be offering the drive thru on Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. through December 27 (closed Christmas Day). See more information on their Facebook page at Mt. Asbury Christmas Light Show.

***New Hope Ministries***

Christmas Blessings Express is happening again this year on December 8, 9 and 10. New Hope Ministries is requesting gift cards to Walmart and Target for the families. To make shopping easier, you can buy them through our church Scrip program! Just fill out the form for \$25 to either Walmart or Target (or both) and drop off or send to the church. We will process the order and give the cards directly to New Hope, very simple! You can find the Scrip order form on pages 12 and 13. If you have questions, contact Kathie Bittenbender at [rbittenben@verizon.net](mailto:rbittenben@verizon.net) or Debbie Karns at [deborahkarns1@gmail.com](mailto:deborahkarns1@gmail.com). Thanks for supporting Christmas Blessings Express!

***Coffee and Cookies for Christmas!***

First Church will continue to bless the downtown community with Free Coffee and Cookies on Wednesday, December 9, 16 and 23 at 10:00 a.m. We will be at the same location, near the square in Mechanicsburg, beside First Church of God. Stop by for a treat and hot coffee or cocoa, as we look forward to continue building relationships in downtown Mechanicsburg!

***Christmas Card Listing***

Merry Christmas Greetings! If you are looking for a copy of the 2020 FUMC Christmas Card Address Listing or if you need a supply of Christmas cards to send, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

# Merry Christmas





### Bible Reading Plan

Use our Bible reading plan to remain in God's word daily. This reading plan is available on our church website at [www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com), and on page 11 of this newsletter.

### Connect Using The Bible App

Check out the YouVersion Bible app, available for both android and iOS smartphones/tablets, or on your laptop at bible.com. There are many wonderful devotional studies, plus you can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests!

### Sunday School Classes and Bible Studies

Because our building remains closed right now (with the exception of a few vital ministries), we are asking Sunday School classes and Bible study groups to continue meeting on Zoom or in small groups that follow appropriate Covid safety precautions outside the church this winter. For a listing of both ongoing and new classes that are meeting, please see the weekly bulletin announcements (available on our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com)).

### The Upper Room Devotional

The January/February 2021 issue of The Upper Room will be available! To download the free digital version, use this [link](#)! Or, if you would like to receive a paper copy, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

### From the Library

Usually at this time in November I am writing about the whirlwind of the coming holidays. But this year is so different in so many ways. It might be the perfect year to catch up on your reading. The library doesn't buy many Christmas books because people don't seem to have time to read them. But we have bought a few each year, and we have a quality collection. Let Pam or Donna know if you would like an appointment to come into the library for some books.

I couldn't resist Melody Carson's book **The Christmas Swap**. One of my favorite Christmas writers, Ms. Carlson always publishes a short Christmas book. Emma Dailey would like a white Christmas, but that won't happen in Arizona where she lives and on a teacher's salary with a side job as a struggling musician, she doesn't have a lot of money for vacation. A house swap with someone who would like a warm Christmas seems to solve the problem. Tyler Prescott is an in-demand song writer and talented musician. His mother convinces him to offer his Colorado mountain home as a vacation swap. When Emma shows up, Tyler decides he would rather stick around Colorado and get to know this pretty teacher. He presents himself as the property's caretaker so he can drop by regularly. The twist in this story is Emma's friend who finds out Tyler's identity set her sights on him. Life then gets messy for the three of them. I'll let you find out how they work it out. A sweet romance for a sweet season!

Lisa Harris has written a high octane and a not at all sweet thriller. In the first of two US Marshals books, **Escape** will keep you on the edge of your seat till all hours. US Marshals Madison James and Jonas Quinn have been tasked to escort two prisoners on a private plane across country. When the plane crashes in the Salmon Challis National Forest, the pilot and one of the prisoners are killed on impact and the Marshals are unconscious. When they come to, their prisoner, a convicted and dangerous murderer, is loose and on the run. They track him through the back woods of three states, determined to recapture him. But he has nothing to lose and is desperate to disappear. Better keep the lattes coming for this spine-tingling page turner.

Every month I pray I will see you soon. Now I am praying for a new and improved 2021! Merry Christmas!

~ Pam and Donna

## Health and Wellness

On behalf of FUMC's Health and Wellness team, the following information includes ideas and link suggestions for online resources to promote your health and well-being during these challenging days of guarding our health while spending significantly more time at home. If you have other suggestions or resources to recommend, please email Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

- **Free Virtual Health Seminars sponsored by UPMC:**

- December 3rd - Imagine Life Without Reflux
- December 9th - Common Airway Diseases: COPD and Emphysema
- December 10th – Fatty Liver Disease
- December 15th – Chronic Kidney Disease, Nutrition, and Transplant Options

To pre-register for these seminars – as well as for a complete list of other offerings including support groups and parenting classes – go to [UPMCPinnacle.com/Events](http://UPMCPinnacle.com/Events) or call 717-231-8900.

- **Giant Food Stores** offer a variety of online opportunities for sessions on topics including self-care, diabetes, weight management, and cooking classes. For more information and to register for sessions, search under the “Wellness and Nutritionists” categories through the following link - <https://giantfoodstores.com/pages/health-and-wellness>
- **Caregivers** - Breeda Miller offers online support and resources for caregivers using a variety of uplifting videos and her ‘Caregiver Coffeebreak Newsletter’. Search ‘Breeda Miller’ online to see how she is fulfilling her “mission to support family and professional caregivers.”

## Praying Follower



## Weekly Prayer Letter

If you have not already done so, sign up for our weekly prayer email so that you can receive a list of praises and requests from our church family. Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) to share requests and to sign up for this once-a-week list.

## Passionate Worshipper



## Livestream Team — New Ministry

Livestream worship is underway! This new group forming has exciting potential to reach beyond the walls of our church. *Because of the higher demand for more volunteers to livestream, we are looking for more individuals to help grow our livestream team.* No prior experience is needed, and training is provided. If you would like to meet the challenge of modern church and advance the kingdom into a digital era, please contact Sarah Pugh at [worship@fumchurch.com](mailto:worship@fumchurch.com).

## Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we will release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Each song-- hand-picked by staff, musicians, and volunteers-- has been on our hearts, and prayed over for a holy and meaningful connection with our congregation. For Spotify users, search for the user First UMC of Mechanicsburg, and click on the playlist titled “*Where Words Fail, Music Speaks*”. For non-Spotify users, click this link to listen to the playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5rbHEYEfHei97cUI8rjwNJ?si=qzOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>

## Worship DVDs Available

If you or someone you know are unable to access the online church worship services, we have DVD copies of worship available upon request! Please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

## Dedicated Missionary



## Help Us Feed Those In Need

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.

## Get Connected With Service Opportunities

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



## Hospitality Tip

Extravagant hospitality during FUMC's "December to Remember" can be offered in so many ways! While our church's events will look a little different this year, our hospitality shown to others still comes from within our hearts and that doesn't change. We will have the opportunity to show a smile (through our eyes), extend an air hug, and give a wave during our regular Sunday morning services, our Service of Remembrance and Hope (12/6), our time of caroling in the parking lot (12/13), and during our Christmas Eve services (outside at 4pm or inside at 7 pm)! Throughout December, you may also choose to bless a quarantined friend by a front porch drop off of a gift or cookies! Perhaps your family group may want to do some socially distanced front yard caroling to a friend or neighbor living on their own! The possibilities of our Christian hospitality are endless!

## Trinity's Closet on Main

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is holding a Clothing Closet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. They have a variety of gently used clothes (in all sizes) for men and women to choose from. Breakfast to go is provided for each person - including a cup of coffee! They are asking you to wear a mask, if you don't have one, they will provide one for you and they will be taking temperatures to provide an extra measure of safety. The Closet is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. every 2nd Saturday. Trinity is located at 132 E. Main Street, Mechanicsburg.

## Women's Retreat

After much prayer, thought and discussion, we have made the decision to cancel our in-person retreat at Mt. Asbury (scheduled for February, 2021) due to Covid and the uncertainty surrounding it. Our deposit will be applied toward our 2022 retreat, already scheduled for February 4-6, 2022!

Our plans for 2021 include the possibility of FUMC hosting a Lifeway Women's Ministry simulcast entitled "**Pursuing Christ Together**" on Saturday, April 17! This day will be filled with practical Bible teachings from some of your favorite authors, where women unshakeable in their pursuit of Christ, can come together to know Him more. Whether you watch with a group of friends at church or view at home on your own, you'll be joining others from around the world for a full day of worship and God's Word. Please stay tuned for further details as they unfold!

### Lenten Devotional

2020 has been an interesting year, to say the least, and it has not been easy for us to connect while keeping our distance and staying at home due to Covid. Because of this, we are hoping to prepare a First Church devotional booklet for Lent in 2021 as one way to help keep us connected to one another this winter and stay connected to God as we share our personal God moments!

Why on earth are we talking about this NOW? Well, Ash Wednesday is on February 17th in 2021, so the deadline for submissions is January 10th. December gets hectic, so make a date with yourself now to pour a cup of coffee or tea, curl up in a cozy chair and spend some time with God. Take time to reflect on the ways you have seen God at work in your life this past year and share your story. Yes, 2020 has been a year like no other, but thankfully, we have a God who is ever-present and unchanging!

Please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) if you are willing to share a story or would like some help/more details.

### Joy in the Morning - On Zoom!

If you live with ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join us for discussion and friendship in our spiritually-grounded support group! We meet on designated Mondays, every 3-4 weeks from 3:30-4:30 on Zoom. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings from the book, With the Dawn Rejoicing. For more information, contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

### “First Church Forum”

If you are on Facebook, we invite you to join our private Facebook Group, First Church Forum! As a private group, the ‘First Church Forum’ is a great space to support and connect with one another during this season of sheltering at home. The First Church Forum is a "space for sharing information, encouragement, discussion, and fellowship among members and friends of First Church." Let us know how we can support you or your local business during these challenging times. Please 'Like' our page, First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA and then feel free to join the First Church Forum private group. If you have questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

*Generous Giver*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 31, 2020 — 83% of year

### General Fund

2020 budget	\$ 955,098	
Projected giving	\$ 795,867	83%
Actual giving	\$ 762,466	80%
Actual expenses	\$ 743,242	78%

If you have not yet submitted your 2021 commitment card, please contact Ellen for a card or see our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), for more information. Our year-to-date actual expenses continue to be less than planned as the church staff is working hard to reduce discretionary spending to help keep our financial position in good shape. We are grateful to be holding in-person services with the appropriate safeguards in place according to guidelines. We are also continuing our Sunday services online. We appreciate all the support for our church during this difficult time and are thankful for those who have been able to continue in prayer and financial support of our ministry. If you cannot join us for in-person services, we hope you will consider mailing your contributions to the church office or utilizing electronic giving. Please be sure to visit the church website for regular updates and services on-line.



### Calling All Cookie Bakers!

2020 has sure thrown everything for a loop this year and the cookie walk is no exception. After much consideration we have decided to cancel the cookie walk this year due to the pandemic. We just couldn't find a logical way to do it and wanted to keep everyone safe. That being said we are thinking of trying something new this year. We are asking all our wonderful cookie bakers to share with us one of their cookie recipes they make for the walk. We will post this on our Facebook or Instagram page and have some fun with it! If you are willing to share a cookie recipe please email it to [minion.youth17@gmail.com](mailto:minion.youth17@gmail.com) with "Cookie Walk" in the subject line. Thanks for being flexible! We hope to be back to normal next year. Stay safe and let the baking begin! ~ *Lynn Rapp*

### Scrip Orders

We are still able to order gift cards with our church's Scrip Program! Make a list of what you want (using the form included on pages 12 and 13), and include a check made out to FUM Scrip. You may send your order directly to the church, or mail it to Kathie Bittenbender, [292 Founders Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050](#). We will get your orders for you as soon as possible. So, start thinking about Christmas or birthdays – or any day really! Gift cards are quick and easy to use, and you help raise money for the church and several of its outreaches. Thank you! Questions, or don't see what you want? Call Kathie at [717-697-6257](tel:717-697-6257).

### Endowment Fund Grants Support Pandemic-Related Projects

The Endowment Fund Committee of First Church was pleased to award grants toward the following pandemic-related needs of our congregation in 2020:

**Sound Deck, Sanctuary Roof** – The Trustees received a grant to expand the worship sound deck at the rear of the sanctuary, and toward replacing the roof over the sanctuary. During the pandemic, our sound system has been critical to livestreaming worship services and recording them for placement on the website. The improvements also will enhance the overall worship experience for all who attend our church.

**Worship Arts Ministry Honorarium** – In March, First Church temporarily halted in-person worship for the safety of our members and the community. Weekly services were pre-recorded and made available through the website. When in-person worship resumed in July, our Sound Team began livestreaming services for those who feel more comfortable worshipping at home. Additionally, recorded services continue to be available through the website. All of this is made possible only through the efforts of the church staff and a team of dedicated volunteers headed by Jason Kichline. As the pandemic and need for online worship continues, an honorarium was created for Jason's continued work.

**Stained Glass Windows** - In addition, a contribution was made to a fund for the restoration of First Church's historic stained-glass windows in accordance with a donor's wishes.

In all, \$17,685 in grants was distributed with the annual income produced by the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was established over a decade ago. The principal remains untouched, and the annual income it generates is reinvested into First Church's worship, ministries, and outreach efforts. All of this is made possible by the generosity of our congregation members who support the fund with current or deferred gifts. The Endowment Committee gratefully acknowledges this support, and appreciates your continued prayers of our efforts to grow the fund for the future of First Church. To learn more about the Endowment Fund and how you can support it now or in the future, contact Bob Wertz, Sr., Endowment Chair, or either of First Church's pastors.



To Our Beloved FUMC Camp & Retreat Families and Supporters,

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

**NOW HAPPENING!!!**

**Christmas Light Drive-Thru  
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 - [www.susumcamps.org](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? Contact:** Deb Noss ([sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) or Amy Ortiz ([amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com))



### December Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, November 29	LifeSong: Zechariah	(First Sunday in Advent)
Monday, November 30	Isaiah 40:1-11	
Tuesday, December 1	Psalms 85	
Wednesday, December 2	2 Peter 3:8-15	
Thursday, December 3	Luke 1:26-38	
Friday, December 4	Luke 1:46b-55	
Saturday, December 5	Rest and Reflect	
Sunday, December 6	LifeSong: Mary	(Second Sunday in Advent)
Monday, December 7	Isaiah 61:1-4	
Tuesday, December 8	Isaiah 61:8-11	
Wednesday, December 9	Psalms 126	
Thursday, December 10	I Thessalonians 5:16-24	
Friday, December 11	Matthew 1:18-25	
Saturday, December 12	Rest and Reflect	
Sunday, December 13	LifeSong: Joseph	(Third Sunday in Advent)
Monday, December 14	2 Samuel 7:1-17	
Tuesday, December 15	2 Samuel 7:18-29	
Wednesday, December 16	Romans 16:25-27	
Thursday, December 17	Luke 2:1-7	
Friday, December 18	Luke 2:8-20	
Saturday, December 19	Rest and Reflect	
Sunday, December 20	LifeSong: Shepherds	(Fourth Sunday in Advent)
Monday, December 21	Psalms 148	
Tuesday, December 22	Psalms 96	
Wednesday, December 23	Titus 2:11-14	
Thursday, December 24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25	Luke 2:1-20	Christmas Day
Saturday, December 26	Rest and Reflect	
Sunday, December 27	Worship	
Monday, December 28	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	
Tuesday, December 29	Psalms 8	
Wednesday, December 30	Revelation 21:1-6a	
Thursday, December 31	Matthew 25:31-46	
Friday, January 1	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	New Year's Day
Saturday, January 2	Rest and Reflect	
Sunday, January 3	First Sunday after Christmas	

# FUM Scrip Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Order Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Include cash or check made payable to FUM Scrip. Scrip Orders will be collected each Sunday of the month from the mailbox at the Scrip Center near the coffee area. For delivery dates and new scrip available check the Scrip Center.

Retail Stores	Qty	Cost
Aeropostale	\$25 10%	
American Eagle Outfitters	\$25 10%	
Barnes & Noble Bookstore/ B. Dalton Bookseller	\$10 8%	
Bass Pro Shops	\$25 10%	
	\$100 10%	
Bath & Body Works	\$10 13%	
	\$25 13%	
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$25 8%	
	\$100 8%	
Best Buy	\$25 4%	
	\$100 4%	
Boscov's	\$25 8%	
Brooks Brothers	\$25 16%	
Build-a-Bear Workshop	\$25 8%	
Cabela's	\$25 8%	
	\$100 8%	
Children's Place	\$25 12%	
Christmas Tree Shops	\$25 7%	
Claire's	\$10 9%	
Crate and Barrel	\$25 8%	
CVS Pharmacy	\$25 6%	
Dick's Sporting Goods		
Field & Stream	\$25 8%	
Disney	\$25 3%	
	\$100 3%	
Dress Barn	\$25 8%	
Finish Line	\$25 10%	
Footlocker	\$25 8%	
GameStop	\$25 3%	
Gap/Old Navy/ Banana Republic	\$25 14%	
Gymboree	\$25 13%	
Hallmark	\$25 4%	
Harry and David	\$50 12%	
Home Depot	\$25 4%	
	\$100 4%	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$</b>

	Qty	Cost
JC Penney	\$25 5%	
	\$100 5%	
JoAnn Fabrics	\$25 6%	
J. Crew	\$25 13%	
Jos. A. Banks	\$25 10%	
Kohl's Department Store	\$25 4%	
	\$100 4%	
L. L. Bean	\$25 16%	
	\$100 16%	
Land's End	\$25 15%	
	\$100 15%	
Lane Bryant	\$25 8%	
Lowe's Home Improvement	\$25 4%	
	\$100 4%	
Macy's	\$25 10%	
Marshall's/TJ Maxx	\$25 7%	
Home Goods	\$100 7%	
Michaels Arts & Crafts	\$25 4%	
Motherhood Maternity	\$25 7%	
Oshkosh B'gosh	\$25 10%	
Payless Shoes	\$20 13%	
PetSmart	\$25 5%	
Pier 1 Imports	\$25 9%	
Pottery Barn/Pottery Barn for Kids/Williams Sonoma	\$25 8%	
	\$100 8%	
Rite Aid	\$25 4%	
Ross Dress for Less	\$25 8%	
Staples	\$25 5%	
	\$100 5%	
Stein Mart	\$25 7%	
Talbot's	\$25 13%	
Target	\$25 2.5%	
	\$100 2.5%	
Ulta Beauty	\$25 4%	
Walgreens	\$25 5%	
Walmart/Sam's Club	\$25 2.5%	
	\$100 2.5%	
Wayfair	\$100 6.0%	
<b>Totals</b>		
<b>Totals from this page</b>		<b>\$</b>

# FUM Scrip Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Order Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Include cash or check made payable to FUM Scrip. Scrip Orders will be collected each Sunday of the month from the mailbox at the Scrip Center near the coffee area. For delivery dates and new scrip available check the Scrip Center.

Restaurants		Qty	Cost
Applebee's	\$25	8%	
	\$50	8%	
Arby's	\$10	8%	
Bob Evans	\$10	10%	
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10	8%	
	\$25	8%	
Burger King	\$10	4%	
Carrabba's Italian Grill/ Outback Steakhouse/ Bonefish Grill	\$25	10%	
	\$50	10%	
Chili's	\$25	11%	
Chipotle	\$25	10%	
Chuck E. Cheese	\$10	8%	
Cracker Barrel	\$10	8%	
	\$25	8%	
Dairy Queen	\$10	3%	
Denny's	\$10	7%	
Domino's Pizza	\$10	8%	
Dunkin' Donuts	\$10	2.5%	
Fudruckers	\$25	8%	
Hardees	\$10	5%	
Honey Baked Ham	\$25	12%	
IHOP	\$25	8%	
Little Caesar's Pizza	\$20	8%	
Long John Silvers	\$10	8%	
Noodles & Company	\$10	8%	
Olive Garden/ Longhorn Steakhouse	\$25	8%	
	\$10	9%	
Papa John's	\$10	9%	
Panera Bread	\$10	8%	
	\$25	8%	
Pizza Hut	\$10	8%	
Red Lobster	\$25	8%	
Red Robin	\$25	8%	
Ruby Tuesday's	\$25	8%	
Starbucks	\$10	7%	
	\$25	7%	
Subway	\$10	6%	
	\$50	6%	
Sweet Frogs	\$10	10%	
Taco Bell	\$10	5%	
Texas Roadhouse	\$25	8%	
TGI Friday's	\$25	9%	
Wendy's	\$10	6.5%	
<b>Totals</b>			\$

Hotels		Qty	Cost
Best Western	\$25	12%	
	\$100	12%	
Comfort Inn/Suites/ Clarion/	\$50	3%	
	\$100	3%	
Six Flag Theme Parks	\$30	8%	
<b>Online Purchases</b>			
1-800 Flowers	\$25	12%	
Amazon.com	\$25	2.25%	
	\$100	2.25%	
Overstock.com	\$25	8.00%	
Shutterfly	\$25	9%	
<b>Automotive</b>			
Advanced Auto Parts	\$25	7%	
Auto Zone	\$25	8%	
BP	\$50	1.5%	
Jiffy Lube	\$30	8%	
Mobil/Exxon	\$50	1%	
Sheetz	\$25	3%	
	\$100	3%	
Shell	\$50	1.5%	
Sunoco	\$50	1%	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
AMC Theaters	\$10	8%	
GNC	\$25	8%	
Giant Foods	\$25	5%	
	\$50	5%	
	\$100	5%	
Wells Markets	\$25	5%	
	\$100	5%	
Great Clips	\$25	8%	
Holiday Hair	\$25	8%	
Oriental Trading Company	\$25	9%	
<b>Totals</b>			\$
<b>Others</b>			
<b>Totals this side</b>			\$
<b>Totals from other side</b>			\$
<b>Grand Total</b>			\$

## Church News and Notes

### Love & sympathy...

to the family and friends of Carvel Markley who passed away on October 7th  
 to the family and friends of Bonnie Jeona who passed away on October 21st  
 to the family and friends of Deb Hamsher who passed away on November 8th



### Special Birthdays

Helen Ritter .....	December 13th	Pat Hutter .....	January 3rd
Dolores Shell.....	December 13th	Richard Reed.....	January 15th
Darlis Aumiller .....	December 21st	Leroy Weaver .....	January 15th
Joan Mains .....	December 23rd	Leta Rohlmeier .....	January 23rd
Elaine O’Hara .....	December 26th	Dot Souder .....	January 27th
Sandra Coover.....	December 28th	Margaret Baker .....	January 30th

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Roy and Ginnie Miller married 53 years on December 9th
- ♥ Douglas and Harriet Steuart married 53 years on December 16th
- ♥ Joe and Carol Moomaw married 55 years on December 24th



<p><i>FIRST NEWS FIRST</i>  <b>Editor:</b> Ellen Hill</p>	<p>The <b>deadline</b> for submitting articles                  for the <b>January 2021</b> issue is  <b>December 15th</b></p>	<p><b>Early submissions <u>always</u>                  appreciated!</b></p>
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