

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
December 6, 2020



“LifeSong: Mary”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com



LifeSong

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent

Hymn Response *"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*

Morning Prayer

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 46-55 (NRSV)

Sermon

"LifeSong: Mary" - Pastor Denny

Praise and Worship *"Be Born In Me"*

Invitation

Confession and Pardon

Offering

The Great Thanksgiving for Advent

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Breaking of The Bread

Giving of The Bread and Cup

Closing Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team Ellen Hall, George Canonizado,, Caleb Flick,
Sarah Pugh

Sound & Media Ron Nichols, Roger Walton, Jason Kichline,
Holly Kurten

“LifeSong: The Song of Mary”

Luke 1: 67-79

"LifeSong: Mary"

1. Mary's song calls us to _____.

My soul **magnifies** the Lord,
and my spirit **rejoices in** God my Savior,...
(Luke 1:46-47)

2. Mary sees that she is _____ and _____ by God.

Greetings, **favored one!**
(Luke 1:28a)

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me **blessed**;
⁴⁹ for the **Mighty One** has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*
(Luke 1:48)

3. Mary sees that _____.

The Lord is with you.
(Luke 1:28b)

His mercy is for **those who fear him**
from generation to generation.
(Luke 1:50)

"Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand."
(Mother Teresa)

4. Mary sees that she is part of _____.

For **nothing** will be impossible with God.
(Luke 1:37)

He has shown **strength** with his arm;
he has scattered **the proud** in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down **the powerful** from their thrones,
and lifted up **the lowly**;
⁵³ he has filled **the hungry** with good things,
and sent **the rich** away empty.
(Luke 1:51-53)

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
(Luke 1:38)

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of December 6

Sunday

“LifeSong: Mary”

Monday

Isaiah 61: 1-4

Tuesday

Isaiah 61: 8-11

Wednesday

Psalm 126

Thursday

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Friday

Matthew 1: 18-25

Saturday

Rest and Reflect





First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

December 6, 2020

Lifelong Learner



Because our building remains closed right now (with the exception of a few vitally important ministries) we are continuing to offer studies and groups in alternative and Covid-safe ways. 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** – This “garage group” meets at 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Contact Barry Eaton at 1785eaton@gmail.com if interested. Masks required, heaters provided!
- **Faith in Everyday Life** – This small “garage group” meets on Sunday mornings and 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** – This group, comprised of parents in the child-raising stage of life, meets on zoom on Sunday mornings and focuses on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact Bob Wertz, Jr. at wertzfive@gmail.com for more details.
- **Christian Fellowship** – This class is currently engaged in an Advent Study by Andy Stanley. For all ages/stages of faith. Meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Contact Wayne Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com for more details and the zoom link for this online study.
- **Growing in Christ** – This class is studying “LifeSong”, a study based on the current sermon series for Advent. For all ages/stages of faith. Meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for more details and the zoom link for this online study.
- **Helping Hands** - Meets on zoom at 10:00 am. 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** – A group of elders in the church who use the United Methodist quarterly adult Bible lessons for daily independent study. 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 winter? Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for study ideas and to get the ball rolling!

Little Friends Preschool is seeking a church member to serve on the Preschool's Board. A background in education, childcare, or finance would be helpful, but more importantly, needed is someone with the desire to support the ministry of ensuring our little ones have a robust Christian educational foundation. The Board meets once a month on Wednesday evenings (currently, on Zoom). Also involved would be a commitment in support of the Preschool's fundraising efforts for program development. If interested, please contact Devon Betz at devonbetz@gmail.com.



Praying Follower

Recovering at Home: Trent Yatsky, Marilyn Seig, Paul Cain
Special Circumstances: Joanne Reed—Traditions Healthcare, Gettysburg

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

New Advent Sermon Series – 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.



TODAY	LifeSong: Mary	<i>(Second Sunday in Advent)</i>
December 13	LifeSong: Joseph	<i>(Third Sunday in Advent)</i>
December 20	LifeSong: Shepherds	<i>(Fourth Sunday in Advent)</i>

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, we will gather in the sanctuary at 4 pm on today, December 6. (The service will be recorded and available afterward for virtual viewing from home.) Contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@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 10 of the bulletin for more information regarding ways that you can give back this year and donate to organizations like **New Hope!**





A December to Remember Calendar

Advent & Christmas Services and Events Schedule

December 6 **2nd Sunday in Advent**

- ☆ Worship and Holy Communion 8:15 am - LifeSong: Mary
- ☆ Service of Remembrance and Hope 4:00 pm

December 13 **3rd Sunday in Advent**

- ☆ Worship 8:15 am - LifeSong: Joseph
- ☆ Christmas Caroling 4:00 pm (rain date December 20)

December 15

- ☆ Rejoicing Spirits ~ Jesus's Birthday Celebration 7:00 pm (on Zoom)


December 20 **4th 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 ahead of time to receive a special Christmas kit, which contains items to be used during the service!

(Please see the December newsletter or the church website for more information about each of our special December to Remember activities and services.)



[Relationship Builder](#)



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 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 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](#)

Save yourself a night of cooking and help support a worthy cause! **Little Friends Preschool is hosting a fundraising night at Chipotle** on the Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg on Saturday, December 12 from 4:00-8:00pm. Simply mention the preschool at checkout, or use the unique code L3DE2EA to order online for pickup to ensure that 33% of the proceeds are donated to Little Friends. Thank you for your support! Questions? Contact Jemma Church at lfn@fumchurch.com.

Please see page 10 of the bulletin for more information regarding ways that you can give back this year and donate to organizations like **New Hope!**

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!

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

BOOMERANG- Sunday, December 13th at 4:00pm. Join First Church for this family event, as we will be joining the Christmas Carol Sing-a-long in the church parking lot. This will be an outdoor socially distanced event. Once seated with your family, you can remove your mask and join in singing some beloved Christmas Carols. There will also be a sweet treats food truck available!

Bible Time Anytime!- Kids will love this weekly on-line Sunday School lesson for children led by Miss Anna and Miss Dawn for kids aged 3 years through 5th grade that is specifically designed to fit into your children's busy schedules at any time that works for them. They can be viewed any day and any time through the week! New lessons will be available every Sunday on the First Church Children's Ministry Facebook page or they can be emailed directly to you. You can find us on Facebook and request to be a part of this private group OR send us your email address at kidscount@fumchurch.com to receive a weekly email. Make time hearing God's word, lessons and teachings a part of your child's week, every week! Email Dawn and Anna with any questions.

Christmas Eve Kits- Reserve your child's Christmas Eve kit today! Because we will not be able to gather in person for our usual family Christmas Eve service, it will be recorded and available to view online. To make it extra special, we have created a fun Christmas Eve activity kit for each child to open as they watch the service. Email Dawn and Anna at kidscount@fumchurch.com to reserve your kit today! (Kits are appropriate for ages 3 and up) There will be a limited number of kits, so reserve your child's today!

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: 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!

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

Giving back is easy this year!

**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 **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 - <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:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller
717-766-4611, x103
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

Associate Pastor:

Rev. John Shellenberger
717-766-4611, x117
pastorjohn@fumchurch.com

Director of Worship Arts

Sarah Pugh
717-766-4611, x119
worship@fumchurch.com

Director of Discipleship:

Tina Eaton
717-766-4611, x104
adultministry@fumchurch.com

Director of Congregational Care Ministry:

Janice Bowen
766-4611, x112
wecare@fumchurch.com

Outreach Director:

Lori Hoffnagle
717-766-4611, x115
outreach@fumchurch.com

Youth Pastor:

Lisa Aronson
717-766-4611, x113
uthrock@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

Dawn Fisher
717-766-4611, x118
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

Anna Harris
717-766-4611, x102
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Office Manager/Finance Secretary:

Ellen Hill
717-766-4611, x101
office@fumchurch.com

Facilities Coordinator:

Tom Ziegler
717-766-4611, x105
facilities@fumchurch.com

Custodians:

George Canonizado, Matt Miller
717-766-4611, x109
maintenance@fumchurch.com

Director of Finance:

Nancy Robinson
717-766-4611, x120
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

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