

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
December 13, 2020



“LifeSong: Joseph”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com



LifeSong

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Once In Royal David's City"

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Morning Prayer

Advent Response

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Praise and Worship

"What A Beautiful Name"

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 1: 18-25 (NRSV)

Sermon

"LifeSong: Joseph" - Pastor Denny

Ministry of Music

"Heaven Come"

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Offering & Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Pastor John Shellenberger

Worship Team Worship Band, Caleb Flick, Sarah Pugh

Sound & Media Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Elijah Ometz,
..... Ken Rapp

“LifeSong: The Song of Joseph”

Matthew 1: 18-25

"The total person sings not just the vocal chords." (Esther Broner)

1. Joseph's LifeSong was inspired by _____.

*But just when he had resolved to do this, **an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream** and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (verse 20)*



2. Joseph's LifeSong points _____.

*...She will bear a son, and you are to name him **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins.” (verse 21)*

*All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him **Emmanuel**,” which means, “God is with us.” (verses 22-23)*

*For in him **all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell**, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)*

*He is **the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being**, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3)*

*And **the Word became flesh and lived among us**, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*



3. Joseph's LifeSong was expressed _____.

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife... (verse 24)

It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.” (Francis of Assisi)

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of December 13

Sunday

“LifeSong: Joseph”

Monday

2 Samuel 7: 1-17

Tuesday

2 Samuel 7: 18-29

Wednesday

Romans 16: 25-27

Thursday

Luke 2: 1-7

Friday

Luke 2: 8-20

Saturday

Rest and Reflect





First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

December 13, 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

Our love and sympathy to the friends and family of Mildred Neagley who passed away on November 25th.

Our love and sympathy to the friends and family of Paul Nesmith who passed away on December 6th.

Recovering at Home: Trent Yatsky, Marilyn Seig

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

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

December 20

LifeSong: Joseph

LifeSong: Shepherds

(Third Sunday in Advent)

(Fourth Sunday in Advent)



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 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 with this livestreamed worship service designed for all ages. Includes communion and will conclude with an interactive virtual candle lighting while singing Silent Night.
- ☆ **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.)



Christmas Memorials



POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory Of:

Placed by:

Lance Buddenbaum and loved ones.....Larry and Judi Buddenbaum
Bryan D. James Gayle ad Jeff Fugate
Glenn and Dolores Herring..... Rick and Patti Herring
Betty Good Rick and Patti Herring
Jackie and Joe Baker Bob and Judy Wertz
Carrie White Rife The Family
Doris and Harold Zimmerman..... The Family
Merle and Della Zimmerman..... The Family

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Loving Memory Of:

Given by:

Donald Ciampa..... The Ciampa Family
Amanda K. Strous The Family
Alexis D. Coover The Family
David B. Coover..... The Family
David D. Coover, II The Family
Gayle Elder Anderson..... Her mother, Annabelle Elder
Elaine and Howard Fugate, Jr. Gayle and Jeff Fugate
John A. Marr Gayle and Jeff Fugate
Marlin and Kathryn Crowl Bonnie Guyer
Roger Crowl..... Bonnie Guyer
Raymond GuyerBonnie Guyer

Christmas Memorials



MEMORIAL GIFTS (continued)

In Loving Memory Of:

Given by:

Ron and Ryan Guyer.....Bonnie Guyer
William and Mabel Guyer.....Bonnie Guyer
Carol Miller.....Bonnie Guyer
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lancaster..... Don and Kay Heiges
E. Chester Heim..... His Family
Richard H. and Arlene M. Smith.....Mary Jo Skoglund
Craig A. Failor..... Joan E. Stokes
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn L. Johnson..... Joan E. Stokes
George and Kathryn FishelThe Taylor and Van Kirk Families
Bill and Jean Taylor..... The Bob Taylor Family
Our Parents.....Bob and Judy Wertz



Relationship Builder

Merry Christmas Greetings! You are invited to please stop by Janice Bowen's porch anytime if you are in search of any of the following: the 2020 FUMC Christmas Card Address Listing, a supply of Christmas cards to send, the December church newsletter, the January/February Upper Room, or a holiday print face mask, Please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 if you have any questions.

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

All **offerings or donations** to be given for the 2020 year is due to the church no later than December 31st at 12noon. Questions? Contact Ellen Hill at office@fumchurch.com, or Nancy Robinson, at nrobinson@fumchurch.com.

All invoices from 2020 that need to be payed are due no later than January 8th. Questions? Contact Nancy Robinson at nrobinson@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- TODAY 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 and masks will be worn for utmost safety. Join us to sing some of your favorite 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 3years 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- 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. Sign up for your kit and a time to pick it up at www.timetosignup.com/kidscount (Kits are appropriate for ages 3 and up) There are a limited number of kits available and they are going fast, so sign up today!

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth will look a bit different, but we are going to navigate things together and still find ways to gather, gain, grow, and give. 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!

*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

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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
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Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:

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