

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
December 20, 2020



“LifeSong: Shepherds”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com



LifeSong

Prelude

Inroit

"Sussex Carol" - Handbell Choir

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent

Prayer

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 8-20 (NRSV)

Ministry of Music

"A Baby Will Come"

Sermon

"LifeSong: Shepherds" - Pastor Denny

Anthem

Joy to the World - Handbell Choir

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Offering & Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Go Tell It on The Mountain"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team Handbell Choir, Kathie Bittenbender, Don Coldren,

..... Stu Diehl, Caleb Flick, Tammy Ingraham, Sarah Pugh

Sound & Media Fred Espenshade, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten,

..... Roger Walton

“LifeSong: The Song of the Shepherds”

Luke 2: 8-20



*But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy **for all the people**: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (verses 10-11)*

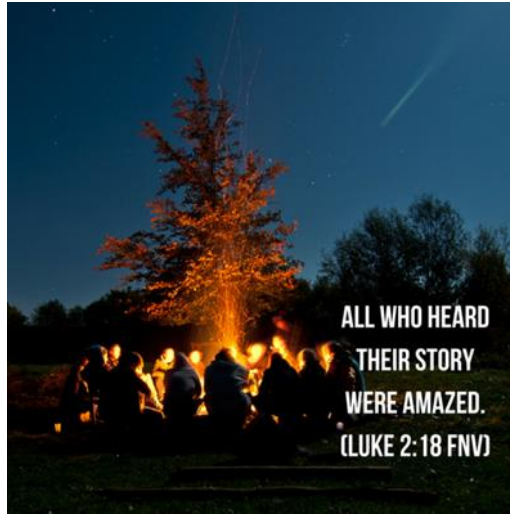
1. The Good News moves us _____.

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So **they went with haste** and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. (verses 15-16)*



2. The Good News moves us _____.

*When they saw this, **they made known what had been told them** about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. (verses 17-18)*



3. The Good News moves us _____.

***The shepherds returned**, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (verse 20)*

Our Celebrations of Christmas May Be Different This Year, But We Can Still...

- Glorify and praise God!
- Pray and be a calm presence
- Keep in touch with people around us, particularly the vulnerable, isolated or needy
- Look for ways to show kindness
- Point one another to God and his promises to us, through Jesus

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of December 20

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>“LifeSong: The Shepherds”</i>	
Monday	Psalm 148	
Tuesday	Psalm 96	
Wednesday	Titus 2: 11-14	
Thursday	Isaiah 9: 2-7	<i>(Christmas Eve)</i>
Friday	Luke 2: 1-20	<i>(Christmas Day)</i>
Saturday	Rest and Reflect	





First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

December 20, 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 iparis@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 Wayde 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@plantsite logistics.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 substitute teachers to help in their classes. For more information or if interested in a substitute position, please contact Jemma Church at lfn@s@fumchurch.com or Devon Betz at devonbetz@gmail.com.

explore

life

faith

meaning

Alpha

First Church is excited to offer Alpha!

- Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith with others in a low pressure environment to discuss the big questions in life.
- Each Alpha session focuses on one question, like "Who is Jesus?", "How does God work in my life?" or "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit". There is a video, followed by discussion where guests can share their thoughts and questions openly and honestly.
- Alpha is run all over the world. 1.3 million people have tried Alpha, in over 100 countries!

Alpha is very easy to share online for free! Our plan is to offer Alpha using zoom conferencing starting **January 5th** at 7:00 p.m. led by John and Merri Shellenberger.

There are a few different ways you can get involved:

- Pray – This is something I want to ask all of you to do: pray for Pastor John and Merri, who will be leading this course, and pray for the guests and conversations that will happen.
- Seek - Ask God for direction on who you know that has questions about faith or might benefit from participating in Alpha.
- Invite – Ask that person... it might be a friend, coworker, family member or neighbor. Ask if they would be interested in participating. You are invited to participate with them, especially if that makes them more comfortable, but you don't have to.

Registration is easy! Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to sign up or to learn more about the Alpha Course.

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Praying Follower

Recovering at Home: Stephen Zimmerman

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

Upcoming Sermon Series - Good News!: Are you ready for a new year? As 2021 begins, we continue to feel the lingering effects of the pandemic and the unrest of 2020, but the new year is a time to embrace new possibilities. At the beginning of his gospel, Mark declares that the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is good news. (Mark 1:1) In this series we're going to walk closely with Jesus through the first chapter of Mark. As we do, we'll discover why the coming of Jesus is still the good news we all need and how believing the good news makes all the difference in our lives.



January 3	"Make Room for Jesus!"
January 10	"Listen to the Voice!"
January 17	"Jesus Uses Ordinary People"
January 24	"Jesus Has Authority"
January 31	"Early Riser"
February 7	"Jesus Isn't Afraid of Your Mess"

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



Christmas Blessings Express at New Hope Ministries: Each year, New Hope Ministries blesses each of our guests with Christmas gifts donated by the Mechanicsburg community. This year though challenged with Covid-19, flexibility made the distribution a bit more interesting! However, we were able to adjust and the 3 days of gift distribution went off without a hitch. We were very concerned about the health and wellness for all of our volunteers and guests, so proper disinfecting of the shopping cars and social distancing was well maintained. This year we found that we didn't have as many volunteers as we had had in the past so a new way of setting up

the actual distribution arrangement and we believe that it worked better than in the past! So, a new and better way has been established!!! Amazing how God allowed a better solution to present itself in a time of special need. 212 families were served. Not as many physical/tangible gifts may have been given out because of decreased donations but increased donations of gift cards were appreciated by all of the guests. Thank you to all of you who made donations of either gifts, gift cards or physically coming to help with Christmas Blessings Express....your expressions of love to those less fortunate than us was so appreciated by everyone of our guests. Merry Christmas, *Debbie and Don Karns*



A December to Remember Calendar

Advent & Christmas Services and Events Schedule

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 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 Fishel *The 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 paid are due no later than January 8th. Questions? Contact Nancy Robinson at nrobinson@fumchurch.com.

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

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 very few left 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!



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)

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Praise Team Co-Directors:

Sarah Pugh — worship@fumchurch.com
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Organists/Accompanists:

Caleb Flick
Karen Philp

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Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:

Glenn Covert
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