

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
January 31, 2021

GOOD NEWS!

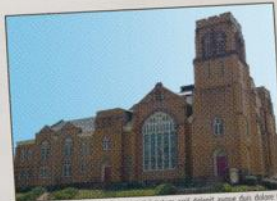
TOP NEWS

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MARK 1

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

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“Early Riser”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg
 717-766-4611
www.fumchurch.com



GOOD NEWS!

Prelude

"Death Was Arrested"

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"10,000 Reasons"

Opening Prayer

Praise Chorus

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Gospel Reading

Mark 1: 29-39 (NRSV)

Sermon

"Early Riser" - Pastor Denny

Ministry of Music

"Sing My Way Back"

Responsive Prayer

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Closing Song

"Near to the Heart of God"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team Caleb Flick, Emily Hammaker, Sarah Pugh

Sound & Media Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ron Nichols, Ken Rapp

Good News: Early Riser

Mark 1: 29-39



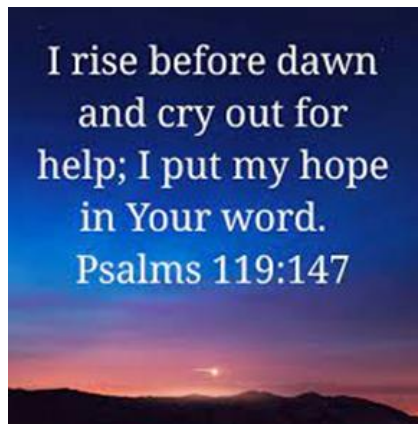
"Everyone is distracted all the time." (Justin Rosenstein, Facebook engineer)

Three things Jesus did to stay focused in a world of distractions:

1. Jesus had a _____ to pray.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. (verse 35)

In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. (Psalm 5:3 NIV)



But I, O LORD, cry out to you; *in the morning* my prayer comes before you. (Psalm 88:13)

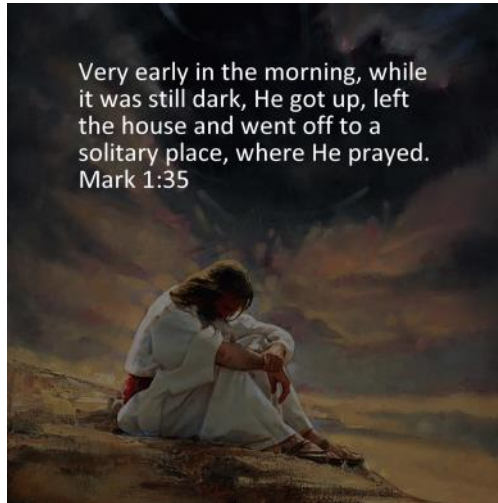
2. Jesus had a _____ to pray.

*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up **and went out to a deserted place**, and there he prayed. (verse 35)*

But Jesus **often withdrew to lonely places** and prayed. (Luke 5:16 NIV)

*But whenever you pray, **go into your room and shut the door** and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:6)*

3. He had a _____ to pray.



*And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; **for that is what I came out to do.**” (verses 36-38)*



*“The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God has come near**; repent, and believe in **the good news.**” (Mark 1:15)*

Weekly Bible Readings:

Week of January 31

Sunday

“Early Riser”

Monday

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Tuesday

Psalm 50: 1-6

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Thursday

Mark 9: 2-9

Friday

Mark 1: 40-45

Saturday

Rest and Reflect





First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

January 31, 2021

The **alter flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Sue Chapman, placed by The Prayer Team who writes: “Sue, you taught us so much!”.

The **maché basket** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sue Chapman, placed by her loving husband, Bill Chapman.

Lifelong Learner

Several **Bible studies and small groups** are being offered online this winter, and all are invited to come for fellowship and learning!

- **Alpha** – Come to look at the big questions of life and faith and talk about the real answers. Started in January, but you are welcome to join any time! No cost, led by Pastor John and Merri Shellenberger Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm on zoom. Questions, or need the zoom link? Contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@fumchurch.com.
- **Elijah** - Through Elijah’s story, come to understand the value of seasons of growth and testing in your spiritual maturity. 7-session study begins February 16. Registration fee \$24.99 (for online videos and a workbook, PLUS bonus materials). Register at <https://onlinestudy.lifeway.com/v/ElijahOBS>. Need a scholarship or want to participate in a First Church online discussion group (Wednesdays over lunchtime at noon)? Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com
- **Seven Words** - Join Pastor Denny to study the seven last words of Christ on the cross, exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. 6-week study begins Wednesday, February 24 at 6:45 pm. Contact Pastor Denny at pastordenny@fumchurch.com to sign up and receive the zoom link. (If you are interested, purchase book from any online retailer to read on your own).
- **Wednesday Men’s Group – Race and the Gospel** addresses racism and injustice using Paul’s words in Ephesians. Meets on zoom, 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry Eaton at 1785eaton@gmail.com if interested.
- **Jesus in Me** – An 8-week study on the Holy Spirit, Led by Juanita Guise, meets on Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:15 pm on zoom beginning January 28. Contact Juanita ASAP at jguise@comcast.net to sign up, receive your workbook and zoom link.
- **Men’s Bible Study** - Began in the fall with Paul’s letters to Timothy, and resumes this winter with completion of Timothy and study of Paul’s letter to Titus. New participants welcome any time! Led by Ken Guise/David Mengle, Sunday evenings, 6:15 pm on zoom. Contact Ken at guiseken100@gmail.com for more details and zoom link.
- **Sunday School**
 - **Faith in Everyday Life** –Small group meets on zoom and focuses on fellowship/friendship. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture. Contact Jenell Paris at jparis@messiah.edu for more details.
 - **Faithful Families** –Comprised of parents in the child-raising stage of life, meets on zoom, focuses on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact Bob Wertz, Jr. at wertzfive@gmail.com for more details.



- o **Christian Fellowship** –Currently engaged in studying "How Happiness Happens" by Max Lucado. New class members welcome anytime! For all ages/stages of faith. Meets at 10:00 am. Contact Wayde Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com for more details and the zoom link.
- o **Growing in Christ** –Currently studying "Oneness Embraced", a study by Dr. Tony Evans on reconciliation and God's Kingdom perspective. For all ages/stages of faith. Meets Sunday mornings 10:00 am. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for more details and zoom link.
- o **Helping Hands** -Meets on zoom at 10:00 am. 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.
- o **Guyer Class** –Group of elders in the church who use the United Methodist quarterly adult Bible lessons for daily independent study at home. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to receive study materials.

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!

Praying Follower



Our love and sympathy to Roy and Ginnie Miller and family in the death of their son, Brian, on January 23rd.

Hospitalized: Liz Nesmith

Recovering at Home: John Aronson, Dianne Burgard

Interested in participating in **Moms in Prayer**? We have a group meeting Monday evenings, prays for children at any age/stage of life, all mothers/grandmothers welcome to join in at any time! Meets on zoom, 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Contact Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com with questions or to receive zoom link.

Pray as a part of the national **Kingdom Come Prayer** event from home on your own for a specific hour on February 9 – 11 at <https://alphausa.org/kingdom-come-prayer>. When you sign up, you'll receive a free download of the Prayer Guide. Questions? Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com.

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

Save the date - Virtual Ash Wednesday service on February 17! Check future bulletins and the February newsletter for more information.

Current 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.

TODAY	"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

We are having a collection for **Little Free Pantry** items on Wednesday's from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in our church parking lot through the end of February. See more information, like what items are being collected, on page 9. Thanks for sharing and caring for our community! Questions about the Little Free Pantry or the upcoming collections, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

Relationship Builder

Church member, Rick Herring, will once again be assisting with AARP to prepare **tax returns** free of charge. This AARP service is for simple returns and you must register, starting February 1 to April. See website [here](#) for registration and locations. AARP is taking all the precautions to keep clients safe with two short appointments and pre-mailing documents. In addition, if you are unable to schedule through AARP, Rick will be offering his personal services from February 1 to February 28 and April 1 to April 10. Please contact Rick at oriolerrick1@verizon.net to schedule an appointment.



You are invited to please stop by Janice Bowen's porch anytime if you are in search of the following: February church **newsletter** or the January/February **Upper Room**, a **facemask**, or a supply of **greeting cards**. Please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 if you have any questions.

Ministry Safe Training- All volunteers who help in the children or youth areas should be watching their email for the new online 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.

Lenten Devotional

First Church has prepared a *very special* **devotional booklet for Lent, 2021** to keep us connected to one another and connected to Christ as we read one another's stories!

Ash Wednesday is on February 17, so get your booklet before then! They will be available to pick up in the church parking lot on Wednesday, February 3 and February 10 between 1:00 – 3:00 pm (conveniently scheduled at the same time as the drive through food drop off for the Little Free Pantry).

Alternatively, these daily devotions will be provided via weekly church email updates. If neither of these options work for you, please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com.



Generous Giver

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 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.*

BOOMERANG (aka Zoomerang!)- Sunday, February 28th @ 4:00pm. Join us on Zoom! All 3rd, 4th & 5th graders welcome to this time of fun, fellowship and strengthening our relationship with God. In this small group time we learn how to take God’s teachings and apply them to our lives and how we treat and can serve others. Because in Boomerang, it’s all about bringing it back to God! We will email out the Zoom link soon. If you don’t receive the link and would like to, email Dawn & Anna at: kidscount@fumchurch.com.

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! Watch these platforms and your emails for **opportunities to connect and learn** with others!

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

Little Free Pantry Collection



fumchurch.com

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



**Help us support those who are visiting our pantry.
We will be collecting the following items:**

Peanut Butter

Macaroni and cheese

Cereal (small boxes please)

Canned Soup/Canned goods

Tuna

Pasta and Sauce

Snack Bars/Snack Crackers

Other nonperishable items



Collecting this Wednesday

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

First UM parking lot, 135 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

We will be collecting every Wednesday through February.



Be My Valentine!



Let's send some love and joy to others!

We are collecting Valentine cards (store bought or handmade) and treats to share with our church members. Feel free to bring them to Janice Bowen's front porch (720 Eppeley Road) anytime before **February 11** or bring to the church parking lot on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 during the Little Free Pantry collection (1/27, 2/3, 2/10).

Questions, contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 ext.112 or wecare@fumchurch.com





To Our Beloved FUMC Camp & Retreat Families and Supporters,

As we look back over **2020**, many thoughts and feelings may be aroused. Difficult decisions were made resulting in placing on hold anticipated experiences.

Yet many found new ways to come close to God!

Some spent special time with family. Others found time to take a hike or a walk getting away from the distractions of life while finding time to truly listen to His words for our lives.

These types of "holy times" have helped cement the community together to launch us forward into **2021**.

Funding was required to sustain leadership, facilities, and programs critical to fulfilling the on-going mission of the Camp & Retreat ministries for 2020.

The "**Camp Comeback Campaign**" goal was set at **\$100,000.00**.

Churches, groups, and individuals from across the conference stepped up in support. We are excited and tremendously grateful to announce that gifts and pledges received to date exceed \$100,000.00

Together we have met this challenge! To GOD be the GLORY!

We will let you know more about **2021** camp plans as we receive information from the conference camping and retreat staff. Please keep them in your prayers for wisdom and discernment.

Let us know if you have any questions.

With Hope and in Christ's Service,

The FUMC Camping & Retreat Ministry Team

Questions? Contact: Deb Noss (sdppp@msn.com) or

Amy Ortiz (amy.ogden7@gmail.com)

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Director of Bell & Chime Choirs:

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rbittenben@verizon.net

Praise Team Director:

Sarah Pugh — worship@fumchurch.com

Organists/Accompanists:

Caleb Flick
Karen Philp

Interim Director of Little Friends Preschool:

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