



# First News First

February 2021

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

## "Seven Last Words"

Just before the beginning of the Lenten Season last year, just as we were learning about the COVID-19 virus, I watched an interview with Pulitzer Prize winning presidential historian, Jon Meacham. The interview was about his latest book. Surprisingly, the book was not a biography of one of our nation's presidents, but a series of sermons he gave on the last words of Jesus from the cross. A lifelong Episcopalian layman, Meacham wrote, The Hope of Glory, reflecting on the gospel accounts of the final words of Jesus during the six hours he suffered on the cross.

Before reading Meacham's book, my experience with what are traditionally called "the seven last words" was somewhat limited. Over the years, I've been invited to preach at community Good Friday Services on one of the "words," which are more accurately statements of Jesus. Reading Meacham's book, I came to see that these words convey in a powerful way the message of Jesus' radical love. This message speaks powerfully to us today, not only because of what Jesus said, but because of who he was, "the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

Wanting to dig deeper, I discovered that over the past few years there seems to be a renewed interest in exploring the meaning of Jesus' final words. In fact, two United Methodist pastors have recently published books on them. In 2018, Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, wrote, Final Words From the Cross. In December 2020, Seven Words: Listening to Jesus From the Cross, by Susan Robb, Senior Associate Minister at Highland Park United Methodist Church was published.

Reading and reflecting upon these three books led me to develop a series of sermons that I look forward to sharing with you during this Lenten Season. I invite you to join me for worship each Sunday, beginning February 21, as we draw close to Jesus as he breathes his last and speaks his last words. Listening to Jesus, may we experience anew the depth of his love for us and discover the meaning of his words for us today.

February	21	"Father, Forgive Them"
	28	"Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise"
March	7	"My God, My God"
	14	"Woman, Here Is Your Son"
	21	"I Am Thirsty"
	28	"It Is Finished"... "Into Your Hands"

For those who wish to dig deeper, I am leading a Bible study based on the book by Susan Robb. We will meet via Zoom Wednesday evenings, beginning February 24, from 6:45-8:00 p.m. To register, please email me at [pastordenny@fumchurch.com](mailto:pastordenny@fumchurch.com) by *Sunday, February 21*. While reading Seven Words: Listening to Jesus From the Cross, is not necessary to participate in the study, you are welcome to order a copy of the book to read on your own.

Drawing near the cross with you,  
Pastor Denny

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## SPRC Announcement

On Tuesday, January 12, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee of our church accepted the request of our Assistant Pastor, Rev. John Shellenberger, to enter full retirement after Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. Pastor John has served part-time as a member of our church staff since September, 2017. He and his wife Merri have been actively involved in the life and ministry of the church. Pastor John has served in every aspect of our ministry, including congregational care, worship leading and preaching, and teaching Bible studies and Sunday School classes. He has also supported our Access Ministry Team and provided leadership at our monthly Rejoicing Spirits Services.

While Pastor John and Merri are retiring so that they can travel and enjoy other activities, they will still be involved at First Church as they are able. At a later date, the SPRC will provide an opportunity for us to celebrate Pastor John's ministry and express our love and affirmation for him and Merri. Please remember them in prayer as they begin this new season in their lives.

## Lifelong Learner



### Bible Reading Plan

Are you looking for a new way to grow closer to Christ this year? Check out our weekly Bible reading plan (on page 14), which coordinates with our worship sermon series, at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) or consider joining one of the groups or Bible studies offered this winter (listed below). If you are in need of a new Bible, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com). Large-print versions are available.

### Winter Groups and Studies

We have several groups and studies being offered this winter, and all are invited to come for fellowship and learning!

- **Alpha** — Look at the big questions of life and faith and talk about the real answers each week through Lent. This course started in January, but you are welcome to join at any time! There is no cost for this study, which is being led by Pastor John and Merri Shellenberger on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom. If you have questions, or would like to receive the Zoom link, contact Pastor John at [pastorjohn@fumchurch.com](mailto:pastorjohn@fumchurch.com).
- **Elijah - A Study on the Prophet Elijah from Best-Selling Author Priscilla Shirer** — As you learn Elijah's story, you will come to understand the value of seasons of growth and testing in your spiritual maturity, learn His purposes for your life, and be encouraged to wait on God's good work. This 7-session online Bible study begins February 16 and runs through Lent. For a registration fee of \$24.99, you will receive the online videos and a workbook, PLUS you will have access to bonus materials and can join Priscilla herself **live** for occasional discussions on Instagram @elijahonlinebiblestudy! Register at <https://onlinestudy.lifeway.com/v/ElijahOBS>. If you are in need of a scholarship for this study, or if you would like to participate in a First Church online discussion group on Wednesdays over lunchtime at noon, contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)
- **Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross by Susan Robb** — Join Pastor Denny to study the seven last words of Christ on the cross, exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. Brings a hopeful and contemplative look at the cross during the weeks of Lent. Six-week study begins Wednesday, February 24 at 6:45 pm. Contact Pastor Denny at [pastordenny@fumchurch.com](mailto:pastordenny@fumchurch.com) to sign up and receive the Zoom link for this online study. And if interested, you may purchase the book from any online retailer to read on your own.
- **Wednesday Men's Group – Race and the Gospel** by Bryan Loritts/Matt Chandler — In this five-part series, race, racism and injustice will be addressed using Paul's words in Ephesians. Through teaching and honest dialogues, this group will discuss a way forward toward healing, justice, and hope for multiethnic harmony in the church. Meets on Zoom at 8:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry Eaton at [1785eaton@gmail.com](mailto:1785eaton@gmail.com) if interested.
- **Jesus in Me – Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion by Anne Graham Lotz** — In this eight-session Bible study, you will learn why the Holy Spirit is a divine necessity and not an

optional extra in the Christian life, and develop a more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit in the process. Led by Juanita Guise, this group will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:15 pm on Zoom beginning January 28. Contact Juanita ASAP at [kguise@comcast.net](mailto:kguise@comcast.net) to sign up and receive your workbook, along with the Zoom link for this online study.

- **Men's Bible Study - Walking in Power, Love & Discipline** — This study began in the fall with Paul's letters to Timothy, and resumes this winter with completion of Timothy and further study of Paul's letter to Titus. New group members welcome at any time! These letters provide timeless lessons in sound doctrine (real truth) and sound discipline (right behavior) for all times. Led by Ken Guise and David Mengle, meets Sunday evenings at 6:15 pm on Zoom. Contact Ken at [guiseken100@gmail.com](mailto:guiseken100@gmail.com) for more details and the Zoom link.
- **Sunday School**
  - **Faith in Everyday Life** — This small group meets on Zoom and focuses on fellowship and friendship. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture. Contact Jenell Paris at [jparis@messiah.edu](mailto:jparis@messiah.edu) for more details.
  - **Faithful Families** — This group, comprised of parents in the child-raising stage of life, meets on Zoom and focuses on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact Bob Wertz, Jr. at [wertzfive@gmail.com](mailto:wertzfive@gmail.com) for more details.
  - **Christian Fellowship** — This class is currently engaged in a study called "How Happiness Happens" by Max Lucado. New class members are welcome anytime! For all ages/stages of faith. Meets at 10:00 am. Contact Wayde Leister at [waydeleister@outlook.com](mailto:waydeleister@outlook.com) for more details and the Zoom link.
  - **Growing in Christ** — This class is currently studying "Oneness Embraced", a study by Dr. Tony Evans on reconciliation, God's Kingdom perspective and how we are stronger together. For all ages/stages of faith. Meets Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details and the Zoom link.
  - **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](mailto: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 at home. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to receive study materials.

### 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](http://bible.com). There are many wonderful devotional studies, plus you can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests!

### The Upper Room Devotional

The March/April 2021 issue of The Upper Room will soon 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

As you are reading this we are now in a time of hope—hope we will all get vaccinated and hope we will be worshipping in-person and hope you will be in the library picking some new books for yourself. If we still cannot do that soon and you would like some books from the church library, call Pam or Donna for an appointment. Meanwhile let me share some books that might interest you.

We have a new book to the library from a library favorite Rachel Hauck. **Georgia on Her Mind** is the story of Macy Moore, a woman who was at the top of the corporate ladder, owning a beach condo, and in love with the perfect man. And that was all true until she was surprised to be demoted and dumped by that perfect man all in one day. She was living the dream in Florida when her world shattered. She retreated home to Beauty, Georgia to emcee her high school reunion. She reconnects with her high school friends and discovers what she thought was her dream life really wasn't a dream. She had left Georgia to find

success, but what she really desires is still in Georgia. Follow Macy on her journey of discovery.

Another favorite writer is Patricia Bradley, who just released the second book in her *Natchez Trace Park Rangers series* titled **Obsession**. Park Ranger and historian Emma Winters hopes never to see Sam Ryder again after their broken engagement, but when shots are fired at her in the park, she is forced to work with him to see who is after her. And if that isn't enough, she has a delusional stalker who is determined to make her as his own and Sam is in his way. This will be a two-latte night of reading for sure. If you missed the first book in this series, **Standoff**, it is already on the shelf.

Rereading what I have written, I realize that I have highlighted two books with broken engagements in their plots for our usual romance newsletter during Valentine month. I won't spoil the endings—maybe all will work out for the main characters, and they will both find romance. Hope to see you soon.

~ Pam and Donna

## Praying Follower



### Moms in Prayer

We have several First Church women engaged in praying with a [Moms in Prayer](#) group, and new women are invited to join at any time. What a blessing is it to join other mothers and grandmothers in lifting our children in prayer! If you are interested in participating, we have a group meeting on Monday evenings. This group prays for children at any age/stage of life, and all are welcome to join in at any time! Meets on Zoom from 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Contact Deb Noss as [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) if you would like to know more or would like the Zoom link to join this prayer group.

### Kingdom Come Prayer

Did you know that the search for “how to pray” on Google increased by 50% in 2020? It seems we all are searching for answers and guidance and want to pray more, not only for ourselves and our loved ones, but also for our country, the church and the world!

Through our connection to Alpha, everyone is invited to join hundreds of others from all over the world in the freeing work of praying together. For three days, February 9-11, we encourage you to pray faith-filled prayers for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. You can sign up to pray from home on your own for a specific hour (or more!) during those days at <https://alphausa.org/kingdom-come-prayer>. When you sign up, you'll receive an excellent, free download of the Kingdom Come Prayer Guide.

Together with others from around the globe, let's cover every hour in prayer. You can pray during a lunch break, in the middle of the night, or anytime in between. Don't worry if someone has signed up for the time slot you want; you can also add your name to that time. There is no limit to the number of people who can sign up for each hour. We invite you to be a part of this movement of pray! If you have questions, contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).

### 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



### Day of Pampering – February 27, 2021

February means Day of Pampering. I bet you thought DOP was cancelled for 2021. SURPRISE! Day of Pampering is happening **VIRTUALLY** this year. At least that's the plan. Like so many other things the past year, this will be different. So many of you have helped in the past and we could use some help again.

We need prayer to cover this new endeavor. Please pray. Specifically, please pray for the vision we see to come together in a virtual service in a short period of time. We may not be able to be together for Day of Pampering, but we can worship and Bless the Hands virtually of the women caregivers who give so much to their loved one each day. Our prayer is the caregivers will be blessed, encouraged, and renewed. And since our service providers won't be able to provide pampering this year, we are inviting them to the service as well. They too need blessings, encouragement, and renewal. If you know of someone that should receive the link when it is available for February 27th, please contact Karin McHale, 717-379-8329 or [karinmch@comcast.net](mailto:karinmch@comcast.net).



### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the day when we gather to begin our 40 days of preparation called Lent. Every year, we gather at church on this day to remind ourselves that we are not eternal. Yet, this year we are responding to the impact of an ongoing pandemic. Because of this, many of us will find ourselves in our homes unsure how we might mark the beginning of Lent. On Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to join in our online Ash Wednesday worship service. You will be able to view this pre-recorded service any time after 12pm on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Since we are unable to gather and receive ashes this year, please refer to our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), and click on the instructional video on how to prepare your own ashes this year.



### 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*



### Volunteers in Mission

Volunteers in Mission has several opportunities for training, small groups and mission, see the offerings below. If you have questions about any of these events, feel free to contact Michelle Schwartzman, VIM Coordinator at [vim@susumc.org](mailto:vim@susumc.org).

- **VIRTUAL mission trip to McCurdy Ministries in Espanola, New Mexico**
  - February 7, 10 and 11, 2021 via Zoom
  - McCurdy Ministries (formerly McCurdy School) has a long history with the United Methodist Church. Although they no longer operate the mission school onsite, they remain a National Mission Institution of the UMC. More importantly, through ministries such as an onsite preschool, mental health counseling, summer camp, after school and other youth programs, McCurdy is still making a difference! We hope you can join us to learn more about this remarkable mission site, its story, its culture and how you can help! There will be a live or recorded staff person from McCurdy at each session. Register here:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfo6MHzxvitNpJQkweNG4VOWmd9tXHbh-pjJYFKVdtO7BLX1w/viewform>
- **FREE VIM Virtual Training**
  - Must attend all 3 sessions; resources provided
  - Tuesdays, March 16, 23, 30 (6 - 8 pm)
  - VIM Training prepares us to have a positive impact in mission whether it is a few hours or weeks, local, national, or global. It is open to those who have lead teams and those who have never been on a mission trip. Taking this training does not require you to lead a trip but equips you for service. Register here:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdl7vn-3ErafSMLheOXGHehWB6ywpvjaUbU\\_FhRXMrEf-yZiA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdl7vn-3ErafSMLheOXGHehWB6ywpvjaUbU_FhRXMrEf-yZiA/viewform)
- **“When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience”**
  - Michelle Schwartzman, VIM Coordinator is offering to facilitate a 6 week study, “When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience” for your church group. This is based on Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert’s book of the same name. If your church group, missions, Sunday School or other group would like to set up a study, contact Michelle at [vim@susumc.org](mailto:vim@susumc.org). This will be offered virtually using Zoom until further notice.

### **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*



### **Extravagant Hospitality**

Hospitality as described in the Bible includes love, generosity and a genuine heart to serve! Outreach Magazine describes 3 very helpful insights into hospitality within a church family.

**Hospitality is not a duty .... it's a passion.** It is less about doing the right thing and more about having the right heart that loves to serve!

**Hospitality is not a strategy .... it's a way of living.** We need to genuinely care about who we are serving!

**Hospitality is not corporate .... it's personal.** It is about people and being engaged with one another and truly feeling that care that we are giving to another person!

Hospitality doesn't have to be fancy ~ it just needs to be real! May God continue to bless our church family through the hospitality that our congregation offers!

## 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 this winter as we read one another's stories! Ash Wednesday is on February 17, so you will want to make sure to get your booklet before then! These Lenten devotional booklets 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](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) and she will make arrangements to get a booklet to you.

## Women's Retreat

**Save the Date - Saturday, September 25, 2021** — Women of FUMC, we are excited to announce that our church will be hosting a Priscilla Shirer simulcast entitled "Going Beyond!" The event runs from 10am - 5pm. Tickets will be offered as in-person (socially distanced) or digital (on your home computer). Stay tuned for registration information this summer! And the dates for our 2022 Women's Retreat at Mt. Asbury have been set - **February 4-6, 2022!**

## 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. The next Clothing Closet will be held on Saturday, February 13. Questions? Contact Vanessa Storlie at [trinityburgoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:trinityburgoutreach@gmail.com).

## Free Tax Preparation

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 instructions [here](#) on how to register and for 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 [oriolerick1@verizon.net](mailto:oriolerick1@verizon.net) to schedule an appointment.

## Third Friday Food Trucks Return in 2021!

The Food Trucks are back for another season starting April 16! We will start with offering the food as take-out only and practice physical distancing and wearing masks while in line to order. The dates are April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17 and October 15. The time is 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. See you there!

## Zumba Gold Offered via Zoom!

New year, new you! Since last March, the Zumba instructor, Lisa Lynch, has been offering the Zumba Gold classes via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to join in one of her classes or have questions, you can email her at [lisaloveszumba2@gmail.com](mailto:lisaloveszumba2@gmail.com).

## Congregational Care Resources

The following is a list of ideas and online links for resources to promote your care, health and well-being during these challenging days calling us to find new ways to connect to resources and ways to care for ourselves. If you have other suggestions or resources to recommend, please email Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

- **Senior Housing and Care Resources (including a free local advisor to help navigate senior housing options at 1-800-304-7152)** Consult [SeniorHousingNet.com](http://SeniorHousingNet.com) for information about senior housing resources, Alzheimer's and memory care, healthy aging, and caregiver support.

- **UPMC continues to offer a variety of Virtual Events.** For the latest offerings, or to view previously offered presentations, search “UPMC Virtual Events” or the following link – [upmc.com/about/virtual-events](http://upmc.com/about/virtual-events)
- **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 or visit [www.breedamiller.com](http://www.breedamiller.com) to see how she is fulfilling her “mission to support family and professional caregivers.”

### 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](tel:717-766-4611) 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 December 31, 2020 — End of Year Report

#### General Fund

2020 budget	\$ 955,098	
Actual giving	\$ 927,713	97%
Actual expenses	\$ 912,652	95%

This has been a difficult year in many ways, but God always provides! We are thankful for His helping hand as our ministry of Opening Doors for Christ continues to move here at First Church. We are so grateful for the prayers and support our congregation has provided throughout 2020. As noted above, despite the difficulties of the pandemic, our church family continued supporting ministries and programs of our church at nearly the level we budgeted for the year. Furthermore, our church members, staff and volunteers came together in 2020 to help us hold the line on costs.

With the guidance of the Finance Committee and approval of our Administrative Board, the church participated in the Springtime CARES Act legislation which ensured our church and Little Friends Preschool staff remained engaged and could help us transition to a “virtual” ministry where needed. Like many organizations participating in this program, our CARES Act loan of \$104,000 was forgiven in December with our compliance to the guidelines of the relevant legislation.

In the midst of state shutdowns, our church established a successful “virtual” ministry for regular church

services each Sunday and other events throughout the week. In addition, here are just a few of the ways our resources were put to use during this unusual time: In addition to its budgeted outreach, the Missions team was approved to expand its giving by \$10,000 to support our United Methodist camping program, which was significantly impacted by the summer camp shutdown due to Covid. From a trustee's standpoint, we were able to upgrade some of our heating and air conditioning units, purchase equipment for online streaming and support the safety and security needs of our facility. We were also able to establish a significant operating fund to assist our consistent programming and mission outreach during the inevitable financial ebbs and flows of the upcoming year.

The full year financial results for 2020 are enclosed, along with our budget for 2021. We all look forward to see how God continues to grow our faith and family during this new year, in line with His will. Thank you for your commitment to the First Church ministry.

### **Little Free Pantry Collection**

First Church is collecting nonperishable food items for the Little Free Pantry located on our property to help local families in need. The Little Free Pantry collection will take place on **Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** in our parking lot through February 24. Items will be placed in the Little Free Pantry, as needed, throughout the winter months. Requested items include: pasta and sauce, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned soup, snack bars, snack crackers, cereal, macaroni and cheese and any non-expired, nonperishable food items. For more information about the Little Free Pantry movement, visit their website at <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>. You can find a complete list and the collection dates on our Facebook Page at First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA.

### **New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessings Express Thanks!**

We are happy to report that \$475 was contributed to Christmas Blessings Express through the church's Scrip (gift card fundraiser) program! Gift cards to Walmart and Target were purchased through the Scrip program from church members and then given to the families at New Hope for Christmas. Thanks for your generosity and we hope to provide this again in 2021!

### **Christmas Light Drive-Thru Update**

New for 2020, Mt. Asbury offered a Christian Christmas Light Drive Thru fundraiser which included a drive through the woods and the telling of the Christmas story with lights and beautifully crafted scenes. Treats and drinks were also available for purchase. They reported that close to 700 cars visited in November and December (even with cancelling one weekend, due to snow)! It was such a success, that they plan to continue and expand this event for 2021. Watch for details closer to the end of the year and thanks to everyone who came out to support the camping ministry!

**First United Methodist Church**  
**General Fund**  
**Budget 2021**

Account Number	Account Name	2020 Budget	2020 Yearend	2021 Budget
<b>100 Income</b>				
101	Envelope Giving		721,977.15	
102	W/O Envelopes		202,177.89	
103	Loose Offering		2,616.63	
104	Building Use Rent		0.00	
105	Interest Income		\$941.39	
106	Other Receipts			
107	PPP Grant		90,287.62	
	Total Income	\$955,098.00	\$ 1,018,000.68	\$ 905,000.00
<b>200 Salaries and Benefits</b>				
201	Pastor's Salary	\$85,732.00	85,732.00	\$88,304.00
202	Soc. Sec. Offset - Pastor	\$6,558.00	6,558.00	\$6,755.00
203	Pension- Pastor	\$9,211.00	9,210.96	\$9,315.00
204	Health Care - Pastor	\$14,700.00	14,700.00	\$14,700.00
206	Account Reimbursable Plan- Pastor	\$2,000.00	925.29	\$2,000.00
207	Continuing Ed - Pastor	\$750.00	750.00	\$750.00
210	Assistant Pastor	\$37,163.00	37,163.00	\$38,278.00
211	Continuing Ed - Asst. Past	\$600.00	600.00	\$600.00
212	Soc. Sec. Offset - Asst Past	\$2,843.00	2,843.00	\$2,928.00
214	Account Reimbursable Plan- Assist Pastor	\$2,000.00	192.13	\$2,000.00
229	Director of Outreach	\$20,093.00	20,093.00	\$20,696.00
230	Office Manager	\$32,480.00	32,480.00	\$33,454.00
231	Admin Assistant	\$0.00		
232	Director of Child Ministries	\$38,262.00	38,261.00	\$39,408.00
233	Youth Pastor	\$40,618.00	40,618.00	\$41,837.00
234	Youth Pastor Benefits	\$5,914.00	5,914.00	\$6,091.00
235	Director of Adult Ministries	\$25,829.00	25,829.00	\$26,604.00
236	Facilities Coordinator	\$17,056.00	17,055.00	\$17,577.00
237	Custodians	\$31,000.00	29,483.42	\$31,845.00
238	Finance Director	\$9,195.00	9,195.00	\$9,471.00
239	Congregational Care Coord	\$20,615.00	20,615.00	\$21,233.00
255	Worship Arts Director	\$38,570.00	38,570.00	\$39,727.00
256	Worship Arts Director - Benefits	\$5,914.00	5,714.00	\$6,091.00
240	Music Director	\$0.00		
241	Organist/Assistants	\$16,264.00	12,765.00	\$13,081.00
242	Sounds of Worship Choir Dir	\$3,515.00	3,515.00	\$3,620.00
243	Sanctuary Choir Director	\$0.00		
244	Youth Choir Director/Youth Worship Arts	\$0.00	2,703.00	
246	Children's Choir Director	\$0.00		
247	Adult Bell Choir Director	\$7,129.00	7,129.00	\$7,343.00
248	Children's Bell Choir Director	\$0.00	0.00	
249	Worship Leaders	\$6,462.00	3,500.26	\$6,656.00
250	Additional Musicians (Wshp)	\$500.00	200.00	\$500.00

251 Travel - Lay Staff	\$500.00		\$500.00
252 Continuing Ed - Lay Staff	\$600.00	625.00	\$600.00
253 Soc. Sec. - Lay Staff	\$23,867.00	23,965.38	\$23,911.00
254 Office Manager Benefits	\$5,914.00	5,914.00	\$6,091.00
257 Unanticipated Savings	-\$10,000.00		-\$10,384.00
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$501,854.00</b>	<b>\$502,818.44</b>	<b>\$511,582.00</b>

### 300 Conference Shares of Ministry

301 Connectional Support	\$44,613.00	44,613.00	\$41,604.00
302 Clergy Support	\$48,715.00	48,715.00	\$44,795.00
<b>Total Shares of Ministry</b>	<b>\$93,328.00</b>	<b>\$93,328.00</b>	<b>\$86,399.00</b>

### 400 Missions

401 Africa University	\$0.00		
402 Benevolences	\$34,870.00	34,870.00	\$27,955.00
403 Benevolent Homes	\$0.00	500.00	
404 Bethany Village	\$0.00		
405 Bethany Village Aux.	\$0.00		
406 Bethesda Mission	\$0.00	440.00	
407 Daron Shelter	\$0.00		
408 Daystar	\$0.00		
409 District Advance	\$0.00		
410 FUMC Backyard Ministries	\$0.00		
411 Habitat for Humanity	\$0.00		
412 Mech Council of Churches	\$0.00	200.00	\$200.00
413 Mech Meals on Wheels	\$0.00	200.00	
414 Mission Central	\$0.00	2,000.00	
415 Mission Ed & Awareness	\$0.00		
416 Mission Scholarships	\$0.00		
417 Missionaries - Denominational	\$0.00		
418 Neighborhood Center	\$0.00	2,000.00	
419 New Hope Ministries	\$0.00	2,000.00	
420 S. Central Food Bank	\$0.00		
421 Salt & Light Ministry	\$0.00	2,000.00	
422 Sierra Leone	\$0.00		
423 UM Children's Home	\$0.00		
424 UM Women	\$0.00	2,000.00	
425 UMCOR	\$0.00		
426 Undesignated Missions	\$60,630.00		\$63,630.00
427 Uptown Ministries	\$0.00		
428 World Communion	\$0.00		
429 Youth Mission Trip	\$0.00		
430 Youth Service Fund	\$0.00		
431 Human Relations Day	\$0.00	500.00	
432 Youth/Children Offering	\$0.00	500.00	
433 One Great Hour of Sharing	\$0.00	500.00	
434 Native American Awareness	\$0.00	500.00	
435 Mental Health Sunday	\$0.00	500.00	
436 Peace With Justice Sunday	\$0.00	500.00	
437 Rural Life Sunday	\$0.00	500.00	

438 Volunteer in Mission Sunday	\$0.00	500.00	
439 Christian Education Sunday	\$0.00	500.00	
440 World Communion Offering	\$0.00	500.00	
441 World Hunger/Harvest Home	\$0.00	500.00	
442 United Methodist Student Day	\$0.00	500.00	
443 CRU - Jenna Mengle	\$0.00	9,900.00	
444 CRU - Bethany Robinson	\$0.00		
445 CRU - Matt & Leann Herring	\$0.00	17,640.00	
446 Volunteers in Mission	\$0.00		
447 Calvary Church, Sierra Leone	\$0.00	3,700.00	
Missionaries - Congregational	\$0.00	\$0.00	
448 CRU - Graham Bowen	0.00	\$7,425.00	
449 Disciple Makers - Josh Herring	0.00	\$4,125.00	
450 Golden Cross Sunday		\$500.00	
451 Camping Program		\$10,000.00	
<b>Total Missions and Projects</b>	<b>\$95,500.00</b>	<b>\$105,500.00</b>	<b>\$91,785.00</b>
<b>500 Program</b>			
501 Access Ministry	\$1,000.00	1,066.41	\$500.00
502 Adult Department	\$4,500.00	3,602.54	\$6,800.00
503 Bank Fees	\$2,496.00	4,020.51	\$4,000.00
504 Camping	\$10,500.00	177.50	\$10,000.00
505 Children's Department	\$10,000.00	5,865.48	\$10,000.00
506 Choir Music	\$2,500.00	1,622.08	\$2,500.00
507 Communications	\$2,878.00	1,683.91	\$1,946.00
508 Confirmation	\$0.00		
509 Devotional Literature	\$905.00	753.00	\$849.00
510 Endowment Fund Comm	\$0.00		
511 Evangelism	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
512 Fellowship Committee	\$2,000.00	0.00	
513 FUMC Website	\$0.00		
514 Hospitality Task Force	\$600.00	480.51	
515 Health & Wellness	\$250.00	212.17	\$200.00
516 Library	\$200.00	200.00	\$200.00
517 MOPS	\$2,200.00	1,498.74	\$2,000.00
518 Offering Envelopes	\$1,500.00	821.76	\$1,200.00
519 Office Supplies	\$4,500.00	912.08	\$3,000.00
520 Paper & Printing	\$3,000.00	1,360.85	\$2,500.00
521 Postage	\$2,000.00	1,321.00	\$2,000.00
522 Small Group Babysitting	\$630.00		
523 Staff Parish Rel Comm.	\$500.00	456.64	\$500.00
524 Stewardship Committee	\$0.00		
525 Sunday School Curriculum	\$0.00		
526 Vacation Bible School	\$0.00		
527 Women's Retreat	\$700.00	500.00	\$600.00
528 Wonderful Wednesday	\$0.00		
529 Worship Committee	\$1,000.00	771.33	\$1,000.00
530 Youth Department	\$18,000.00	9,665.88	\$16,000.00
532 Computer Support	\$7,237.00	7,306.07	\$6,129.00
531 Safe Sanctuary	\$450.00	58.85	\$450.00

534 Pastor Discretionary Account	\$0.00		
533 History/Anniversary	\$0.00		
535 Congregational Care Ministries	\$400.00	374.86	\$300.00
536 Coffee Supplies	\$600.00		\$300.00
538 Outreach	\$1,500.00	375.47	\$850.00
539 Men's Ministries	\$500.00		\$500.00
540 Welcoming Ministry		50,000.00	\$2,300.00
541 Operating Budget Reserve			-\$45,864.00
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>\$84,046.00</b>	<b>\$95,107.64</b>	<b>\$32,260.00</b>
<b>600 Facilities</b>			
601 Building Use	\$0.00	\$0.00	
602 Van Ministry	\$2,300.00	\$926.09	\$2,300.00
603 Facility Reserve	\$40,000.00	40,000.00	\$40,000.00
604 Fuel	\$19,500.00	14,063.78	\$19,500.00
605 Janitorial Supplies	\$4,500.00	8,804.06	\$4,500.00
607 Maintenance	\$14,000.00	8,191.91	\$14,000.00
608 Property Insurance	\$21,000.00	19,633.00	\$24,780.00
609 Property Tax	\$3,100.00	3,068.57	\$3,100.00
610 Service Contracts	\$17,450.00	12,167.44	\$17,450.00
615 Service Contracts - Office	\$5,520.00	5,928.00	\$5,844.00
611 Snow Removal	\$3,400.00	2,880.00	\$3,400.00
612 Telephone- Church	\$4,000.00	4,415.66	\$4,000.00
613 Utilities Church	\$31,000.00	31,733.20	\$31,000.00
614 Wireless Project	\$0.00		
616 Utilities - Parsonage	\$4,700.00	4,347.55	\$4,700.00
617 Budget Reserve	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	
618 Maintenance - Parsonage	\$900.00	\$1,426.47	\$900.00
<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>\$171,370.00</b>	<b>\$212,585.73</b>	<b>\$175,474.00</b>
<b>700 Capital Expenses</b>			
701 Debt Reduction - Interest	\$4,000.00	3,312.23	\$2,500.00
702 Debt Reduction - Principal	\$5,000.00	5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Capital Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$8,312.23</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$955,098.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,017,652.04</b>	<b>\$ 905,000.00</b>
<b>Income Over Spending</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ 348.64</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



This daily Bible reading plan will guide you during the 40 days of Lent as you prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter! Each reading, beginning Wednesday, February 17, corresponds with a personal reflection in our Lenten devotional booklet. It is our prayer that this meaningful spiritual discipline will draw you closer to the heart of God and closer to one another during this very special season.

### February/Lent Bible Reading Plan

#### ***Sunday, January 31***

Monday, February 1

Tuesday, February 2

Wednesday, February 3

Thursday, February 4

Friday, February 5

Saturday, February 6

#### ***“Early Riser”***

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Psalm 50: 1-6

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9

Mark 1: 40-45

Rest and Reflect

#### ***Sunday, February 7***

Monday, February 8

Tuesday, February 9

Wednesday, February 10

Thursday, February 11

Friday, February 12

Saturday, February 13

#### ***“Jesus Isn't Afraid of Your Mess”***

Psalm 51: 1-17

2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10

Matthew 6: 1-6

Matthew 6: 7-15

Matthew 6: 16-20

Rest and Reflect

#### ***Sunday, February 14***

Monday, February 15

Tuesday, February 16

Wednesday, February 17

Thursday, February 18

Friday, February 19

Saturday, February 20

#### ***“None But Jesus”***

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

Ephesians 3: 14-21

Matthew 6: 25-34

Psalm 56

A Word-Shaped Life

The Lord Will Provide

He Provides in Abundance

Trusting God

Pastor Denny

Nancy Eddy

Donna Nichols

Janet Almond

#### ***Sunday, February 21***

Monday, February 22

Tuesday, February 23

Wednesday, February 24

Thursday, February 25

Friday, February 26

Saturday, February 27

Proverbs 16: 1-9

Psalm 37: 23-31

Matthew 6: 19-24

John 8: 1-11

Pr. 16: 9, Jer. 10: 23-25

Proverbs 3: 1-8

Ephesians 4: 17-32

The Bridge is Out

Grab Hold

Hold on Loosely

Drawing

God is Two Steps Ahead

Inquisitive Trust

Forgiving

Janice Bowen

Tina Eaton

Rick Herring

Jason Kichline

Patti Herring

Marilyn Knott

Pam Murdoch

#### ***Sunday, February 28***

***Rest and Reflect***

***Note: For daily Bible readings through the month of March and leading up to Easter, see the March newsletter and March bulletins, or check out our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://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](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) or  
Amy Ortiz ([amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com))

## Church News and Notes

### Love & sympathy...

to the family and friends of Paul Nesmith who passed away on December 6th  
 to the family and friends of Art Murray who passed away on December 15th  
 to the family and friends of Yong Yi who passed away on December 17th  
 to the Filson family in the death of Rob’s father, John Robert Filson, on December 28th  
 to the Mengle family in the death of Mark and David’s aunt, Pauline "Polly" Park, on December 31st  
 to Helen Ritter and family in the death of Helen's sister, Shirley Kovacs, on December 31st  
 to Cynthia Smith and family in the death of Cynthia’s ex-husband, Graham Smith, on January 12th  
 to the family and friends of Carol “Jean” Miller, who passed away on January 12th  
 to Roy and Ginnie Miller and family in the death of their son, Brian Miller, on January 23rd



### Special Birthdays

Paul Rynard .....	February 3rd	Ben Miller .....	March 12th
Joanne Ciampa.....	February 6th	Sara Meck.....	March 15th
Jane K. Stover.....	February 6th	Marjorie Robinson.....	March 15th
Joyce Parfet .....	February 12th	Bob Wertz .....	March 17th
Dottie Zimmerman .....	February 26th	Mabel Strock .....	March 28th
Gerry Aumiller .....	February 27th	Bob Erikson.....	March 29th
Pat Gavlak .....	March 9th	Dave Scholl .....	March 31st

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Larry and Linda Hall married 60 years on February 4th
- ♥ Denny and Sally Kauffman married 61 years on February 14th



*FIRST NEWS FIRST*  
 Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
 for the **March 2021** issue is  
**February 15th**

**Early submissions always**  
**appreciated!**