

*Welcome to*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

*February 21, 2021*

Father, forgive them, for they know  
not what they do. Luke 23:34 Today I tell you  
today you will be with me in Paradise. Luke  
23:43 Woman, here is YOUR SON. John 19:26

My God, my  
God, why  
have You  
forsaken me?  
Mark 15:34 I  
am thirsty.  
John 19:28 It is  
finished. John  
19:30 Father,  
into Your  
hands I  
commend my  
spirit. Luke  
23:46

LAST  
WORDS

***“Father, Forgive Them”***

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

[www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com)



Prelude  
Welcome  
Call to Worship  
Opening Hymn  
*"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"*  
Morning Prayer  
Praise and Worship  
*"Living Hope"*  
Gospel Reading  
*Luke 23: 32-38*  
Sermon  
*"Father, Forgive Them" - Pastor Denny*  
Invitation  
Confession & Pardon  
Sharing the Peace  
Offering & Announcements  
Ministry of Music  
*"O Come to the Altar"*  
The Great Thanksgiving  
The Lord's Prayer  
Breaking the Bread  
Giving the Bread and Cup  
Closing Hymn  
*"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"*  
Benediction  
Postlude

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***LEADING IN WORSHIP***

*Preaching* ..... Pastor Denny Keller  
*Worship Leader* ..... Pastor John Shellenberger  
*Worship Team* ..... George Canonizado, Caleb Flick, Ellen Hill, Sarah Pugh  
*Sound & Media* ..... Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ken Rapp

# Seven Words: “Father, Forgive Them”

Luke 23: 32-38

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The "seven last words" of Jesus from the cross:

- Reveal the \_\_\_\_\_
- Serve as \_\_\_\_\_

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
and all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone,  
and there's a cross for me.  
(Thomas Shepherd, 1855)*

*"Father, forgive **them**; for they do not know what they are doing."*

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*And **they cast lots** to divide his clothing. (verse 34b)*

*And **the people stood by**, watching; but **the leaders scoffed** at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" (verse 35)*

***The soldiers also mocked him**, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" (verses 36-37)*

*'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, **you did it to me.**' (Matthew 25:40)*

"When Christianity speaks of sin, the aim is not to make us feel guilty but to help us discover the grace and healing mercy of God that we so desperately need." (Adam Hamilton, Final Words From the Cross, page 23)

*"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."*

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*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that **while we still were sinners** Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)*

"We find our forgiveness at the foot of the cross, where Jesus experienced our humanity at its worst, offered his life, and spoke the world-changing words, "Father, forgive them." (Susan Robb, Seven Words, page 11)

*"Father, **forgive** them; for they do not know what they are doing."*

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"Jesus' words are meant for us to hear and imitate." (Susan Robb, Seven Words, page 13)

*Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?" Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)*

*Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. (Luke 6:28)*

# Weekly Bible Readings

## Week of February 21



*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 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.*

<b>Sunday</b>	Proverbs 16:1-9	The Bridge is Out	Janice Bowen
Monday	Psalms 37:23-31	Grab Hold	Tina Eaton
Tuesday	Matthew 6:19-24	Hold on Loosely	Rick Herring
Wednesday	John 8:1-11	Drawing	Jason Kichline
Thursday	Pr. 16: 9, Jer. 10: 23-25	God is Two Steps Ahead	Patti Herring
Friday	Proverbs 3:1-8	Inquisitive Trust	Marilyn Knott
Saturday	Ephesians 4: 17-32	Forgiving	Pam Murdoch



*First News First*

*Weekly Edition*

*Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors*

**February 21, 2021**

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of deceased class members, placed by the Helping Hands Sunday School Class.

### *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](mailto: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 this week! 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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.
- **Men's Bible Study** – Set to begin a study of 1 & 2 Peter and Jude. New participants welcome any time! Led by Ken Guise/David Mengle, Sunday evenings, 6:15 pm on zoom. Contact Ken at [guiseken100@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wertzfive@gmail.com) for more details.
  - **Christian Fellowship** – Currently engaged in a study of the Parables by Amy Jill Levine. New class members 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** – 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for study ideas and to get the ball rolling!

## *Praying Follower*



**Hospitalized:** Dave Broy

**Recovering at Home/Rehabilitation:** Caroline Brown, Pat Hutter, Leah Krnjaic, Amy Ortiz, Margarite Price

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](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) with questions or to receive zoom link.

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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

## *Passionate Worshipper*

**New sermon series — Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross.** Together, we will look at the seven last words of Christ on the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. We pray that, through this hopeful and contemplative focus on the cross during the weeks of Lent, you will experience anew the depth of his love for us and discover the meaning of his words for us today.

**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](http://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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 for other ways to connect with our worship.



## *Dedicated Missionary*



Let's support **Mission Central** at the upcoming **Online Auction**! See details at [www.biddingowl.com/missioncentral](http://www.biddingowl.com/missioncentral) and learn how to bid on wonderful items all while supporting this great ministry! The auction runs from March 4 to 7, 2021. Let the bidding begin! Questions about the auction, contact Patti Herring at [familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net).

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 8. 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](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

**New Hope** is in need of the following items: Pasta (not spaghetti or elbows), canned fruit, canned tuna/chicken, bathroom tissue, bath soap, toothpaste, and diapers (size 4, 5, 6). Questions? Contact Debbie Karns at [deborahkarns1@gmail.com](mailto:deborahkarns1@gmail.com).

## **Relationship Builder**

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!



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 [oriolerick1@verizon.net](mailto:oriolerick1@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: **Lenten Devotional**, February church **newsletter**, March/April **Upper Room**, a **facemask**, or a supply of **greeting cards**. Please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!

The entire booklet as well as devotions for the week will be provided via weekly church email updates. Paper copies are still available for pick-up upon request. If neither of these options work for you, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).



## *Generous Giver*

**Support our Youth by ordering out!** Are you looking for some new meal ideas? The Youth Group of First Church will hold a fundraiser in conjunction with Strock's Catering Barn, 729 Williams Grove Road, Mechanicsburg this month. Freshly-prepared, ready-to-eat meals for adults and kids can be pre-ordered and picked up on February 25. All the details can be found at <https://www.strockenterprises.net/shop>. Thanks for your support! Questions? Contact Lisa Aronson at [uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**





# MISSION CENTRAL

*Online Auction is*

**March 4 – 7, 2021**

[www.biddingowl.com/missioncentral](http://www.biddingowl.com/missioncentral)

**There are lots of amazing goodies to be had!**

Shop for nice gift for yourself and others...  
all while supporting a great cause!

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This auction is being held to help with Mission Central's daily expenses. By opening our doors every day, Mission Central can continue to assist millions of people every year!

In 2020, Mission Central was able to assist more than 2.6 million people with \$10.9 million in resources locally, nationally and globally.

Item pick up is at Mission Central  
March 10, 11 and 12 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.  
*(Please make arrangements with us if you need additional time.)*

If you have ideas or need any additional information, please email  
Stephanie Titzel at [Stitzel@missioncentral.org](mailto:Stitzel@missioncentral.org).

***THANK YOU!***

Mission Central – 5 Pleasant View Drive – Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
717.766.1533 [www.missioncentral.org](http://www.missioncentral.org)



*To Our Beloved FUMC Camp & Retreat Families and Supporters,*

**Summer is coming, and the Susquehanna Conference's Camp Staff plans for Summer Camp are well underway!**

As they prepare for this summer, the Staff is full of anticipation and hope!

The Camp Staff continues to be in conversation with health experts. They are planning for significant social gathering and group safety policies and practices to be in place this summer, so that we can honor and care for our beloved community each week while still being together and experiencing the joy of camp!

Specific guidelines and practices to help you envision what camp will look like will be coming soon. We will share these via bulletin announcement and weekly emails as they become available.

In the meantime, please visit the conference website (<http://www.susumcamps.org/>) for the tentative schedule. We would ask you to register on-line as soon as registration site goes live. Your registrations will hold your place for some of the very best life-changing and relationship-building experiences available. Remember, First Church will pay for half camp fees upon request.

**NOTE:** Please send registration confirmations to the camp coordinators so that everyone that goes to camp (regardless of age) will receive a prayer partner and that financial payments (if needed) are addressed in a timely manner.

So, how can you help this to be the "best camping year" ever?

- Attend a camp, retreat or event this year.
- Be a prayer partner for a camper.
- Provide financial assistance to support a camper or camp program.
- Help with a work camp at one of the camp sites.

**Please be in prayer and ask how you can participate in the Camping and Retreat ministries this year - whether by your attendance, your financial gifts, your prayer support or other unique gifts.**

With JOY overflowing 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))

## **Ministry Staff**

### **Pastor:**

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

### **Associate Pastor:**

Rev. John Shellenberger  
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### **Director of Worship Arts**

Sarah Pugh  
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### **Director of Discipleship:**

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### **Director of Congregational Care Ministry:**

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### **Outreach Director:**

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### **Youth Pastor:**

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### **Co-Director of Children's Ministry:**

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### **Co-Director of Children's Ministry:**

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### **Office Manager/Finance Secretary:**

Ellen Hill  
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### **Facilities Coordinator:**

Tom Ziegler  
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### **Custodians:**

George Canonizado, Matt Miller  
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### **Director of Finance:**

Nancy Robinson  
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### **Sounds of Worship Director:**

Flossie Ryder  
florencewryder@yahoo.com

### **Director of Bell & Chime Choirs:**

Kathie Bittenbender  
rbittenben@verizon.net

### **Praise Team Director:**

Sarah Pugh — worship@fumchurch.com

### **Organists/Accompanists:**

Caleb Flick  
Karen Philp

### **Interim Director of Little Friends Preschool:**

Jemma Church  
717-796-0723  
lfns@fumchurch.com

### **Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:**

Glenn Covert  
717-599-2192