

Welcome to

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors

February 28, 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

“Today, You Will Be With Me in Paradise”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com



Prelude
"I Need Thee Every Hour" - arr. Mary McDonald

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn
"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Morning Prayer

Ministry of Music
"Came to My Rescue"

Gospel Reading
Luke 23: 32-43

Sermon
"Today, You Will Be With Me in Paradise" - Pastor Denny

Response
"Jesus Remember Me"

Prayer of Confession

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Closing Hymn
"Are Ye Able"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Denny Keller

Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team Caleb Flick, Jason Kichline, Karen & Scott Philp, Sarah Pugh,
..... John & Merri Shellenberger

Sound & Media Jim Murdoch, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ken Rapp

Seven Words: "Today, You Will Be With Me in Paradise"

Luke 23: 32-43

1. Jesus _____

"Now the **tax collectors and sinners** were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes **sinners** and eats with them.'" (Luke 15:1-2)



"The Son of Man came to seek out and to save **the lost**" (Luke 19:10)

Two others also, who were **criminals**, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the **criminals**, one on his right and one on his left. (verses 32-33)



2. This story asks, "_____?"

One of the criminals who were hanged there **kept deriding him** and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" (verse 39)

The other said, "Jesus, **remember me** when you come into your kingdom" (verse 42)

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (verse 43)

3. Jesus offers God's _____

He replied, "Truly I tell you, **today** you will be with me in Paradise." (verse 43)

Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be **away from the body and at home with the Lord.** (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

"Over and over, Jesus makes it clear that the good news of salvation is not *just* for the 'sweet by and by'...It is here and now." (Susan Robb, Seven Words, p.30)

4. Jesus demonstrates God's _____

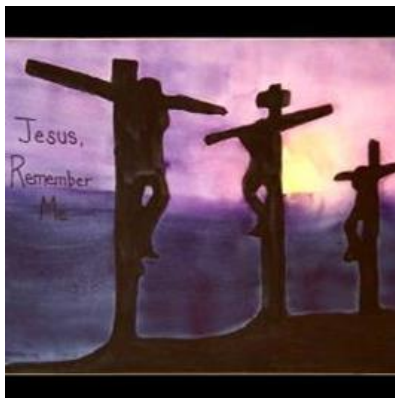
He replied, "Truly I tell you, today **you will be with me** in Paradise." (verse 43)

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, **I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands**;... (Isaiah 49:15-16a)

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us** from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8:38-39)

5. Jesus declares God's _____

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me **in Paradise.**" (verse 43)



Weekly Bible Readings

Week of February 28



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.

Sunday Worship, Rest, and Reflect

Monday	Matt. 25:35-40, 2 Cor. 13:11	On the Mend	Deb Noss
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Grace Greater Than Our Sin	George Canonizado
Wednesday	Job 11:7-9, Eph. 3:20-21	Immeasurably More	Ellen Hill
Thursday	Romans 15:1-13	Remembering Joy	Mark/Cheryl Mengle
Friday	Isaiah 41:10, Phil. 4:14-20	The Lord Our Provider	Flossie Ryder
Saturday	Matthew 4:18-22	Drop Your Nets	Jason Kichline



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

February 28, 2021

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones, placed by Devon and Gary Betz.

Lifelong Learner



Looking for new ways to grow closer to Christ? Check out our weekly Bible reading plan or join one of the ongoing groups/Bible studies listed below. New class members are welcome to join any class at any time!

- **Alpha** - Come to talk about the big questions of life and Christian faith. Started in January and runs through March 30. 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.
- **Seven Words** – Join Pastor Denny to study the seven last words of Christ on the cross. 6-week study began February 24 and runs through March 31 at 6:45 pm. Contact Pastor Denny at pastordenny@fumchurch.com to receive the Zoom link.
- **Wednesday Men’s Group** – Studying “Race and the Gospel”, which 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.
- **Men’s Bible Study** – Set to begin a study of 1 & 2 Peter and Jude in March. 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** –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 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 for more details.
 - **Christian Fellowship** – Currently studying “Short Stories by Jesus” by Amy-Jill Levine. 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.
 - **Growing in Christ** – Beginning a new 5-week study entitled “Easter” by Pastor J.D. Greear on March 7. 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.
 - **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@plantsiteanalytics.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 to receive study materials.

Do you feel called to offer a new study or activity-based group for a few weeks this spring? Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to talk about your idea and to get the ball rolling!

Praying Follower

Our **love and sympathy** to Bill & Karen Richie and family in the death of Bill's father, Carl Richie, on February 4th.

Our **love and sympathy** to Denise Swank and her family in the death of Denise's uncle, Frank Gappa, on February 6th

Our **love and sympathy** to Steve Noss & Marge Snyder and families in the death of their Aunt Joanna

Our **love and sympathy** to Jim & Pam Murdoch and family in the death of Jim's mother, Lois Murdoch, on February 15th

Hospitalized: Rose Rohlmeier

Recovering at Home/Rehabilitation: Dave Broy, Leah Krnjaic

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.

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

We invite you to join us as we **regather for in person worship** *beginning Sunday, March 7th* at 8:15 a.m. We will be following the same safety protocols as before. Please also remember to register for worship (Monday-Thursday on our [church website](#)) if you plan to attend in person. Our service will continue to be livestreamed beginning at 8:15 as well.

Easter Flowers — *New this year!* First Church will be taking orders for Easter lilies for anyone who would like to purchase a plant to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4 in memory or honor of a loved one. More information along with the order form can be found on page 10 of this bulletin. Questions? Contact Ellen Hill at office@fumchurch.com.

Current 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. 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](#)

Let's support **Mission Central** at the upcoming **Online Auction**! See details at 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.

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.

[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. 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 April 1 to April 10. Please contact Rick at 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 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!

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.

[Generous Giver](#)



Fill your Easter baskets and support Little Friends Preschool! Little Friends will be selling several kinds of **Easter eggs**, along with 24 different flavors of delicious **fudge** from Ali's Fudge in Shamokin. (*Due to the pandemic, the Christian Fellowship Class will not be making and selling Easter eggs this year*). The order and payment date is March 5, with pickup on March 29th. Checks can be made payable to *Little Friends Preschool*. See the order form on the Little Friends website at <https://www.littlefriendsnurseryschool.com/fundraising> or feel free to send your order to Jemma Church, Little Friends Interim Director, at lfns@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 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!)- TODAY @ 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

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

Instagram: fourgyouthministry

FB page: 4G - First United Methodist Youth Group

Remind text list - Text @4Gyo to 81010

Easter Flower Order Form



Easter lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4. You have the option of purchasing a lily for \$8.50 or giving a monetary gift in memory/honor of your loved one. Gift donations will be forwarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). If you would like to purchase a flower or give a monetary gift and also be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete the following form and return it to the church office by **noon on Friday, March 19**. *Checks should be made payable and mailed to **First United Methodist Church***. Order forms can be mailed to the church or submitted electronically by emailing your order and memory/honor information to Ellen Hill at office@fumchurch.com.

NOTE: Please indicate at the bottom of the form if you would like to pick up your flower. Plants may be picked up after the Easter Sunday service. If you are unable to pick up your lily, other arrangements can be made by contacting the church office. Plants not claimed by April 9 will be donated or disposed of.

1. Number of **plants**: _____

Please circle whichever is appropriate: In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

2. Number of **Gifts**: _____

Please circle whichever is appropriate: In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Placed by: _____

Will you be picking up the flowers? Yes _____ No _____



MISSION CENTRAL

Online Auction is

March 4 – 7, 2021

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!

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.

THANK YOU!

Mission Central – 5 Pleasant View Drive – Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
717.766.1533 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) or
Amy Ortiz (amy.ogden7@gmail.com)

Ministry Staff

Pastor:

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

Associate Pastor:

Rev. John Shellenberger
717-766-4611, x117
pastorjohn@fumchurch.com

Director of Worship Arts

Sarah Pugh
717-766-4611, x119
worship@fumchurch.com

Director of Discipleship:

Tina Eaton
717-766-4611, x104
adultministry@fumchurch.com

Director of Congregational Care Ministry:

Janice Bowen
766-4611, x112
wecare@fumchurch.com

Outreach Director:

Lori Hoffnagle
717-766-4611, x115
outreach@fumchurch.com

Youth Pastor:

Lisa Aronson
717-766-4611, x113
uthrock@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

Dawn Fisher
717-766-4611, x118
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

Anna Harris
717-766-4611, x102
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Office Manager/Finance Secretary:

Ellen Hill
717-766-4611, x101
office@fumchurch.com

Facilities Coordinator:

Tom Ziegler
717-766-4611, x105
facilities@fumchurch.com

Custodians:

George Canonizado, Matt Miller
717-766-4611, x109
maintenance@fumchurch.com

Director of Finance:

Nancy Robinson
717-766-4611, x120
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

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