

*Welcome to*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

*March 7, 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

***“My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”***

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

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



Prelude

*"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" - Handbell Choir*

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

*"O God Our Help in Ages Past"*

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Ministry of Music

*"What Wondrous Love"*

Gospel Reading

*Mark 15: 29-36*

Hymn

*"There is a Balm in Gilead"*

Sermon

*"My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" - Pastor Denny*

Handbell Anthem

*"Spirit Song" - Handbell Choir*

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Closing Hymn

*"Must Jesus Bear the Cross"*

Benediction

Postlude

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**LEADING IN WORSHIP**

*Preaching* ..... Pastor Denny Keller

*Worship Leader* ..... Pastor Lisa Aronson

*Worship Team* ..... Handbell Choir, Caleb Flick, Sarah Pugh

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

# Seven Words: “My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

Mark 15: 29-36

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*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

"Experiencing times when I feel godforsaken is part of what it means to be human."  
(Robb, Seven Words, p.45)

"We are as enveloped in mystery as human beings have been since the first human fist was raised in anguish toward the sky, asking the most fundamental of questions, *Why?*"  
(Meacham, The Hope of Glory, p.70)

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in his time of despair

*On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.*  
(Psalm 22:10)

*For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.* (Psalm 22:24)

*To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.* (Psalm 22:29-31)

"He chose to identify with the suffering of his people. This is the kind of King we follow. And when we feel forsaken, hopeless, and in despair, we pray to one who walked the path before us." (Hamilton, Final Words, p.75)

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

3. Jesus shows us that \_\_\_\_\_

*Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? (Jeremiah 8:22)*

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

4. Jesus teaches us to \_\_\_\_\_

*They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. (Mark 15:21)*



# Weekly Bible Readings

## Week of March 7



*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	1 Corinthians 16:5-18	Even Alexa Helps	Pastor John
Tuesday	Psalm 46	Strength	Norma Bingham
Wednesday	Job 32:6-9 & 33:4	Breathe Deeply	Lisa Aronson
Thursday	1 John 4:7-21	How We Love	Sarah Pugh
Friday	Matthew 4: 1-11	What We (Re)Learned	Dave Florey
Saturday	Matthew 5:13-16	Good Deeds	Sarah Jones



# First News First

# Weekly Edition

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

## March 7, 2021

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Cheryl Erikson, placed by Robert Erikson and family.

### *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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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** – 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to talk about your idea and to get the ball rolling!

## *Praying Follower*

**Congratulations** to Jim and Pam Van Kirk and family in the birth of their granddaughter, Esmé, on February 27th.

**Hospitalized:** Rose Rohlmeier

**Recovering at Home/Rehabilitation:** Pam Van Kirk

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*

As we begin to **regather for in person worship**, 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](mailto: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](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*

Today is the last day to support **Mission Central** at the **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! Questions about the auction, contact Patti Herring at [familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:deborahkarns1@gmail.com).



## Relationship Builder

**Summer Church Camp registration is open!** The Camp and Retreat Ministry is excited to share details and registration information about summer camps! Visit the camping website [here](#) to see all the offerings for camp this summer. Please review the COVID-19 safety guidelines as part of your camp registration process. In order to provide the BEST camping experience, please send camping registration confirmations to our Camp Coordinators (Deb Noss or Amy Ortiz) so that we can pair you with a prayer partner and offer financial assistance (First Church will pay for one half of the camping fees!). If you have any questions about church camp, feel free to contact Deb Noss ([sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) or Amy Ortiz ([amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com)). Not a camper, no problem! You can support our campers in several ways! You can sign up to be a Prayer Partner (watch for details closer to the start of camp), make a financial contribution to help fund a camper or sign up for a one-day work camp! Contact one of our Camp Coordinators for more details. Camp's Great!



**Hospitality Tip** - How wonderful it is to be back together – our re-gathering is a true blessing! But please don't forget those who might not feel comfortable returning just yet. Continue to show everyone your love by making phone calls, sending notes and praying for those you have not seen in worship.

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](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**, March church **newsletter**, 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*

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.*

## **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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

### Director of Little Friends Preschool:

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

### Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:

Glenn Covert  
717-599-2192