



# First News First

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

## "Today Is The Day!"

Remember Easter 2020? We were just a few weeks into the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to health and safety concerns, we experienced the unimaginable. Our church building was closed Easter Sunday. We broadcast Easter Sunrise live from the Mechanicsburg Cemetery. Our worship celebration from the church sanctuary was recorded and made available through the church website. As a congregation you showed amazing resilience! Hundreds worshiped from home, celebrating the Resurrection in that space between you and your screen that became holy ground!

As we look forward to Easter 2021 on April 4, we are still in the midst of the pandemic. However, this year, we are able to plan **three in-person Easter celebrations:**

- 6:45 a.m. Easter Sunrise in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery led by our Youth
- 8:15 a.m. Foundation Service in the sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. The Gathering Service in the church parking lot (*if it rains, this service will be held in the sanctuary auditorium*)

For those worshipping from home, the 8:15 a.m. service will be livestreamed and will be available via [funchurch.com](http://funchurch.com) and on our [church's Facebook page](#).

Our theme this Easter is, **"Today is the day!"** Whether you worship from home or you gather at one or all of our in-person services, **we invite you to join us** as we the hope and joy found in the Good News that Christ is Risen!

Other April worship highlights...

### Sunday, April 11, 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. — Camp Sunday

Rev. Kevin Witt, Director, Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders & Camp/Retreat Ministries will be our guest preacher as we celebrate our Susquehanna Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries

### Sunday, April 18, 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Denny will preach on the theme, "Peace Be With You." In Luke 24 the Risen Lord asks his disciples two questions he might well ask us today: "Why are you frightened?" and "Why do doubts arise in your hearts?" He also asks a third question that opens the way for us all to find true and lasting peace.

### Sunday, April 25, 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. — Disability Awareness Sunday

Mrs. Kathy Brubaker, a mom and caregiver of a child with special needs, will be our guest speaker as we focus on our ministries to support people with disabilities and their families. Kathy gave an inspiring testimony of God's presence, provision, and promise, at our Day of Pampering this year and has a message we all need to hear.

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### **A Note from Pastor John and Merri Shellenberger**

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. As I enter full retirement, I would be remiss if I had not shared the appreciation and gratitude that Merri and I have for all of you. Our time here at First Church has been filled with blessing, shared opportunity in ministry and growing friendships. To Pastor Denny I give thanks for being a great Lead Pastor and colleague, to the rest of the staff I give thanks for who you are and especially for the awesome and great way you have been faithfully ministering in the name of Jesus Christ. Again, please accept our heartfelt thanks and prayers as the Lord leads us to the next season of our life.

Blessings,

*Pastor John and Merri Shellenberger*

### **Thank You Announcement from Pastor Denny**

On behalf of SPRC, Pastor Denny made the following announcement in worship on Sunday, March 21...

#### **"Thank You Pastor John and Merri!"**

In January, when Pastor John shared his plans to "fully retire" as of Easter Sunday, April 4, I reflected back over the many ways Pastor John and Merri have blessed our church family. When I reached out to Pastor John about joining our staff in the summer of 2017, he had just retired from full-time active ministry. He wasn't sure he was ready to go back to work right away. Thankfully, after meeting our SPRC, Pastor John accepted our invitation. He and Merri joined our church family in September of that year.

Pastor John joyfully led worship and preached (even being the Speedy Scripture Delivery Man for Mister Rogers!). He also visited and counseled, led classes and small groups, supported our Access Ministry Team, led Rejoicing Spirits, and played his guitar for chapel time with Little Friends Preschool, VBS, and other kids' activities.

Together, Pastor John and Merri offered their gifts for singing, served as Table Parents for Wonderful Wednesday, organized a Pickle Ball ministry, and led Faith, Feathers, and Friends. Merri served on our care team, mentored young moms in MOPS, and was involved in our prayer ministry. Above all, Pastor John and Merri have witnessed to their deep faith in Jesus Christ as they've loved and cared for us all.

While Pastor John is retiring, our prayer is that he and Merri will still call First Church their "home" and continue to be involved in our life and ministry.

Unfortunately, due to our COVID restrictions, we are not able to have a gathering to express our love and appreciation for Pastor John and Merri at this time. However, we welcome you to send cards or letters.

Their address is: 1017 Jenkins Grove, Enola, PA 17025

*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 10), 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/early spring (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.

### **Early Spring Groups and Studies**

We have several ongoing groups meeting this winter/early spring, and new class members are welcome to join any class at any time!

- **Wednesday Men's Group – Race and the Gospel** by Bryan Loritts/Matt Chandler. In this five-part series, race, racism and injustice are addressed using Paul's words in Ephesians. Through teaching and honest dialogues, this group is discussing a way forward toward harmony. 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 [1785seaton@gmail.com](mailto:1785seaton@gmail.com) if interested.
- **Men's Bible Study** – Led by Ken Guise and David Mengle, this group 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. Currently

studying *1 & 2 Peter & Jude: Living with Discernment in the End Times*. Find out what you need to know for daily living from these three short books, which will encourage and enable you to live a life of discernment.

#### • 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 focuses on short-term topical studies that generate fruitful conversation and spiritual growth, while also providing opportunity for fellowship. 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 focuses on short-term topical studies that generate fruitful conversation and spiritual growth, while also providing opportunity for fellowship. 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!

#### Scholarship Form Deadline

The deadline to submit scholarship applications with First United Methodist Church is May 22nd and can be found on the church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com). Look for the “Youth” tab and then click on “Youth Events and Activities” from the dropdown menu. Completed forms can be mailed to Judi Buddenbaum or the church office (135 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055).

#### From the Library

Joyous Easter and the promise of spring; I think that describes April perfectly. What could be better, especially this year that hasn’t been so joyous? I hope you are spending this April counting your blessings, thanking God for his bounty, and hoping for new beginnings. This month might mean more activities, more friends to see and a community back to normal, and even better, not so many people hurting and alone. I hope to see all of you in the church library soon! I have some great new books you’ll want to read.

I can’t wait to settle down in my recliner to read **The Paris Dressmaker**. Kristy Cambron is one of my favorite historical fiction writers. Her books are usually based on true occurrences, and she does excellent research. When the Germans occupied Paris, they couldn’t wait to send perfume and fashion back home to their wives. And dressmakers had no choice but to serve them, no matter their feelings for the occupiers. Ms. Cambron starts her story as one of the fashion houses closed leaving their designers and dressmakers with no jobs. Lila de Laurent is one of those designers and she is desperate for work. Lila is not only a talented designer, but also a patriot. Having joined the resistance, she is now using her skills to design masterpieces for the Germans and to also glean military information to pass to the resistance. Another courageous woman in Paris is Sandrine Paquet whose job is to catalog the priceless works of art stolen from the Jews before they are sent to Berlin. While seemingly compliant, she too is working for the resistance, and even more importantly is trying to find her missing husband. When she uncrates a blush Chanel gown, she finds a concealed cryptic message that may reveal the fate of a dressmaker who has vanished.

Reviewers have said this book is filled with “unimaginable heartache, unforgettable romance and a cheering

defiance again oppression”. I think that describes the perfect book for me. What about you?

The library has not forgotten that many of you enjoy Amish romance. We have the complete trilogy of *The Amish Brides of Birch Creek*. **The Teacher’s Bride**, **The Farmer’s Bride**, and **The Innkeeper’s Bride** are all based around single men with different professions and all in need of a wife whether they know it or not. In **The Teacher’s Bride** Ms. Fuller touches on depression and possibly Asperger’s syndrome which are usually not approached in Amish books. But she does it with a light touch. All three books have characters that seem like they could be real people with normal ups and downs. The reviews all warn that you might have to stay up late reading till the last page. Don’t say I didn’t warn you!

If you want a private time to choose books, just contact Donna or Pam. We would love to get these new books in your hands. We also deliver books to those of you who are not ready or able to leave your home.

~ Pam and Donna

### Little Friends Preschool Enrollment

Little Friends Preschool is enrolling new students for the 2021-22 school year! We still have spaces available in all classes, from 2 years 7 months through Pre-K, and we want to fill them up! Spread the word to friends and family—anyone who is interested in getting more information, scheduling a tour, or registering for next fall can contact Jemma Church at [717-796-0723](tel:717-796-0723) or [lfns@fumchurch.com](mailto:lfns@fumchurch.com). Help us fill all of our classrooms with laughter and learning for the coming school year!

*Praying Follower*



### One Thousand Prayers - Good Friday Kickoff

On Good Friday we take time to lament as we reflect on Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross for our sins. But the good news in the midst of lament is that, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, there is joy, hope, and the promise of future resurrection for all who are united by faith in Him. We are Easter people! This year we will share that hope and joy in a very tangible way! All are invited to participate in praying for our community with a goal of praying for 1,000 places over 4 weeks’ time! If that sounds like a big goal, don’t worry... several other area churches will be joining us in this prayer journey! This prayer walking event will kick off on Good Friday, April 2 and run through the end of the month. What a great way to get out, enjoy the spring air and remain Covid-safe as you spread joy and focus on the people and needs of our community! Here’s how it works:

- Use the “Time to Sign Up” link [here](#) to reserve your prayer kit or contact Tina Eaton to say you’ll pray!
- Pick up your prayer kit at the 8:15 am worship service on March 28 or make other arrangements with Tina. The prayer kit contains everything you’ll need: prayer prompts, suggestions on places to pray (although you are encouraged to pray wherever you feel led by the Spirit), ten “We Prayed for You” door hangers and a pocket journal to jot down where you prayed, who you prayed for and any promptings you discern from the Holy Spirit during your walks.
- Provide feedback to Tina Eaton so we know if we’ve reached our goal, thus blanketing our community in prayers of care!

Thanks for praying for our community! If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).

### 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.

### 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



### Maundy Thursday Seder Meal Worship– April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday is the part of our Holy Week where we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Christ in the Passover meal shows the link between the ancient Festival of Redemption in Exodus and Christ as the Lamb of God.

As a response to our ongoing pandemic, we invite you to join our online **Maundy Thursday Seder Meal on Thursday April 1, available to view any time after 4pm**. This worship service is visual and participatory—you will have the opportunity to see, taste, and reflect over a table set with traditional Passover items. We'll use scripture as well as visual and worship elements to walk through this Jewish Passover Seder, weaving the story of Exodus with the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Celebrating the Passover story helps enrich one's faith and understanding of Christ in the Last Supper, and delivers a universal message of hope. To celebrate the Maundy Thursday Seder meal, there are a few items that you will need to prepare in advance. These items will be used as part of the service. They include:

- Candles and matches/lighter
- A bowl of water to wash hands
- A napkin/paper towel
- Ceremonial foods
  - 3 pieces of unleavened bread (the traditional bread is Matzo, but you may use naan bread or tortillas)
  - Karpas (a green vegetable- parsley, celery, cilantro, or lettuce). One stem per family member.
  - Salt water in a small dipping bowl.
  - Maror, the bitter herb (horseradish)
  - Charoset/Haroset (a traditional apple/walnut mixture – you may find a recipe online or mix apple sauce with graham crackers for a nut-free version)
  - Hagigah (hard-boiled egg)
  - Shank bone of a lamb (*you may use a bone from chicken, turkey, or other meat with a small bone instead*)
  - Red juice and cups - one cup per family member
  - Your normal full meal or supper - there will be time for you to enjoy fellowship over your regular dinner

### DisAbility Awareness Sunday

DisAbility Awareness Sunday will take place on Sunday, April 25th. Plans are in the works now to help make each of us more aware of the differently abled community and their families. I often wonder if acknowledging the need for more awareness about the church and the differently abled community is needed. Aren't we doing a great job here at First Church? We have Day of Pampering and Rejoicing Spirits. Isn't that enough?

The real answer is no. Many families with a member who is differently abled want to belong to a faith community but sadly they often don't feel welcome or feel marginalized. As a community of faith, we must continue to welcome all God's children. Remember that Jesus taught "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:32

Plan now to join us in person or online for Sunday morning service and/or Rejoicing Spirits by Zoom at 4

pm. If you would like a link to the Rejoicing Spirits Zoom service, please contact Karin McHale at 717-379-8329 or [karinmch@comcast.net](mailto:karinmch@comcast.net).

### **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*



### **Missions Committee Study**

The **Missions Committee** invites you to join us for a six lesson study based on the book, "When Helping Hurts" starting Tuesday, **April 6** at 7:00 p.m. "Poverty is much more than simply a lack of material resources, and it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve it. *When Helping Hurts* shows how some alleviation efforts, failing to consider the complexities of poverty, have actually (and unintentionally) done more harm than good." Michelle Schwartzmann, VIM Coordinator, will be leading this study once a month for six months via Zoom conferencing. **All are welcome to join us!** The study is free, no book required, just join in for the lesson and discussion. To receive the Zoom link or for more information, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). Thanks for joining us!

### **UMW Member Participates in McCurdy Ministries Virtual Mission Trip**

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! **Kathie Bittenbender** 'attended' the Virtual Mission Trip in February with others from around the country. Thank you, Kathie for learning more about this ministry!

### **UMW MissionU Update**

New for 2021, The annual UMW learning event will be virtual! The dates are July 16 and 17, 2021. Watch for more details about registration and mission topics. All women are welcome to attend! For more information about MissionU, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

### **UMW Conference Annual Day, November 6, 2021 – Save the Date!**

The Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women will be holding their Annual Day at Fishing Creek Salem, Goldsboro on Saturday, November 6 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. At this time, they are planning for

an in-person event, however, they plan to also offer Annual Day via livestream for those who cannot attend in person. The topic will be: *Championing Mental Wellness*, with keynote speaker, Sharon Engdahl, Executive Director of the Mental Wellness Awareness Association for Pennsylvania. All women are welcome to attend! Watch for more information on how to register. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) with any questions.

### **The United Methodist Women Announce the Mission Priorities for 2021-2024**

United Methodist Women is a bold, diverse and dynamic community of Christian women working together to grow spiritually, live out their faith and make a difference in their communities and world, especially on behalf of women, children and youth. For the 2021-2024 quadrennium, United Methodist Women will have two mission priorities: **climate justice** and **criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration**, with particular focus on the Just Energy for All and Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline campaigns. These two areas of critical, unrelenting need are areas in which United Methodist Women can have a great impact. Narrowing our focus to two areas helps us concentrate energy and resources to best do the work God calls us to do, and it allows us to go deeper into each of the issues we're engaging and develop stronger local and national partnerships in these areas. Read more about these priorities in the latest issue of the Response Magazine at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-mission-priorities-2020-2024>.

### **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**

Radical hospitality can be offered in so many ways! As we continue to regather in various ways this spring, let's concentrate on being "**intentionally invitational!**" We can do this by inviting friends, family and neighbors to our Sunday morning Easter church service, our weekly Sunday morning services, our Third Friday food truck events, etc. We can reconnect with our community and celebrate as we move in to a post-quarantine period! It is also very important for us to continue to intentionally reach out to people we haven't seen in awhile .... through phone calls, texts, handwritten notes! These efforts are so encouraging to those who receive them!

### **Women's Retreat**

**Save the Date - Saturday, September 25, 2021** - Priscilla Shirer's "Going Beyond" simulcast (hosted by FUMC Women's Ministry). Stay tuned for registration information this summer!

### **Day of Pampering – Covid Style**

Day of Pampering happened virtually this year thanks to the dedication of our church staff and volunteers. While there was no breakfast gathering, luncheon, tea or "spa" services, our morning worship did take place. And the word WOW keeps coming up to describe this service. We listened and watched music videos, prayed, blessed hands, and heard a very encouraging message about Purpose, Provision and Praise from our speaker, Kathy Brubaker.

This past year so many of us have been caregivers worrying about parents, children, and neighbors due to the coronavirus. Many of us took on extra duties to keep families and friends safe. Kathy's message spoke

about caregiving for a child with a different ability, but also about caregiving in other ways. If you haven't had a chance to view the Day of Pampering video and are looking for a spirit filled hour, I encourage you to go to the church website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) and look for Day of Pampering.

Because DOP was done virtually, we were able to share this message with so many more than the maximum of 91 women who can attend in person. DOP requires nearly as many volunteers (about 70). What a joy it was that many of our volunteers and family members have been able to view DOP this year. Thank you to everyone who helped make DOP possible. Thank you, First Church, for recognizing that DOP provides HOPE!

### **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, April 10. Questions, contact Vanessa Storlie at [trinitymburgoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymburgoutreach@gmail.com).

### **Grab and Go Lunches!**

We will be partnering with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church to hand out Free lunches on Wednesdays at noon, starting April 28 through the end of May in downtown Mechanicsburg. All are welcome to stop in and grab a lunch. We look forward to sharing and caring for the downtown community! Grab and Go Lunch includes a sandwich, water, chips, fruit and a dessert. Questions about the lunches? Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.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. 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 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. We will be welcoming the following trucks on April 16: Mad Dash, Vampire Taco, Philly Hoagie, Potato Coop, Italian Job, and Sugar Whipped Bakery. See you there!

### **Be a Part of the Glean Team!**

This growing season, we are excited to offer the Biblical practice of gleaning in Mechanicsburg! You may already be familiar with the concept of 'gleaning,' perhaps from reading references to gleaning in the books of Leviticus and Ruth or from taking part in Project Share's opportunity to glean in Carlisle. As depicted in scripture, gleaning occurred when some of the fallen grain during harvest was intentionally left behind, including whole corners of the fields as required by Israelite law. The intention was to offer an unharvested portion of grain for others to collect in helping to feed the poor, the orphans, widows and foreigners, as a safety net and resource to provide for their needs.

We plan to glean some local crops (strawberries and corn for example) to share with our own community! If you would be interested in receiving additional information and notification when the fields are ready for gleaning, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 to have your name/contact information added to the FUMC 2021 'Glean Team'! All are welcome and encouraged to participate, this is a great family project!

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings



of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God” ~Leviticus 19:9-10.

### Zumba Gold Offered via Zoom!

New year, new you! Since March 2020, 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 are suggested resources to promote your care, health and well-being during these challenging days calling us to find new ways to connect and to care for one another. Please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

- If you've been considering securing a '**Medical Alert System**' for yourself or a loved one, please read on. These alert devices – often worn as a wristband, necklace, or clipped to clothing – are designed to connect with a dispatcher who can call for emergency help or contact a family member or friend, 24/7. Having such a device can bring peace of mind to those who live alone, are at risk for falling, or at risk for a medical emergency. Consumer Reports magazine researched various products, summarizing their results in a February 2021 article. (Please contact Janice for a copy of the article.)
- **Contact to Care** is a community-based program with the purpose of connecting people to health insurance options and medical care, addressing issues of transportation, language, housing, food, and health literacy when posing as a barrier to accessing healthcare. For more information or to make a referral, contact our Community Health Worker, Deb Weyant (717-960-4328 or [dweyant@sadlerhealth.org](mailto:dweyant@sadlerhealth.org)).

### 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 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

*Generous Giver*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 28, 2021 — 16.6% of year

### General Fund

2020 budget	\$ 905,000	
Expected income	\$ 150,832	(16.6% of budget)
Actual giving	\$ 164,856	(18.2 % of budget)
Actual expenses	\$ 141,136	(15.6 % of budget)

Income is ahead year-to-date, including two large one-time gifts in February. Our staff continues to hold the line on spending to keep costs within our budget. Thank you again for your continued support of our mission during this difficult and transitional time in our country. We are grateful to once again be worshipping “in person.” First Church ministry has been faithful in continuing to open doors for our Lord.

### Little Free Pantry and Little Friends

Special thanks to Little Friends Preschool for collecting items for the Little Free Pantry during the month of February, based on the scripture 1 John 4:7 "Let us love each other, for love comes from God." They collected over 757 items, wow! We are so thankful for their care and support of this ministry to our community!



**April Bible Reading Plan**

Thursday, April 1  
 Friday, April 2  
 Saturday, April 3

Psalm 20  
 Philippians 4:4-9  
 Romans 8:35-39, Phil. 4:19

Requests  
 God Is At Work  
 God Will Provide

Tiffany Holland  
 Barry Eaton  
 Nancy Robinson

***Sunday, April 4***

Monday, April 5  
 Tuesday, April 6  
 Wednesday, April 7  
 Thursday, April 8  
 Friday, April 9  
 Saturday, April 10

***John 11:25-26***

I Corinthians 15:1-11  
 Acts 10:34-43  
 I John 1:1 - 2:2  
 John 20:1-18  
 John 20:19-31  
 Rest and Reflect

***Easter Sunday***

***Sunday, April 11***

Monday, April 12  
 Tuesday, April 13  
 Wednesday, April 14  
 Thursday, April 15  
 Friday, April 16  
 Saturday, April 17

***Worship***

Acts 3:12-19  
 Acts 4:32-35  
 Psalm 4  
 I John 3:1-7  
 Luke 24:36b-48  
 Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, April 18***

Monday, April 19  
 Tuesday, April 20  
 Wednesday, April 21  
 Thursday, April 22  
 Friday, April 23  
 Saturday, April 24

***Worship***

Acts 4:5-12  
 Psalm 133  
 Psalm 23  
 I John 3:16-24  
 John 10:11-18  
 Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, April 25***

Monday, April 26  
 Tuesday, April 27  
 Wednesday, April 28  
 Thursday, April 29  
 Friday, April 30  
 Saturday, May 1

***Worship***

Acts 8:26-40  
 Psalm 22:25-31  
 I John 4:7-16  
 I John 4:17-21  
 John 15:1-8  
 Rest and Reflect



*It's Official!*

## Summer Church Camp is a GO!

The Camp and Retreat Ministry is excited to share details and registration information about summer camps!

Visit the camping website <http://www.susumcamps.org> to see all the offerings for camp this summer in the 2021 Camp Retreat Brochure along with related registration/medical forms. Please review the COVID-19 safety guidelines as part of your camp registration process. Then access the on-line link to complete your registration.

Praying for your camping experience is very important to us! If you register online, please send the confirmation email from the camping office to our Camp Coordinators (Deb Noss or Amy Ortiz), so that we can pair you with a prayer partner. If you mail in the registration, please contact our Camp Coordinators via phone or email. The Camp Coordinators can help you with financial assistance (First Church will pay for one half of the camping fees!).

**Early Bird Discount:** Register for summer camp by May 1, 2021 for a \$25 Early Bird discount! Early bird only applies to summer events, unless otherwise listed. There are also **Sibling Discounts** as well as an **Invite-a-Friend Gift** when you invite a friend who has never been to a Conference camp. Receive a custom logo hammock after they register as per the instructions.

Pray and ask God how He would like you to use your gifts for Him this year! Will you:

- **Attend** a camp, retreat or event this year, or
- **Volunteer** as a Dean, Nurse, Counselor or Jr. Counselor, or
- **Pray** for a camper, or
- **Provide** financial assistance to support a camper or camp program, or
- **Help** with a one-day work camp at one of the camp sites?

If you have any questions about Summer Church Camp or are unable to access the website and need a brochure, feel free to contact Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) or 717-697-5982 or Amy Ortiz at [amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com). You may also contact the church office at [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611.

**P.S.** Who doesn't like to receive mail? See what our friend **Maya** sent to us!

Be on the look-out for more 'mail' from camp supporters!



## Church News and Notes

### Our love & sympathy...

to Bill & Karen Richie and family in the death of Bill's father, Carl Richie, on February 4th  
 to Denise Swank and her family in the death of Denise's uncle, Frank Gappa, on February 6th  
 to Steve Noss & Marge Snyder and families in the death of their Aunt Joanna  
 to Jim & Pam Murdoch and family in the death of Jim's mother, Lois Murdoch, on February 15th  
 to Paul Rynard and family in the death of his wife, Vesta Rynard, on March 14th  
 to Tracy Wertz and family in the death of her father, Donnie Wright, on March 17th  
 to Ellen Hill and family in the death of her grandmother, Sandra Hill, on March 17th  
 to Dawn Fisher and family in the death of her father, Terry Rishel, on March 26th  
 to Gail and Jim Siemons and family in the death of Gail's mother, Lois Britton, on March 23rd

### Notes of Thanks

*Denny and Sally Kauffman* would like to thank everyone for the anniversary cards they received for their 61st Anniversary. Having just moved to a new home, Sally writes: "They were very much appreciated and were a highlight to our day during the tiring unpacking, which we are still doing. Thank you very much."

We want to thank our church family for all the cards, emails, and phone calls upon the death of our son, Brian. Our church family is awesome. ~ *Roy & Ginnie Miller and family*

### Special Birthdays

Robert Meck .....	April 2nd	Milton Dougherty .....	May 8th
Marilyn Seig .....	April 2nd	Annabelle Elder .....	May 10th
Dolores Farr .....	April 3rd	Jane Gunder .....	May 11th
Alberta Knause .....	April 15th	Nancy Otstot .....	May 12th
Darlene Wilkinson .....	April 17th	Dennis Kauffman .....	May 13th
Thomas Mullikin .....	April 23rd	Marjorie Kohr .....	May 15th
Janet Baker .....	April 25th	Don Heiges .....	May 16th
Grace Brandt .....	April 25th	Bob Bittenbender .....	May 27th
Charles Kershner .....	April 28th		

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Terry & Marcy Ketrow married 58 years on April 2nd
- ♥ Dick & Marge Scott married 55 years on April 2nd
- ♥ Elvin & Charlotte Hess married 61 years on April 10th
- ♥ Dean & Marty Otto married 58 years on April 21st
- ♥ Don & Kay Heiges married 63 years on April 26th

*FIRST NEWS FIRST*

Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
 for the **May 2021** issue is  
**April 15th**

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