

First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors



Ministry “Bright Spots”

In preparation for the quarterly Administrative Board meeting in February, our church staff compiled a list of "Bright Spots" from the past few months. As you read them, I invite you to join me and celebrate that First Church is alive and active even in a time such as this. We have so much to be thankful for!

- We had a very special Advent season, filled with opportunities that connected us to one another, helped us celebrate Jesus and spread the Good News beyond the walls of the church building!
- Using an innovative approach, this year we coordinated our Service of Remembrance and Hope with Malpezzi Funeral Home online in order to provide comfort to a wider audience. We had 48 unique views and Malpezzi Funeral Home spread the reach of this special service even further than we could have done on our own!
- We held an outdoor Christmas Caroling sing-a-long in the church parking lot and several family groups also went out to carol in the community... all together 100 people participated. This was a very safe and meaningful event!
- This Christmas, we offered a pre-recorded family service with a very special worship "kit," which made it very interactive for children! This service had 181 unique views. In addition, 2 other live streamed services were offered, which had fantastic participation. In all, our worship attendance on Christmas Eve was 1,167!
- A new, prerecorded New Year's Eve service was offered for the first time in 2020. It had 78 unique views, which is great!
- Using Instagram Live as a tool for gathering has proven to be a very effective way to connect with our youth. Since using this, about 25-50 youth have been meeting weekly, in addition to meeting on Sunday evenings for 4G (on Zoom)!
- Sunday School is consistently running strong. We are currently holding 5 classes (on Zoom) and the Guyer class is using their Sunday School materials as devotions for regular study at home. Altogether, 75-85 adults are participating weekly!
- Our men's group has met twice a month all through the pandemic. Whether outside, in garages and on Zoom, this group is going strong and growing in number!
- We launched the Alpha Course (a fantastic evangelistic tool), and it's going great! 1/2 of the group is either from the Mechanicsburg community, or were personally invited by a church member!
- About 50 adults are currently meeting weekly for Bible study, and two new classes are set to start during Lent, which will engage about 25 additional adults in studying God's Word weekly!
- 41 written testimonies were received in January from members of our church family. These were used to create a very special Lenten Devotional! It's a beautiful collection of how God has ABUNDANTLY provided in many different ways during the pandemic!
- About 13 Care Team members are connecting every month or so with about 100 church members, or friends/family of church members, who are sheltering at home during the pandemic. They have delivered newsletters, devotional materials and, in February, treats and homemade Valentines created by the Little Friends Preschoolers!

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- We partnered with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on Main Street to make soup (using safety protocols), which was served to visitors at their Caring Closet (free adult clothing) on February 13!
- We had a collection for the Little Free Pantry (on the corner of Simpson and High Streets) in January and February to ensure that the pantry had a sufficient amount of items, especially for the winter months. Church members dropped off the items during the collection times in our parking lot on Wednesday afternoons. Great response so far!
- We had a very sweet time with our Rejoicing Spirits community during Advent with both a Fireside Chat and Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration on Zoom!
- Our Little Friends Preschool has had a safe and successful first half of their school year. 50 preschoolers have participated in the program this year!
- Using a conservative “multiplication factor” of 1.5 to calculate *weekly online attendance*, we averaged 394 per week in 2020. For the weeks we were able to hold *in-person worship* last year, our average weekly attendance was 210.
- **FUMC ranked #2** for the number of small groups meeting out of 88 churches reporting in the Susquehanna Conference. Small groups include those meeting for Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship groups, support groups, prayer groups, women’s and men’s groups, music groups, etc. To God be the glory!

As your pastor, reflecting on these "Bright Spots" from just the past few months, I rejoice in your commitment, your generosity, your creativity, and your resilience. I cannot thank God enough for you! Surely in this new year, there will be more "Bright Spots" to celebrate, as *together* we meet the challenges and opportunities of "the Post-Quarantine Church."

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Denny

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 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. Large-print versions are available.

Winter/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!

- **Alpha Update from Pastor John** — Merri and I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing Alpha with a dedicated group of 12 others this winter! Newcomers are welcome to jump in and join us Tuesday evenings through March 30 at 7:00 pm on Zoom to discuss the big questions of life and the Christian faith. As we come into the homestretch of this study, our prayer is that new Alpha groups will be started, so please pray about this. We would be glad to talk to you and share all the resources that we have used and developed. Also, we thank Tina Eaton, our Adult Discipleship Director, for her support and tremendous help. If you think that you might want to lead or participate in a new group, contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com and join the exciting adventure of being a disciple!
- **Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross by Susan Robb** — Join Pastor Denny each week leading up to Easter to study the seven last words of Christ on the cross, exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. Brings a hopeful and contemplative look at the cross during the weeks of Lent. Began in February and meets Wednesdays at 6:45 pm. Contact Pastor Denny at pastordenny@fumchurch.com to receive the Zoom link for this online study.

- **Wednesday Men's Group – Race and the Gospel** by Bryan Loritts/Matt Chandler — In this five-part series, race, racism and injustice will be addressed using Paul's words in Ephesians. Through teaching and honest dialogues, this group will discuss a way forward toward healing, justice, and hope for multiethnic harmony in the church. Meets on Zoom at 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry Eaton at 1785eaton@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 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 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** — 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 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 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 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.

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. There are many wonderful devotional studies, plus you can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests!

The Upper Room Devotional

The March/April 2021 issue of The Upper Room is available! To download the free digital version, use this [link](#)! Or, if you would like to receive a paper copy, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112.

From the Library

Today as I sat down to write this newsletter, I realized I have been writing these articles for over twenty-five years. In that time I have reviewed the weather, mentioned many times I like to drink coffee while reading, and reviewed over a thousand books. I keep wondering if there is any new way I can convince you to read what I am writing about or convince you we are hiding a treasure of Christian fiction a stone's throw from the sanctuary (of course, that is when the church is open). I hope all of you are hoarding these reviews and will surge into the library to get your favorite book once we are all out and about. In that hope, I am skipping the weather report and the coffee analysis and getting right to the books.

For those of you who love Amish fiction and romance, Kathleen Fuller is offering **A Double Dose of Love** in this first installment of the *Amish Mail-Order Brides* series. What makes this a double dose of love is

that the plot revolves around two sets of twins. Each set of twins has one responsible twin trying to contain their less than responsible sibling. Zeke and Zeb Bontrager are starting a new horse farm, while trying to build a ranch house and train a wild colt. Zeb has to contend with Zeke's bad business decisions and hidden debt while keeping their good standing in the Birch Creek Amish community. Meanwhile Darla King travels to Birch Creek Amish Community to answer a newspaper ad for a mail order bride. Amanda, her twin, follows her there, promising their parents she will convince Darla to come home. That is all the clues I am giving you—find out if the head or the heart wins this battle.

Sarah Sundin breaks with the usual trilogy to offer a stand-alone novel **When Twilight Breaks**. Evelyn Brand is trying to buck the male dominated reporting job. Set in Munich in 1838, Evelyn is shocked at the brutality she sees from the Nazis, but she must be careful with her words as reporters can be expelled from Germany if they are too unfriendly to the government. How can she get the word back to the states, yet maintain her standing in Germany? Another American in Germany is Peter Lang who is disillusioned with the state of the world due to the Great Depression. He is impressed with Germany's new prosperity. But when brutality rears its ugly head, Peter uses his contacts in the Party and feeds stories to his friend Evelyn. Can the two make any difference? This is my kind of book--pulse pounding and filled with suspense. Plan to check out this page turner.

Hopefully, we will be seeing each other for Easter—but if you would like to checkout some books by appointment, call Pam or Donna.

~ Pam and Donna

Praying Follower



Good Friday Prayer Walk

Join us as we cover our community in prayer on Good Friday, April 2. We will be providing Prayer Guides and other details closer to the date. Thanks for joining us in prayer for our neighbors!

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 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 to share requests and to sign up for this once-a-week list.

Passionate Worshipper



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

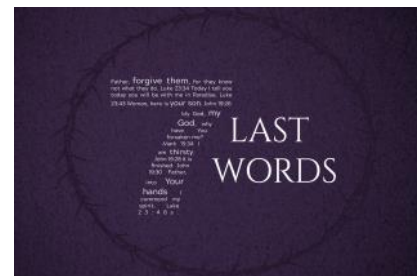
you would like to meet the challenge of modern church and advance the kingdom into a digital era, please contact Sarah Pugh at worship@fumchurch.com.

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>

Current Sermon Series — Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross

The pastors of First Church will present a series of sermon messages on the “Seven Last Words” of Jesus during worship services this Lenten season. The messages, based on the book *The Hope of Glory* by Pulitzer Prize winning presidential historian and lifelong Episcopalian layman Jon Meacham, reflect on the gospel accounts of the final words of Jesus during the six hours he suffered on the cross. The “words,” or more accurately statements, of Jesus convey in a powerful way the message of the Savior’s radical love. May we experience anew the depth of his love for us, and discover the meaning of his words for us today.



In addition, Pastor Denny will lead a Bible study based on the new book *Seven Words: Listening to Jesus From the Cross*, by Susan Robb. See the **Winter/Early Spring Groups and Studies** article under the Lifelong Learner section of the newsletter for more information on this study.

Schedule of Sermons for this series:

- **March 7** “My God, My God”
- **March 14** “Woman, Here Is Your Son”
- **March 21** “I Am Thirsty”
- **March 28** “It Is Finished”...”Into Your Hands”

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 9 of this newsletter. Questions? Contact Ellen Hill at office@fumchurch.com.

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 or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

Dedicated Missionary



Mission Meeting

The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work! The next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom conference. For more information or for the zoom link, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

Mission Central Online Auction – March 4 to 7, 2021

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

locally, nationally and globally! New for 2021, Mission Central will hold a spring online auction to raise awareness and funds to continue their mission of ‘Connecting God’s resources with human need.’ The auction promises a variety of items to bid on, including gift baskets, gift cards, furniture, collectibles, books, tickets, travel and much more! To view all the items and more details, visit www.biddingowl.com/missioncentral. If you have questions about Mission Central or the online auction, contact Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net or Dawn Fisher at kidscount@fumchurch.com. Thanks for your support of Mission Central!

Volunteers in Mission

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

- **FREE VIM Virtual Training**

- Must attend all 3 sessions; resources provided
- Tuesdays, March 16, 23, 30 (6 - 8 pm)
- VIM Training prepares us to have a positive impact in mission whether it is a few hours or weeks, local, national, or global. It is open to those who have lead teams and those who have never been on a mission trip. Taking this training does not require you to lead a trip but equips you for service. Register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdl7vn-3ErafSMLheOXGHehWB6ywpvjaUbU_FhRXMrEf-yZiA/viewform

- **“When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience”**

- Michelle Schwartzman, VIM Coordinator is offering to facilitate a 6 week study, “When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience” for your church group. This is based on Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert’s book of the same name. If your church group, missions, Sunday School or other group would like to set up a study, contact Michelle at vim@susumc.org. This will be offered virtually using Zoom until further notice. **Update:** The Missions Team is planning to host this study. All church members are welcome to attend! Watch for more details on the start date.

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.

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. More information to come. All women are welcome to attend!

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 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 to share opportunities and to sign up.

Relationship Builder



Extravagant Hospitality

Spring will officially arrive on March 20, and with it, hopefully a return to in-person worship! Is it improper to say "Hallelujah", and hope that this blessing continues? Although we will still be wearing masks and staying safely distanced from others, we can find other ways to show our hospitality. Just a friendly smile and wave, or a simple "Hello" can help someone to feel connected. Yes, it will feel wonderful come back to church, but we also need to remember those who are still at home. Please continue to make phone calls or send notes to those you haven't seen in a while, and most of all, continue to pray for those who might not feel comfortable coming back just yet.

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!

Faith Feathers and Friends Continues!

Join this virtual group to study God's word, enjoy God's creation and share in fellowship with one another. Questions? Contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@fumchurch.com. Study schedule for this month includes:

- 03/02 Wood Duck
- 03/09 Prairie Chicken — Greater and Lesser
- 03/16 Warblers
- 03/23 Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures
- 03/30 Green Backed Heron



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, March 13. Questions? Contact Vanessa Storlie at trinityburgoutreach@gmail.com.

Free Tax Preparation

Church member, Rick Herring, will once again be assisting with AARP to prepare tax returns free of charge. This AARP service is for simple returns and you must register. 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 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!

Zumba Gold Offered via Zoom!

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

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 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).

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.

“First Church Forum”

If you are on Facebook, we invite you to join our private Facebook Group, First Church Forum! As a private group, the 'First Church Forum' is a great space to support and connect with one another during this season of sheltering at home. The First Church Forum is a "space for sharing information, encouragement, discussion, and fellowship among members and friends of First Church." Let us know how we can support you or your local business during these challenging times. Please 'Like' our page, First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA and then feel free to join the First Church Forum private group. If you have questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

Generous Giver



FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 31, 2021 — 8% of year

General Fund

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| 2020 budget | \$ 905,000 | |
| Expected income | \$ 75,416 | (8.3% of budget) |
| Actual giving | \$ 69,193 | (7.6 % of budget) |
| Actual expenses | \$ 72,410 | (8.0 % of budget) |

Income is anticipated to recover from the January shortfall. We continue to reduce our church debt and it now stands at \$60,000. Thank you again for your continued support of our mission during this difficult and transitional time in our country. The ministry of First Church has been faithful in continuing to open doors for our Lord.

Little Free Pantry Collection

Thank you to everyone who dropped off nonperishable food items for the Little Free Pantry! We will continue to place items in the pantry, as needed, until supplies run out. You can still sign up to ‘adopt’ the pantry for a month, see Time to Sign Up here: ttsu.me/ryyunr. Remember, you don’t have to fill the pantry every day, just stop by, at your convenience, to see if the pantry needs some attention. Most needed items are: pasta and sauce, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned soup, snack bars, snack crackers, cereal, macaroni and cheese and any non-expired, nonperishable food items. For more information about the Little Free Pantry movement, visit their website at <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>. Questions about the Little Free Pantry, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. Thanks for your support!

Little Friends Preschool Chocolate Egg & Fudge Fundraiser

If you’re looking for chocolate eggs and fudge for your Easter baskets, Little Friends Preschool has you covered! We have partnered with Sweet Ali’s Fudge from Shamokin, PA to provide 24 flavors of fudge at \$9/each (8 oz). and 14 flavors of chocolate eggs at \$2/each. Orders and money are due by March 5th, with delivery scheduled for March 29th. For more information, visit the Little Friends Preschool website at <http://www.littlefriendspreschool.org/> or contact Jemma Church at 717-796-0723 or lfns@fumchurch.com.

Easter Flowers

NEW THIS YEAR! 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 _____

March/Lent Bible Reading Plan

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, February 28

Monday, March 1

Tuesday, March 2

Wednesday, March 3

Thursday, March 4

Friday, March 5

Saturday, March 6

Worship, Rest, and Reflect

Matt. 25:35-40, 2 Cor. 13:11

Romans 5:1-11

Job 11:7-9, Eph. 3:20-21

Romans 15:1-13

Isaiah 41:10, Phil. 4:14-20

Matthew 4:18-22

On the Mend

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Immeasurably More

Remembering Joy

The Lord Our Provider

Drop Your Nets

Deb Noss

George Canonizado

Ellen Hill

Mark/Cheryl Mengle

Flossie Ryder

Jason Kichline

Sunday, March 7

Monday, March 8

Tuesday, March 9

Wednesday, March 10

Thursday, March 11

Friday, March 12

Saturday, March 13

Worship, Rest, and Reflect

1 Corinthians 16:5-18

Psalm 46

Job 32:6-9 & 33:4

1 John 4:7-21

Matthew 4: 1-11

Matthew 5:13-16

Even Alexa Helps

Strength

Breathe Deeply

How We Love

What We (Re)Learned

Good Deeds

Pastor John

Norma Bingham

Lisa Aronson

Sarah Pugh

Dave Florey

Sarah Jones

Sunday, March 14

Monday, March 15

Tuesday, March 16

Wednesday, March 17

Thursday, March 18

Friday, March 19

Saturday, March 20

Worship, Rest, and Reflect

1 Timothy 4:4-11

Philippians 4:10-13

Psalm 40

Matthew 25:14-30

John 14:1-14

Isaiah 30:18-21

Good Girl!

Content In All Circumstances

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Use It Well

Pause, Ponder and Pray

Waiting

John Bowen

Betsy Keller

Karin McHale

Anna Harris

Vickie Coover

Merri Shellenberger

Sunday, March 21

Monday, March 22

Tuesday, March 23

Wednesday, March 24

Thursday, March 25

Friday, March 26

Saturday, March 27

Worship, Rest, and Reflect

Genesis 1:1-31

1 John 1:5 - 2:6

Habakkuk 3:1-19

James 1:2-12

Isaiah 42:5-7

Isaiah 61:1-3

Creation

The Sweetest Words

Keep Praising

Setback Is God's Set Up

My Little Hippie

Beauty In The Mess

Jenny Dose

Dawn Fisher

Lynn Rapp

David Mengle

Krissy Marshall

Heather Snyder

Sunday, March 28

Monday, March 29

Tuesday, March 30

Wednesday, March 31

Thursday, April 1

Friday, April 2

Saturday, April 3

Worship, Rest, and Reflect

Psalm 23, Ephesians 3:17-19

Luke 10:25-37

Isaiah 40:9-11

Psalm 20

Philippians 4:4-9

Romans 8:35-39, Phil. 4:19

Daily Transformation

The Good Samaritan

The Lamb Of God

Requests

God Is At Work

God Will Provide

Allison Ometz

Jeff/Lori Hoffnagle

Jenell Paris

Tiffany Holland

Barry Eaton

Nancy Robinson

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday



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 online 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 of the camp fee 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.

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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)

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to Lisa & Jim Alderman and family in the death of Jim's Uncle Jack on December 26th
 to Cynthia Smith and family in the death of Cynthia's ex-husband, Graham Smith, on January 12th
 to the family and friends of Carol "Jean" Miller, who passed away on January 12th
 to Roy & Ginnie Miller and family in the death of their son, Brian Miller, on January 23rd
 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



Special Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Pat Gavlak | March 9th | Robert Meck | April 2nd |
| Ben Miller | March 12th | Marilyn Seig..... | April 2nd |
| Sara Meck | March 15th | Dolores Farr..... | April 3rd |
| Marjorie Robinson..... | March 15th | Alberta Knause..... | April 15th |
| Bob Wertz..... | March 17th | Darlene Wilkinson..... | April 17th |
| Mabel Strock | March 28th | Thomas Mullikin..... | April 23rd |
| Bob Erikson | March 29th | Janet Baker | April 25th |
| Dave Scholl | March 31st | Grace Brandt | April 25th |

Special Anniversaries

♥ Jim & Gail Siemons married 57 years on March 21st



FIRST NEWS FIRST
 Editor: Ellen Hill

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

Early submissions always
appreciated!