

*Welcome to*  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors*  
*May 2, 2021*



**THE  
RETURN**

*“The Younger Son”*

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

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





## FOUNDATION SERVICE ~ 8:15 AM

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

*"Promised Land"- Handbell Choir*

The Gospel

*Luke 15: 11-24*

Sermon

*"The Younger Son" - Pastor Denny*

Hymn

*"Softly and Tenderly"*

Invitation

Confession and Pardon

Offering

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Giving the Bread and Cup

Closing Hymn

*"Freely Freely"*

Benediction

Postlude

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### ***LEADING IN WORSHIP***

*Speaker* ..... Rev. Dennis Keller

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

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

*Sound & Media* ..... Fred Espenshade, Jason Kichline, Roger Walton



# THE GATHERING SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Welcome

Praise and Worship

*"Hallelujah For the Cross"*

*"Cornerstone"*

Celebration of Baptism

The Gospel

*Luke 15: 11-24*

Sermon

*"The Younger Son" - Pastor Denny*

Communion

Praise and Worship

*"Prodigal"*

Benediction

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## ***LEADING IN WORSHIP***

*Speaking* ..... Rev. Dennis Keller

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

*Worship Team* ..... Janice Bowen, John Gross, Jason Kichline, Allison Ometz,  
..... Sarah Pugh

*Sound & Media* ..... Fred Espenshade, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Roger Walton

# "The Return: The Younger Son"

Luke 15: 11-24

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"What will my post-pandemic life look like?"

<sup>11</sup> Jesus said, "**A certain man** had two sons..."

## 1. God *gives us our freedom.*

*The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country*  
(verses 12-13a)

*Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.* (John 15:4-5)

"I am the prodigal son every time I search for unconditional love where it cannot be found." (Henri Nouwen)

*A hurricane wind ripped through the mountains and shattered the rocks before God, but God wasn't to be found in the wind; after the wind an earthquake, but God wasn't in the earthquake; and after the earthquake fire, but God wasn't in the fire; and after the fire a gentle and quiet whisper.* (I Kings 19:11-12, The Message)

## 2. God *waits patiently for us.*

*...there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.* (verses 13b-14)



"The Bible is not a collection of decrees or a description of the divine attributes but is more a story of God, **the Jilted Lover.**" (Philip Yancey)

### 3. God *welcomes us home unconditionally.*

<sup>17</sup> **But** when he came to himself...

**But** while he was still far off, his father saw him and was **filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.** Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

**But** the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, **bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.** And get **the fatted calf** and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. (verses 20b-24)



## Weekly Bible Readings

Week of May 2



*Sunday*

*“The Younger Son”*

Monday

Acts 10:44-48

Tuesday

Psalm 98:1-8

Wednesday

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Thursday

1 John 5:1-6

Friday

Luke 15:11-24

Saturday

Rest and Reflect



# First News First

# Weekly Edition

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

**May 2, 2021**

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lancaster, placed by Don and Kay Heiges.

The **maché basket** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edna S. Neumyer, placed by her loving 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!



- **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** – Currently studying *1 & 2 Peter and the Book of Jude*. 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.
- **Wednesday Women's Group** – Beginning a new 7-week study, *Brave*, by local author Tabitha Deller on May 19. Learn to overcome your fears by studying the lives of Joshua, Caleb, Ruth, Paul, David and Esther. Meets on zoom over lunch from 12:00 – 1:15 pm. Order your study guide at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for zoom link and online video access.
- **Sunday School**
  - **Faith in Everyday Life** –This small group meets from 10:00 – 11:00 am at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg as weather permits (with zoom as a backup) and focuses on fellowship and friendship/mutual support. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture. Contact Jenell Paris at [iparis@messiah.edu](mailto:iparis@messiah.edu) for more details.
  - **Faithful Families** –This group, comprised of parents in the child-raising stage of life, meets on zoom at 9:30 am. **Currently studying** *All Things New* by Kelly Minter. Contact Bob Wertz, Jr. at [wertzfive@gmail.com](mailto:wertzfive@gmail.com) for more details.
  - **Christian Fellowship** – Currently studying *Before Amen - The Power of a Simple Prayer* by Max Lucado. All are welcome! Runs through May 2. For all ages/stages of faith. Meets at 9:30 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 study on May 2** on the *Book of Ephesians* by Pastor J.D. Greear. For all ages/stages of faith. Meets Sunday mornings 9:30 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.

Is God calling you to gather a small group to do a study/offer a special activity for a few weeks this spring/early summer? Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to talk about your idea and to get the ball rolling!

The deadline to submit **scholarship applications** with First United Methodist Church is May 22nd and can be found on the church website, [www.fumchurch.com](http://www.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).

### *Praying Follower*

**Hospitalized:** Rose Rohlmeier

**Recovering at Home/Rehabilitation:** Jack Koser

Our **National Day of Prayer** is coming up on **May 6** and all are invited to join in our 24-hour prayer vigil! Pray from the comfort of your home, but please sign up TODAY for a 30-minute time slot by contacting Tina Eaton or by clicking on the Time to Sign Up [here](#). Pick up your prayer kit with ideas/scripture/prayer prompts when you leave worship, or contact Tina.

**Green Prayer Cards** are available at each sanctuary entrance upon arrival for worship. We invite you to take a card to share your joys and concerns with us. Please place them in the designated basket (along with the pen) as you leave worship. You can also 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 **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.

**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*

Thanks for your support of the **Little Free Pantry** on our property. Please consider helping to stock our pantry during this difficult time for families. We still need someone for May! If you or your group would like to sign up, see the available months [here](#). Please be sure to place items that are not expired or near expiration. A list of suggestions for the spring/summer months can be found [here](#). Thanks for sharing and caring for our community! Questions about the Little Free Pantry, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).



### *Relationship Builder*

**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. 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!). There are also **Sibling Discounts** as well as an **Invite-a-Friend Gifts**. See the brochure for details. 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. 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!

You are invited to please stop by Janice Bowen's porch anytime if you are in search of the following: May church **newsletter**, May/June Upper Room, a **facemask**, or a supply of **greeting cards**. Please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 if you have any questions.

**Ministry Safe Training-** All volunteers who help in the children or youth areas should be watching their email for the new online Safe Sanctuary training. You will receive an email with a link to the training. The email will appear as it is coming from Pastor Denny. Anyone working with children or youth in any capacity is required to complete this valuable on-line training. Questions can be directed to Dawn Fisher at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

### *Generous Giver*

We encourage you to continue to respond through your weekly giving. **Offerings** can be mailed in to the church office. Now is also a great time to sign up for electronic giving! Please contact the church office at [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) with any questions or for more information.

### **CHILDREN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BOOMERANG (aka Zoomerang!)-** Sunday, May 23 @ 4:00pm. Join us on Zoom! All 3rd, 4th & 5th graders welcome to this time of fun, fellowship and strengthening our relationship with God. In this small group time we learn how to take God's teachings and apply them to our lives and how we treat and can serve others. Because in Boomerang, it's all about bringing it back to God! We will email out the Zoom link soon. If you don't receive the link and would like to, email Dawn & Anna at: [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

### **YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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



## **Mission Central says thanks!**

*"Thank you, First UMC! Your steadfast support, prayers and love have been instrumental to all of us at Mission Central. We are so grateful for your recent donation and because of you, Mission Central had a record breaking 2020. Last year, we assisted over 3.3 million people with over \$10.9 million in resources. And as always, all items are provided at no cost to the recipient."*

### **Some accomplishments include:**

- Distributed over \$780,000 in medical supplies and equipment to support 241,000 people.
- Launched a school partnership where over 13,000 students and their families received support.
- Supplied \$433,000 in Flood Buckets/Cleaning Kits to recovery efforts.



**MISSION  
CENTRAL**

## **Ministry Staff**

### **Pastor:**

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