

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
May 9, 2021



**THE
RETURN**

“The Older Son”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com





FOUNDATION SERVICE ~ 8:15 AM

Prelude

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" - George Snoke & Sarah Pugh

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Mother's Day Tribute Video

Mother's Day Prayer

The Gospel

Luke 15: 25-32

Anthem

*"Knowing You"- Sounds of Worship Choir
words & music by Graham Kendrick*

Sermon

"The Older Son" - Pastor Denny

Hymn

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"

Benediction

Postlude

"As the Deer" - arr. Caleb Flick

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching..... Rev. Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team Sounds of Worship Choir, Caleb Flick, Sarah Pugh,
..... George Snoke

Sound & Media Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Jim Murdoch



THE GATHERING SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"Whole Heart (Hold Me Now)"

Prayer for Mother's Day

Praise and Worship

"Reckless Love"

The Gospel

Luke 15: 25-32

Sermon

"The Older Son" - Pastor Denny

Praise and Worship

"Who You Say I Am"

Benediction

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Rev. Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team George Canonizado, Dave Florey, Jason Kichline,
..... Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, Tracy Wertz

Sound & Media Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Jim Murdoch

“The Return: The Older Son”

Luke 15: 25-32



1. The focus of this parable: "What will happen to the older brother?"

Then he became angry and refused to go in. (verse 28a)

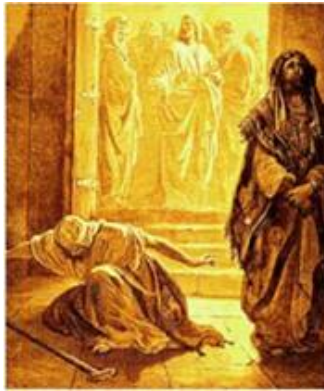


2. The older brother is **lost in resentment**.

*But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I **have** been working like a slave for you, and I **have** never disobeyed your command; yet **you have never** given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. (verse 29)*

When We Compare Ourselves to Others...
...We're better than they are.
...They're better than we are.
...We'd rather be them than us.

*He also told this parable to some who **trusted in themselves** that they were righteous and **regarded others with contempt**: (Luke 18:9)*



*"...for all who **exalt themselves** will be **humbled**, but all who **humble themselves** will be **exalted.**" (Luke 18:14)*

3. The older brother is **without joy**.

*But when **this son of yours** came back, who has **devoured your property with prostitutes**, you killed the fatted calf for him!' (verse 30)*

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

4. The father loves **both sons**.

*"Whether I am the younger son or the older son, **God's only desire is to bring me home.**"
(Henri Nouwen)*

***His father came out and began to plead with him.** (verse 28b)*

*My Father's house has **room to spare.** (John 14:2, CEB)*

5. The elder son's return: **Trust** in God's love for you.

*'**Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.** (verses 31)*

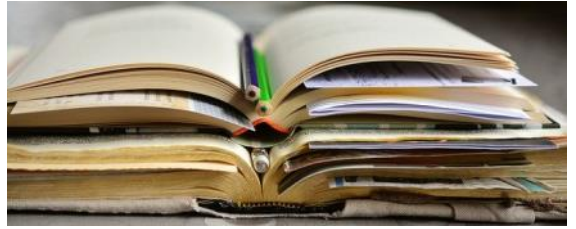
*For **we are God's handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God **prepared in advance for us to do.** (Ephesians 2:10)*

6. The elder son's return: **Be grateful** for all that God has given you.

*'**Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.** (verses 31)*

Weekly Bible Readings

Week of May 9



Sunday

“The Older Son”

Monday

Acts 1:1-11

Tuesday

1 John 5:9-13

Wednesday

Psalm 1

Thursday

Luke 24:44-53

Friday

John 17:6-19

Saturday

Rest and Reflect



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

May 9, 2021

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Clyde Strock, placed by the 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** – Currently studying *Shaken, a study about discovering your identity in the midst of life's storms*, by Tim Tebo. Meets on Zoom, 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry Eaton at 1785eaton@gmail.com if interested.
- **Men's Bible Study** – 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 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 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 jparis@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 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 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 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.

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 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. 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

Recovering at Home/Rehabilitation: Charlotte Hess, Rose Rohlmeier

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 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. Sing, pray, hear the message proclaimed and respond through your weekly giving. If you, or someone you know, are unable to access the online worship service, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 for other ways to connect with our worship.



Dedicated Missionary

Isaiah 61 is resuming! This ministry hands out free meals to those in need in downtown Harrisburg. We are in need of volunteers to help serve on Wednesday, May 19, starting at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Tiffany Holland if you can serve, so that we can ensure there is enough help. Also, if you want to carpool, contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com to meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m. Safety protocols include, wearing masks, gloves and physical distancing.

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. 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.



Relationship Builder

We would love to celebrate with the **2021 graduates**. If you are graduating (from high school, undergrad, or beyond), please fill out this form and let us know about your graduation and future plans: <https://forms.gle/sT6XwhinjhKREhrF7>. **Please respond by May 30th!**

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 or 717-697-5982 or Amy Ortiz at amy.ogden7@gmail.com. You may also contact the church office at 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 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 online training. Questions can be directed to Dawn Fisher at 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 with any questions or for more information.



CHILDREN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOMERANG (aka Zoomerang!)- Sunday, May 23 @ 4:00pm. Join us on Zoom! (We may meet in person at church depending on weather) 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.

VBS Registration is OPEN- June 28th through July 2nd for all 4 year olds through entering 6th grade. During the day VBS will be virtual, like last year. However, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings of that week from 6:00pm until 6:45 pm we will have some fun, in person activities outside in the church parking lot for families to come participate in! In this uncertain summer, we thought it best to once again hold a virtual VBS, BUT this year include some in person fun with activities in the church parking lot where we can be

outdoors and able to have fellowship together! For more details and to register visit: <https://fumcmechanicsburg.mycokesburyvbs.com>

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Instagram: fouryouthministry

FB page: 4G - First United Methodist Youth Group

Remind text list - Text @4Gyo to 81010

Ministry Staff

Pastor:

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

Director of Worship Arts

Sarah Pugh
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Director of Discipleship:

Tina Eaton
717-766-4611, x104
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Director of Congregational Care Ministry:

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

Outreach Director:

Lori Hoffnagle
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outreach@fumchurch.com

Youth Pastor:

Lisa Aronson
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uthrock@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

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kidscount@fumchurch.com

Co-Director of Children's Ministry:

Anna Harris
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Office Manager/Finance Secretary:

Ellen Hill
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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