



First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

Change in Sunday Morning Schedule Begins Sunday, September 19

We have certainly been blessed these past several months to resume offering multiple worship services that are God-glorifying and well-attended, despite the obstacles that Covid-19 has presented! What's more is that, even in this summer vacation season, attendance at both services has continued to grow. Each week we welcome new persons to worship along with familiar faces returning in person. At the same time, our online worship attendance remains strong!

Based on feedback from our congregation, and after prayerful consideration among staff and leaders of First Church, beginning Sunday, September 19, we are changing the time of our Foundation Service from 8:15 am to 8:30 am. In turn, this will shift our Sunday School enrichment time to 9:45-10:45 am. Our later worship service, The Gathering, will remain at its current time of 11:00 am.

We hope to see several benefits to this change in times, both for our early service and our Sunday School enrichment time:

- It will provide a little more time for folks to arrive in the morning.
- Everyone who supports worship will be able to arrive a little bit later. This includes all of our ushers, greeters, sound/media team, musicians, pastors and staff, etc. We hope this will also encourage more people to serve in these important ministries.
- It tightens the Sunday morning schedule just enough so that there is not too much time in between worship and Sunday School enrichment.
- Providing childcare at our Foundation service will open the door for more families to attend, and shifting to a slightly later time will help in recruiting childcare workers.
- Shifting the early service by just 15 minutes has the previously mentioned benefits, while not impacting the end time for our later service.

September 19, when this new Sunday morning schedule will begin, is also our fall kick-off day. We encourage everyone to join us, either in person or online! And bring a friend! Having discerned this through much prayer and conversation, we look forward to seeing what God has in store for us!

Blessed to worship with you!

Pastor Denny

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Adult Discipleship

No matter whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple or becoming a fully devoted follower, there is always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

- **Daily Bible Reading Plan** — God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan in our weekly worship bulletin, which is posted on our church website, fumchurch.com.
- **First Step Gathering** — If you are new to First Church, or haven't been around for a while, First Step gatherings provide an environment where you'll get to know our pastor and others while you learn how to navigate the best next step for you to grow in your faith. Our next gathering is scheduled on September 26 from 9:45 – 10:45 am. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to register today!
- **Next Step Class** — Ready for the next step in your journey with Jesus? Join us for a 4-week study, “A Disciple’s Path”. Together you will explore spiritual practices, discover your unique gifts and grow in your commitment by becoming a church member. The fall Next Step class is scheduled to begin on October 3 from 9:45 – 10:45 am. Childcare will be provided. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to register.
- **Steps Beyond** — As you learn and grow, consider these next steps on your path to becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus... new participants are encouraged to join at any time!
 - **Sunday School Enrichment** — If you are looking to add a time to learn, grow and enjoy fellowship with others to your Sunday morning routine either before or after worship, here is a list of opportunities for all ages. *All groups begin meeting this fall at a new time from 9:45 – 10:45 am.*
 - ◆ **Faith in Everyday Life**
 Target: 30-50something
 Start Date/Location: To Be Determined
 Contact: Jenell Paris at jparis@messiah.edu
 This small group enjoys being out in our community, and focuses on fellowship and friendship/mutual support. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture.
 - ◆ **Growing in Christ**
 Target: Adults all ages/stages of faith
 Start Date/Location: September 19, location to be determined
 Contact: Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com
 This group provides a caring community that loves to study the Word of God, laugh together, pray for one another, and encourage each other in faith. Contact Tina for Zoom link.
 - ◆ **Christian Fellowship**
 Target: Adults all ages/stages of faith
 Start Date/Location: Start date and location to be determined
 Contact: Wayde Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com
 A friendly, caring group, eager to apply God’s Word to life’s challenges. Enjoys short-term Bible studies that challenge and inspire. Contact Wayde for Zoom link.
 - ◆ **Faithful Families**
 Target: Parents
 Start Date/Location: To Be Determined
 Contact: Bob and Tracy Wertz at wertzfive@gmail.com

An active group of parents with older school-aged and young adult children who study Scripture, encourage one another, and celebrate life together in and out of the classroom.

◆ **Helping Hands**

Target: Primarily 60+

Start Date/Location: September 12, Room B-004

Contact: Bob Wertz, Sr. at robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com

A group of active seniors who focus on studies which provide encouragement and instruction on faithful living, and who enjoy fellowship activities together outside of class.

◆ **Guyer Class**

Target: Primarily 70+

Start Date/Location: September 12, Room 123

Contact: Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com

This lecture-based class, taught by a variety of church leaders, is comprised of a group of elders in the church who use the United Methodist quarterly adult Bible lessons. This fall, lessons center on the theme “Belong”. We belong to God, to one another as a community of faith and, as Jesus modeled, we invite all to belong as we practice open-table fellowship!

- **Mid-Week ReFuel** — This mid-week program expands the focus of Wonderful Wednesday to include learning opportunities for *everyone*! Includes a brief gathering time with worship at 5:45 pm, followed by dinner and fellowship/small groups for all ages. Wraps up by 7:30 pm. 6-week fall semester will run October 20 through December 1 (no class Nov. 24). Stay tuned for more details to follow. Additional mid-week learning and fellowship opportunities include:



- ◆ **Wednesday Men’s Group** – This group enjoys great fellowship and short-term Bible studies together. Currently studying *The Art of Neighboring*. Jesus said we must love God and love our neighbors, but do we always do that? Learn to listen to God’s call, push past barriers and build God-honoring relationships with those around us. Meets in person (outside) at the home of Barry Eaton at 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry at 1785eaton@gmail.com if interested.
- ◆ **Wednesday Women’s Lunch and Learn** – Bring your own lunch and enjoy discussion and fellowship time with other women as you study “Brave” by local author Tabitha Deller. Do you battle fear and doubt? Find strength for the journey by studying the lives of Joshua, Caleb, Ruth, Paul, David and Esther. Facilitated by Tina Eaton, this group will meet from 12:00 – 1:00 pm from October 6 through November 17. Order your study guide at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to register for this group.
- ◆ **MOPS** – Connects moms to a community of women who meet to laugh, support and embrace the journey together. Meets once a month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Wednesday evenings at the church. Cost is \$32.00, which covers special guest speakers and dinner together each month from September through May. Fun monthly outings with your kids will also be scheduled throughout the year! Find the 2021-22 MOPS flyer [here](#). The first meeting date is September 15. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for more details and to register today!
- ◆ **Wednesday Study with Pastor Denny** – Bible study with Pastor Denny will resume this fall on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm. Stay tuned for more details in September bulletins.
- **Additional Learning Opportunities** — In addition to our Sunday and Wednesday enrichment opportunities, we also offer Bible studies other days of the week so that you can choose what suits your schedule and your interest!

- ◆ **Thursday Bible Study** – Led by Juanita Guise, this group will resume meeting this fall on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Stay tuned for more details in September bulletins.
- ◆ **Sunday Men’s Bible Study** – Led by Ken Guise and David Mengle, this group will resume meeting this fall on Sunday evenings at 6:15 pm. Stay tuned for more details in September bulletins.

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!

From the Library

September means back to school whether we have children or not. But the last two years have been the school unlike any year that we can remember. I am praying this will be a calm and productive school year, and it will work all the kids back into a normal pattern-whatever that may be. Studies show that reading and reading well aids in learning at all levels. Abraham Lincoln was a self-taught man from reading and studying. So come to the library and read—we have some great books for recreational reading or some non-fiction for educational benefits. The library has a volunteer who will help you find whatever you would like.

I don’t know about you, but I have had a busy and exhausting summer trying to fit eighteen months of plans into three months. I think, if you are like me you would like to start fall by kicking back and reading fluff. **This Time Around** is a three-novella romance book that fits fluff to perfection. Written by some of our favorite writers, Denise Hunter, Melissa Ferguson, and Kathleen Fuller, these novellas feature heart warming stories of second chances. I don’t think you will need to know more—light, sweet, and fun! Add some apple cider and you are ready for an evening of entertainment.

But if you need a punch of adrenaline to get your September started, you might check out **The Chase** by Lisa Harris. It is book two in the US Marshals series. You may have already read **The Escape** featuring Marshals Madison James and Jonas Quinn. Unfortunately, **The Catch** (Book 3) won’t be out until spring, but the first two are on the shelf. Madison James has been out of the action when **The Chase** starts, having been shot by an unknown assailant, but she is ready to join her partner Jonas in chasing down some bank robbers who have completed a string of robberies. While most robbers are doing the crime for the money, these robbers seem to be in it for the adrenaline rush and take more and more risks with each robbery. The Marshals want to catch them before the risks go too far and someone gets hurt. Follow the trail with the Marshals from Seattle to the San Juan Islands and find out if they arrest these robbers before the next book comes out!

Though I am writing this newsletter in early August and the book sale hasn’t occurred yet—Pam and I want to thank each of you for supporting the sale by either donating books or buying books. The library relies on these sales to keep the best and newest Christian books on the shelf for your reading pleasure. Thank you so much!

See you in the library,

~ Pam and Donna

‘Going Beyond’ Simulcast with Priscilla Shirer, September 25

The Women’s Ministry Team at First United Methodist Church is excited to host the live simulcast with Priscilla Shirer on Saturday, September 25th! We will be offering an in-person option in our sanctuary which includes a box lunch along with virtual viewing which includes a fun hospitality bag (delivered before the event). All women are invited to attend! Details about the event and registration can be found [here](#). We now have a simple online form available [here](#). You can also contact Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net for the registration or with questions. Space is limited, so register soon!

JOIN US FOR THE
Going Beyond
SIMULCAST
PRISCILLA
SHIRER
Worship with Anthony Evans
SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



Praying Follower



September Prayer Challenge – Back to School Prayer

As we enter the back to school season, here is a prayer challenge that we all can use to pray for children, youth, college students, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, the children of our church and community, teachers, administrators, support staff, bus drivers, crossing guards and more! Together, let's cover schools in our love and prayers, not just during these back to school days, but throughout the entire school year! Use this format, provided by Moms in Prayer International™. Because schools are continuing to adjust plans according to circumstances surrounding Covid, let's fully trust God and focus our prayers on this attribute - *God, our Master Planner!*

1. **Praise**—Praise God for **who He is**, His attribute as our Master Planner, the One who has the perfect plan, the One who plans our day-to-day steps. *Suggested scripture: Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 32:8, Psalm 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9*
2. **Confession**—Silently confess your sins to the God who forgives. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*
3. **Thanksgiving**—Thank God for **what He has done**. *In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*
4. **Intercession**—Coming to God in prayer on **behalf of others**. Insert name(s) of person(s) you are praying for in the blank spaces: *LORD, may You show _____ Your ways, teach them Your paths, guide _____ in Your truth and teach _____. Savior, may _____'s hope be in You all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)*

You can take this personal prayer challenge one step further by sending someone that you prayed for a note to share an encouraging word. And if you are interested in **joining our Moms in Prayer** group this fall, please contact Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com. This 1-hour group begins meeting on August 30th on Monday evenings.

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



Current Sermon Series — “All Day Every Day”

There are 168 hours in a week. The typical follower of Jesus spends one hour a week in church. What about the other 167 hours? The New Testament Book of James has been called the handbook of practical Christianity. In this 12-week journey through James, we are discovering how to follow Christ humbly, obediently, and with an open heart all day every day! We hope that you will join us for the following messages in September:

- September 5: "Planning for Tomorrow By Surrendering Today" James 4:13-17
- September 12: "Counting on My Lord, Not My Money" James 5:1-6
- September 19: "Standing On The Promises" James 5:7-11
- September 26: "Becoming A Community That Heals" James 5:13-18

SAVE THE DATE: Sounds of Worship Choir Rehearsals Begin!

WHEN: Thursday September 9

WHERE: Music Room, off of Fellowship Hall, basement of the church

TIME: 7:00-8:00PM

Come help give worship leadership to the congregation, and praise our Lord with musical adoration! All vocal parts are needed and everyone is WELCOME! We sing at the 8:15 a.m. service most Sundays of the month. For more information, contact SOW Director Flossie Ryder at [717-766-0811](tel:717-766-0811) or Sarah Pugh, Worship Arts Director at worship@fumchurch.com.

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 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>

Dedicated Missionary



First Church Accepting Applications for Director of Children and Family Ministry

First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg is seeking a full-time Director of Children and Family Ministry. This person will be responsible for the overall vision and implementation of the faith development of children (birth through 5th grade), in partnership with their families. Education related to children and/or family ministry, or applicable experience is required. To view the full job description, visit the church website at fumchurch.com or <https://fumchurch.com/director-of-children-and-family-ministry/>. Please submit resumes to office@fumchurch.com or to Ellen Hill, Office Manager, at 135 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Change for Water

Water is the foundation of our very lives; yet, according to CDC estimates, only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water! Help us to support the **Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone** by dropping your loose change, or even bills, into the blue "Change for Water" bucket located in the main lobby by the mailboxes. Donations from last month totaled \$15.15. 100% of your donations will be used to provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

Isaiah 61 Returns in Harrisburg!

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. New safety protocols have been established, such as wearing a mask, gloves and

physical distancing. If you would like to carpool or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com.

Upcoming Virtual VIM Training!

The next Volunteers in Mission Virtual Training will be September 9, 16 and 23. 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 led 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. Topics covered include: Best Practices, Cultural Awareness, Health & Safety, Team Orientations, Useful Forms, Insurance and Fundraising.

See registration and details here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdomQ-PFT9071WBtB8zMwjXolRdxzJgQdXYwi1xFCt711EBCA/viewform>.

UMW Conference Annual Day, November 6, 2021 – Registrations now open!

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! Here is the link to register for the event: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTavGDpWQihyUjvDvpEjhGT4OWCbi6mGJ0ckRS8p6NmfcGyg/viewform>. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com with any 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

Is there not a better way to express extravagant hospitality outside of our church building than by waving and smiling at those whom we pass by on a daily basis? The WAVE and SMILE initiative is a “no cost” way to engage with others and perhaps even make their day! Here are some easy ways to remember it.... We All Value Everyone (WAVE) & Service Makes Individual Lives Exciting (SMILE). Being intentional about waving and smiling is not only a blessing to the person receiving it ~ but also to we who offer it! Go ahead.... give it a try today!

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! 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, September 11. Questions, contact Vanessa Storlie at trinityburgoutreach@gmail.com.

Third Friday Food Trucks, Friday, September 17

We look forward to seeing you at our next Food Trucks on Friday, September 17 in our parking lot! The time is 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. We will be welcoming the following trucks in September: Mad Dash, 717 Taco, Get Smok’d, It’s All Greek, Grappling Crab, Savory’s Funnel Cakes and Scoop of Dough. Come out for great food and a chance to meet our neighbors! Mark your calendar for the last Food Trucks for this season, October 15. Check our Facebook page and website closer to the next date, as the trucks may change.

Save the Date for Sewing

We hope to be able to offer a sewing day on October 16 to make Feminine Hygiene items for Mission Central. If you can cut, sew, measure, or iron, you would be an important part of this project so save the date. Please watch for more details to come.

Joy in the Morning - a small group invitation!

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this spiritually-focused small group. We will meet next on Monday, September 20 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, taking inspiration from the book, With the Dawn Rejoicing. For more information, contact Janice Bowen at [717-766-4611 x112](tel:717-766-4611) or wecare@fumchurch.com.

FALL KICKOFF/RENEWAL DAY – SEPTEMBER 19!

Plan to celebrate, and invite your friends and neighbors to participate with us on this special day as we:

- Join together to worship in the morning at a **NEW TIME - 8:30 am** for our Foundation service (either in-person or livestreaming) or our **11:00 am** Gathering service (in-person). Rejoice and renew your commitment to honor God with your worship!
- Learn and grow together by attending one of the **Sunday School enrichment groups** being offered at a **NEW TIME – 9:45 am** (either in-person or online). Groups are being offered for all ages (see details under “Sunday School Enrichment” in this newsletter).
- Come back later in the day to reconnect and relax together at our all-church **Tailgate Picnic** in the church parking lot from **4:00 to 7:00 pm**. **Bring your own picnic and lawn chairs**, and refresh your spirit through outdoor worship, fellowship and games for all ages.

**NOTE: Bibles will also be handed out to children and youth at all worship services that day as we reaffirm our commitment to God’s Word for all ages!*



Generous Giver

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 31, 2021 — 58% of year

General Fund — July giving:

Actual giving in the month of July \$66,614

Average month per 2021 budget \$75,416

General Fund — Year-to-date

2021 budget \$ 905,000

Expected income \$ 527,916 (58% of budget)

Actual giving \$ 542,822 (60% of budget)

Actual expenses \$ 518,660 (57% of budget)

Our year-to-date financial position continues to be blessed by the faithfulness of our Lord through the gifts of our congregation and friends. July giving was somewhat “short” of the average expected monthly giving. Thank you again for keeping First Church in your prayers and thoughts as we go through this extraordinary time.

Our expenses remain in good shape as we continue to offer online services, in addition to opening up more and more through this unusual time. We ask for your continued prayer and support as we make our way through the summer months.

The Endowment Fund

The current and future financial needs of our church will be supported by numerous resources. One of these resources is the church Endowment fund through the annual withdrawal of earnings from the invested permanent fund, the principal which is held in perpetuity. Our church needs to maintain the building, possibly replace volunteer staff with paid staff, establish new areas of ministry, and respond to unanticipated ministry need. With creative giving, giving from one’s accumulated resources, this will provide a unique opportunity to mature and support our obligation for the future of the church. God is good all the time and He has provided us with an abundance of blessings and we might want to consider if supporting the Endowment fund is a consideration.

Any Endowment fund committee member welcomes your interest in our church’s Endowment fund and are available to answer any questions. Endowment fund committee members include : Bob Wertz Sr. (Chair), Pastor Denny, Barry Eaton, Katie Hammaker, Mark Rutch, Patti Vogel, Pam Murdoch, Judi Buddenbaum, Rick Herring, Ken Rapp

CROP Hunger Walk, October 17 and Fund Raiser at Hoss’s!

First Church will once again be participating in the annual CROP Hunger Walk sponsored by Church World Services. This year’s date is Sunday, **October 17th** at 1:00 pm at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 117 W. Keller Street (the church behind us!) This year we are excited to announce the 50th Anniversary of the CROP Hunger Walk in Mechanicsburg! If you want to support the CROP Walk and our walkers, please donate to our page here: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/first-walkers>. We’d love to have you walk with us! You can choose to walk one or three miles, throughout the beautiful streets of Mechanicsburg. All walkers will receive a Free tee-shirt and a meal will be served after the Walk compliments of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. Let’s all help to ‘End hunger, one Step at a Time!’ For more information or how to join us, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. In addition, there will be a fundraiser at Hoss’s in Mechanicsburg on Thursday, **September 9**. Just take the form with you and proceeds will benefit the Mechanicsburg CROP Hunger Walk. You can find the [form](#) here. Thanks for your support!

Mission Central Monster Mash and Dash: October 24 – 31, 2021

The Mission Central annual 5K has turned into the second ever virtual run – the Mission Central Monster Mash and Dash! All runners/walkers/movers and shakers to participate! The event will run October 24, 2021 through October 31, 2021. Please join us with your best Halloween costume and share your experience on social media – #MCmonsterdash. See details and registration information at <https://missioncentral.org/events/>.

Share the Harvest

We once again invite you to *share the harvest* with others as summer folds into fall! If you have extra flowers, fruits or vegetables to share, bring them to the Little Free Pantry side shelf anytime. We also will continue to offer the ‘Share the Harvest’ table outside the gym for sharing on Sunday mornings. If you don’t have access to a garden, feel free to help yourself or share with a friend! If you have questions, contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 766-4611 x112.

Little Free Pantry Update

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. Please be sure to place items that are not expired or near

expiration. If you or your group would like to sign up, see the available months [here](#). A simpler list of suggestions can be found [here](#). **Feel free to sign up for just one week, if that works better for you!** If you would like to choose a week this fall or would like to make a financial donation to the pantry, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

First Church would like to thank everyone for their participation in the annual UMW yard, book, and bake sale. Whether you donated items, worked the sale, or purchased items, you were an important part of the sale. The sale benefitted service projects for the UMW, the Bells, the Library, and the Youth. Each group worked hard to make this the best place to be on August 21. While it benefitted many in our church it is also a community outreach and it is something we all needed right now. Look forward to even bigger and better day next year!

The Ministry of First Church

Youth Ministry

The youth of first church have had quite a summer! After time spent together serving in Harrisburg for our week of service and mission, hanging out at the park, and growing together as we worshiped and camped at Impact, we are now ready to find some routine with the fall. We will still aim to be flexible and adaptable to whatever pandemic situations may arise, but in a hope to be forward thinking, here is some of what you can expect:

- **Sunday Morning 9:45-10:45 - Student Connection**

Participants: Youth 6th – 12th Grade

Location: Youth Lounge

Contact: Lisa Aronson at uthrock@fumchurch.com

Come to hangout before or after worship. Enjoy conversation and connection with one another in a relaxed setting. Some days we may venture off-site to a local café.

- **Sunday Evening 6:30-8:15 - 4G**

Participants: Youth 6th – 12th Grade

Location: Youth Lounge/Multipurpose Room

Contact: Lisa Aronson at uthrock@fumchurch.com

4G is our youth discipleship time aimed at Gathering students together to Gain from lessons, conversations, and the Word for the purpose of Growing as faithful followers of Christ so that we can Give of ourselves to God's kingdom purposes.

- **Youth Worship:** Those interested in sharing their musical gifts and talents to lead others in worship should contact Allison Ometz at ometz@msn.com about being involved in the youth worship team who meets Sundays from 5:45-6:30. (Those interested in sound and media are also encouraged to express their interest).
- **Confirmation:** Students desiring to affirm their faith in Jesus through the process of confirmation should contact Lisa Aronson at uthrock@fumchurch.com.
What is confirmation? The point in a student's faith journey where they make strong the baptismal vows that were made on their behalf (at baptism) by declaring those vows with their own intent and desire. Through a series of gatherings, students are given tools and understanding so that they will be able to faithfully live out the vows they make.
- **Tentative 2021 Dates:**
 - November 19-20 – Sleep Out for the Homeless
 - December 3-5 – All Youth Winter Retreat
 - December 11 – Cookie Walk (mission fundraiser)

Trustee Update from Jim Murdoch (President)

As good stewards of your giving, it is the Trustees mission to ensure this beautiful church is well-maintained to serve our community for generations to come. I wanted to highlight some of our accomplishments over the past few years:

- **2018: Video System & Masonry Repairs**
- **2019: Sanctuary Aesthetic Changes:**
 - Extended the platform to allow for a permanent home of the grand piano
 - Installed wood trim through the sanctuary
 - Added handicap ramp access to the chancel
 - Added handicap pew access throughout the main sanctuary
- **2020: Air Handlers**
 - Replaced two air handlers that expired beyond their expected life span
- **Security**
 - Installation of a key fob system on the exterior doors, providing additional protection to our preschool & staff members
- **Covid:** We adapted to necessary protocol changes created by the pandemic:
 - Through a special gift, we installed an air purifying ionization system in the air handlers of the sanctuary & children's wing
 - We purchased two mobile air ionizers to professionally clean surfaces
 - Installed simulcast equipment for online viewing
 - Constructed a stage for our outdoor worship space in the parking lot
- **2021:**
 - Completed masonry/brownstone renovations to the small tower along Simpson Street
 - Replaced all shingles areas of our roof: office wing, both portions of the sanctuary, and tower entrance by the preschool
 - Provided annual scholarships to our college students and continuing educational needs of our pastors
 - We also provide on-going maintenance required at the parsonage.

This is all done through your regular gifts to the general fund, the Endowment fund, and to the various designated memorial funds. Thank You!

Looking to the future we are currently evaluating reconstruction of our sound/media desk area with full replacement of our sound systems for better control, which would include computers, digital equipment, wiring, amps, and speakers. In addition, our long-term objectives include the preservation of our stained glass windows throughout the church, masonry/brownstone repairs, and needed improvements to our HVAC systems.

Our Board of Trustees includes the following members: James Murdoch (President), Lee Cadwallader (Vice President), Judi Buddenbaum (Secretary), Marilyn Knott (Treasurer), Don Karns, James Paris, Mark Mengle, Bob Wertz, Jr., and George Yatski



September Bible Reading Plan

Wednesday, September 1 Psalm 125
Thursday, September 2 Mark 7:24-37
Friday, September 3 James 4:13-17
Saturday, September 4 Rest and Reflect

Sunday, September 5 ***"All Day Every Day- "Planning for Tomorrow By Surrendering Today"***

Monday, September 6 Proverbs 1:20-33
Tuesday, September 7 Psalm 19
Wednesday, September 8 Mark 8:27-30
Thursday, September 9 Mark 8:31-38
Friday, September 10 James 5:1-6
Saturday, September 11 Rest and Reflect

Sunday, September 12 ***"All Day Every Day- "Counting on My Lord, Not My Money"***

Monday, September 13 Proverbs 31:10-31
Tuesday, September 14 Psalm 1
Wednesday, September 15 James 3:13-4:3
Thursday, September 16 Mark 9:30-37
Friday, September 17 James 5: 7-11
Saturday, September 18 Rest and Reflect

Sunday, September 19 ***"All Day Every Day- "Standing on the Promises"***

Monday, September 20 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Tuesday, September 21 Psalm 124
Wednesday, September 22 Mark 9:38-50
Thursday, September 23 James 5:13-16
Friday, September 24 James 5:17-20
Saturday, September 25 Rest and Reflect

Sunday, September 26 ***"All Day Every Day- "Becoming a Community That Heals"***

Monday, September 27 Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Tuesday, September 28 Psalm 26
Wednesday, September 29 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Thursday, September 30 Mark 10:13-16

Church News and Notes

Our love & sympathy...

to Pastor Ron and Dianne Burgard in the death of Ron's mother, Eveyln Burgard Adams, on July 12
 to Sandy and Frankie Carley and family in the death of Sandy's mother, Helen Ritter, on July 15
 to Sadie Heim and family in the death of Sadie's brother, Marlin
 to Ken Hammaker and family in the death of Ken's sister, Deb Landrum
 to the Dougherty family in the death of Tammy Dougherty, on August 6
 to the family and friends of Richard Hayworth, upon his death on August 6
 to Sarah Pugh and family in the death of Sarah's uncle, Jack, on August 11
 to the Hutter family in the death of Skip Hutter on August 22



Special Birthdays

Sally Kauffman	September 8	Pam Weaver.....	October 7
Emma Whitcomb	September 8	Peg Hassinger	October 8
Pat Sheely.....	September 11	Kay Heiges.....	October 18
Ken Nelson.....	September 13	Carol Moomaw	October 21
George Rehfluss	September 16	Winslow Brown.....	October 23
George Carpenter	September 18	Don Shover	October 23
Joan Stokes.....	September 19	Gail Leinhos.....	October 28
Marley Ann Schmick	September 21	J. Paul Strock	October 31
Ralph Harkins	September 25		
Peggy Shenberger	September 28		

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Bob & Judy Wertz married 58 years on September 1
- ♥ Ed & Gina Johnson married 57 years on September 3
- ♥ Darrell & Barbara Sill married 54 years on September 16
- ♥ George & Mary Beth Snoke married 55 years on September 24
- ♥ Richard & Marley Ann Schmick married 57 years on September 26
- ♥ J. Paul & Lorraine Strock married 68 years on September 27



FIRST NEWS FIRST
 Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles
 for the **October 2021** issue is
September 15

Early submissions always
appreciated!