

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
November 28, 2021



"It Wouldn't Be Christmas Without... Family"

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg
717-766-4611
www.fumchurch.com





FOUNDATION SERVICE ~ 8:30 AM

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Opening Hymn

*"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" -
No. 196*

Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

Advent Response

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the
Light" - No. 206; v.1 & refrain*

Ministry of Music

"An Advent Prayer" - arr. Allen Pote

Scripture

Matthew 1: 2-3a, 12: 46-50 (CEB)

Sermon

*"It Wouldn't Be Christmas Without...
Family" - Pastor Denny*

Ministry of Music

"What a Beautiful Name"

Invitation, Confession, and Pardon

Sharing Signs of Peace

Offering

The Great Thanksgiving for Advent

The Lord's Prayer

Giving the Bread and Cup

Announcements

Closing Hymn

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem" - No.
230*

Benediction

Postlude

*"Great is Thy Faithfulness" - arr. Mark
Hayes*

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching..... Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team Caleb Flick, Sounds of Worship Choir

Sound & Media Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ron Nichols



THE GATHERING SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

Praise and Worship

"Living Hope"

Scripture

Matthew 1: 2-3a; 12: 46-50 (CEB)

Sermon

"It Wouldn't Be Christmas Without... Family" - Pastor Denny

Praise & Worship

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Communion Prayer

Communion

Offering & Announcements

Praise and Worship

"What a Beautiful Name"

Benediction

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team George Canonizado, John Gross, Jason Kichline, Sarah Pugh,
..... Tracy Wertz, Abigail Wertz

Sound & Media Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ron Nichols

Weekly Bible Readings

Week of November 28



Sunday

“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... Family”

Monday

Malachi 3:1-4

Tuesday

Luke 1:68-79

Wednesday

Philippians 1:3-11

Thursday

Luke 3:1-6

Friday

Luke 1:5-25

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... Family”

“You can choose your friends, but you can’t choose your family, and they’re still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge ‘em or not.” (Atticus – To Kill a Mockingbird)

“For many cultures ancient and modern, and certainly in the Jewish world of Matthew’s day, this genealogy was the equivalent of a roll of drums, a fanfare of trumpets, a town crier calling for attention. Any first-century Jew would find this family tree both impressive and compelling.

“Like a great procession coming down the street, we watch the figures at the front, and the ones in the middle, but all eyes are waiting for the one who comes in the position of greatest honor, right at the end.” (N.T. Wright, Matthew for Everyone)

1. Jesus was born into an imperfect family.

Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar...
(Matthew 1:2-3a CEB)

The Four Women in Jesus’ Family Tree

Tamar
Rahab
Ruth
Bathsheba

As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, “Follow me,” and he got up and followed him. As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table. But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard it, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn’t come to call righteous people, but sinners.” (Matthew 13:9-13 CEB)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16 NRSV)

2. And yet Jesus was born to be **the Healer of Our Brokenness.**

... and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. (Matthew 1:16 CEB)

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 NRSV)



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

November 28, 2021

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Harold & Doris Zimmerman and Merle & Della Zimmerman, placed by the family.



Lifelong Learner

Interested in taking a **first step** to grow in your faith? Try our **daily Bible reading plan**, which is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! Find it in this bulletin or on our church website, fumchurch.com. Looking to add additional faithful **steps beyond** that? Consider these opportunities – newcomers are welcome to any group at any time!

- **Sunday School Enrichment** – The start time for all of these Sunday morning groups is **9:45 am**.
 - o **Faith in Everyday Life** – Meets in room 207, targets 30-50somethings
Contact: Jenell Paris at jparis@messiah.edu
A group focused on fellowship and friendship/mutual support in and outside the classroom. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture.
 - o **Growing in Christ** – Hybrid (meets both on zoom and in-person in room 105), targets adults all ages/stages of faith
Contact: Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com
Trace the steps of Jesus through Israel and explore the major themes of the Gospel of Mark. Study runs through December 19. Contact Tina for zoom link or drop by in-person anytime!
 - o **Christian Fellowship** – Meets in room B003, targets adults all ages/stages of faith
Contact: Wayde Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com
A caring group, eager to apply God's Word to life's challenges. Enjoys short-term Bible studies that challenge and inspire.
 - o **Faithful Families** - Meets in room B005, targets parents
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.
 - o **Helping Hands** - Meets in room B004, targets primarily 60+
Contact: Bob Wertz, Sr. at robert_wertz@plantsite logistics.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.
 - o **Guyer Class** - Meets in room 123, targets primarily 70+
Contact: Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com
A 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.
- **Additional Learning/Growth Opportunities**
 - o **MOPS** – A group for mothers of young children that meets once a month, 6:00 to 8:15 pm. Next meeting is Wednesday, December 15. Registration is \$32.00 (covers full year of special guest speakers/dinner, scholarships available). Additional outings with kids scheduled throughout the year!
Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for more details.



Praying Follower

Recovering at Home/Rehabilitation: Janie Stover, Paul Strock

Joy to the World- Daily Readings for Advent: As you decorate and prepare for Christmas, don't forget to take time to *pray and reflect to prepare your heart too!* You can use the Advent reading plan on our church website, fumchurch.com, but we encourage you to enhance the experience by picking up a **free** copy of our devotional book at the welcome station as you come in to worship on Sundays. If you are not worshipping with us in-person, contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to receive a copy of this special book.

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

If you are grieving this holiday season...missing your loved ones, experiencing loss and isolation...please join us for worship and reflection to remember and honor the memory of cherished family and friends at our **Service of Remembrance and Hope**. For those desiring in-person worship, we will gather in the sanctuary at on Sunday, December 5 at 4:00pm. (The service will be recorded and available afterward for virtual viewing from home.) Contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.

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

FUMC Ministry and Employment Opportunity

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 St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

There will be a **special session of Charge Conference** to vote on a proposal from Boy Scouts of America, next Sunday December 5 at 9:45 a.m. All members of First Church are welcome. Members of the Administrative Board are eligible to vote.

Are you looking for the **collection containers for eye glasses, Squares & Prayers quilting kits/donations and more?** Check out our central collection station outside of our library (conveniently located by the alley entrance so you can easily drop off donations on Sunday mornings when you come for worship). Thank you!

Change for Water - Help support the Well Drilling Fund by dropping your loose change, even bills, into the blue "Change for Water" bucket in the Main Entrance hallway. 100% of donations go to training and digging wells for schools/communities in Sierra Leone.

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

Christmas Elves are needed to help **decorate our Sanctuary** on Monday, November 29, starting at 9:00 a.m. Feel free to show up or if you have any questions, contact Steve Zimmerman at 717-697-0177.

Nametags are back! Nametags allow us to connect more personally by calling everyone by name, save embarrassment when we cannot remember a name, and promote fellowship as we welcome guests. **Please make every effort to wear yours at church.** If you do not have one or have misplaced it, please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com and she will provide one for you!

Ministry Safe Training- Anyone working with children or youth in any capacity is required to complete the new online Safe Sanctuary training. You will receive an email with a link to the training and it will appear as it is coming from Pastor Denny. Questions can be directed to kidscount@fumchurch.com.



Generous Giver

Christmas is just around the corner! First Church will once again be collecting **Christmas Gifts for New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessings Express**. Visit the table outside the multipurpose room to pick up and to locate the Scrip order form for gift cards for New Hope. See details [here](#). Questions? Contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

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:

Sunday Childcare Help Needed!!- Your help is needed for many openings in the Children's Department for the fall. All services! Please prayerfully consider offering your help just one Sunday a month to spend some time and get to know the children of First Church. Please email kidscount@fumchchurch.com to sign up.

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

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:

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

Director of Children's Ministry:

TBD
717-766-4611, x118
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
missflossie42@gmail.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