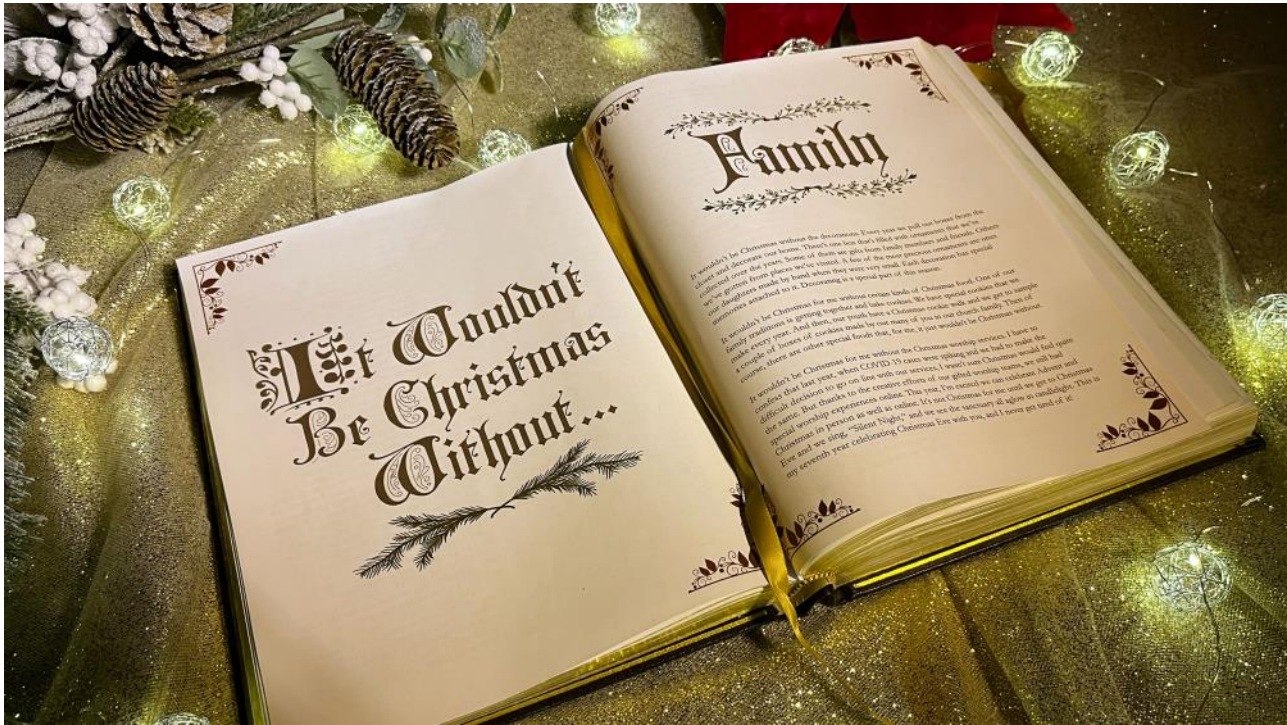


*Welcome to*  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors*  
*December 5, 2021*



***"It Wouldn't Be Christmas Without... Hope"***

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





# FOUNDATION SERVICE ~ 8:30 AM

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

- No. 211 (vs. 1-3, 6)

Lighting of the Second Candle of

Advent

Advent Response

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the*

*Light" - No. 206; vs. 2 & refrain*

Scripture

*Luke 1:5-25 (NRSV)*

Anthem

*"The Wonder of His Love"*

*Lee/Wagner*

Sermon

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

*Hope" – Pastor Denny*

Hymn

*"There's a Song in the Air"*

- No. 249

Prayers of the People  
and The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Announcements

Closing Hymn

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

- No. 218

Benediction

Postlude

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

*Preaching*..... Pastor Dennis Keller

*Worship Leader* ..... Jeff Hoffnagle

*Worship Team* ..... Caleb Flick, Sounds of Worship Choir

*Sound & Media* ..... Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Roger Walton



# THE GATHERING SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Welcome

Praise and Worship  
*"Hope Has a Name"*

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent

Praise and Worship  
*"Graves Into Gardens"*  
*"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

Scripture  
*Luke 1:5-25 (NRSV)*

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

Pastoral Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Praise and Worship  
*"Faithful to the End"*

Benediction

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## ***LEADING IN WORSHIP***

*Preaching* ..... Pastor Dennis Keller

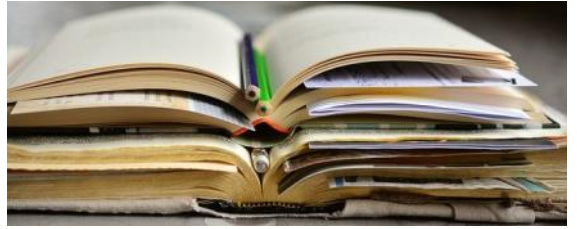
*Worship Leader* ..... Sarah Pugh

*Worship Team* ..... Dave Florey, Jason Kichline, Krissy Marshall, Allison Ometz,  
..... Sarah Pugh

*Sound & Media* ..... Michael Garman, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Roger Walton

## Weekly Bible Readings

Week of December 5



***Sunday***

*“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... Hope”*

Monday

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Tuesday

Isaiah 12:2-6

Wednesday

Philippians 4:4-7

Thursday

Luke 3:7-18

Friday

Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

# “It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... Hope”

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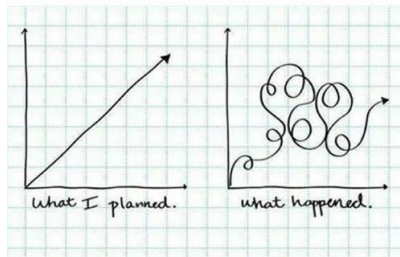
“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without...Hope”  
Luke 1:5-25

Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense.  
Luke 1:6-9

How do I remain hopeful when everything is not right?

## Story of my life



### 1. Live **fearlessly** in God.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “**Do not be afraid, Zechariah**, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. Luke 1:13

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27

### 2. Live **confidently** in God.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “**Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.** Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. Luke 1:13

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup> The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Luke 1:18-20

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."*

John 14:1

### 3. Live **expectantly** in God.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. **Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.** Luke 1:13

"What John the Baptist did for Israel Advent can do for us. Don't let Christmas find you unprepared. Its joy and impact will be so much greater if you are ready!"

John Piper, [Joy to the World](#)



# First News First

# Weekly Edition

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

**December 5, 2021**

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of S. Louise Nailor Shelley, placed by W. Michael Nailor.

The maché basket is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Higgin's birthday on December 2, placed by Sue and family.

The maché basket is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert & Mildred Shannon, placed by the D'Agostino and Shannon families.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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@plantsitelogistics.com](mailto: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.

- o **Guyer Class** - Meets in room 123, targets primarily 70+

Contact: Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto: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](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details.



### [Praying Follower](#)

**Recovering at Home/Rehabilitation:** Sue Higgins, Janie Stover, Paul Strock and Don Shover

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.



### [Passionate Worshipper](#)

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** today, Sunday, December 5 at 4:00pm

**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.

**Christmas Caroling 2021** - Outdoors, Sunday, December 12th at 4 pm. By definition, Caroling means “to sing in a joyful manner!” Join us for Christmas festivity and outdoor worship with joyful Carol Singing in the first Church parking lot! (In the event of poor weather, we will gather in the sanctuary.) If your family or small group is interested in ‘front door’ caroling to some of our members at home, we will have suggested lists of caroling routes and music sheets for pick-up at the outdoor Christmas Caroling gathering. For additional information, please contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x 112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).



## 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](http://fumchurch.com) or <https://fumchurch.com/director-of-children-and-family-ministry/>. Please submit resumes to [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) or to Ellen Hill, Office Manager, at 135 W. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.



### *Dedicated Missionary*

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](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).



### *Relationship Builder*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

**Women's Retreat, February 5, 2022.** New for next year, we are holding a **one-day** retreat at Mt. Asbury Retreat Center, Newville! All women are invited and encouraged to attend. Cost is just \$25 and includes 2 meals and program led by local Christian authors of the book, "The River Journey." Space is limited, sign up today! Questions contact Patti Herring at [familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net). Find the form at the display table outside the Multipurpose room or click on the Google form here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQhNZyoMDIAtQwd-ILDj5O4cTjY-jqY2C3BsuRv1TpDb5ezEA/viewform>.



## *Generous Giver*

We have several **openings in 2022 for Sundays needing altar flowers**: January 23 and 30, March 6, April 10, July 10, August 28 and November 6. Please contact Gretchen Nesmith if you are interested in putting flowers on the altar for one of these Sundays. Gretchen's email is [gnsmith@comcast.net](mailto:gnsmith@comcast.net).

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:**

**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](mailto: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



*It's the Most Wonderful  
Time of the Year!*



**Celebrate Advent With Us!**

**November 26 through December 19**

Christmas Light Drive Through at Mt. Asbury, 1310 Centerville Rd, Newville 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday's through December 19. See their FB page for details.

**December 5**

Service of Remembrance and Hope, 4:00 p.m. You can attend in-person or view recorded service on our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com).

**December 11**

Annual Cookie Walk Youth Fundraiser. Multipurpose room, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**December 12**

Christmas Caroling in our parking lot at 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship, December 24**

Family Service, **5:00 p.m.**, sanctuary and livestreamed, includes candlelighting.

Traditional Service, **10:00 p.m.**, sanctuary and livestreamed, includes communion and concludes with candlelighting.

**Visit [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) for more details and updates**

**First United Methodist Church**

**135 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg**

# 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