

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
December 12, 2021



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

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





FOUNDATION SERVICE ~ 8:30 AM

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Once In Royal David's City" - No. 250

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Advent Response

"I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light" - No. 206; vs. 3 & refrain

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

Ministry of Music

"Midnight Clear" - arr. Carl Wiltse

Sermon

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

Ministry of Music

"A Cradle Waits"- Jean Anne Shafferman

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Angels From the Realms of Glory" - No. 220

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching..... Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team Caleb Flick, Handbell Choir, Sounds of Worship Choir

Sound & Media Holly Kurten, Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols



THE GATHERING SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Welcome

Praise and Worship
"Way Maker"

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Praise and Worship
"Away In A Manger"

Prayer

Scripture
Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

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

Pastoral Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Praise and Worship
"Love Came Down"

Benediction

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

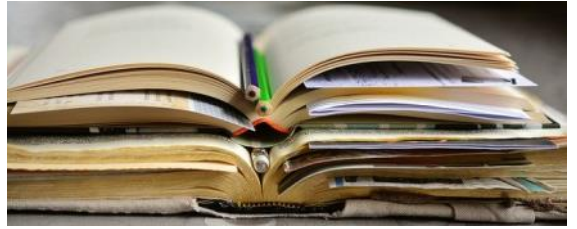
Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team George Canonizado, Dave Florey, Emily Hammaker, Geri Nuss,
..... Sarah Pugh, Tracy Wertz

Sound & Media Holly Kurten, Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols

Weekly Bible Readings

Week of December 12



Sunday

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

Monday

Micah 5: 2-5a

Tuesday

Luke 1: 46b-55

Wednesday

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Thursday

Luke 1: 5-25

Friday

Luke 1: 39-45

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

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



Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. (Matthew 1:18-19)

How do I follow God when making difficult choices?

1. Remain **teachable, flexible, and come under God’s authority.**

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” (Matthew 1:20-23)

- God speaks in keeping with **God’s Word.**
- God speaks in keeping with **God’s plan.**

2. Respond with **obedience to God.**

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. (Matthew 1:24-25)

“The desire to please God pleases God.” (Thomas Merton)



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

December 12, 2021

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chilton Sr., placed by The Chilton 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 iparis@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@plantsiteanalytics.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: Sue Higgins, Dave Nesmith, 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 which can be found on our church website, fumchurch.com.

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](#)

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.

Christmas Caroling 2021 - Outdoors, TODAY, 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.



[Dedicated Missionary](#)

FUMC Ministry and Employment Opportunity

First Church 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. Please submit resumes to office@fumchurch.com or to Ellen Hill, Office Manager, at 135 W. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

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. If you or your group would like to sign up, see the available months on the Time to Sign Up at ttsu.me/ryyuur. Thanks for sharing and caring for our

community! Questions or for a list of donation suggestions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.



Relationship Builder

The **FUMC Handbell Choir** will be playing at the Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill on Monday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. Seating is limited, as the library will ensure physical distancing between guests, and masks will be required. No registration is necessary. For more information, visit the Fredricksen Library Facebook page [here](#).

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.

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. 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-LDj5O4cTjY-igY2C3BsuRv1TpDb5ezEA/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 at gnesmith@comcast.net or 717-691-9199 if you are interested in putting flowers on the altar for one of these Sundays.

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@fumchurch.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.

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 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