

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
December 19, 2021



“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... A Miracle”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com





FOUNDATION SERVICE ~ 8:30 AM

Prelude

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"O Come All Ye Faithful" - No. 234

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent

Advent Response

"I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light" - No. 206; vs. 1 & refrain

Ministry of Music

"No Golden Carriage, No Bright Toy" - Gilbert M. Martin

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

Sermon

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

Hymn

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" - No. 224

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - No. 240

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching..... Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team Caleb Flick, Toni Palmertree, Sounds of Worship Choir

Sound & Media Fred Espenshade, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ken Rapp



THE GATHERING SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Welcome

Praise and Worship
"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent

Praise and Worship
"Hope Has a Name"

Ministry of Music
"The Miracle"

Scripture
Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

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

Pastoral Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Praise and Worship
"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Benediction

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

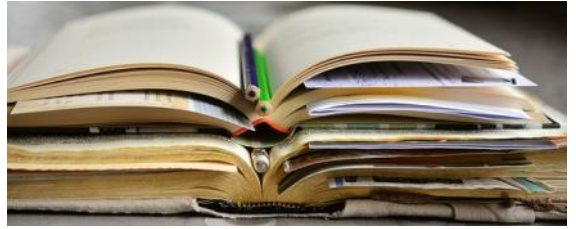
Worship Leader Lisa Aronson

Worship Team George Canonizado, Dave Florey, Ellen Hill, Jason Kichline,
..... John McHenry, Sarah Pugh, Abigail Wertz

Sound & Media Fred Espenshade, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ken Rapp

Weekly Bible Readings

Week of December 19



Sunday

“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... A Miracle”

Monday

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Tuesday

Psalm 96

Wednesday

Titus 2: 11-14

Thursday

Luke 2: 1-20

Friday

***“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... Jesus”
(Christmas Eve)***

Saturday

Rest and Reflect ***Christmas Day***

“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without.... A Miracle”

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. (Luke 1:26-27)

*“Pain insists on being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”
C.S. Lewis*

How can God change me in my “land between”?

1. God can ground me in my **identity**.

And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” (Luke 1:28)

Identity Given vs. Identity Earned

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. (Philippians 3:7-9)

2. God can settle me in my **confusion**.

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:29-33)

3. God can release me for my **future**.

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:34-38)

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (Acts 1:14)



First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

December 19, 2021

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jack O'Hara and John, Paul, and Michael O'Hara, placed by Elaine O'Hara.

The **maché basket** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gayle Elder Anderson, placed by her mother, Annabelle Elder.



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
New 7-week study of 1 Peter starts January 16. Join us as we walk through this short letter and discover the importance of our witness in this world. Drop in or contact Tina at adultministry@fumchurch.com for zoom link.
 - 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@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
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 **New Bible Study for women!** "Jesus in Me: Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant

Companion" by Anne Graham Lotz. 8-week study begins January 12 over lunchtime from 12:00 - 1:00 pm under the balcony in the church sanctuary. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for more details and workbook, which is just \$10 (scholarships available).

- 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](#)

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](#)

Today we **welcome guest singer** Toni Marie Palmertree. Toni is an American soprano praised for her tender, expressive voice (SF Examiner). Most recently, appearing in the title role of Luisa Miller, Ms. Palmertree made her house and role debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. The Chicago Herald wrote, "Palmertree's artistic approach to this challenging role, thoughtful and professional presentation of her vocal part, and the natural beauty of her voice touched everyone's heart." At the San Francisco Opera, Ms. Palmertree has made numerous leading role debuts, including Nedda (I Pagliacci), Liù (Turandot), and Cio Cio San (Madama Butterfly). This season, Ms. Palmertree joins the roster of The Metropolitan Opera.

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.

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 - By definition, caroling means "to sing in a joyful manner!" 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. For additional information, please contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com.



[Dedicated Missionary](#)

In response to the recent tornadoes in the mid-west, we encourage you to give to our partner organizations, Mission Central and UMCOR. Mission Central is standing by to send needed items to the affected communities. You can support that effort by making a donation to Mission Central [here](#). You can

also give to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), in which 100% of your donation reaches the chosen mission project. Find the link to make a donation [here](#). If you would like to give through our church, please indicate on your check if you would like it to go to Mission Central or UMCOR. Join us as we continue to keep these families and communities in prayer. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

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 tsu.me/ryyuunr. Thanks for sharing and caring for our community! Questions or for a list of donation suggestions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

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.



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 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-jqY2C3BsuRv1TpDb5ezEA/viewform>.



Generous Giver

From the desk of the Finance Director: All offering to be included in 2021 needs to be in the office by noon on December 30, 2021. Any offering received after that time will be included in 2022. Questions can be directed to the church office at office@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 ext. 101.

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:

Don't forget to pick up the homemade annual **Christmas ornament** (located on the counter near the children's hallway).

Want to know more and **stay connected** to the happenings in the children's department? Email kidscount@fumchurch.com to be added to the monthly email newsletter..

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Remind text list - Text @4Gyo to 81010
- Instagram: fourgyouthministry
- FB page: 4G - First United Methodist Youth Group
- Email uthrock@fumchurch.com to receive emails



*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