

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors
December 26, 2021



“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... The Mess”

135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

www.fumchurch.com





FOUNDATION SERVICE ~ 8:30 AM

Prelude

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"Joy to the World" - No. 246

Unison Prayer

Hymn

"Away in a Manger" - No. 217

Ministry of Music

"Shout for Joy" - arr. Patrick Liebergen

Sermon

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

Hymn

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

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Announcements

Closing Hymn

"What Child is This" - No. 219

Benediction

Postlude

"Go Tell It On the Mountain" - arr. Shannon Grama

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching..... Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team Karen Philp, Sounds of Worship Choir

Sound & Media Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ken Rapp, Roger Walton



THE GATHERING SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"Joy to the World"

"Angels From the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel"

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sermon

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

Pastoral Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Praise and Worship

"What Child is This"

Benediction

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching Pastor Dennis Keller

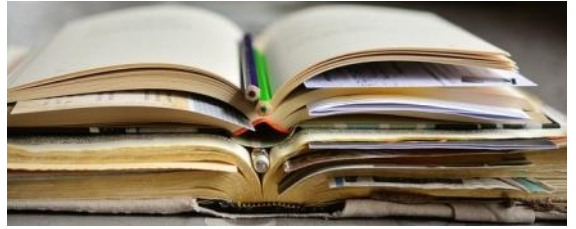
Worship Leader Sarah Pugh

Worship Team Dave Florey, Jason Kichline, Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, Tracy Wertz,
..... Abigail Wertz

Sound & Media Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten, Ken Rapp, Roger Walton

Weekly Bible Readings

Week of December 26



Sunday

“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without... The Mess”

Monday

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

Tuesday

Psalm 8

Wednesday

Revelation 21: 1-6a

Thursday

Matthew 25: 31-46

Friday

Rest and Reflect

New Year’s Eve

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

New Year’s Day

“It Wouldn’t Be Christmas Without.... The Mess”

1. Jesus was born for people with ***messy families***.

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)

2. Jesus was born for people hurt by ***messy disappointments***.

*Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.
(Luke 1:6-7)*

3. Jesus was born for people struggling with ***messy choices***.

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)

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” (Luke 1:34)

4. Jesus was born for people troubled by ***messy circumstances***.

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
(Luke 2:7)*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” (Matthew 2:13)

5. God stepped into our mess to save us and set us free.





First News First

Weekly Edition

Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors

December 26, 2021

The **altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of their parents, placed by Mary Beth and George Snoke.



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**.
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **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**
 - **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. 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: Joe Moomaw

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](#)

Upcoming Sermon Series: “You Are the Body” - Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” They see something of significance in the baby in Bethlehem, even when many of those closest don’t see it. Like the wise men, we who have seen the light of Christ are called to reflect it so that others see Christ through our loving presence. As we begin 2022, you are invited to journey with us through our daily Bible readings and Sunday worship services. We will be guided by Paul’s instructions in 1 Corinthians 12-15 to let the light of Christ shine around us and in us, and then through us to a world yearning for the love that “never ends.” (1 Corinthians 13:8). **You** are the Body of Christ.

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.



[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.

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/ryyunnr. 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

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-ILDj5O4cTjY-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.

From the desk of the Finance Director: All invoices and expenses to be included in 2021 need to be turned in to the office by January 7, 2022. Anything received after that date 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:

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

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