
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



"It's A Wonderful Life"

FOUNDATION SERVICE

DEC. 4, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"- No. 211 v. 1, 2, 6

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Sounds of Worship Anthem

"An Advent Invitation"

Sermon

"It's A Wondrous Life"

Hymn

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"- No. 218

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Joy to the World"- No. 246

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Liturgist..... Al Robinson

Accompanist..... Gail Leinhos, Sounds of Worship, Janice Bowen

Sound and Media.....Ron Nichols, Jim Robinson, Holly Kurten

WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



"It's A Wonderful Life"

THE GATHERING SERVICE

DEC. 4, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise & Worship

"Let the Light In"

"Come Let Us Adore Him"

Lighting of the Second Candle of Adevent

Wee and Kids Worship Dismissal

"Resurrecting"

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon

"It's A Wonderful Life"

Pastoral Prayer

Offering & Announcements

"King of Kings"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Al Robinson

Worship Team.....George Canonizado, Dave Florey, John Gross, Sara Pugh, Lauren Sanker, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media.....Ron Nichols, Jim Robinson, Holly Kurten

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

THIS WEEK

Holiday Harmony
Today, 7 p.m.

Family Movie Night
Saturday, 4 p.m.

Al-Anon
Friday, 12 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

Moms In Prayer
Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Covered In Love
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Cookie Walk
Saturday, 9 a.m.

**Scan here or
visit our website at
fumchurch.com for
more details on all
of our upcoming
events!**



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

WEEK OF DEC. 4

Sunday Worship "It's A Wonderful Life"

Monday Isaiah 35:1-10

Tuesday Luke 1:46b-55

Wednesday James 5:7-10

Thursday Matthew 11:2-11

Friday Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

*This week's flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Louise Nailor Shelley by W.
Michael Nailor.*

Mache Basket

*This week's flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Robert and Mildred Shannon
by the D'Agostino and Shannon Families.*

TEACHING NOTES

“It’s A Wonderful Life”

Isaiah 9:2-7

“God...God...Dear Father in heaven, I’m not a praying man, but if you’re up there and you can hear me, show me the way.” – George Bailey

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace** among those whom he favors!”

Luke 2:14

The birth of Christ means...

Your life matters.

“Strange, isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives, and when he isn’t around he leaves an awful hole, doesn’t he?” – Clarence

For we are what he has made us, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

The birth of Christ means...

Your purpose is about people, not places or things.



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:21

The birth of Christ means...
Miracles happen.

“George, it’s a miracle! It’s a miracle!”

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFELONG LEARNER

Sunday School | Sundays, 9:45 a.m.

A new study, "Power & Love," begins Dec. 4. These lessons (from our United Methodist quarterly curriculum) run through February 26, and new participants are welcome to join anytime! Choose from two different classes:

- **Helping Hands** – Targets adults ages 60+ and meets in Room B004. Contact Bob Wertz Sr. (robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com) with questions.
- **Guyer Class** – Targets senior adults ages 70+ and meets in Room 123. Contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) with questions.

Health and Wellness Presentation | TODAY, Dec. 4, 9:45 a.m.

Decluttering and Organizational Strategies. In this presentation you can learn tips from an expert on the process of organizing: how to sort, arrange, allocate and purge excess possessions. Our speaker, Carolyn Doerr, is a Certified Relocation and Transition Specialist.

PRAYING FOLLOWER

Share Your Prayer Requests

To share joys and concerns, visit our Prayer Station under the balcony to share joys or contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

Joy in the Morning | Next Meeting Monday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m.

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this spiritually-focused small group. We meet Monday afternoons once a month from 1-2 p.m. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings and devotionals. Contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more details.

PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Online Worship

Worship with us and invite others to join us any time of the week! Check out our livestream at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays or watch recorded messages on our YouTube and Facebook pages 24/7. If you're unable to access online worship services, contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com) for other ways to connect to First Church.

Holiday Concerts | TODAY, Dec. 4, and Monday, Dec. 12

First Church's Holiday Harmony Concert, which features all of our musical groups, will take place today, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. Also, our Handbell Choir will once again ring at the Frederickson Library in Camp Hill on Monday evening, Dec. 12. Celebrate Christmas through music with us!

Christmas Caroling | Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m.

Caroling means "to sing in a joyful manner!" Enjoy this Christmas tradition with us in the First Church parking lot (in the event of poor weather, we will gather in the sanctuary). Hot cocoa will be provided! If your family or small group is interested in Christmas Caroling "door to door" to some of our members at home, we will have lists of suggested caroling routes and music sheets available at the outdoor Caroling gathering! Select a list and continue singing following the gathering, or find another day that suits your group! For additional information, please contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611, ext. 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com).



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Cookie Walk Bakers Needed

Calling all bakers! We need your help with the annual Youth Cookie Walk on Dec. 17. This important fundraiser supports our summer mission trips and is a great opportunity to connect with our community. Sign up to bake by filling out a form in the main lobby or online at fumchurch.com/cookiewalk.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Wednesday Men's Group - First and Third Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m.

All men are invited to join this group (currently studying "Know What You're FOR" by Jeff Henderson). Meets at the home of Barry Eaton. Contact Barry (theaton5@verizon.net) if interested. Next meeting Dec. 7.

New Church Directory!

Our new directory is almost complete, and we don't want to miss including YOU! Please ensure that your information is up-to-date by filling out a Directory Profile Update form or by downloading our Church Center app so you can create your account and update your personal information yourself. And, don't forget to add your photo! If you need assistance or would like someone to take your picture, stop by our Church Center Helpdesk in the lobby before or after Sunday worship or contact the church office.

Women's Retreat | Early Bird Registration Closes Dec. 31

Join us Feb. 3-5 at Mt. Asbury Retreat Center for our 2023 retreat, "Anxious for Nothing." Choose a one-day option or a full-weekend experience! Find more details and register on the Church Center app, or visit the retreat display in the gathering area for paper registration forms. The Contact Patti Herring (familyzeke@verizon.net) with questions.

Family Movie Night | Saturday, Dec. 10, 4-6 p.m.

Join FUMC Kids for a movie and snacks! Watch The Grinch (2018 version) and enjoy cookies, cocoa and popcorn with your friends and family. All are invited.

Women's Book Study Group | Wednesdays, Jan. 11, 18 and 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Join other women of First Church in the Church Library for tea and discussion of "God's Guest List: Welcoming Those Who Influence our Lives," by best-selling fiction writer Debbie Macomber. In her first non-fiction book, Debbie opens our eyes to see how God uses "guests" in our lives to support, teach, lead and love us. Purchase the book on your own (available in paperback or ebook) and start reading before the first gathering. Contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) to RSVP.

Christmas Card Greetings!

We encourage you to reach out to one another this holiday season by sending Christmas card greetings! Help yourself to a supply of Christmas cards found at the display across from the church mailboxes. You can even save a stamp and deliver your cards using the church mailboxes. If you'd like to send cards to some of our members at home, a suggested list is also available at the card display.



GENEROUS GIVER

New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessings Express

Want to help a local child in need this Christmas? New Hope Ministries needs new, unopened gifts to share the joy of Christmas! Deliver all unwrapped gifts to New Hope's Dillsburg location by Dec. 7 or the Enola location by Dec. 9. If you don't have time to drop off your gift, contact Debbie Karns (deborah-karns1@gmail.com). Find New Hope's Christmas Wish List at fumchurch.com/wishlist/ and stop at the New Hope display table in the main entrance hallway for more information.

KIDS

Stay Connected!

Want to know more about First Church Kids? Check out our landing page or contact Katie Knorr, Director of Children and Family Ministries (kidscount@fumchurch.com).

Free Family Movie Night | Dec. 10, 4 p.m. Sign up today on Church Center or email kidscount@fumchurch.com for more details.

YOUTH

Keep in Touch!

Help us connect with you so that you don't miss any of the fun!

- Join our Remind text list (text @4Gyo to 81010).
- Follow our Instagram (@four-youthministry).
- Like us on Facebook (4G- First United Methodist Youth Group).
- Email Lisa to receive emails about all things First Church Youth.

Contact Youth
Pastor Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com) with any questions.

Coming Up:

Cookie Walk Dec. 17

Questions for Reflection

1. Do you agree that Christmas has a way of magnifying feelings, both joyful and sad? What has been your experience?
2. Who has been your Clarence, helping you to see that your life matters?
3. Looking back, whose lives have you touched? How does it make you feel that you have been a blessing to others?
4. When have you discovered that people matter more than places or things?
5. Where do you see God moving in your life this Advent/Christmas Season?

Don't forget to pick up your copy of *The Star: A Journey to Christmas*, it's a wonderful Advent devotional! Only a few copies left!

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors!
135 W. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg | 717-766-4611 | fumchurch.com