
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



"Joy - Alone No More"

FOUNDATION SERVICE

DEC. 11, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"- No. 224

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Sharing Signs of Peace

Handbell Anthem

"Joy to the World"

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

"Joy - Alone No More"

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - No. 204 v. 1,2,6,7

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & Announcements

Closing Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"- No. 230

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Liturgist.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Accompanist..... Karen Philp, Handbell Choir, Stu Diehl

Sound and Media.....Fred Espenshade, Ken Rapp, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten

WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



"Joy - Alone No More"

THE GATHERING SERVICE

DEC. 11, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise & Worship

"Hope Has a Name"

"Joy to the World (Joyful Joyful)"

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Wee and Kids Worship Dismissal

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

"Joy - Alone No More"

Pastoral Prayer

Offering & Announcements

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Leader.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Team.....Janice Bowen, John Gross, Jason Kichline, Geri Nuss, Sarah

Pugh

Sound and Media.....Fred Espenshade, Ken Rapp, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

THIS WEEK

Moms In Prayer

Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Covered In Love

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Cookie Walk

Saturday, 9 a.m.

NEXT WEEK

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, 4 p.m.

MOPS

Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, 5 p.m. & 10 p.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. 11

Sunday

Worship

Monday

Isaiah 7:10-16

Tuesday

Psalm 80

Wednesday Romans 1:1-7

Thursday

Colossians 1:11-20

Friday

Luke 2:1-7

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

*This week's flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Jack O'Hara and John, Paul,
and Michael O'Hara by Elaine O'Hara.*

Mache Basket

*This week's flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Gayle Ann Elder by her
mother Annabelle Elder.*

TEACHING NOTES

“And they will call him, Emmanuel.”

Matthew 1:23

One way we experience joy is in the gift of presence. Being present for someone is one of the best presents we can give. It's one that reflects what God gifted us: Jesus our Emmanuel, which means “God with us.”

Cindy-Lou Who helped the Grinch experience joy because she offered presence: the chance for the Grinch to be surrounded by love and acceptance.

Who is God laying on your heart and mind that you can be present for this Christmas?

“When Joseph woke up, he did just as the angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife.”

Matthew 1:24

Joseph demonstrates that joy arises when we look beyond our own needs and to the needs of others. Joseph could have dismissed Mary and the baby, but he didn't. He responded to the need he saw and the need God called him to.

The greatest hurdle the Grinch faced in experiencing joy was his inability to look beyond himself and to the needs of others.

Are you feeling more Joseph-like or Grinch-like this Christmas and why? In what ways can you foster joy by helping or doing something for another?

*For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame,
and set down at the right hand of the father.*

Hebrews 12:2

We don't need perfect circumstances to experience joy. Jesus faced crucifixion, shame, ridicule, and betrayal. Yet, He knew joy.

The Grinch's past was not going to change and he was still going to be an oddly colored Who. Still, he came to know joy. Cindy-Lou Who's mom was stretched thin being a single parent, and yet she chose joy.

What hinders your joy? How does the Christmas story encourage you to choose joy despite your past, present or future challenges?

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

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

A new study, "Power & Love," began 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.

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.



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 | Tomorrow, 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.

Handbell Concert | TOMORROW, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

Celebrate Christmas through music with our Handbell Choir at the Frederickson Library in Camp Hill.

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](tel: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.

Work at First Church!

First Church is hiring a part-time (10 hours/week) Director of Finance. This person is responsible for the payment and recording of church expenditures, managing payroll, providing monthly financial reports to church leadership, and assisting in developing and monitoring the annual budget. Experience in general accounting and Quickbooks is preferred. For more details or to submit your résumé, contact the church office (office@fumchurch.com).

Help the Homeless with Isaiah 61 | Wednesday, Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Join our team in serving a free meal in Harrisburg! Please contact Tiffany Holland (tholland1967@gmail.com) if you can serve or would like to carpool.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

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.

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

Change for Water

The CDC estimates only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water. Help us support the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Fund by dropping your loose change (or bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket located at the collection center by the church library stairs. 100% of your donations help provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

Scrip Fundraiser

Support First Church by purchasing your Christmas gift cards through our Scrip program! Pick up a form and place it in the dropbox in the gathering area near the couches. Place your order TODAY to receive them in time for Christmas! Contact Kathie Bittenbender (rbittenben@verizon.net) with any questions.

Advent Giving to the Little Free Pantry

We need your help to stock our pantry this winter! Pick up a grocery bag at the display under the balcony, fill it with items on the attached Reverse Advent Calendar, and return it to the display!

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).

Family Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. Join us for this sweet service the whole family will love.

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

The church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, except for 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 28, and 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 30. If you need to talk to someone from the office, please email office@fumchurch.com or call 717-766-4611.