
WELCOME TO

**First United
Methodist Church**

MECHANICSBURG, PA



I BELIEVE

**A JOURNEY THROUGH
THE APOSTLES' CREED**



**“I Believe in the
Communion of Saints”**

FOUNDATION SERVICE

MAY 28, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"America the Beautiful" - No. 696

Memorial Day Prayer

Choir Anthem

"Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones"

Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-2

Sermon

"I Believe in the Communion of Saints"

Hymn

"Faith of Our Fathers" - No. 710

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Recognition of Confirmands

Announcements and Offering

Closing Hymn

"God Be with You till We Meet Again" - No. 672

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Liturgist..... Sarah Pugh

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

Sound and Media.....Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols, Holly Kurten, Sarah Pugh

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THE GATHERING SERVICE

MAY 28, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"Champion"

"To the End"

Wee and Kids Worship Dismissal

"We Believe"

Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-2

Sermon

"I Believe in the Communion of Saints"

Service of Confirmation

Presentation of Confirmands

Announcements and Offering

"Garments"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team.....Youth Band

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

Sarah Pugh, Elijah Ometz

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

THIS WEEK

Rejoicing Spirits

Today, 4 p.m.

Squares and Prayers

Thursday, 9 a.m.

Men's Retreat

Friday - Saturday

NEXT WEEK

Moms In Prayer

Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.

Men's Group

Wednesday, 8 p.m. (offsite)

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



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

WEEK OF MAY 28

Sunday

Worship

Monday

John 11

Tuesday

Luke 24:13-35

Wednesday

John 14:1-4

Thursday

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Friday

2 Peter 3:8-13

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Strohmenger by Jim and Sue Chilton.

TEACHING NOTES

“I Believe in the Communion of Saints”

Hebrews 12:1-2

May 28, 2023

Advice for Finishing Well the Race We Are In

1. Remember who is around us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

Hebrews 12:1a

2. Remove what is on us.

...let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely.

Hebrews 12:1b

3. Rely on what is in us.

...and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
Hebrews 12:1c

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can.

For as long as ever you can.”

– John Wesley

4. Realize who is before us.

...looking to Jesus, who both began and finished the race we are in.
Hebrews 12:2 (The Message)

Questions for Reflection:

1. When you think of the communion of the saints, what faces do you see?
2. What baggage do you need to lay aside?
3. How do you stay strong for the race you are in?
4. What helps you to keep your eyes on Jesus?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFELONG LEARNER

Zoe Mazi | Mondays, 7:15-8:45 p.m.

Are you a college student at home for the summer? A young adult looking for Christian community? Zoe Mazi (which means “Life Together”) is a ministry group that welcomes young adults (18+) from a variety of churches in the Mechanicsburg Area. On the first and third Monday of each month, they meet at Strock’s Corn Crib for a large group gathering that features of worship and teaching from a local speaker. On the second and fourth Mondays, they meet at the home of Zoe Mazi Executive Director Shannon Zimmerman for a time of small group discussion. Find more details and get connected at zoemazi.org

New Adult Sunday School Study | Sundays, June 11-25, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Jump into a new three-week study, “Spiritual Warfare is Real” by Pastor Jim Cymbala (lead pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle Church). This study meets in room B003. Contact Wayde Leister (waydeleister@outlook.com) for more details.

PRAYING FOLLOWER

Share Your Prayer Requests

To share joys and concerns, visit our Prayer Station under the balcony or contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112). While you’re there, help yourself to a devotional book or journal to enhance your personal prayer time.

PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Rejoicing Spirits | TODAY, May 28, 4 p.m.

First Church invites everyone to attend this “shush-free” worship experience that celebrates all expressions of worship and individuals of all abilities. This monthly service includes music, scripture, prayer and a brief message, along with refreshments and fellowship afterward.

Online Worship

Worship with us and invite others to join 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.

DEDICATED MISSIONARY

May Mission Focus: Bethesda Mission Food Bank

The Bethesda Mission Food Bank supports nonprofit organizations working toward the shared goal of providing food to local individuals in need. On the third Tuesday of each month between 8 and 10 a.m., First Church volunteers prepare individual grocery bags for distribution from the donated bulk food items. Stop by the display table in the main entrance hallway to learn more about this organization and how to get involved.

Gleaning | Wednesday, June 7, 6 p.m.

This growing season, we're excited to once again partner with Oak Grove Farms to provide fresh produce to families receiving monthly groceries from Fishing Creek Salen UMC's food pantry. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112) to be added to our 2023 Glean Team communications!



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Summer Movie Nights | June 23, July 28, Aug. 25

Save the date for Summer Movie Nights at First Church! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a picnic dinner in the parking lot at 6 p.m., followed by a movie and popcorn in the multipurpose room.

Pickleball in the Park | Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.

Join us on the pickleball court at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park (across from the pool) for some fun and games! No experience necessary, and paddles and balls will be available to borrow. In the event of bad weather, we will play in the multipurpose room. Contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions.

Singles Ministry Event | Friday, June 9

Enjoy good food and fun music at Cassel Vineyards of Hershey. Food trucks start serving at 5 p.m. and dueling pianists will perform 6-8:30. Contact Karen Hutter (klh103@verizon.net) if you're interested in attending!



GENEROUS GIVER

Little Free Pantry

As we approach summer, many children who rely on free and reduced lunch programs during the school year won't have enough to eat. Your support of the Little Free Pantry can help local families in need. Most needed items include easy breakfast items, like small cereals, peanut butter, and oatmeal packets; lunch items such as macaroni and cheese, pasta and sauce, and individual soups; and dinner items including canned meats, canned vegetables, and nonperishable dinner kits; and snacks like granola bars, crackers, pudding and cookies. Place donations in the container by the alley entrance or drop them off at the church office. Thanks for helping our neighbors!

Giving to First Church

We're so grateful for all the ways you support First Church – through your prayers, time, talents and resources. Everything you give to First Church helps us build disciples and love our neighbors. You can place any tithes or offerings in the baskets as you exit the sanctuary, send them into the church office, or give online via our website (fumchurch.com) or on the Church Center app.

KIDS

Stay Connected!

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

Wee Worship and Kid Worship | Sunday mornings

We offer special worship programs during our Sunday services for kids in pre-K through fifth grade, as well as a nursery for infants and toddlers. Stop by the children's wing to learn more!

Hero Hotline: VBS 2023 | July 17-21

Join Super Meer the Meerkat and learn what it means to be a true hero! Sign up on Church Center by May 31 to receive a free VBS CD!

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 (@fourgyouthministry).
- Like us on Facebook (4G — First United Methodist Youth Group).
- Email Lisa to receive emails about all things First Church Youth.

Coming Up

Summer Mission Trip to Mayfield, Kentucky | July 1-7

Thanks for joining us in worship!

8:30 a.m.	FOUNDATION SERVICE (Traditional)
9:45 a.m.	SUNDAY SCHOOL (View classes at fumchurch.com)
11 a.m.	THE GATHERING SERVICE (Modern)
4 p.m.	REJOICING SPIRITS (Fourth Sunday of each month)

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

135 W. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg | 717-766-4611 | fumchurch.com | [@fumchurch](https://www.instagram.com/fourgyouthministry)

MEET OUR CONFIRMANDS

We're so excited to welcome Nate, Ben and Andrew as official members of First Church today! These three young men have spent lots of time together learning about God, the Bible and what it means to faithfully participate in the life of the church.

Keep reading to learn more about each of our confirmands. Please join us in welcoming these newest members of our First Church family!

Nathan Erno



Nate is the son of Mike and Amy Erno and is a 15-year-old freshman at Cumberland Valley High School. He enjoys playing guitar with the Youth Worship Band, spending time with friends, playing games like Spikeball and frisbee, and visiting Ocean City, NJ, with his family. Growing up in First Church has allowed Nate to have amazing experiences like summer camp, youth retreats and Salt 'n Light events. Nate is also grateful for the great mentors from First Church who have helped him to grow and the close friendships that he has developed here. Confirmation means a lot to Nate, since he has been surrounded by the First Church community for his entire life. He's also excited to get his own First Church nametag!

Benjamin Matolyak



Ben lives in Mechanicsburg with his dad, mom and brother and is a seventh grader at Eagle View Middle School. He attends the 11 a.m. service at First Church. Ben plays quarterback and defensive line through the Cumberland Valley Midget Football Association (CVMFA). Outside of his own football games, he and his family are huge Steelers fans. Ben also enjoys playing basketball and swimming. When he's not at church or playing sports, Ben likes to hang out with his friends. Confirmation is important to him because he likes being a part of the church community.

Andrew Smithmyer



Andrew is a 13-year-old seventh grader who attends Mechanicsburg Middle School. He loves all things history, is always ready to try something new and enjoys listening to a wide variety of music. Andrew has valued gaining more knowledge about Jesus and the Bible through the confirmation process, as both are very important to him. He's looking forward to being officially confirmed today!