



# First News First


*Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors*

*From the Pastor's Desk.....*

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### “Worship in a Graveyard?”

Once again, many of us will begin Easter this year at sunrise with a service led by our youth in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery. Over my lifetime, I have celebrated Easter sunrise on top of the mountain at King’s Gap, along the seashore in New Jersey, at fairgrounds and county parks, in church sanctuaries and fellowship halls, and on church lawns. But, before my first Easter with you in 2016, I had never celebrated Easter morning in a graveyard.

Our Easter sunrise service is always special, including the dramatic ending with our Youth Pastor, Lisa Aronson, blowing a shofar, a ram’s horn used by the ancient Hebrews to celebrate victory. One year Lisa managed to get enough air to sound the shofar, even though she was just weeks away from the birth of her son, Joshua! In 2020, just after the start of the pandemic, a few of us met in the cemetery and broadcast the sunrise service so our congregation could celebrate Easter while staying safely home. What a joy the following year when we could gather once again in person!

Seeing a bunch of people worshipping in a graveyard in the cold of an early April morning may look strange to some. We go to cemeteries to bury deceased loved ones, to grieve those we’ve lost, and to honor the dead with wreaths, flowers, and flags. It seems an unlikely place for an early morning celebration, but it has great significance for us. For it was in a graveyard that the greatest event in the history of the world took place.

The four gospels differ on the who’s and how’s of that first Easter morning, but they all agree on the when and the where. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John agree that the good news, “Christ is risen,” was first heard at dawn on the first day of the week (Sunday) at the tomb where, on Friday, the body of the crucified Lord had been buried (a.k.a. the cemetery).

When we gather Easter morning, whether at the cemetery at sunrise, in person in the sanctuary, or online (or all three!), we celebrate the same Good News as those who heard it first. Christ has conquered the grave. He is victorious over death. Because he lives, all who believe in him shall live also.

In the study guide for our Lenten series, *In The Footsteps of the Savior*, Max Lucado says it this way:

“We often fear what we don’t understand, so fearing death is understandable. It’s a mystery. We don’t get a trial run at death (well, at least most of us don’t). But death is not a mystery to Christ. In him, we know we have a Savior who understands death, our fear of it, and exactly what happens to us when it happens. He has been there. He lived to tell us about it” (page 112).

We have victory in Jesus! We have hope eternal in the Risen Lord! Let’s celebrate!

Rejoice in the Lord, always!  
Pastor Denny



## Adult Discipleship Opportunities

Whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple or becoming a fully devoted follower, there is always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

- **Daily Bible Reading Plan**

God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan in our weekly worship bulletin and on our church website ([fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com)).

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

Looking for learning and relationship-building while you are at church for worship on Sundays? You can find details on all new studies happening during Sunday School on our church website.

- **First Step Gathering | Sunday, April 16, 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

If you are new to First Church, or haven't been around for a while, First Step Gatherings provide the opportunity to get to know Pastor Denny and the staff, while you learn and determine the best next step to grow in your faith at First Church. The next gathering will take place in room 207. Contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 104) for more details.

- **Next Step Class: "A Disciple's Path" | Sundays starting April 23, 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

Ready to be baptized, thinking about becoming a member of First Church, or want to explore the foundations of our faith? Join us for a 6-week study, led by Pastor Denny, to explore what it means to faithfully participate in the life of the church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. This class meets in room 207 and child care will be provided. Contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 104) if interested in attending.

- **Steps Beyond**

We encourage all adults to continue taking their next faithful step to build long-term, Christ-centered relationships with one another through small groups. While we have several different kinds of groups at First Church, here are a few that meet specifically for the purpose of learning and spiritual growth:

- ◊ **Wednesday Men's Group | Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m.**

Currently studying "Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World" by Andy Stanley. Meets at the home of Barry Eaton on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry ([theaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theaton5@verizon.net)) to learn more.

## From the Library

Happy Easter! And hopefully, happy spring, though April can be full of surprises. You better have books ready in case of bad weather! I always say if bad weather is coming and I have coffee and a good book, I'm ready for it. That being said, the library will be closed on Easter, so you may want to check out an extra book or two to hold you over the week before. I will also mention that March must be the month to publish, as the library has received several new books this month. Let me tell you about a couple of good reads, then you can stop in to see what else is new in the library.

In the words of the reviewer on Amazon, Susan May Warren has done it again. Many of you have enjoyed her series "Montana Marshalls" and "Montana Rescue," but now she has relocated to Minnesota. *Fraser* is the first book in her "Minnesota Marshalls" series. Fraser was in private security until he was taken captive and wounded. Now, he is helping his family in their vineyard and not happy with his new lifestyle. One day, he receives a call from his younger brother, Creed. Creed, who has



run away with Princess Imani. The princess' family has sent her bodyguard, Pippa, to find her and bring her home. Before you think how sweet this romance between Creed and his princess will be, let me warn you that the princess has witnessed a murder and Creed is hiding her. While Fraser and Pippa are searching for the couple, others are also searching for them in order to silence the princess. The real question is can Fraser and Pippa put aside their differences and work together? And are their differences really so great? I will let you find out.

If *Fraser* seems a bit heavy for your springtime reading, I would suggest *Second Time Around* by Melody Carlson for a light romance. Mallory Farrell has inherited her grandmother's run-down tourist shop in Portside, Oregon. Her head says to sell it, but her heart clings to all the wonderful memories it holds. When she learns her former secret crush, Grayson Matthews, wants to buy the building in order to change the charming business district of Portside into a soulless mall, Mallory charges ahead with her plans to update the store and stop Grayson. Mallory is a recent empty nester who is feeling a bit lost, so she pours her memories and heart into her project. But, around every corner is another obstacle. If not for her determination to have purpose in her life and relive all those happy memories, she might just let Grayson buy the property. But what of Grayson's plan to update the town? I'll let you find out if Grayson and Mallory can compromise to realize each of their dreams for their town.

See you in the library,  
Pam, Donna, Sue, Mary, Marge, Deb, & Annette

### In the Footsteps of Jesus: A Passion Play Experience

For 30 years, First Church has performed a Passion Play where children, youth and adults share the story of Jesus leading up to his death and resurrection. After a three-year hiatus, we are happy to announce that we will be carrying on this beloved tradition in a new way! "In the Footsteps of Jesus" will take the audience along for Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday, to the cross, to the resurrection. You won't want to miss this special event on Thursday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. No tickets are required for this free event. Don't forget to invite friends and family!

### Camp and Retreat Ministry Job Opportunities!

Our Susquehanna Conference camps are looking for summer staff! Would you prayerfully consider accepting a position for the summer or sharing them with someone who would? Visit [suscrm.org](http://suscrm.org) for job descriptions, salary information, site details and perks!



**REGISTER NOW FOR  
SUMMER CAMP!**



Visit [suscrm.org](http://suscrm.org) to register and see a complete list of 2023 camps!

Join us for Camp Sunday during worship on April 16!

GROW IN FAITH // MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS  
ENJOY NATURE // HAVE FUN

#### SPECIAL OFFERS:

*Early Bird Discount* - Save \$25 if you register by May 1.

*Sibling Discount* - Register the one at full price, and additional siblings receive a \$15 discount.

*Invite-a-Friend Gift* - Invite a friend who has never been to camp and receive a special gift after they register.

*Financial Assistance* - First Church will pay half of your camp fees!



#### TO LEARN ABOUT:

- Financial assistance for campers
- Details on discounts
- What to expect at camp
- Becoming a prayer partner
- Volunteering as a camp dean, nurse or counselor
- Working at camp
- Campsite workdays

#### CONTACT OUR FIRST CHURCH CAMP COORDINATORS!

DEB NOSS: [SDPPP@MSN.COM](mailto:SDPPP@MSN.COM)  
AMY ORTIZ: [AMY.OGDEN7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AMY.OGDEN7@GMAIL.COM)

## Health and Wellness Presentation | Sunday, April 23, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Join us in the multipurpose room for our spring presentation with Dr. Steven DeLuca, D.O., M.S., on joint pain and joint replacement.

## Vacation Bible School | July 17-21

Save the date for VBS 2023! We're excited to explore what it means to be a hero by following Jesus and serving those around us!

*Praying Follower*



## Good Friday Prayer Walk | Friday, April 7, 10-11:15 a.m.

Join our brothers and sisters in Christ as we walk and pray in our community! Meet at First Church or another participating prayer site (listed below) to walk and pray for homes, businesses and organizations in our community, led by local pastors. We will then gather for closing prayer and worship at First Church of God (28 E. Main Street) from 11-11:15 a.m. Children and their families are then invited to a Community Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (132 E. Main Street) at 11:30. Prayer guides and directions will be available at each site. Contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)) with questions.

Prayer Sites:

- Mechanicsburg Area Senior High (500 South Broad Street)
- First United Methodist Church (135 W. Simpson Street)
- St. Mark Lutheran Church (117 W. Keller Street)
- Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park (1 Memorial Park Drive)
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (132 E. Main Street)
- Turning Point Church (201 East Green Street)



## United Women in Faith Spiritual Enrichment Day | Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.

The Harrisburg District of the United Women in Faith will host local author and retreat leader, Tabitha Deller at Young's United Methodist Church (7075 Wertzville Road, Mechanicsburg). "Tabitha is a wife, mom, teacher and writer. She resides in PA with her husband Steve and their four sons. She loves words, written or spoken and is passionate about God's Word and the life changing truths found in it. She loves reading it, writing about it and challenging others to do the same."

Registration, fellowship and refreshments begin at 10 a.m., and the program will start at 10:30. No registration is required. As in the past, we will collect items for the Neighborhood Center. Attendees can support this vital Harrisburg ministry by bringing donations of paper towels, small paper plates, 7 oz. paper cups, napkins, tissues, wax paper, or parchment paper (please no Styrofoam).

All women are welcome to attend. Contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) or 717-732-6430) with any questions. Please note that there are other dates in the Harrisburg District to attend the same program: Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m. at Summerdale UMC (203 Second Street, Summerdale) and Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. at Chambers Hill UMC (6300 Chambers Hill Road, Harrisburg).



## Passionate Worshipper



### Central Pennsylvania Handbell Festival | Saturday, April 1, 4 p.m.

Support our Handbell Choir and several others at this beautiful concert! This free event will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mechanicsburg.

### Camp Sunday | April 16, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus taking time to rest, retreat and withdraw from the chaos of daily life. In our Lenten sermon series, we've also seen how Jesus used the power of a special place to make a difference in His disciples' lives. Join us for a special time of worship and to learn about the many upcoming camp and retreat opportunities for you and your family.

### DisAbility Awareness Sunday | April 23, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Each year, we observe DisAbility Awareness Sunday as part of our commitment to extend hospitality to everyone and to celebrate the image of God in all people. This year, we will celebrate in worship with guest preacher Elizabeth Brake. Pastor Brake of the Roxbury United Methodist Charge will share a wonderful testimony about how God has worked in her life and ministry as a person with a disability.



### "Rejoice, Believers!": 2023 Handbell Choir Concert | Sunday, May 7, 7 p.m.

The First Church Praise Ringers will perform their free annual concert in our sanctuary. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to enjoy beautiful music, refreshments and fellowship!

### Greeters and Ushers

We are looking for more greeters and ushers to serve on Sunday mornings. These important members of our welcoming ministry arrive at church about 30 minutes before the service starts and greet those arriving with a smile and a warm hello. If you want more information or can volunteer for one Sunday a month, please contact Judi Buddenbaum ([ljcbuddenbaum@verizon.net](mailto:ljcbuddenbaum@verizon.net)).

### Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Search for First UMC of Mechanicsburg, and click on the playlist titled Where Words Fail, Music Speaks.

For non-Spotify users, click this link to listen to the playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5rbHEYEfHei97cUI8rjwNJ?si=qzOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>



## Dedicated Missionary



### Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.

Isaiah 61 Ministries serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County through a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and life groups. First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions or would like to carpool, please contact Tiffany Holland ([tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com)).

## 2023 Youth Mission Trip

On the night of Dec. 10, 2021, residents in Mayfield, Kentucky, were awoken by one of the worst tornadoes in U.S. history. The tornado ripped through Kentucky and the surrounding states, though Mayfield was hit hardest. Two years later, disaster relief work is still occurring. First Church Youth is currently planning a summer mission trip with Adventures In Mission to serve in Mayfield alongside the local church and other volunteers. Our youth mission trips are designed to help students to experience service and missions in a variety of ways and in a variety of places. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we get to impact the community and people we are serving by extending God's love. We also prioritize working with local churches and local service providers to assure that our help creates long-lasting benefits for those on the ground beyond our stay, throughout the year. We are excited for the opportunity to serve through disaster relief and incredibly grateful to you, our church family, for helping to make these experiences possible for our students. If you are a rising 8th grader-12th grader and interested in participating on the team, please sign up through Church Center by March 16. This trip requires both commitment and participation in the months before our trip, as well as for the week of July 1-7. Stay tuned for details on additional opportunities to support this trip!

*Relationship Builder*



## April Hospitality Tip

During the Easter season, we have a unique opportunity to offer radical hospitality! This is the time of year when more people are open to an invitation to church than almost any other time! As we celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of Christ on Easter, don't miss the chance to invite people in your daily life to be a part of one or more of our Easter morning services! A mom you've met on playdates with your kids, neighbors who are new around here or whom you've known forever, your regular barista at a local coffee shop, family members who haven't been to church in a while... the possibilities are endless! Or, maybe you could invite someone in our own church whose family lives far away who you could invite to join you for your Easter meal! May each one of our hearts be stirred to offer the hospitality of Christ throughout this beautiful Easter season.

## Men's Breakfast | Saturday, April 1, 7:30 a.m.

Join other First Church men for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday of each month at Brothers Restaurant (705 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg). Please contact Barry Eaton ([theeaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theeaton5@verizon.net)) to RSVP.



## Joy in the Morning | Next Meeting Monday, April 17, 1-2 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. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings and devotionals. For more information, contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)).

## Mount Asbury Senior Day | Wednesday, April 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Celebrate "Welcome Spring Day" at Mount Asbury Retreat Center! Enjoy a delicious lunch and receive supplies and instructions to plant flowers or paint a flower pot wind chime. Cost is \$20, and transportation will be provided from the church parking lot. Please contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112) if you're interested in attending.

## Third Friday Food Trucks | Friday, April 21, 4:30-8 p.m.

The Food Trucks are back for another season! This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere. Each month, we welcome several gourmet food trucks that serve a variety of

delicious food, and we are excited to be back along Simpson Street in our new Community Green Space! We are always looking for help with setup and cleanup. If you are interested in lending a hand with setting up or taking down the tables and chairs, please contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)) for more details. See you there!

### **Broad Street Dinner | Thursday, April 27**

First Church will once again collaborate with local churches and Broad Street Elementary to make and serve a meal to the families at the school. We will contribute homemade hamburger barbecue, as we have done in the past. We will need a total of 60 pounds of barbecue to serve approximately 300 people. Please consider making a batch of BBQ using the simple recipe below. If you have questions or would like to volunteer in any way, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)). Thanks for your support of our Broad Street community!

#### **Ingredients:**

**5 lbs. ground beef (80% lean or higher)**  
**½ cup of white vinegar**  
**½ cup of brown sugar**  
**3 and ¾ cups ketchup**  
**¼ cup yellow mustard**

**Directions: cook beef and drain fat. Mix in other ingredients and heat thoroughly.**



Update: We have a donation of 20 lbs. of hamburger for the meal, but need someone to thaw and make the BBQ. If you would be willing to do this, please contact Lori Hoffnagle. Thanks!

### **Men's Retreat | June 2-3**

Jesus had a serious mission to accomplish in this world, but He wasn't somber all the time. There is no Bible verse that says, "Jesus laughed," but we know that He empathized with us completely and felt all of our emotions. Laughter is part of life, and Jesus truly lived! Unfortunately, we often find ourselves facing serious problems and global concerns that threaten to steal our joy in today's world, and we need to be reminded of the importance of laughter for our bodies, minds, and souls. All men of First Church are invited for a time of humor, play, and scripturally-based learning on the importance of balancing our task-oriented behaviors with lightheartedness.

Join us at Mount Asbury Retreat Center for a time to get away from some of our daily stressors and unwind the way God intended. We will offer a "hybrid" style of retreat, with options to stay overnight Friday for the full experience or just come for the day to take part in the program on Saturday. A variety of activities and lessons will be planned to make this a meaningful time for all. Contact Barry Eaton ([theaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theaton5@verizon.net)) or John Bowen ([bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com)) to voice your interest in attending and/or assisting with the planning. The registration deadline is May 19, but early notice is appreciated for planning.

### **Senators Baseball Game and Picnic | Sunday, June 11, Picnic 12-2 p.m.**

Join us at FNB Field to for a family-friendly picnic and a Harrisburg Senators baseball game! The buffet-style picnic starts at noon and includes hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ chicken, baked beans, pasta salad, chips, cookies, soda and water. The Senators game starts at 1 p.m. Discounted tickets are just \$22 for adults, \$12 for children ages 4-12, and free for children 3 and under! To register, visit the Church Center app, pick up a paper form in the church lobby or click this link: [fumchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1652503](http://fumchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1652503). All participants must register and pay by May 21. Contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611) with questions.



### Indoor Pickleball | Tuesdays until April 11, 6-8 p.m.

Whether you're a single player or double, whether you play pickleball frequently or have never played before, we invite you to join us for some fun and games in the multipurpose room! Contact Janice Bowen with questions ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)).

### Community Dinner Update

We had an overwhelming turnout for the last Community Dinner held at Buhrig's Gathering Place on Sunday, Feb. 19. Over 100 people from the community came for fellowship, food and music. Plans are underway for the next dinner, to be held at Mechanicsburg First Church of God on Sunday, May 21. If you would like to help plan the next meal or help in any way, please contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)).

### Connect with KidsMinistry!

Did you know First Church Kids has a Facebook page? We upload videos, family activities, resources and more for families to use each week. Find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/groups/fumckids](https://facebook.com/groups/fumckids)) or reach out to Miss Katie ([kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)) for more information.

### Greeting Cards to Share!

Want to send well wishes for a happy birthday or speedy recovery to a friend? Stop by our greeting card display in the lobby outside the multipurpose room and help yourself to a card! If you'd like ideas of church members who would appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611)).

*Generous Giver*



### Financial Report

Through Feb. 28, 2023

16% of year

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| General Fund 2023 Budget | \$900,886                  |
| Expected Income – YTD    | \$150,147 (16% of budget)  |
| Actual Income – YTD      | \$ 177,377 (19% of budget) |
| Actual Expenses – YTD    | \$139,917 (15% of budget)  |

The month of February was a month of higher than normal giving, as several one-time gifts were received to carry on the mission of First Church to the glory of our Lord and Savior. We are grateful to our congregation and guests who continue to support the work of First Church, as we serve the Lord by opening doors for all to know salvation through Jesus.

In February, the all-member church meeting approved the borrowing of (up to) \$200,000 to help fund a \$350,000 restoration of the bell tower. We are able to support some of this project with trustee maintenance funds, and we hope to reduce our borrowing with fundraising and additional gifts from the congregation. Please prayerfully consider what part you can play in helping to minimize the amount of our loan. Gifts toward the bell tower project can be made through the Church Center app, online, in our weekly offering or via mail to the church office. You can contact Dawn Fisher at the office with any questions.



## Little Free Pantry

Thanks for your continued support of our Little Free Pantry! We're grateful for your generosity with this small (but mighty!) ministry that makes a huge impact in our community. We're also very thankful for our incredible pantry helpers, Sandy, Pam and Kathy, for always keeping the pantry well-stocked. Donations of nonperishable items are always welcome, including small toiletry items. If you have questions about the Little Free Pantry or would like to make a contribution, please feel free to contact Lori Hoffnagle (717-732-6430 or [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)).



## Handbell Choir Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser | Saturday, April 29, 4-6:30 p.m.

Make your way to the Bella Campanile Restaurante in Fellowship Hall for our Handbell Choir's annual Spaghetti Dinner! Please see a bell choir member for tickets, or sign up for the dinner on the clipboards when you come to church. Dine-in and take-out options will be available. Please contact Deb Canonizado ([canonizado\\_family@verizon.net](mailto:canonizado_family@verizon.net) or 717-497-5580) for more information. Thanks for supporting our Handbell Choir!

# First Church Mission Moments...



Have you ever thought that chores could be fun? The Backyard Missions team at First Church has a knack for serving others and making household work a joy.

Backyard Missions has been serving our neighbors in the Mechanicsburg area for more than 15 years. We support those in need by doing household chores and maintenance tasks, as well as yard work, cleaning, and other projects. It's hard to call any of it "work," since we're often chatting, laughing and enjoying each other's company, while our hearts burst with joy knowing we are doing the Lord's business.

We are blessed to be a blessing and expect to have some spring cleaning requests coming in soon. Sound like something you want to be a part of? Don't delay! Sign up today at the display table in the main entrance hallway. We'd love to have you on the team!



In Christ,  
John Bowen  
Backyard Missions Volunteer



# Daily Bible Reading April 2023

Saturday, April 1  
Sunday, April 2

Rest and Reflect  
Palm Sunday Worship

Monday, April 3  
Tuesday, April 4  
Wednesday, April 5  
**Thursday, April 6**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
I Corinthians 11:23-26

## **Holy Thursday**

**6:30 p.m. The Passion Play Experience  
(Holy Communion)**

**Friday, April 7**

John 18:1-19:42

## **Good Friday**

**10:00 a.m. Prayer Walk**

Saturday, April 8

Rest and Reflect

**Sunday, April 9**

**Easter Worship**

**"Garden Tomb: Following Jesus When You Need Hope"**

**6:30 a.m. Sunrise at Mechanicsburg Cemetery**

**8:30 and 11:00 a.m. at the church**

Monday, April 10  
Tuesday, April 11  
Wednesday, April 12  
Thursday, April 13  
Friday, April 14  
Saturday, April 15  
**Sunday, April 16**

Psalm 16  
I Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31  
Acts 10:1-33  
Acts 10:34-48  
Rest and Reflect

## **Worship "Caesarea by the Sea:**

**Following Jesus When You Need Grace"**

**Celebrating our Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry**

Monday, April 17  
Tuesday, April 18  
Wednesday, April 19  
Thursday, April 20  
Friday, April 21  
Saturday, April 22  
**Sunday, April 23**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116  
I Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-25  
Luke 24:36-49  
Rest and Reflect

## **Disability Awareness Sunday**

**Pastor Elizabeth Brake, Guest Preacher**

Monday, April 24  
Tuesday, April 25  
Wednesday, April 26  
Thursday, April 27  
Friday, April 28  
Saturday, April 29  
Sunday, April 30

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
I Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10  
John 10:11-21  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship

## Church Staff

**Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller  
717-766-4611, ext.103  
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

**Director of Worship Arts:**

Sarah Pugh  
717-766-4611, ext.119  
worship@fumchurch.com

**Director of Discipleship:**

Tina Eaton  
717-766-4611, ext.104  
adultministry@fumchurch.com

**Director of Congregational Care:**

Janice Bowen  
766-4611, ext.112  
wecare@fumchurch.com

**Director of Office Management and Communications:**

Jennifer Myers  
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**Youth Pastor:**

Lisa Aronson  
717-766-4611, ext.113  
uthrock@fumchurch.com

**Director of Childre and Family Ministry:**

Katie Knorr  
717-766-4611, ext.102  
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**Administrative Assistant:**

Dawn Fisher  
717-766-4611, ext.101  
office@fumchurch.com

**Facilities Coordinator:**

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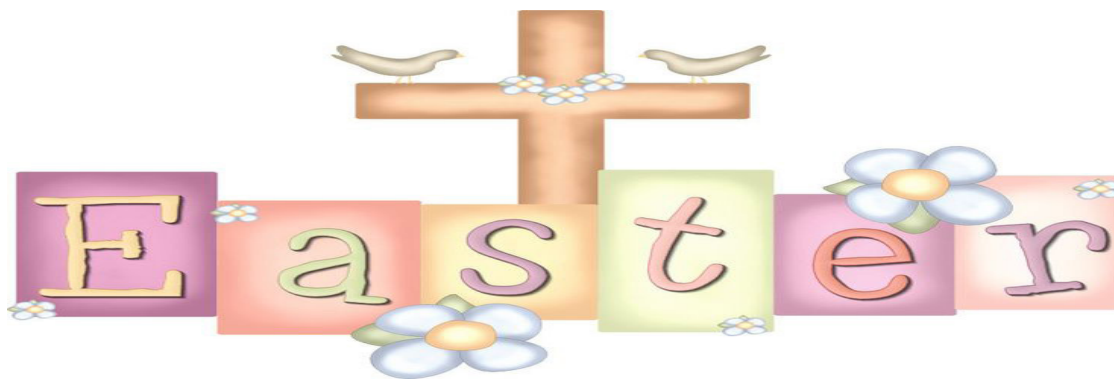
Karen Philp

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**Timeless Connections:**

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Bob Erickson.....March 29  
 (Sorry we missed you Bob!)  
 Robert Meck.....April 2  
 Marilyn Seig.....April 2  
 Dee Farr.....April 3  
 Linda Hall.....April 9  
 Darlene Wilkinson.....April 17  
 Tom Mullikin.....April 23  
 Janet Baker.....April 25  
 Grace Brandt.....April 25  
 Richard Schmick.....April 26  
 Chuck Kershner.....April 28

Annabelle Elder.....May 10  
 Nancy Otstot.....May 12  
 Denny Kauffman.....May 13  
 Marjorie Kohr.....May 15  
 Donald Heiges.....May 16  
 Mary Lou Vierthaler.....May 19  
 Ed Mechley.....May 24  
 Bob Bittenbender.....May 27  
 Flossie Ryder.....May 31



♥ Don and Debbie Karns married May 6, 1972 for 51 years.

**FIRST NEWS FIRST**  
 EDITORS: Dawn Fisher  
 Jennifer Myers

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
 for the May 2023 issue is **April 15**.  
 Early submissions always appreciated!