



First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

From the Pastor's Desk.....

“To Everything There Is a Season”: Part 1

One of the great things about living in Pennsylvania is the change of seasons. I love feeling the icy cold wind brushing against my face in winter. I also love soaking in the warm sunshine on long summer days. I love springtime, when everything is bursting with new life. I also love autumn, when trees show their magnificent colors and the chilly air signals another winter is on the way. When it comes to the change of seasons, I'm with Charles Dickens, who wrote:

“Nature gives to every time and season unique beauty; from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, it's just a succession of changes so soft and comfortable that we hardly notice the progress.”

Long before Dickens, the writer of Ecclesiastes declared, “To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Seasons don't just happen in the natural world; they are part of every aspect of our lives.

Writing in Christianity Today (December, 2017), Pastor Karl Vaters observes that, “all of life comes to us in ups and downs, ins and outs, joys and sorrows.” He goes on to say:

“Seasons happen to us. We can prepare for them, adapt to them, get used to them, dress properly for them, remember them, and build a future on them, but there are two things we can't do, when it comes to seasons. First, we can't stop them from happening. The earth will keep turning, births and deaths will keep happening. Second, because we can't stop seasons from happening, we have to stop kicking against them.”

We can't control the seasons of life. They come and go. But in every season of life, amid all the changes, we can always trust God. As I reflect on the seasons of my life, the ups and downs, the ins and outs, the joys and sorrows, I'm reminded of God's faithfulness. God provides everything we need. Thomas Chisholm celebrates God's faithful love in his beloved hymn,

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
 (“Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” verse 2)

What season are you in right now? Whatever this season looks like for you, be assured of this:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)


Next month, I'll invite you to consider what season we're in at First Church, and to ponder some ways you see God at work as we walk through this season together. Stay tuned...

Journeying through this season with you,
 Pastor Denny

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Adult Discipleship Opportunities

Whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple or becoming a fully devoted follower, there's 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).

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

Looking for learning and relationship-building while you are at church on Sundays? Check out our weekly worship bulletins for details on new studies happening during Sunday School in February!

- **Growth Groups**

We encourage all adults 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:

- ◇ **Small Groups for Lent | Begin Meeting Week of Feb. 26, Various Times**

First Church will offer a six-week, small group study that goes along with our sermon series for Lent. This study, "In the Footsteps of the Savior" by Max Lucado, takes you on an unforgettable journey as you follow Jesus through his life on earth. The videos will give you a chance to see the Holy Land and God's heart for humanity in a brand-new light. Keep an eye out for more details in our weekly worship bulletins and contact Tina Eaton ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) or adultministry@fumchurch.com) if you are interested in participating in an existing group or would like to start a new group!

- ◇ **Men's Bible Study | Mondays on Zoom, 6:45-8:15 p.m.**

Currently studying the book of Matthew. Learn about the character and lifestyle of those who are a part of God's kingdom. Contact Ken Guise (guiseken100@gmail.com) for more details.

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

What made the new faith in Jesus so compelling, and how can we apply those lessons today? Find out in a new study, "Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World" by Andy Stanley, starting Feb. 1 at the home of Barry Eaton. Contact Barry (theaton5@verizon.net) if interested.

From the Library

I hope that in the new year, you'll stop in at the library to check out our latest books or find some older ones that you may have missed while preparing for the holidays. I always treasure your feedback on new or old authors — what's good or not so good. If you have read this newsletter over the last 25 years, you know I love mysteries, military and historical-based books, meaning I may miss some of your favorite romance or Amish books. Though order the books for the library, anyone working at the library desk will pass along your comments to me. Don't be shy. The only thing I may like dis-



cussing more than books is fabric (or maybe coffee or yarn)! Okay enough chitchat. Let's get down to business.

Renee Ryan is a new author in the library who specializes in historical fiction. Her latest book, *The Secret Society of Salzburg*, starts in 1933, when Hitler begins his reign of terror over the Jewish people. Austrian opera singer Elsa Mayer-Braun meets a young English typist, Hattie Featherstone, and they form an instant bond. Seeing their friends and countrymen in peril, they form a secret society to rescue as many Jews as possible. When war breaks out, the British government reaches out to the society to take a more active role in thwarting the Germans. Unfortunately, Elsa has become Hitler's favorite opera singer, bringing her into the limelight more than ever before. Will Elsa's secret Jewish ancestry come to light, and will the society be able to continue its work? You won't want to miss this tale of courage and extraordinary friendship inspired by true events.

With Valentine's Day this month, you might enjoy a romantic book like *Something Old, Something New* by Amy Clipston. In this stand-alone novel, Christine feels she is the opposite of her twin sister, Brittany. Brittany has always been the popular one, while Christine has remained in the shadows. Now as adults, Christine has just opened an antique shop while Brittany is enjoying the role of wife and mother. Enter Brent Nicholson, who was the star of the high school football team and, in Christine's eyes, never a dating option. But, Brent has had some setbacks. A career-ending injury during the state championship football game and a betrayal by his best friend that caused him to lose his construction business has brought Brent back to town to help his aunt ready her house for sale. When his aunt's antiques need to be sold, he and Christine meet again as adults and discover that maybe they aren't so different after all. That is all the plot I'm willing to share, but reviewers have said this read is "swoon-worthy." If you like romance books, don't miss this one!

If you are not a reader, the library has a very robust jigsaw puzzle exchange that you might be interested in. We don't check them out, so there is no pressure to finish the puzzle in a short time. We just use the honor system — take a puzzle and bring a puzzle back. This is such a great way to spend these dreary evenings of winter.

Hope to see you in the library!

Pam, Donna, Marge, Deb, Mary, Sandy and Annette



Wonderful Wednesday – Expanded! | Wednesdays, Feb. 8-March 15, 5-7 p.m.

After a great fall session, First Church's popular Wonderful Wednesday program returns for a winter session, and it's not just for kids! Children, youth and adults are all invited to participate in this family fellowship and learning program. The winter session will run for six weeks from Feb. 8 through March 15 (with March 22 and 29 reserved as snow dates).

This program begins at with prayer and a family-style dinner in Fellowship Hall, followed by age-specific small-group learning. This session's theme, "Growing with Jesus," focuses on Jesus's journey, and what His death and resurrection means for us. Childcare (infants and toddlers) will be offered, along with groups for children (kindergarten-grade 5), youth (grades 6-12) and adults of all ages.

Register today on our Church Center app or on our website (fumchurch.com/wonderful). Contact Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) with questions, and don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors! Please note: Wonderful Wednesday will be held separately from rehearsals for our 2023 Passion Play Experience.

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.

We are looking for children, youth, and adults who are interested in performing as actors (speaking or silent), musicians, and other important volunteers behind the scenes. Rehearsal times will depend on your part (providing flexibility to fit your family's schedule), ranging from Sunday mornings (during Sunday School or KidsWorship), Sunday evenings (for youth during youth group), or another time to be determined. Larger speaking roles or dances will require more rehearsals than non-speaking roles.

There will be one mandatory rehearsal on Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday) after the 11 a.m. worship service, with a mealtime before the run-through. The performance will take place on the evening of Thursday, April 6. If you, or your children or youth are interested in participating, please register as soon as possible on our Church Center app or on our website at fumchurch.com/footsteps. Please contact Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) with questions.

- The youth spent the first weekend of December on their retreat centered around the theme: "Pieces." On top of playing with lots of Legos, we talked about Colossians 1:17 and how in God all things are held together. We walked away with a renewed sense of knowing that all the pieces of our lives are in God's hand.

- Shoutout to all the bakers that helped make our annual cookie walk a success! We raised over \$2,000 for our summer mission trip! Thank you!

Youth Ministry Snap Shot



Praying Follower



United Methodist Conference Women's Retreat | Registration Ends Wednesday, Feb. 8!

The Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church invites all women to the Seeking God First Retreat on March 10 and 11 at Best Western in Lewisburg (7701 West Branch Highway). This year's speaker is Anita Keagy, founder of JoyShop Ministries. Her mission is to inspire people to prioritize spending time with God every day through Bible reading and prayer. For registration information, visit the conference website at: <https://susumc.org/sus-uwif/>. Please contact Lori Hoffnagle, president of United Women in Faith at First Church (Lhoffnagle@yahoo.com), with any questions.



United
Women
in Faith

February Prayer Focus: Prayers from the Heart

In Philippians 4:6, Paul calls us to take action against our anxieties by asking God for help: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Paul uses three key words in this verse that we should examine to really understand how to pray:

- **Prayer** ("Proseuchē") is an intentional time that you set apart to earnestly come into the presence of God, away from distractions, for deliberate communication with Him. This is a whole-hearted action!
- **Supplication** ("Deēsis") means asking God to meet a specific need or request and seeking God's provision in a certain situation. It also indicates an attitude of humility and the condition of our hearts, knowing that we cannot meet the need ourselves, but God can.
- **Thanksgiving** ("Eucharistia") is actively worshipping by intentionally having gratitude, using grateful language in conversation with God as an act of worship. Being thankful for all he has provided and expressing this gratitude brings our whole hearts, not just our minds, to God.

This February as we celebrate Valentine's Day and the love we have for one another, remember to pray from your heart, praising God for who He is, asking for cleansing of your hearts in forgiveness, earnestly bringing your concerns to the Lord, and thanking Him for all He has done.

Passionate Worshipper



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 (ljbuddenbaum@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=q-zOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>



Dedicated Missionary



Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, Feb. 15, 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).

Volunteers In Mission

Thinking of going on a mission trip or wanting to plan a trip? The Volunteers in Mission team will be happy to support you and provide free training! United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is the short-term mission agency of the United Methodist Church. A UMVIM volunteer is any United Methodist who engages in outreach as a member of a United Methodist Church in service of their neighbors near and far. For more information on upcoming trainings or mission trips in the Susquehanna Conference, visit the VIM website (susmb.org/vim/).

Wonderful Wednesday Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for some volunteers to make our winter/spring session of Wonderful Wednesday... wonderful! We need several volunteers to assist with preparing meals and some adults (with clearances) to help with child care. Please contact Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) if you have questions or are interested in serving for any portion of the six-week session!

Relationship Builder



February Hospitality Tip

We often associate with the symbol of a red heart for Valentine's Day. True hospitality begins with the right heart and the right attitude! As Christians, we are called to have a true, authentic love for people. Romans 5:5 says that "the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Because God has put His love in our hearts, we should welcome others in His name. Hospitality begins in the heart!

Men's Breakfast | Saturday, Feb. 4, 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) to RSVP.

Widows and Widowers Valentine's Day Luncheon | Tuesday, Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m.

This group is invited to a special luncheon at First Church in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Bonnie Guyer ([717-766-0145](tel:717-766-0145)). Transportation will be provided upon request.



Community Dinner | Sunday, Feb. 19, 5 p.m.

Community dinners continue at Buhrig's Gathering Place in Mechanicsburg. The dinner is a collaborative event with other local churches to bless the downtown community with free food, music and games. The concept comes from the book *Welcome to Dinner, Church*, which encourages churches to share a meal with their neighbors. Watch for details on how you can participate. October's dinner was a huge success with over 80 people in attendance! If you have questions or would like to help in any way, contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

Broad Street Dinner | Thursday, April 27

Save the date! First Church will once again partner with Broad Street Elementary and other local churches to make and serve a meal to local families. To get involved, please contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). Watch for more details!

Sunday Morning Coffee

Do you love having coffee on Sunday mornings? We'd like to offer coffee and tea more regularly on Sundays. If you would like to help be on our Sunday morning coffee team and help make this possible, reach out to Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com).



Generous Giver



Financial Report

Final Year End 2022

General Fund – December 2022 Giving

Actual giving in the month of December:	\$102,503
Average month per 2022 budget:	\$ 77,165

General Fund – 2022 Year-to-Date

2022 budget (full year):	\$ 925,985
Actual giving (full year):	\$ 891,954
Actual expenses (full year):	\$ 898,719

We are thankful for God's helping hand as our ministry of opening doors for the Lord continues to move forward at First Church. We are so grateful for the prayers and support our congregation has provided to our ministries and programs throughout 2022. Furthermore, our church members, staff and volunteers came together in 2022 to help us hold the line on costs. While our expenses were a bit higher than giving for the year, we had funds remaining from the prior year to cover the deficit

In addition to in-person services and events, our church now reaches the family of God in new ways with a virtual ministry on Sunday mornings and through other events during the week. Here are just a few of the other ways our resources were put to use during this unusual time: We had a difficult situation when the sanctuary ceiling was damaged, but turned this into an opportunity to refresh our worship area with new carpet and to upgrade our sound system. We also developed and constructed a green space area to offer greater worship opportunities.

The full-year financial results for 2022 are in this newsletter, along with our budget for 2023. We all look forward to seeing how God continues to grow our faith and family during this new year, in line with His will. Thank you for your commitment to the First Church ministry.

New Digs Furniture Ministry Donations

New Digs needs new or gently used couches, tables, chairs, bed frames, dressers, pots and pans, small kitchen appliances, sheets and towels to help those in our community! Drop off your large items at Mission Central (5 Pleasant View Dr., Mechanicsburg) Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and noon or the first and third Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Smaller items can be placed in the boxes outside of Mission Central during office hours.

Little Free Pantry – Reverse Advent Was a Success!

Thanks for your support of the Little Free Pantry during Advent! As of early January, we collected over 1,600 pounds of food to share with our community! We appreciate your support of this small, but mighty ministry in our community. Special thanks to our pantry helpers, Sandy, Pam and Kathy, for keeping the pantry well-stocked! Donations of non-perishable 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 contact Lori Hoffnagle (717-732-6430 or l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). Thanks for your generosity!

Ham Loaf Dinner | Saturday, March 11, 4:30-7 p.m.

Support mission organizations and enjoy a delicious dinner at this churchwide fundraiser! In addition to purchasing a meal, you can support this event by volunteering to help as a server or in the kitchen. To sign up as a volunteer or for more information, contact Kathie Bittenbender or Bob Hamsher.



Year-End Giving Statements

The year-end giving statements have been printed. Please check your church mail to pick up your giving statement, which can be used to support your tax filing of donations for 2022. If you have any questions, please direct them to the church office. Thank you for your generous support of the ministries at First Church.

Change for Water!

Water is the foundation of our very lives. Yet, according to CDC estimates, only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water! Help us to support the Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone by dropping your loose change (or even paper bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket located in the Narthex in front of the gym. Donations from December totaled \$17.15. 100% of your donations will be used to provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

First United Methodist Church General Fund

Budget 2023

Account Number/Account Name	2023 Proposed Budget
100 Income	
101 Envelope Giving	
102 W/O Envelopes	
103 Loose Offering	
104 Building Use Rent	
105 Interest Income	
106 Other Receipts	
107 PPP Grant	
September Second Half Estimate	
Total Income	900,886.00
200 Salaries and Benefits	
201 Pastor's Salary	92,781.00
202 Soc. Sec. Offset - Pastor	7,098.00
203 Pension- Pastor	9,695.00
204 Health Care - Pastor	16,500.00
206 Account Reimbursable Plan- Pastor	2,000.00
207 Continuing Ed - Pastor	750.00
210 Assistant Pastor	0.00
211 Continuing Ed - Asst. Past	0.00

Account Number/Account Name	2023 Proposed Budget
212 Soc. Sec. Offset - Asst Past	0.00
214 Account Reimbursable Plan- Assist Pastor	0.00
229 Director of Outreach	0.00
230 Office Manager	40,093.00
231 Admin Assistant	18,944.00
232 Director of Child Ministries	36,236.00
233 Youth Pastor	43,954.00
234 Youth Pastor Benefits	6,399.00
235 Director of Adult Ministries	27,950.00
236 Facilities Coordinator	18,467.00
237 Custodians	21,840.00
238 Finance Director	9,950.00
239 Congregational Care Coord	22,308.00
255 Worship Arts Director	41,738.00
256 Worship Arts Director - Benefits	6,399.00
240 Music Director	0.00
241 Organist/Assistants	13,000.00
242 Sounds of Worship Choir Dir	3,803.00
243 Sanctuary Choir Director	0.00
244 Youth Choir Director	3,494.00
246 Children's Choir Director	0.00
247 Adult Bell Choir Director	7,715.00
248 Children's Bell Choir Director	0.00
249 Worship Leaders	0.00
250 Additional Musicians (Wshp)	500.00
251 Travel - Lay Staff	500.00
252 Continuing Ed - Lay Staff	600.00
253 Soc. Sec. - Lay Staff	24,866.00
254 Office Manager Benefits	6,399.00
257 Unanticipated Savings -	20,000.00
259 Children's Director Benefits	6,399.00
Total Salaries & Benefits	470,378.00
300 Conference Shares of Ministry	
301 Connectional Support	46,699.00
302 Clergy Support	50,281.00
Total Shares of Ministry	96,980.00
400 Missions	
401 Africa University	0.00
402 Benevolences	31,379.00
403 Benevolent Homes	0.00
404 Bethany Village	0.00
405 Bethany Village Aux.	0.00

Account Number/Account Name	2023 Proposed Budget
406 Bethesda Mission	0.00
407 Daron Shelter	0.00
408 Daystar	0.00
409 District Advance	0.00
410 FUMC Backyard Ministries	0.00
411 Habitat for Humanity	0.00
412 Mech Council of Churches	200.00
413 Mech Meals on Wheels	0.00
414 Mission Central	0.00
415 Mission Ed & Awareness	0.00
416 Mission Scholarships	0.00
417 Missionaries - Denominational	0.00
418 Neighborhood Center	0.00
419 New Hope Ministries	0.00
420 S. Central Food Bank	0.00
421 Salt & Light Ministry	0.00
422 Sierra Leone	0.00
423 UM Children's Home	0.00
424 UM Women	0.00
425 UMCOR	0.00
426 Undesignated Missions	52,421.00
427 Uptown Ministries	0.00
428 World Communion	0.00
429 Youth Mission Trip	0.00
430 Youth Service Fund	0.00
431 Human Relations Day	0.00
432 Youth/Children Offering	0.00
433 One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00
434 Native American Awareness	0.00
435 Mental Health Sunday	0.00
436 Peace With Justice Sunday	0.00
437 Rural Life Sunday	0.00
438 Volunteer in Mission Sunday	0.00
439 Christian Education Sunday	0.00
440 World Communion Offering	0.00
441 World Hunger/Harvest Home	0.00
442 United Methodist Student Day	0.00
443 CRU - Jenna Mengle	0.00

Account Number/Account Name	2023 Proposed Budget
444 CRU - Bethany Robinson	0.00
445 CRU - Matt & Leann Herring	0.00
446 Volunteers in Mission	0.00
447 Calvary Church, Sierra Leone Missionaries - Congregational	0.00
448 CRU - Graham Bowen	
449 Disciple Makers - Josh Herring	
450 Golden Cross Sunday	
451 Camping Program	
453 New Diggs	
501 Access Ministry	500.00
504 Camping	3,000.00
517 MOPS	2,000.00
538 Outreach	500.00
Total Missions and Projects	90,000.00
 500 Program	
502 Adult Department	5,000.00
503 Bank Fees	4,000.00
505 Children's Department	7,000.00
506 Choir Music	1,133.00
507 Communications	2,405.00
508 Confirmation	0.00
509 Devotional Literature	825.00
510 Endowment Fund Comm	0.00
511 Evangelism	0.00
512 Fellowship Committee	0.00
513 FUMC Website	0.00
514 Hospitality Task Force	0.00
515 Health & Wellness	396.00
516 Library	200.00
518 Offering Envelopes	750.00
519 Office Supplies	2,800.00
520 Paper & Printing	2,000.00
521 Postage	1,000.00522

Account Number/Account Name	2023 Proposed Budget
Small Group Babysitting	0.00
523 Staff Parish Rel Comm.	500.00
524 Stewardship Committee	0.00
525 Sunday School Curriculum	0.00
526 Vacation Bible School	0.00
527 Women's Retreat	775.00
528 Wonderful Wednesday	0.00
529 Worship Committee	1,200.00
530 Youth Department	14,000.00
532 Computer Support	6,300.00
531 Safe Sanctuary	200.00
534 Pastor Discretionary Account	0.00
533 History/Anniversary	0.00
535 Congregational Care Ministries	270.00
536 Coffee Supplies	0.00
539 Men's Ministries	200.00
540 Welcoming Ministry	1,900.00
540 Operating Reserve	0.00
Worship Licenses	1,352.00
Total Program	54,206.00

600 Facilities

601 Building Use	0.00
602 Van Ministry	2,000.00
603 Facility Reserve	30,000.00
604 Fuel	19,500.00
605 Janitorial Supplies	4,000.00
607 Maintenance	14,000.00
608 Property Insurance	28,622.00
609 Property Tax	3,500.00
610 Service Contracts	15,000.00
615 Service Contracts - Office	11,000.00
611 Snow Removal	3,500.00
612 Telephone- Church	4,000.00
613 Utilities Church	31,000.00
614 Wireless Project	0.00

616 Utilities - Parsonage	4,700.00
Account Number/Account Name	2023 Proposed Budget
617 Project Reserve	0.00
618 Maintenance - Parsonage	1,500.00
Total Facilities	172,322.00
700 Capital Expenses	
701 Debt Reduction - Interest	2,000.00
702 Debt Reduction - Principal	15,000.00
Total Capital Expenses	17,000.00
Total Expense	900,886.00
Income Over Spending	0.00

First Church Mission Moments...

New Hope Ministries is a Christian social service agency dedicated to Sharing Christ's love by meeting human needs. New Hope serves our neighbors in Mechanicsburg and beyond in times of need and supports their efforts toward stability in a variety of ways.

Every day, New Hope Ministries gives help and hope to people like Mary and Lauren.



Mary fell upon hard times when she was forced to rely on disability benefits. She found it difficult to make ends meet and was grateful to find practical assistance and experience the love of Jesus through New Hope. This ministry showed her what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

When Lauren came to New Hope, the staff and volunteers lovingly embraced her and her four children. New Hope got right to work helping her with food and basic needs assistance. Lauren was so grateful! She especially loves to visit Marketplace where she can get fresh fruit and vegetables for her family and say hi to staff and volunteers, who always greet her with smiles and lots of love.



The support of our local community makes all of this possible. Because of supporters like you, New Hope Ministries has these moments to celebrate.

My involvement with New Hope has brought me such joy over the years, especially helping with Christmas Blessings Express. This annual event allows guests to shop for affordable gifts for the whole family. You cannot imagine the difference it makes in these families' lives! Sometimes these are the only gifts that moms and dads can share with their little ones. Watching them choose toys, games, books and other presents for their children is so powerful, and it's certainly empowering to the families.

Other ways to support New Hope include volunteering in the food pantry, helping with Back-to-School Daze Craze and assisting with other holiday programs. There are more than dozens of ways to be involved.

If you would like to become a volunteer at New Hope Ministries, please call Alyssa Sutowski, Manager of the Mechanicsburg Center, at 717-766-7333. Thank you for your continued support of New Hope Ministries –

through your prayers, donations and volunteer time. We're so grateful to partner with this ministry that cares so deeply for our community!

Blessings,
Debbie Karns
First Church Missions Committee Chair and New Hope Ministries Volunteer



Daily Bible Reading February 2023

Wednesday, February 1	I Corinthians 2:1-12
Thursday, February 2	Matthew 5:13-16
Friday, February 3	Matthew 5:17-20
Saturday, February 4	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, February 5	Worship "You Are"
Monday, February 6	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Tuesday, February 7	Psalms 119:1-8
Wednesday, February 8	I Corinthians 3:1-9
Thursday, February 9	I Corinthians 13:1-8a
Friday, February 10	I Corinthians 13:8b-13
Saturday, February 11	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, February 12	Worship Rev. James VanZandt, guest preacher
Monday, February 13	Exodus 24:12-18
Tuesday, February 14	Psalms 99
Wednesday, February 15	2 Peter 1:16-21
Thursday, February 16	Matthew 17:1-9
Friday, February 17	Matthew 17:14-21
Saturday, February 18	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, February 19	Worship "Listen to Him"
Monday, February 20	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Tuesday, February 21	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Wednesday, February 22	Psalms 51:1-17
Ash Wednesday	
Thursday, February 23	Romans 5:12-19
Friday, February 24	Matthew 4:1-11
Saturday, February 25	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, February 26	Worship
Monday, February 27	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Tuesday, February 28	Genesis 12:1-4a

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
717-766-4611, ext.105
communications@fumchurch.com

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
kidscount@fumchurch.com

Administrative Assistant:

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

Facilities Coordinator:

Tom Ziegler
717-766-4611, ext.109
facilities@fumchurch.com

Custodian:

Jeremiah Bumbaugh
717-766-4611, ext.109
maintenance@fumchurch.com

Director of Finance:

TBD
717-766-4611, ext.120
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

Sounds of Worship Director:

Flossie Ryder
missflossie42@gmail.com

Director of Bell Choirs:

Kathie Bittenbender
rbittenben@verizon.net

Praise Team Director:

Sarah Pugh
worship@fumchurch.com

Organist/Accompanist:

Karen Philp

Director of Little Friends Preschool:

Jemma Church
717-796-0723
director@littlefriendspreschool.org

Timeless Connections:

Patti Vogl
717-319-7318
pvogl@timelessconnections.org

News and Notes....

Thank you dear church family for your overwhelming support of the first Reverse Advent Calendar supporting our Little Free Pantry! Through your wonderful generosity we will be helping friends and neighbors in need for months to come.



Joanne Caimpa.....February 6	Pat Gavlack.....March 9
Janie Stover.....February 6	Ben Miller.....March 12
Joyce Parfet.....February 12	Marge Robinson.....March 15
Dottie Zimmerman..February 26	Gail Siemons.....March 15
Gerry Aumiller.....February 27	Bob Wertz Sr.....March 17
	Mabel Strock.....March 28
	Buddy Miller.....March 29
	Dave Scholl.....March 31



- ♥ **Denny and Sally Kauffman married February 14 for 63 years.**
- ♥ **Winslow and Caroline Brown married February 19 for 68 years.**

FIRST NEWS FIRST
EDITORS: Dawn Fisher
Jennifer Myers

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