



# First News First

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

## "The Return"

We are returning. We are returning to classrooms and workplaces, stores and restaurants, athletic fields and theaters. Many of us are still going to school virtually, working from home, and shopping online, but we see hopeful signs. We are still wearing masks, washing our hands, maintaining safe distances, but more of us are taking slow, cautious, gradual steps toward "post-quarantine."

More of us are returning to church, too. We are offering a variety of online and in person experiences for worship and other activities. Slowly in person worship attendance is increasing. Easter Sunday we added an 11:00 modern-style worship service, The Gathering, to our 8:15 Foundation Service. Gradually, more groups and activities will begin returning to the church building. At the same time, we are planning to expand our outreach online. We are committed to welcoming you where you are, in ways that are best for you. Not just in worship, but in every aspect of our church life.

During the month of May, I'm planning a four-part sermon series on one of Jesus' most beloved stories, "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." It's a story about "a father who had two sons" (Luke 15:11). It is also your story and mine. Several weeks ago I attended the Christian Fellowship Sunday School class via Zoom. Our teacher asked, "Where do you see yourself in this parable?" The more I meditate on this parable the more I see myself in all of the characters. As the late devotional writer Henri Nouwen said of this parable, "All of the Gospel is there. All of my life is there. All of the lives of my friends is there" (The Return of the Prodigal Son, p.14)

When it comes to returning to church and other activities, each of us is at a different place right now. That's okay. But there is this one thing we all have in common. We all have a Father who loves us, who meets us where we are, and who welcomes us home. The most important return any of us can make is when we respond to God's gracious invitation and seek to become like God in the way we welcome others.

Joyfully Returning With You!

Pastor Denny

Join us for worship in May, in person or online!

May 2	"The Younger Son"	Luke 15:11-24
May 9	"The Older Son"	Luke 15:25-32
May 16	"The Bystanders"	Luke 15:25-32
May 23	Pentecost	Confirmation Sunday at The Gathering (11:00 a.m.)
May 30	"Becoming the Father"	Luke 15:11-32

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## Bible Reading Plan

Are you looking for a new way to grow closer to Christ this year? Check out our weekly Bible reading plan (on page 10), which coordinates with our worship sermon series, at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) or consider joining one of the groups or Bible studies offered this spring/early summer (listed below). If you are in need of a new Bible, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com). Large-print versions are available.

## Groups and Studies

Looking for new ways to grow closer to Christ through Bible study? Why not consider joining one of the following groups/studies going on this spring. Newcomers are welcome to join any class at any time! If you are in need of a Bible, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com). Large-print versions are available.

- ***New Online!* Wednesday Women's Group – Brave** by local author Tabitha Deller. Do you battle fear and doubt? Come along as we embark on a quest for bravery by studying the lives of Joshua, Caleb, Ruth, Paul, David and Esther. Together we will apply the truths we learn from God's word into our lives. Led by Tina Eaton, this group will meet on Zoom over lunch from 12:00 – 1:15 pm on Wednesdays, May 19 through June 30. Order your Bible study guide at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and contact Tina at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for Zoom link and online video access.
- **Wednesday Men's Group – Race and the Gospel** by Bryan Loritts/Matt Chandler. In this series, race, racism and injustice are addressed using Paul's words in Ephesians. Through teaching and honest dialogues, this group is discussing a way forward toward harmony. Meets on Zoom at 8:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry Eaton at [1785eaton@gmail.com](mailto:1785eaton@gmail.com) if interested.
- **Men's Bible Study** – Led by Ken Guise and David Mengle, this group meets Sunday evenings at 6:15 pm on Zoom. Contact Ken at [guiseken100@gmail.com](mailto:guiseken100@gmail.com) for more details and the Zoom link. Currently studying *1 & 2 Peter & Jude: Living with Discernment in the End Times*. Find out what you need to know for daily living from these three short books, which will encourage and enable you to live a life of discernment.
- **Sunday School**
  - **Faith in Everyday Life** – This small group meets at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Park as weather permits (or on Zoom as a backup) and focuses on fellowship and friendship. Class members share in leading reflections/discussions based on Scripture. Contact Jenell Paris at [jparis@messiah.edu](mailto:jparis@messiah.edu) for more details.
  - **Faithful Families** – This group, comprised of parents in the child-raising stage of life, meets on Zoom and focuses on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact Bob Wertz, Jr. at [wertzfive@gmail.com](mailto:wertzfive@gmail.com) for more details.
  - **Christian Fellowship** – Currently studying *Before Amen - The Power of a Simple Prayer* by Max Lucado. This class focuses on fruitful discussion for spiritual growth while also providing time for fellowship. For all ages/stages of faith. Meets at 9:30 am. Contact Wayde Leister at [waydeleister@outlook.com](mailto:waydeleister@outlook.com) for more details and the Zoom link.
  - **Growing in Christ – Beginning a new study May 2 on Ephesians**. All are welcome to join us for this 9-week study as we dig into this book - a "survival guide" that teaches us how to live the Gospel in this world. For all ages, including older youth/young adults. Meets at 9:30 am. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details and the Zoom link.
  - **Helping Hands** - Meets on Zoom at 10:00 am. A group of active seniors who focus on studies which provide encouragement and instruction on faithful living. Contact Bob Wertz, Sr. at [robert\\_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com](mailto:robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com) for more details.
  - **Guyer Class** – A group of elders in the church who use the United Methodist quarterly adult Bible lessons for daily independent study at home. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to receive study materials.

## Connect Using The Bible App

Check out the YouVersion Bible app, available for both android and iOS smartphones/tablets, or on your laptop at [bible.com](http://bible.com). There are many wonderful devotional studies, plus you can create groups to study,

chat with friends and share prayer requests!

### Scholarship Form Deadline

The deadline to submit scholarship applications with First United Methodist Church is May 22nd and can be found on the church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com). Look for the “Youth” tab and then click on “Youth Events and Activities” from the dropdown menu. Completed forms can be mailed to Judi Buddenbaum or the church office (135 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055).

### From the Library

I am taking a deep breath and enjoying spring to the fullest. Yesterday I weeded my flower bed and today I shopped at Patti Noggle’s Nursery and seriously resisted buying one of each beautiful flower Patti has. So now I am tied in my chair and chomping at the bit to be back outside. The only reason I am at the computer on this gorgeous day is I have a stack of new books by my chair that I really need to tell you about. I now struggle with the problem to review just a couple; as Gilda Radner is known for saying, “It’s always something!”

In our library is the always popular Irene Hannon. Not only does she write page-turning mysteries, but also insightful romances. **Blackberry Beach** sounds like a romance we could all enjoy today on the porch with our large iced tea, right? If you follow Christian fiction, you know that almost all the series are three or four books, but Ms. Hannon is breaking the mold making **Blackberry Beach** the seventh in her *Hope Harbor series*. Katherine Parker is a woman who has it all, but neither fame nor money has made her happy. She comes to the Oregon coast hoping to figure out what will make her happy. Her neighbor, Zach Garrett, the local coffee shop owner (does it get any better than that?), is struggling to get over his own traumatic loss. Neither has romance on their minds, but when they are recruited to volunteer in a rehab home for foster children, sparks begin to fly. Reviewers have said this is a down to earth romance with plausible people and a sub plot that adds to the overall story. See what you think!

New to our library is mystery writer Elizabeth Goddard. **Present Danger** is the first book in the *Rocky Mountain Courage series*. Former FBI Special Agent and now Detective, Jack Tanner is in Montana during a search and rescue mission, when he finds a body in the national forest. He is determined to find the killer, but that will mean working with former girlfriend, Terra Connors, who is a US Forest Service Special Agent. The victim is tied to a powerful and menacing trafficker of archaeological artifacts and this could be an extremely dangerous case. But Jack is determined to find the killer and protect Terra no matter what. Both come to this case wounded by the past and carrying personal baggage, but can they live to solve the case and maybe trust each other again? I will warn you; many reviewers have mentioned late night finishes. After you check out this author, let me know if I should order book two due out in November.

Lastly, I hope to see you in the library—SOON. If you would like an appointment to pick up books, call Pam or Donna for that.

~ Pam and Donna

### Little Friends Preschool Enrollment

Little Friends Preschool is enrolling new students for the 2021-22 school year! We still have spaces available in all classes, from 2 years 7 months through Pre-K, and we want to fill them up! Spread the word to friends and family—anyone who is interested in getting more information, scheduling a tour, or registering for next fall can contact Jemma Church at [717-796-0723](tel:717-796-0723) or [lfns@fumchurch.com](mailto:lfns@fumchurch.com). Help us fill all of our classrooms with laughter and learning for the coming school year!

*Praying Follower*



### One Thousand Prayers/National Day of Prayer

Our “One Thousand Prayers” challenge kicked off on Good Friday, April 2 with the goal of collectively

praying for one thousand places or more in Mechanicsburg over the entire month. By mid-April, First Church had prayed for over 500 places in Mechanicsburg! We prayed for homes, apartments, local businesses, Mechanicsburg and CV schools, the Mechanicsburg Fire Company, Police, first responders, parks and more! We even prayed for travelers on Route 81 and a family who was out searching for their lost dog (who was later found)! Several other local churches joined us in this prayer journey, and no doubt, by the time you read this, we will have reached our goal! Thank you for blessing our community in this way!

Your next prayer challenge is coming up on **Thursday, May 6, which is our National Day of Prayer!** On this day we will hold a 24-hour prayer vigil. You will be able to pray from the comfort of your home, but we ask that you please sign up for a 30-minute time slot by clicking on our Time to Sign Up link [here](#), or by contacting Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).

You can pick up your prayer kit with ideas/scripture and prayer prompts when you leave worship on May 2, or if you are worshipping online with us, contact Tina Eaton to receive a kit.

Whether we face fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention.

### Moms in Prayer

We have several First Church women engaged in praying with a [Moms in Prayer](#) group, and new women are invited to join at any time. What a blessing is it to join other mothers and grandmothers in lifting our children in prayer! If you are interested in participating, we have a group meeting on Monday evenings. This group prays for children at any age/stage of life, and all are welcome to join in at any time! Meets on Zoom from 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Contact Deb Noss as [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) if you would like to know more or would like the Zoom link to join this prayer group.

### Weekly Prayer Letter

If you have not already done so, sign up for our weekly prayer email so that you can receive a list of praises and requests from our church family. Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) to share requests and to sign up for this once-a-week list.

*Passionate Worshipper*



### Upcoming Worship Series — “The Parable of the Prodigal Son”

Starting Sunday, May 2, we will begin a new, four-part sermon series on one of Jesus' most beloved stories, "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." It's a story about "a father who had two sons" (Luke 15:11). It is also your story and mine. In some cases we may ask ourselves, "Where do I see myself in this parable?" The more we meditate on this parable the more we see ourselves in all of the characters. As the late devotional writer Henri Nouwen said of this parable, "All of the Gospel is there. All of my life is there. All of the lives of my friends is there" ([The Return of the Prodigal Son](#), p.14). We hope that you will join us for the following messages in May!:

- May 2 "The Younger Son" Luke 15:11-24
- May 9 "The Older Son" Luke 15:25-32
- May 16 "The Bystanders" Luke 15:25-32
- May 23 Pentecost Confirmation Sunday at The Gathering (11:00 a.m.)
- May 30 "Becoming the Father" Luke 15:11-32

## New White Paraments

New white paraments for the altar, pulpit, and lectern have been purchased in memory of long-time member Lois Coover, who for many years prepared the communion elements for our church. Lois was a dedicated servant who paid attention to all the details of communion preparation, including the white paraments for the communion service. White paraments are also used for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and the six Sundays between Easter and Pentecost. These new white paraments will always be a visible reminder of Lois's service to First Church.



## Livestream Team — New Ministry

Livestream worship is underway! This new group forming has exciting potential to reach beyond the walls of our church. *Because of the higher demand for more volunteers to livestream, we are looking for more individuals to help grow our livestream team.* No prior experience is needed, and training is provided. If you would like to meet the challenge of modern church and advance the kingdom into a digital era, please contact Sarah Pugh at [worship@fumchurch.com](mailto:worship@fumchurch.com).

## Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we will release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Each song-- hand-picked by staff, musicians, and volunteers-- has been on our hearts, and prayed over for a holy and meaningful connection with our congregation. For Spotify users, search for the user 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>

## Worship DVDs Available

If you or someone you know are unable to access the online church worship services, we have DVD copies of worship available upon request! Please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

## Dedicated Missionary



## Missions Committee Study

The Missions Committee invites you to join us for a study based on the book, "When Helping Hurts." Poverty is much more than simply a lack of material resources, and it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve it. When Helping Hurts shows how some alleviation efforts, failing to consider the complexities of poverty, have actually (and unintentionally) done more harm than good." Michelle Schwartzmann, VIM Coordinator, will be leading this study once a month for the next five months via Zoom conferencing. All are welcome to join us! The study is free, no book required, just join in for the lesson and discussion. To receive the Zoom link or for more information, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). The next session is Tuesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. Thanks for joining us!

## VIM Trips

The Susquehanna Conference Volunteers in Mission is offering virtual mission trips! The next one is 'Mission to Mexico.' The dates are April 30, May 3, May 5 and May 7 from noon to 2:00 p.m. Sign up via email to [nanmigL@yahoo.com](mailto:nanmigL@yahoo.com). If you are interested in other trips, visit the National VIM website at <https://www.umvim.org/virtual-missions>. These are great ways to learn about all the mission trip opportunities and may inspire you to sign up for a trip in the future!

## Isaiah 61 Returns in Harrisburg!

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank

and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. New safety protocols have been established, such as wearing a mask, gloves and physical distancing. If you would like to carpool or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Holland [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

### **UMW MissionU Update**

New for 2021, The annual UMW learning event will be virtual! The dates are July 16 and 17, 2021. Watch for more details about registration and mission topics. All women are welcome to attend! For more information about MissionU, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

### **UMW Conference Annual Day, November 6, 2021 – Save the Date!**

The Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women will be holding their Annual Day at Fishing Creek Salem, Goldsboro on Saturday, November 6 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. At this time, they are planning for an in-person event, however, they plan to also offer Annual Day via livestream for those who cannot attend in person. The topic will be: *Championing Mental Wellness*, with keynote speaker, Sharon Engdahl, Executive Director of the Mental Wellness Awareness Association for Pennsylvania. All women are welcome to attend! Watch for more information on how to register. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) with any questions.

### **The United Methodist Women Announce the Mission Priorities for 2021-2024**

United Methodist Women is a bold, diverse and dynamic community of Christian women working together to grow spiritually, live out their faith and make a difference in their communities and world, especially on behalf of women, children and youth. For the 2021-2024 quadrennium, United Methodist Women will have two mission priorities: **climate justice** and **criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration**, with particular focus on the Just Energy for All and Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline campaigns. These two areas of critical, unrelenting need are areas in which United Methodist Women can have a great impact. Narrowing our focus to two areas helps us concentrate energy and resources to best do the work God calls us to do, and it allows us to go deeper into each of the issues we're engaging and develop stronger local and national partnerships in these areas. Read more about these priorities in the latest issue of the Response Magazine at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-mission-priorities-2020-2024>.

### **Help Us Feed Those In Need**

We are asking all who can to help us fill our Little Free Pantry – the food is going fast and your donations are needed. Go to our church website for information on what you can donate and contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) if you have questions.

### **Get Connected With Service Opportunities**

If you have not already done so, sign up to receive our periodic "Service Opportunities" email. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) to share opportunities and to sign up.

## *Relationship Builder*



### **Extravagant Hospitality**

Hospitality is a sacred duty. Speaking biblically, hospitality is treating strangers and friends alike. It is welcoming one another into our lives! We need to make sure that others are comfortable. We need to extend ourselves to help others when needed. We need to pay attention to little details. We need to communicate with others. We need to be enthusiastic. And why do we need to do all of these things? To be an example - to glorify God - to cultivate community - to reveal Christ's character! As we look forward to

this beautiful month of May, where we celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day, let us each remember that our extravagant hospitality toward others shows the world that we are Christ's disciples!

### **Women's Retreat**

**Save the Date - Saturday, September 25, 2021** - Priscilla Shirer's "Going Beyond" simulcast (hosted by FUMC Women's Ministry). Stay tuned for registration information this summer!

### **FUMC Garden Tour 2021**

In celebration of summer and all things lovely, green and growing, we are offering four Sunday evening 'Garden Tours' this summer. Beginning Sunday, May 23rd at the home of John and Janice Bowen (720 Eppley Road, Mechanicsburg), we invite you to fellowship and stroll around the yard at your leisure anytime between 5-7 pm. Please stay tuned for more specific information regarding additional dates and gardens to tour this summer!

### **Save the Date, Community Day, August 7, 2021**

The Mechanicsburg Borough and Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership are excited to announce the date for Community Day in the Park, Saturday, August 7, 2021! The event features live music, old-fashioned baseball exhibition, inflatables and games, food trucks, chicken bbq, and much more! The event will be held at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More details coming soon!

### **Yard, Book and Bake Sale, August 21, 2021**

The annual Yard, Book and Bake Sale will be held in the church parking lot and Multipurpose Room on Saturday, August 21 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The church library book sale returns with a large variety of books, puzzles, and other great items! Collections for the sale will start the week of August 9 in the multipurpose room. All proceeds benefit ministries and missions of our church. More details coming soon!

### **Trinity's Closet on Main**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is holding a Clothing Closet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. They have a variety of gently used clothes (in all sizes) for men and women to choose from. Breakfast to go is provided for each person - including a cup of coffee! They are asking you to wear a mask, if you don't have one, they will provide one for you and they will be taking temperatures to provide an extra measure of safety. The Closet is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. every 2nd Saturday. Trinity is located at 132 E. Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The next Clothing Closet will be held on Saturday, May 8. Questions, contact Vanessa Storlie at [trinitymburgoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymburgoutreach@gmail.com).

### **Grab and Go Lunches!**

We will be partnering with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church to hand out Free lunches on Wednesdays at noon, starting May 5 through the May 26 in downtown Mechanicsburg. All are welcome to stop in and grab a lunch. We look forward to sharing and caring for the downtown community! Grab and Go Lunch includes a sandwich, water, chips, fruit and a dessert. Questions about the lunches? Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

### **Third Friday Food Trucks Return in 2021!**

The Food Trucks are back for another season! We will start with offering the food as take-out only and practice physical distancing and wearing masks while in line to order. The dates are May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17 and October 15. The time is 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. We will be welcoming the following trucks on May 21: Lucky Penny, It's All Greek to you, Potato Coop, Marsico's Italian, Get Smok'd BBQ, Scoop O Dough . See you there!

### **Be a Part of the Glean Team!**

This growing season, we are excited to offer the Biblical practice of gleaning in Mechanicsburg! You may already be familiar with the concept of 'gleaning,' perhaps from reading references to gleaning in the books of Leviticus and Ruth or from taking part in Project Share's opportunity to glean in Carlisle. As depicted in scripture, gleaning occurred when some of the fallen grain during harvest was intentionally left behind,

including whole corners of the fields as required by Israelite law. The intention was to offer an unharvested portion of grain for others to collect in helping to feed the poor, the orphans, widows and foreigners, as a safety net and resource to provide for their needs.

We plan to glean some local crops (strawberries and corn for example) to share with our own community! If you would be interested in receiving additional information and notification when the fields are ready for gleaning (most likely in June), please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 to have your name/contact information added to the FUMC 2021 ‘Glean Team’! All are welcome and encouraged to participate, this is a great family project!

To read more about gleaning in Biblical times, turn to the book of Ruth where Ruth was able to glean the fields of Boaz to sustain herself and her mother-in-law, Naomi: “And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, ‘Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.’ Naomi said to her, ‘Go ahead, my daughter,’” (Ruth 2:2).

### **Zumba Gold Offered via Zoom!**

New year, new you! Since March 2020, the Zumba instructor, Lisa Lynch, has been offering the Zumba Gold classes via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to join in one of her classes or have questions, you can email her at [lisaloveszumba2@gmail.com](mailto:lisaloveszumba2@gmail.com).

### **Congregational Care Resources**

The following are suggested resources to promote your care, health and well-being during these challenging days calling us to find new ways to connect and to care for one another. Please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

- If you’ve been considering securing a ‘*Medical Alert System*’ for yourself or a loved one, please read on. These alert devices – often worn as a wristband, necklace, or clipped to clothing – are designed to connect with a dispatcher who can call for emergency help or contact a family member or friend, 24/7. Having such a device can bring peace of mind to those who live alone, are at risk for falling, or at risk for a medical emergency. Consumer Reports magazine researched various products, summarizing their results in a February 2021 article. (Please contact Janice for a copy of the article.)
- *Contact to Care* is a community-based program with the purpose of connecting people to health insurance options and medical care, addressing issues of transportation, language, housing, food, and health literacy when posing as a barrier to accessing healthcare. For more information or to make a referral, contact our Community Health Worker, Deb Weyant (717-960-4328 or [dweyant@sadlerhealth.org](mailto:dweyant@sadlerhealth.org)).

### **Joy in the Morning - a small group invitation!**

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 every 3-4 weeks from 3:30-4:30. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings from the book, *With the Dawn Rejoicing*. For more information, contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

*Generous Giver*



## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Through March 31, 2021 — 25 % of year

General Fund

2021 budget	\$ 905,000	
Expected income	\$ 226,250	(25% of budget)



Actual giving	\$ 254,886	(28% of budget)
Actual expenses	\$ 224,005	(25% of budget)

Our ministry continues to be blessed by the faithfulness of our Lord through the gifts of our congregation and friends. Thank you again for keeping First Church in your prayers and thoughts as we go through this extraordinary time. We are again excited to see “light at the end of the tunnel” as we celebrated Easter in-person, and look forward to more face-to-face in our future. It will be exciting to see you all at church. Our expenses remain in good shape as we continue to offer online services in addition to in-person worship. Thank you for your continued support of the First Church ministry with your prayers and gifts.





**May Bible Reading Plan**

Saturday, May 1 Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, May 2*** ***“The Younger Son”***

Monday, May 3 Acts 10:44-48

Tuesday, May 4 Psalm 98:1-8

Wednesday, May 5 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Thursday, May 6 1 John 5:1-6

Friday, May 7 Luke 15:11-24

Saturday, May 8 Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, May 9*** ***“The Older Son”***

Monday, May 10 Acts 1:1-11

Tuesday, May 11 1 John 5:9-13

Wednesday, May 12 Psalm 1

Thursday, May 13 Luke 24:44-53

Friday, May 14 John 17:6-19

Saturday, May 15 Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, May 16*** ***“The Bystanders”***

Monday, May 17 Acts 2:1-13

Tuesday, May 18 Acts 2:14-21

Wednesday, May 19 Psalm 104:24-35

Thursday, May 20 Romans 8:22-27

Friday, May 21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Saturday, May 22 Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, May 23*** ***Worship*** ***(Pentecost/Confirmation)***

Monday, May 24 Isaiah 6:1-8

Tuesday, May 25 Psalm 29

Wednesday, May 26 Romans 8:12-27

Thursday, May 27 Ephesians 1:15-23

Friday, May 28 Luke 15:11-32

Saturday, May 29 Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, May 30*** ***“Become The Father”***

Monday, May 31 1 Samuel 8:4-20



*It's Official!*

## Summer Church Camp is a GO!

The Camp and Retreat Ministry is excited to share details and registration information about summer camps!

Visit the camping website <http://www.susumcamps.org> to see all the offerings for camp this summer in the 2021 Camp Retreat Brochure along with related registration/medical forms. Please review the COVID-19 safety guidelines as part of your camp registration process. Then access the online link to complete your registration.

Praying for your camping experience is very important to us! If you register online, please send the confirmation email from the camping office to our Camp Coordinators (Deb Noss or Amy Ortiz), so that we can pair you with a prayer partner. If you mail in the registration, please contact our Camp Coordinators via phone or email. The Camp Coordinators can help you with financial assistance (First Church will pay for one half of the camping fees!).

Get your registrations in early! **NOTE:** There are **Sibling Discounts** as well as an **Invite-a-Friend Gift** if you invite a friend who has never been to a Conference camp. The brochure will explain how you can claim a custom logo hammock.

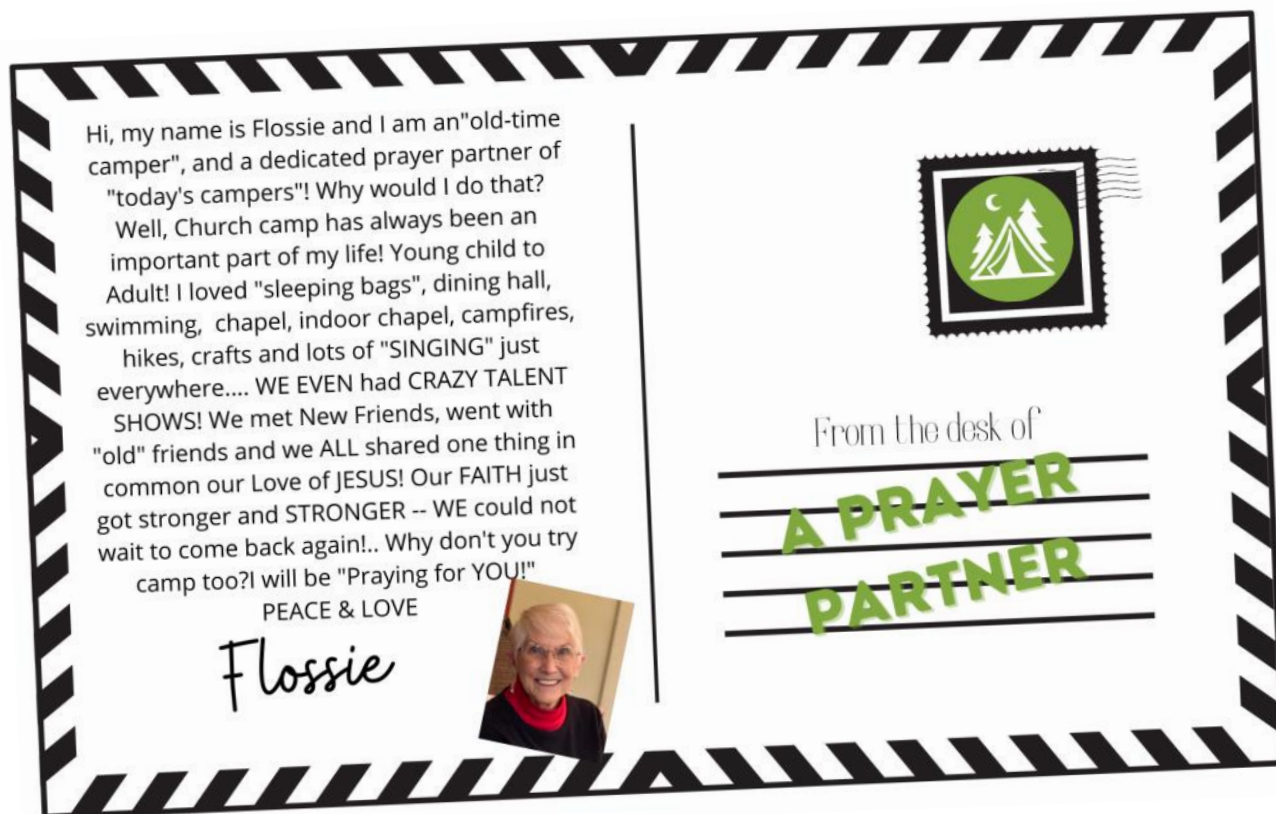
Pray and ask God how He would like you to use your gifts for Him this year! Will you:

- **Attend** a camp, retreat or event this year, or
- **Volunteer** as a Dean, Nurse, Counselor or Jr. Counselor, or
- **Pray** for a camper, or
- **Provide** financial assistance to support a camper or camp program, or
- **Help** with a one-day work camp at one of the camp sites?

If you have any questions about Summer Church Camp or are unable to access the website and need a brochure, feel free to contact Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) or 717-697-5982 or Amy Ortiz at [amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com). You may also contact the church office at [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611.

**P.S.** Who doesn't like to receive mail? See what our friend **Flossie** sent to us!

Be on the look-out for more 'mail' from camp supporters!



## Church News and Notes

### Our love & sympathy...

to Paul Rynard and family in the death of his wife, Vesta Rynard, on March 14th  
 to Tracy Wertz and family in the death of her father, Donnie Wright, on March 17th  
 to Ellen Hill and family in the death of her grandmother, Sandra Hill, on March 17th  
 to Dawn Fisher and family in the death of her father, Terry Rishel, on March 26th  
 to Gail and Jim Siemons and family in the death of Gail's mother, Lois Britton, on March 23rd  
 to the Morgan family in the death of Roxanne Morgan on April 2nd  
 to Susan Broy and family in the death of David Broy on April 9th  
 to Dick Reed and family in the death of Joanne Reed on April 10th

### Notes of Thanks

Thank you to everyone at church for their cards, kind words and support they provided to us regarding my dad's passing. Thank you very much. *~Tracy Wertz and family*

Thank you to everyone who sent a card or expressed words of sympathy to me in the passing of my grandmother. I am so blessed to have such a wonderfully caring and supportive church family!

*~Ellen Hill*

We would like to thank our amazing church family from the bottom of our hearts for all the love, notes, cards, support and prayers as we dealt with the loss of our father and grandfather. We are so very blessed by such a wonderful, thoughtful and kind church family. We felt all your thoughts and prayers and it brought us so much comfort and peace. Love you all!!! Blessings, *Dawn, Jason, Kylee and Kendal Fisher*

I want to thank everyone that contributed to the "Reflections for Lent" devotional. Reading the first day, I found it so inspirational and meaningful. Then the second, third, and fourth day until the final day. They all had something to offer. I was very moved and, must admit, very impressed. I plan to keep it and reread it. So again, you all were outstanding. You made God proud. Love, *Marilyn Seig*

### Special Birthdays

Milton Dougherty.....	May 8th	Bill Morland.....	June 6th
Annabelle Elder.....	May 10th	Joe Moomaw.....	June 14th
Jane Gunder.....	May 11th	Dolly Scholl.....	June 16th
Nancy Otstot.....	May 12th	Caroline Brown.....	June 21st
Dennis Kauffman.....	May 13th	Marty Gerfin.....	June 22nd
Marjorie Kohr.....	May 15th	Beryl Morgan.....	June 30th
Don Heiges.....	May 16th		
Bob Bittenbender.....	May 27th		

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Michael and Rhonda Neidig married 50 years on June 4th
- ♥ Gerry and Darlis Aumiller married 63 years on June 7th
- ♥ Jim and Sue Chilton married 51 years on June 20th
- ♥ Jack and Grace Koser married 68 years on June 20th

*FIRST NEWS FIRST*

Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
 for the **June 2021** issue is  
**May 15th**

**Early submissions always  
 appreciated!**