



First News First


Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

From the Pastor's Desk.....

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"A Prayer to Live By"

This summer we continued a worship series from last summer, "Story Time: Echoes of Faith." We've enjoyed reading a popular children's book each week and making connections to our lives as Christ followers. One of my favorites this summer was *The Word Collector* by Peter H. Reynolds. It's a story about a boy named Jerome who had a passion for collecting words. He collected words he heard, words he saw, words that popped off the page when he read.

Jerome not only collected words; he delighted in sharing the words he discovered with others. At the end of the book, one breezy day he climbed the highest hill pulling a wagon packed with his word collection. He smiled as he emptied his collection of words into the wind and saw children in the valley below scurrying about collecting the words. Jerome had no words to describe how happy this made him.

Picturing Jerome and his word collecting, Psalm 19:14 came to my mind:

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart
be pleasing to you,
Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Over the years, I have often heard pastors repeat that verse as a prayer just before they begin the sermon. In fact, I have prayed those words myself from time to time at the pulpit. While Psalm 19:14 is a popular prayer for preachers, reading *The Word Collector* made me think about how we can pray it in our daily lives. When the psalmist wrote this prayer, he was expressing his desire that all of his words and thoughts would please God.

We're called to live for God's glory in all that we do – in every word, every thought and every deed. This means we ought to borrow David's prayer, not just if we happen to be in church, but all the time. This prayer reminds us that words matter. Words have power to heal, to inspire and to unite us. They also have power to harm, to discourage and to divide us.

How would your life be different if you began praying Psalm 19:14 each day, in every circumstance? What difference would it make if, before you participate in a meeting, you prayed, "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer?" How might praying this way transform your language and actions in your family life, when you're with your friends, when you're writing a letter, or when you're having a difficult conversation? How might it affect the way you speak to others in your workplace and your school, in your church and your neighborhood?

I invite you to make Psalm 19:14 your prayer. Before you empty your collection of words into the breeze for others to hear, ask yourself, "Will the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing God? Will they bless others?" Oh, that we would store up godly words in our hearts and share them in ways that glorify him!

Joining with you in collecting and sharing godly words,

Pastor Denny

New Sermon Series

“Exodus: Seeing God on the Journey”

God didn't promise Moses that leading the Israelites would be easy; God promised, "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12). As we follow Moses and Israel through the book of Exodus, we see powerful signs that God is with them. Even when they can't see it, when they grumble and complain, and when they turn away to worship other gods, God is intimately involved in their lives. In this series, we'll lift up some of the powerful signs of God's presence as we journey through Exodus together. As we do, we'll be invited to look for signs that God is at work today. Whatever our circumstances, God still promises: "I will be with you."

Aug. 27	"Women with Grit"	Exodus 1:8-2:10
Sept. 3	"The Burning Bush"	Exodus 3:1-15 Preaching: Joshua Herring, Missionary with DiscipleMakers
Sept. 10	"The Blood of the Lamb"	Exodus 12:1-14
Sept. 17	"The Parting of the Sea"	Exodus 14:19-31
Sept. 24	"Manna from Heaven"	Exodus 16:2-15
Oct. 1	"Water from a Rock"	Exodus 17:1-7 World Communion Sunday
Oct. 8	"Laws Etched in Stone"	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Oct. 15	"The Lord Reconsiders"	Exodus 32:1-14
Oct. 22	Preaching: Rev. Dr. Gary Weaver, District Superintendent Annual Church Conference (9:45 a.m.)	
Oct. 29	"The Glory of the Lord"	Exodus 33:12-23



Whether you're 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).

First Step Gathering | Sunday, Sept. 24, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

If you're new to First Church, or haven't been around for a while, stop by our First Step Gathering in room 207! This event provides the opportunity to get to know Pastor Denny, the First Church staff and other newcomers as you learn about what we believe and determine your next faithful step. Sign up on Church Center or at fumchurch.com or contact Tina (adultministry@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611) if you plan to attend.

Next Step Class: A Disciple's Path | Begins Sunday, Oct. 1, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Ready to explore the foundations of our faith or become a First Church member? Join Pastor Denny in room 207 for this six-week study to discover what it means to faithfully participate in the life of the church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Child care will be provided. Register on Church Center, at fumchurch.com or by contacting Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611).

Sunday School | Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Fall classes kick off on Sunday, Sept. 10! New participants are encouraged to join any class, anytime.

- **Faith in Everyday Life**

Location: Room 105

Contact: Jenell Paris (jparis@messiah.edu)

This group is for adults of all ages and focuses on fellowship, friendship and mutual support in and outside the classroom. Currently watching season 2 of "The Chosen" along with a guided discussion.

- **Growing in Christ**

Location: Fellowship Hall

Contact: Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com)

This group provides a welcoming space for newcomers who are looking to pray and study God's Word together. Currently enjoying an in-depth study of the book of Romans.

- **Christian Fellowship**

Location: Room B003

Contact: Wayde Leister (waydeleister@outlook.com)

This friendly, caring group, is eager to apply God's Word to life's challenges. Beginning a new, five-week study by Bob Goff, "Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People" on Sept. 10.

- **Faithful Families**

Location: Room B005

Contact: Bob and Tracy Wertz (wertzfive@gmail.com)

Join an active group of parents with older school-aged and young adult children who study Scripture, encourage one another, and celebrate life together in and out of the classroom.

- **Helping Hands**

Location: Room B004

Contact: Bob Wertz, Sr. (robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com)

This group of active seniors focuses on encouraging instructions for faithful living and enjoys fellowship activities together outside of class. Lessons this fall are focused on the theme "God Provides."

- **Guyer Class**

Location: Room 123

Contact: Steve and Deb Noss (sdppp@msn.com)

This class, comprised of a wonderful group of elders in the church, is taught by a variety of church leaders. Lessons this fall are focused on the theme "God Provides."

Tuesday Women's Bible Study | Begins Sept. 19, 1:45 p.m.

All women are invited to join Tina Eaton in Fellowship Hall for "Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting More" by Melissa Spoelstra. In this seven-week study, you'll learn to trust in God's character, rely on His provision, and find comfort in His correction. The workbook (which includes online access to watch the videos anytime) is \$15 for those who would like to go deeper by completing the at-home personal study. Sign up on Church Center, at fumchurch.com or by contacting Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611).

Wednesday Bible Study | Begins Sept. 13, 6:45 p.m.

Join Pastor Denny in room B003 for a five-week study, "Feeding on the Word: The Mind of Christ," which is the second part of the full "Companions in Christ" study series. Together, you will engage in a journey of spiritual growth and discovery like no other! The study guide is \$8, or you may purchase the complete set for \$20 if you would like to continue with three additional studies in the series that Pastor Denny will lead this year. Sign up on Church Center, at fumchurch.com or by contacting Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611).

Wednesday Men's Group | Sept. 6 and 20, 8 p.m.

This group enjoys great fellowship while focusing on discussion-based Bible studies. In their current study, "This is the Day," Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow shares stories from his life to inspire men to seize each day for God's glory. This group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the home of Barry Eaton. Contact Barry (1785eaton@gmail.com) if interested.

Wonderful Wednesday – Expanded! | Begins Oct. 11, 5-7 p.m.

Children, youth and adults are all invited to participate in this family fellowship and learning program. The six-week fall session will begin at 5 p.m. with prayer and a family-style dinner in Fellowship Hall, followed by small group learning for all ages at 6 p.m. Register on Church Center or at fumchurch.com and contact Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) with questions. We recognize that families may have a conflict some weeks – don't let that keep you from joining us for the weeks that you can! Groups include:

- Kids Study – For kids in kindergarten through fifth grade (child care will be offered for children under the age of 5). Contact Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) for more details.
- Youth Study – For youth in grades 6-12. Contact Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com) for more details.



- Multigenerational Study – For young people and adults together. Study to be determined. Contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details.
- Adult Study – Adults of all ages will gather to study “Irresistible: Reclaiming the NEW that Jesus Unleashed for the World” by Andy Stanley. Together, we will consider the faith modeled by early believers, what made it so irresistible, and how we can reclaim that fire. Contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details.

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

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



Deborah Circle | Starts Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.

The Deborah Circle, a United Women of Faith discipleship and outreach group, will start meeting for the fall in room 105. Betsy Keller and Nancy Rouch will lead the meeting. New members are welcome to join. Contact Sandy Walton ([717-433-3687](tel:717-433-3687)) with any questions.

From the Library

I want to start this article by thanking everyone who supported the library with donations for our annual book sale and everyone who came to the sale and purchased books. Pam and I have been volunteering in the library since October 1998, and we couldn’t do it without your support. The August book sales keep the newest and best of Christian fiction on our shelves for the entire year.

We would like not only to thank you, but also to remind you to stop in the library to pick up a new book. Our wait times for even the most popular reads are short and all our volunteers are very knowledgeable and helpful. If there is a specific author or book you’d like to see, mention it to anyone at the desk, and we will try to find it for you.

We’re open on Sundays before the 8:30 a.m. service and during Sunday School. We also have a sign-out sheet on the desk if you end up in the library and see a book you’d like to read when we’re not around. Last year we also started a jigsaw puzzle exchange in the library that many people have enjoyed. We are a hidden treasure — come and see for yourself!

Now, to the new books. We have several readers that tell me they enjoy a cozy mystery. I would call this a mild mystery. Though all our books are clean reading (not so much gore, no sexual content, and no profanity) these books are light reading. We’ve been fortunate to have a set of cozy mysteries donated to us. *The Scottish Bakehouse Mysteries* are set in Loch Mallaig, Michigan. Four former college roommates reunite to open a bakery later in life. When they search for a property to buy to start the bakery, they are a bit dismayed to find the only place available is the former funeral parlor. But, these four women are determined not to let that little detail stop their shop, Bread on Arrival, from opening. It is not long before these women are nibbling shortbread and solving the town’s mysteries. At first, we were numbering the books, but it became evident that they could be read in any order. So, if you want a light read for the beginning of fall, this just might be the series for you!

I’ll conclude by saying the library is expecting new books by Beverly Lewis, Denise Hunter and Suzanne Woods Fisher to name a few favorite authors. Hope to see you soon!

– Pam, Marge, Mary, Deb, Sue, Annette and Donna



Praying Follower



Moms in Prayer | Mondays, Beginning Sept. 11, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us this fall as we unite with women around the world in praying for our children and grandchildren through Moms in Prayer International. Our prayer group, led by Deb Noss, meets on Monday evenings in room 105, and all mothers and grandmothers are invited! No prayer experience is required, and your child can be any age or stage of life. All prayers remain confidential within the group. Please contact Deb Noss (sdppp@msn.com) if you have questions or would like to join this group.



See You at the Pole | Wednesday, Sept. 27

Student-led SYATP prayer events are happening at schools around the globe! All are encouraged to attend school events (go to <https://syatp.com/> for more details) or use our prayer guide to pray on your own for students, teachers, administrators, support staff and more. This prayer guide can be found at the prayer display under the balcony at church or on our website (funchurch.com).

Passionate Worshipper



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>



Kids Worship and Wee Worship | Returning Sunday, Sept. 10

Wee worship (for kids preschool age and younger) and Kid Worship (for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade) provide an exciting and age-appropriate worship experience for little ones. These special programs will resume at the 11 a.m. worship service on Kickoff Sunday!

Dedicated Missionary



Gleaning | Wednesday, Oct. 4, 6 p.m.

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

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.

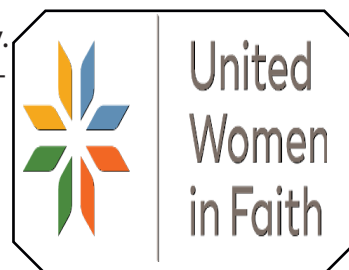
Isaiah 61 Ministries serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County through a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and life groups. First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions or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

CROP Walk Save the Date

Help end hunger locally and globally through supporting our local CROP Walk! This year's walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. You can also support the CROP Walk through the Hoss's Community Day fundraiser on Thursday, Sept. 7. Find more details about both events and register for this year's walk at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/mechanicsburgpa>.

United Women in Faith Annual Day | Saturday, Oct. 7

All women are invited to attend this special event to hear keynote speaker Rev. Marian Hartman at Wesley United Methodist Church (450 Sylvan Street, Marysville). This year's topic is "Bee Creative, Bee Kind for Climate Justice." The program includes Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, Penn State Extension Office Master Gardeners, Environmental Simulation Game and Just Energy4All Campaign. For registration information, contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com or 717-732-6430). Registrations are due by Sept. 15.



Serve with Kids Ministry!

If you love kids and having fun, you might love being a part of First Church Kids! We'd love to welcome some new faces to our volunteer team this fall. Contact Director of Children's and Family Ministries Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) to learn more.

Relationship Builder



September Hospitality Tip: "You Belong Here"

Last month during our summer sermon series, Pastor Denny mentioned a sign in our Fellowship Hall that reads, "You Belong Here." That sign expresses the kind of church that we aspire to be. We want our visitors and our fellow church members to experience radical hospitality. First Church should be a place where no one is left out, all are welcome and each person is loved and accepted. Jesus values every person and asks us to do the same by "painting our own sign" through our actions that says "All Are Welcome." We are each called to be a welcoming presence in the name of Jesus, joining Him in His great mission of forming community with one another. In our daily life, in our family life, in our church life and in all the places God calls us to be, may we welcome others in Jesus' name.



Men's Breakfast | Saturday, Sept. 2, 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 (1785ea-ton@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Fall Picnic | Sunday, Sept. 10, 4-7 p.m.

Don't miss our all-church fall picnic! Join us in a new location this year – the pavilion at Pleasant View Park (90 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg). The picnic will begin with worship, followed by a pot-luck dinner and fellowship. Hot dogs, hamburgers, iced tea and water will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share and lawn chairs to sit in. Relax and enjoy each other's company until the sun sets on a fun-filled day!

Widows/Widowers Fellowship | Tuesday, Sept. 19 11:30 a.m.

This month, the group will dine at Snappers Bar and Grill. If you plan on attending or need transportation, please contact Bonnie Guyer ([717-766-0145](tel:717-766-0145)).

Third Friday Food Trucks | Sept. 15, 4:30-8 p.m.

Come meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere at the next Third Friday Food Trucks! Each month, we welcome several gourmet food trucks that serve a variety of delicious foods. In September, we are pleased to offer music from the group "Jazz 4" on the patio at our Community Green Space from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring a blanket or chair for the green space to enjoy dinner and music. This month, we welcome Mad Dash, Marsico's Italian, 717 Tacos, Philly Cheesesteak on a Roll, Savory's Funnel Cakes and Premium Shaved Ice.. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page for updates!



Joy in the Morning | Monday, Sept. 18, 1 p.m.

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this small group. We meet monthly on Monday afternoons from 1 to 2 p.m. at Bethany Village. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings and devotionals. For more information, contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

Community Dinner | Sunday, Oct. 15, 5 p.m.

We are looking forward to the next Community Dinner at Mechanicsburg First Church of God on Main Street. The dinner is for the Mechanicsburg downtown community and includes a free home-cooked meal, music and door prizes. The event, in collaboration with several other local churches, gives us the opportunity to bless and get to know our neighbors. First Church will provide for fall desserts for this dinner. If you would like to help in any way or would be willing to make a fall dessert, please contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

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

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

Connect with Kids Ministry!

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) or reach out to Miss Katie (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 or 717-766-4611).

Say Their Name: A Word from Timeless Connections on Grief

There are a couple of popular songs titled "Say My Name." Our name is a large part of our identity, and when people use our name as they speak to us, it becomes more personal. We always appreciate when people we meet remember our names.

So, why do many of us stop using the name of the deceased when we talk to a grieving spouse, parent or friend about their loved one after the funeral is over?

One reason is that it can be uncomfortable for us to know how to talk with them. Our interactions feel awkward now. We sometimes mistakenly wonder if we will cause them pain by bringing up their loved



Timeless Connections

one's name in conversation, so we don't.

But, if you've been through the loss of a loved one, you know that we don't forget about our loved ones just because others don't speak about them. In fact, if your loss is a significant one, your loved one likely is on your mind all the time. And so, others cannot "remind" you of your loss by saying their name. You cannot cause another to remember when they already always remember.

The reality is that when you speak their name and share stories or memories, it almost always helps the grieving person to know they're not alone in their thoughts and remembrances of their loved one. It will likely lift their spirits to realize that their loved one mattered to you and that you haven't forgotten them. It may be as simple as saying "I was just thinking about [name] the other day."

Even if a grieving person sheds some tears as you speak of their loved one, it will still comfort them that you remember, especially as the months and years go by after the death and it often seems as if others have forgotten. You can almost never go wrong if you say their name!

– Patti Vogl, Timeless Connections Ministry

Generous Giver



Financial Report

Through July 31, 2023

58% of year

General Fund 2023 Budget	\$900,886	
Expected income – YTD	\$525,513	(58% of budget)
Actual income – YTD	\$552,622	(61% of budget)
Actual expenses – YTD	\$527,884	(58% of budget)

Income for the five-Sunday month of July was \$82,900, a bit shy of our average five-week budget expectation. We continue to run ahead of our YTD giving budget by about \$27,000. In July, expenses were a bit over an average five-week budget due to the "timing" of First Church's continued support of New Hope, Salt 'n Light and New Digs ministries. Still, YTD expenses remain in-line with our expected spending.

We're thankful for the successful and timely completion of the bell tower work, guided by our Trustees. Here are some summary details of the project and the related loan. You may recall that we originally estimated total costs as high as \$300,000 and the congregation approved a loan not to exceed \$200,000.

Actual final cost, including loan fees	\$262,286
Source of funds to pay for the project:	
Trustees funds used for the tower	\$100,000
Example of donations from church groups:	
Little Friends Preschool	\$5,000
Christian Fellowship Class	\$1,000
Handbell Choir	\$1,000
All other donors	\$62,618

Total church donations thru July 31 \$69,618

Funds borrowed at 7% interest \$93,218

Many thanks to all the individuals and church groups who contributed so far and have kept our loan requirement far below the \$200,000 threshold established by the congregation. We continue to ask for your consideration of making a gift to reduce our debt as quickly as possible. We will make monthly interest payments and periodic principal payments throughout the year. You can make a donation on the Church Center app or with a check. Please contact the church office if you need more information. As always, thank you for your talents, faith and gifts that help First Church serve the Lord.

Camp Fancy Gala | Saturday, Sept. 9, 4-8 p.m.

If you value the power of camp and retreat experiences to change lives, join us for an evening of inspiration, fun, and generosity! Camp Fancy means you can choose your attire from prom night outfits to outdoor gear – just be sure to have one part of your outfit that is “fancy” as part of the celebration.

This year’s Camp Fancy Gala will take place at the Conference Center at Central Penn College (600 College Hill Road, Summerdale). The event features a catered meal, special music, auction items, and the chance to honor long-time Camp and Retreat Ministry volunteers and First Church members Mike and Nadine Ogden as we raise funds for the ministry.

To learn more and get your tickets, visit suscrm.org/gala or contact Camp and Retreat Ministry board members Steve Noss (sdppp@msn.com) or Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). Thank you for supporting this ministry!



Little Free Pantry

Thanks so much for your support of the Little Free Pantry through your donations and monetary contributions. We are slowly building up our supply to stock the pantry, but we still welcome your donations! You can drop off donations at the church office or in the marked basket at the alley entrance. You’re also welcome to place items in the pantry anytime. We are blessed to be able to offer this barrier-free access point to food to our neighbors. If you have questions about the Little Free Pantry, please contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

Handbell Choir Chicken BBQ | Saturday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Support the First Church handbell choir at the 22nd annual Chicken BBQ! Meals are \$12 each and include a half chicken, a baked potato, a roll, applesauce and butter. Baked goods and drinks will also be available to purchase. To reserve your tickets, sign up on the clipboards at the sanctuary entrances, see a handbell choir member or contact Kathie Bittenbender (rbittenben@verizon.net or 717-697-6257).



Share the Harvest

If you have extra fruits, vegetables, herbs or flowers from your garden, we invite you to share your bounty at our Share the Harvest table! Feel free to bring items to share or help yourself to what has been placed on the counter by the sofas in the lobby. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112) with questions.

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 well-digging in Sierra Leone by dropping your loose change (or even paper bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket located in the lobby in front of the multipurpose room. Donations from August totaled \$18.40.

First Church Mission Moments...



Computer Ministry

The Computer Ministry of Mechanicsburg collects computer equipment items and refurbishes them. The Computer Ministry then distributes the equipment to nonprofit ministries and organizations that can use it for a small fee.

Our goal is to aid and improve efficiency within churches and other organizations in need regardless of creed, denomination, geographic location or race by providing them with technical solutions consisting of, but not limited to, computer hardware and software.

If you're upgrading your electronic equipment, consider donating your current equipment to the Computer Ministry. We reuse everything we can and recycle older computer equipment that has reached its useful lifetime.

Computer Ministry, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization and Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher. To learn more, visit compministry.org or call [717-766-6373](tel:717-766-6373).

– Eric King, Computer Ministry Volunteer



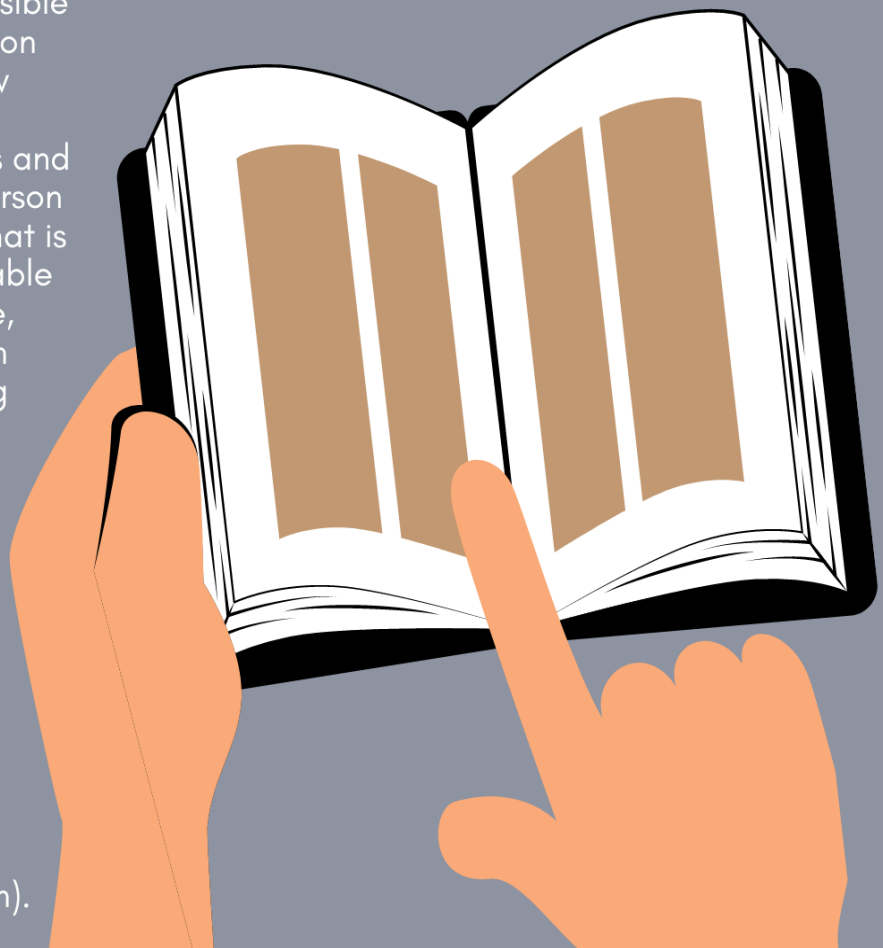
Bible Sunday

Sept. 24 | 8:30 and 11 a.m.

At First Church, we want to equip believers of all ages to dive into Scripture in a relevant, accessible way. During worship services on Bible Sunday, we provide new Bibles to our four-year-olds, second graders, sixth graders and ninth graders. Each young person receives a Bible translation that is appropriate and understandable for their developmental stage, in hopes that they will grow in their desire and joy in reading God's Word.

If your child is interested in receiving a Bible, but cannot attend worship on this date, please contact the church office (office@fumchurch.com).

In addition, if you're an adult in need of a Bible, please contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com).



Daily Bible Readings September 2023

September

Friday, September 1
Saturday, September 2

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Rest and Reflect

Sunday, September 3
Monday, September 4
Tuesday, September 5
Wednesday, September 6
Thursday, September 7
Friday, September 8
Saturday, September 9

Worship: Exodus: The Burning Bush
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20
Exodus 12:1-14
Rest and Reflect

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

Worship: Exodus: The Blood of the Lamb
Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1-11b, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26
Rest and Reflect

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

Worship: Exodus: The Parting of the Sea
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:1-20
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16
Rest and Reflect

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

Worship Exodus: Manna from Heaven
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-4
Philippians 2:5-13
Matthew 21:23-32
Rest and Reflect

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News and Notes....

A sincere thank you to my First Church family for the many cards, meals and words of support during and following my recent knee replacement. Wow, what a family I have here at First Church! I am so blessed and still "feeling the love!"
– Flossie Ryder

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for your cards, meals and prayers upon the passing of our dear Karen. Karen loved playing the beautiful church piano and was so blessed (as are we) by the friendship of our caring congregation.
– The Philp family, the Fugate family and Patricia Marr

Thanks to everyone who donated items, brought in baked goods, directed traffic, shopped and helped before, during and after the Yard, Book and Bake Sale, it was fantastic! The youth raised over \$2,300, United Women in Faith raised \$485, and the Church Library made \$858. We also gave out 50 handmade pencil pouches with school supplies to children. We heard many positive comments such as, "We look forward to this sale every year!" and feel so blessed to have this special opportunity to open doors in our community through this popular event. Thanks again!

– Lori Hoffnagle and Donna Nichols, Yard Sale Co-Coordinaors



Sally Kauffman.....September 8
Pat Sheely.....September 11
George Carpenter.....September 18
Sue Shier.....September 18
Joan Stokes.....September 19
Marty Otto.....September 20
Marley Ann Schmick.....September 21
Gary Klinger.....September 22
Ralph Harkins.....September 25
Curt Bonser.....September 26
Peggy Shenberger.....September 28
Kaye Reynolds.....September 29

Jane Bonser.....October 1
Pam Weaver.....October 7
Peg Hassinger.....October 8
Bonnie Klinger.....October 14
Kay Heiges.....October 18
Jim Siemons.....October 20
Carol Ann Moomaw...October 21
Winslow Brown.....October 23
Don Shover.....October 23
Gail Leinhos.....October 28



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**



- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wertz Sr. married 60 years September 1, 1963.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Sill married 56 years September 16, 1967.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Frankie Carley married 50 years September 22, 1973.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. George Snoke married 57 years September 24, 1966.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schmick married 59 years September 26, 1964.

FIRST NEWS FIRST
EDITORS: Dawn Fisher
Jennifer Myers

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