
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA

A blue rectangular background featuring silhouettes of people playing trumpets and a central starburst pattern. The text "NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the center.

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH

“Wonderful Counselor”

FOUNDATION SERVICE

DEC. 3, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Carol

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - No. 211 v. 1, 2, 6, 7

Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

Advent Response

"Fairest Lord Jesus" - No. 189, v. 1

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Choir Anthem

"O Come, Holy Savior"

Sermon

"Wonderful Counselor"

Hymn

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" - No. 196

Invitation, Confession, and Pardon

Sharing Signs of Peace

The Great Thanksgiving for Advent

The Lord's Prayer and The Bread and Cup

Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" - No. 203

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Liturgist..... Pastor Lisa Aronson

Accompanist..... Brandon Rhody

Special Music.....Sounds of Worship

Sound and Media..... Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols, Jim Robinson, Sarah Pugh

WELCOME TO

First United
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MECHANICSBURG, PA

A blue rectangular background featuring silhouettes of people in various poses, some holding instruments. A central starburst pattern is visible behind the text.

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH

“Wonderful Counselor”

THE GATHERING SERVICE

DEC. 3, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"Holy Forever"

"This Is Amazing Grace"

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon

"Wonderful Counselor"

Communion Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Communion

Announcements and Offering

"What a Beautiful Name"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team.....George Canonizado, John Gross, Geri Nuss,
Sarah Pugh, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media.....Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols, Jim Robinson, Sarah Pugh

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

WEEK OF DEC. 3

Moms In Prayer

Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Group (Off Site)

Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Sensory Santa

Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

WEEK OF DEC. 10

Pickleball

Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Cookie Walk

Saturday, 9-11 a.m.

Movie Night

Saturday, 4 p.m.

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



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

WEEK OF DEC. 3

Sunday

Worship

Monday

Isaiah 40:1-11

Tuesday

Psalm 85:1-7

Wednesday

Psalm 85:8-13

Thursday

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Friday

Mark 1:1-8

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of S. Louise Nailor Shelley by W. Michael Nailor.

MACHE BASKET

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Robert and Mildred Shannon by the D'Agostino and Shannon families.

TEACHING NOTES

“Names for the Messiah: Wonderful Counselor”

Dec. 3, 2023

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named*

Wonderful Counselor, *Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Wonderful Counselor: God’s plans revealed through Jesus ought to cause us to say, “Wow!”

1. Jesus embodies God’s perfect and surprising plans.

Jesus’ Incarnation...

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Luke 2:7

Jesus’ Life...

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus’ Death...

For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus’ Resurrection...

2. Angels are astonished at God's **Wonderful Counselor**.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Luke 2:13-14

3. God's **Wonderful Counselor** continues to display his wisdom in the church.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Questions for Reflection:

1. Israel longed for peace when Isaiah first proclaimed the message of a Wonderful Counselor.
2. What is your heart's desire this Christmas?
3. When have you experienced a "Wow!" moment?
4. What surprises you most about God's plans as embodied in Jesus?
5. How do you join the angels in glorifying and praising God?
6. Reflect on your call to walk with Jesus. What surprises you about it?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFELONG LEARNER

Advent Study

"Names for the Messiah" by Walter Brueggemann is both the basis of our Advent sermon series, as well as a book study everyone is invited to enjoy during this special season! Isaiah 9:6 uses four royal titles for Jesus – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. This study reflects on how Jesus fulfilled each. Guided prayers and questions are provided in the book, which is intended for either individual or group study. Order your own book today on Amazon (amazon.com/Names-Messiah) and grab a few friends for fellowship and discussion during this most wonderful time of the year.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study | Starts Jan. 16, 1:45 p.m.

"Jesus Followers: Real-Life Lessons for Igniting Faith in the Next Generation" offers practical ideas, biblical teaching, and inspiring true stories from Anne Graham Lotz and her daughter Rachel-Ruth Lotz Wright for effectively running the race of faith and passing the Baton of Truth to the next generation. This five-week study meets in room 105, and the workbook costs \$15 (includes online access to the videos anytime). Register on the Church Center app, at fumchurch.com, or by contacting Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com).

PRAYING FOLLOWER

Share Your Joys and Prayer Concerns With Us!

Green prayer cards are located in the pews and at the prayer station under the balcony. Simply fill one out during worship and place in the offering basket or Janice Bowen's mailbox. You can also contact Janice directly (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Service of Remembrance and Hope | Sunday, Dec. 3, 4 p.m.

If you're feeling the burden of grief this holiday season and missing your loved ones, we invite you to join us for a time of worship and reflection at our Service of Remembrance and Hope. We will gather in the sanctuary, and the service will also be recorded and available afterward for viewing from home. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions.

Advent Taize Worship Service | Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.

Worship in the format of the Taize community in France features contemplative music, prayers, and a brief scriptural reflection. The worship setting will be arranged to enhance this as a season of the Light of God breaking into our darkness. All are invited to participate in this worshipful way of preparing for Christmas. This special event will take place at Bethany Village Retirement Community in the Richard D. Rife Center.

DEDICATED MISSIONARY

December Mission Focus: Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of getting a special treat in a daily Advent Calendar, join us in giving to others with our Reverse Advent Calendar! Pick up a calendar and a bag at the display in the main entrance hallway, then collect the food items throughout the month. When your list is complete, return your full bag under the balcony in the sanctuary. This food will stock our Little Free Pantry, which provides a no-barrier access point to food for those in need.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Family Movie Night | Saturday, Dec. 16, 4-6 p.m.

Join us for a free Family Movie Night! This event is open to everyone, and this year's Christmas movie will be *The Star* (2017). How can some humble animals become the heroes in the greatest story ever told? Bring some pillows and blankets, and hopefully a friend or two, to find out! Registration is not required, but highly recommended. Sign up now at fumchurch.com or on Church Center!

Wednesday Night Men's Group | First and Third Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

This group enjoys great fellowship while focusing on discussion-based Bible studies. In their current study, "Kingdom Heroes," Dr. Tony Evans explores how the journeys of Old Testament heroes, such as Abraham, Noah and Moses, can help you build a strong and enduring faith. Contact Barry Eaton if interested.

GENEROUS GIVER

Cookie Walk | Saturday, Dec. 16, 9-11 a.m.

Calling all bakers! We need your help to make our annual Cookie Walk a success! Last year, this sweet event helped raise over \$2,000 for our youth mission trip, and we're excited to begin fundraising for our 2024 trip to Dayton, Ohio. We need bakers to provide 4-5 batches (8-10 dozen) of any style of homemade cookies. Sign up on Church Center or by filling out a form at the display in the lobby. Please have your cookies to the church by 7 a.m. on Dec. 16 (cookies brought in before this can be placed in the kitchen and labeled "Cookie Walk"). Contact Lynn Rapp (minion.youth17@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you for supporting our youth as they serve together!

Scrip Fundraiser

Support First Church by purchasing your Christmas gift cards through our Scrip program! Pick up a form and place it in the dropbox in the gathering area near the couches and water fountain. Contact Kathie Bittenbender with any questions.

KIDS

Stay Connected!

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

Wee Worship and Kids Worship

Every Sunday these special worship programs are held (for kids through fifth grade) at the 11 a.m. service.

Sensory Santa | Dec.9

Christmas Movie Night | Dec. 16

YOUTH

Keep in Touch!

Help us connect with you so that you don't miss any of the fun!

- Join our Remind text list (text @4Gyo to 81010).
- Follow our Instagram (@fourgyouthministry).
- Like us on Facebook (4G — First United Methodist Youth Group).
- Email Lisa to receive emails about all things First Church Youth.

Coming Up

Youth Winter Retreat | Dec. 8 - 10

Zeteo | Feb. 3 - 5

Thanks for joining us in worship!

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

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

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

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Honor your loved ones and beautify our sanctuary this Christmas! To reserve your poinsettia, fill out this form and return it to the church office. You can also call or email the office (office@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611). **All orders must be received by Sunday, Dec. 10.**

Poinsettias cost **\$11 each**. Checks can be made out to First United Methodist Church (with "Poinsettias" on the memo line).

Quantity: _____ **Total: \$** _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Placed by: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please **pick up your poinsettias at Christmas Eve worship services** on Sunday, Dec. 24, or contact the church office to make alternate arrangements. Plants not claimed by Jan. 1 will be disposed of.



CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST CHURCH



5 P.M. FAMILY SERVICE
10 P.M. TRADITIONAL SERVICE