



# First News First

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

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

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### *"How Will You Get to Bethlehem?"*

It was 1865 in Philadelphia. The Civil War had just ended. President Lincoln had been assassinated. Serving the church through the tumultuous years of the war had taken a terrible toll on a 30-year-old Episcopal priest. Members of his church had lost husbands, fathers and sons in battle. Others had returned from war with physical and emotional scars.

Exhausted, the priest was granted a sabbatical by his congregation. He spent fall of 1865 traveling through Europe, eventually arriving in the Holy Land. Day after day, his soul was refreshed as he visited the places where Jesus had spent his earthly ministry.

Then, on Christmas Eve, he had an experience that would change his life forever. He rode from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on horseback, a six-mile journey. At dusk, he approached the town where, long before, Jesus was born. Looking out over the City of David, he imagined what it was like for those whose faces shone around the manger on the night of our Savior's birth. Soaking in the whole scene, the young priest penned a poem in his journal.

The priest's name was Phillips Brooks, and a few years later his poem was put to music.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

A journey to Bethlehem on horseback changed Phillips Brooks' life. In the presence of Christ, he had a spiritual awakening. He returned to Philadelphia with new enthusiasm for ministry.

As you celebrate Christmas this year, I want to ask you: How will you get to Bethlehem? As I write this, the people in the region where Bethlehem is located are on our hearts and minds. A special prayer for peace is included in this newsletter. Please join in prayer that the light of Christ will shine in the darkness of war.

Advent is filled with opportunities to get to Bethlehem. Getting to Bethlehem is finding space and time for prayer and devotional reading. Getting to Bethlehem is attending worship, glorifying God with hymns and songs, hearing the Good News of great joy proclaimed, and offering our prayers and ourselves. Getting to Bethlehem is serving and giving. It's sharing the love of Christ with each other and with our neighbors.

I pray that, like Phillips Brooks long ago, you will get to Bethlehem this Christmas. May you experience the wondrous gift given to us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem. He still brings hope, peace, joy, and love to all who humbly seek him.

Journeying to Bethlehem with you,  
Pastor Denny



# Sermon Series

## "Names for the Messiah" Advent 2023

*For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests on his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

In the days before Christmas, this oft-read verse from the prophet Isaiah invites us to turn our attention toward Christ, the newborn King. During the four Sundays of Advent, we will consider these four extravagant royal titles. How did the people in Isaiah's time understand them? How did Jesus in his life and ministry fulfill each title? What do these titles mean for us as we continue Christ's mission today?

Dec. 3	"Wonderful Counselor" Holy Communion
Dec. 10	"Mighty God"
Dec. 17	"Everlasting Father"
Dec. 24	"Prince of Peace"

## Lifelong Learner



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 ([funchurch.com](http://funchurch.com)).

### Advent Study | Starts Dec. 3

"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](http://amazon.com/Names-Messiah)) and grab a few friends for fellowship and discussion during this most wonderful time of the year. Contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@funchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@funchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 104) with questions.

### 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.



### **Wednesday Bible Study | Starts Jan. 10, 6:45 p.m.**

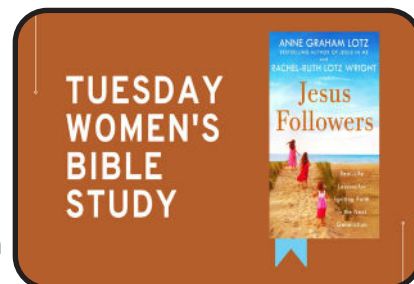
Join Pastor Denny for a new five-week study, "Responding to Our Call: The Work of Christ" (part 4 of the full "Companions in Christ" study series) in room B003. Together, you'll explore the meaning of discipleship and how obedience leads to the fruit and gifts of the Spirit! If you have not previously participated in the study series, the workbook cost is \$10. Register using on the Church Center app, at [fumchurch.com](https://fumchurch.com), or by contacting Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)).

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

With six classes to choose from, there is something for everyone! Visit our website, [fumchurch.com](https://fumchurch.com), for the most up-to-date listing of classes and the topics they are studying. If you have questions, contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)).

### **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](https://fumchurch.com), or by contacting Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)).



### **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](https://zoemazi.org)

### **Health and Wellness Presentation | Sunday, Jan. 7, 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

Join us in the multipurpose room to hear from Bob Buhrig with Buhrig's Funeral and Cremations. Bob will speak on various points of interest related to funeral planning, including some of the less traditional and newer burial options.



### **Mom Connection**

This group connects moms of children (newborns through high school age) with other moms who are seeking friendship, support and encouragement along the parenting journey. The group meets monthly from September through May. Meetings begin with dinner followed by a theme-based topic designed to help develop connections and offer support (spiritual, emotional, practical), inspiration, and resources for Christ-centered parenting. Suggested donation of \$5 per meeting to cover program materials and dinner. Sign up now at [fumchurch.com](https://fumchurch.com) or on Church Center. Contact Katie Knorr ([kids-count@fumchurch.com](mailto:kids-count@fumchurch.com)) or Lisa Aronson ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) with questions.

### **2024 Women's Retreat | Jan. 26-28**

There's still time to register for the 2024 Women's Retreat at Mt. Asbury Retreat Center! Stay for the whole weekend or just the day on Saturday. Local author Tabitha Deller will speak on "From Striving to Abiding: Made Whole in Christ." We live in a world that leaves us stressed, always striving for more but settling for less. What if there was a way to flip the script? Well, good news, there is! God's Word offers a way to exchange stress for rest as we learn to abide rather than strive. Allowing His Holiness to make us whole is truly the only way we'll thrive!

Find the registration form at the display window (around the corner from the Church Library or on page 11). You can also register on the Church Center app or at [fumchurch.com](https://fumchurch.com). If you have questions about the retreat or would like a form emailed to you, contact Patti Herring ([familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net)). Early bird registration is due by Dec. 31, all registrations due by Jan. 14, 2024.



## From the Library

I'm sitting here writing about Christmas while oohing and aahing over the latest Halloween pictures of my grandchildren, so forgive me if I'm not quite in the Christmas spirit yet. Every year I talk about how busy the season is. Maybe I should just say, "Here are the books, refer to last year for all the rest." No, I can't not tell you about all the great books we receive every month. And, I have the perfect books to get you into the Christmas spirit and fit with your busy schedule.

*We Three Kings* is a three-novella collection of romances written by three women. Each story is centered on a different generation of the Weise family. Crystal Caudill starts the book with "Star of Wonder". The setting is a historical look at the Weise family's grand steamer ship that was supposed to launch a new Weise business – and maybe even a dynasty. But plans go awry, and Aldrich Weise's life takes a turn he hadn't expected.

Cara Putman's "Beauty Bright" finds the next generation of Weise men in the midst of World War II. Lt. Charles Weise serves as part of the Monuments Man group working to restore Europe's stolen art to its rightful owners.

Last but not least is "Perfect Light" written by Angela Ruth Strong. In this contemporary story Brendon Weise is a prominent businessman who is drawn to Lacey Foster, the event planner for his huge Christmas lights festival. Needless to say, there are a few twists and turns to this Weise man's life.

Every year Melody Carlson offers up a short and sweet Christmas novella, and this year is no exception. While reading the description, all I could think of is this a Hallmark script. But, the reviews were great, and who can resist a good Christmas fairytale filled with royalty and romance? I'll let you find out if this rags to riches story checks all the boxes in fun and romance. Get your tiara, cozy blanket and hot chocolate, and relax for an evening as you immerse yourself in *A Royal Christmas*.

If neither of these books works for you, stop in the library and let our volunteers help you find the perfect Christmas book for you. The library will be closed Dec. 24, so you may want to grab an extra book or two in the earlier weeks. And with winter closing in, don't forget our jigsaw puzzle exchange. Perfect winter entertainment!

See you in the library,

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

COME VISIT THE  
CHURCH LIBRARY



## Praying Follower



### Moms in Prayer | Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us 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 Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)) if you have questions or want to join this group.



### December Prayer Focus: Peace for the People in Israel and Gaza

The deadly attack on Israel by the militant group, Hamas, was devastating news. In addition to the hostages taken, the escalating violence has killed or injured thousands. The humanitarian crisis in this region is extremely dire due to continued fighting. As the Church, we are called to pray for peace. Here is one prayer that you can use, adapted from one written by World Relief, a charitable organization that has been addressing urgent needs in war-torn areas around the world since the 1940s:

Lord, we lift our eyes to you — the Maker of heaven and earth.

We ask for a miracle – let your love invade the hearts of all people in Israel and Gaza in order to bring peace in their land.

We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.



Let violence cease in the region. Let there be no more bloodshed. We know your heart breaks for those killed and those left behind — for the orphaned child, the injured elderly, those abducted and families desperate for safety. Lord, speak into this crisis.

We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones. Let your presence surround them like a warm embrace. Please protect and provide for those who have been abducted and bring them home safely. Let them be reunited with their loved ones and feel your comfort.

We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

We pray that you open doors that allow food, essentials and medical supplies to reach those in need. May first responders be able to rescue the injured, console the grieving and help rebuild many lives.

We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

Amen.

## *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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 112) with questions.



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

Worship in the format of the Taize community in France features contemplative worship song and 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 on the East Campus of the Village.



### **Christmas Caroling | Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m.**

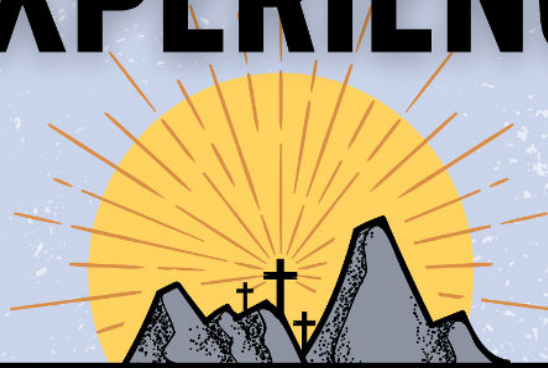
Caroling means "to sing joyfully!" Enjoy our long Christmas tradition and spread cheer to our neighbors as we sing carols in our Community Green Space. We'll also enjoy fun fellowship and hot cocoa! In the event of poor weather, we will gather in the sanctuary.

If your family or small group is interested in Christmas Caroling door-to-door to some of our members at home, we will have suggested lists of caroling routes and music sheets available at the gathering. Select a list and continue singing following the caroling in the Green Space, or find another day that suits your group! For more information, please contact Janice Bowen at (717-766-4611, ext. 112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)).

### **Rejoicing Spirits | Sunday, Jan. 28, 4 p.m.**

First Church invites everyone to attend this "shush-free" worship experience that celebrates all expressions of worship and individuals of all abilities. This monthly service includes music, scripture, prayer and a brief message, along with refreshments and fellowship afterward.

# THE PASSION PLAY EXPERIENCE



*The Passion Play Experience is an interactive retelling of Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to the resurrection. We're looking for kids, teens and adults to perform as actors (speaking or silent), musicians and other important volunteers. Rehearsals will depend on your part and can be flexible to fit your schedule. Learn more and sign up at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) or on the Church Center app. Contact Director of Children and Family Ministry Katie Knorr ([kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)) or Director of Worship Arts Sarah Pugh ([worship@fumchurch.com](mailto:worship@fumchurch.com)) with questions.*

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST CHURCH

10 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP

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



## *Dedicated Missionary*



### **Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Jan. 17, 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. To find out how you can help or if you would like to carpool, please contact Tiffany Holland ([tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com)).

## *Relationship Builder*



### **Men's Breakfast | Dec. 2 and Jan. 6, 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](mailto:1785ea-ton@gmail.com)) to RSVP.

### **Widows/Widowers Fellowship | Tuesday, Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.**

This month, the group will dine at Perkins Restaurant. If you plan to attend, please contact Bonnie Guyer ([717-766-0145](tel:717-766-0145)). Transportation will be provided upon request.

### **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](http://fumchurch.com) or on Church Center!



### **Joy in the Morning | Monday, Dec. 18, 1-2 p.m.**

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

### **Grief Share's "Surviving the Holidays" Event**

Several local churches are offering Grief Share's "Surviving the Holidays" event in our community. This event is designed to offer support for people who have lost a loved one and are finding the Thanksgiving and Christmas season to be bleak and challenging compared to years past. The event is offered in person unless indicated to be online.

- **Sunday, Dec. 3**  
Carlisle Evangelical Free Church (9-10:30 a.m.)
- **Wednesday, Dec. 6**  
Carlisle Evangelical Free Church (6:30-8 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, Dec. 13**  
Celebration Community Church, Dillsburg (6-8 p.m., in-person and online)

### **Soupy Saturday | Jan. 20, 9 a.m.**

If you enjoy cooking, join us in the church kitchen to make some delicious soup and muffins to share with a friend, neighbor or church member at home! Contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112) with questions.





### Community Dinner | Feb. 18, 5 p.m.

The next community dinner will be held at Buhrig's Gathering Place. The dinner is a collaborative event with other local churches to bless the downtown community with a meal, music and games, free of charge. 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 or contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)) for more information.

### Indoor Pickleball | Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.

Join us for some fun and games in the multipurpose room! No experience is necessary, and paddles and balls will be available to borrow. Contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or [wecare@fum-church.com](mailto:wecare@fum-church.com)) with questions or to be added to the email list for updates and alerts.

### December Hospitality Tip:

Advent is an exciting season in the life of our church – a time of anticipation and expectancy! We often see many new faces during this season, so showing extra hospitality by wearing our nametags on Sunday mornings and intentionally welcoming visitors are great ways to show Christ's love! If you need a nametag, please contact the church office. Inviting friends and neighbors to our special events also displays wonderful hospitality! These events include our Service of Remembrance and Hope (Dec. 3), Cookie Walk (Dec. 16), Christmas Caroling (Dec. 17), and two Christmas Eve services. May the anticipation of celebrating of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ stir in you the sweet spirit of hospitality!



### 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 a bigger supply of cards or ideas of church members who would appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112).

*Generous Giver*



### Financial Report

Through Oct. 31, 2023  
83% of year

#### General Fund

2023 Budget	\$900,886	
Expected Income – YTD	\$750,735	(83% of budget)
Actual Income – YTD	\$762,298	(85% of budget)
Actual Expenses – YTD	\$ 754,983	(84% of budget)

Income for the five-Sunday month of October was \$78,473, about \$8,000 less than our average 5-week budget expectation. Spending for the month was \$76,990, leaving us roughly \$1,500 positive for the month. We continue to run ahead of our year-to-date giving budget, and year-to-date expenses continue to be in line for the first ten months of the year. Thank you for giving your prayers, talents and gifts in support of First Church's work to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. And, thank you to staff and volunteers who continue to act as good stewards of all these gifts.

You can find information about your individual giving records on the Church Center app. Press the bottom tab labeled "Give" to retrieve information about "My Giving," including donation history, payment methods, pledges and statements. You can also find this information by visiting [fumchurch.churchcenter.com](http://fumchurch.churchcenter.com). If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

Thank you for supporting the mission of First Church for 2024 by participating in our Consecration Sunday a few weeks ago. The church Finance Committee is working with church staff and committees to develop a budget for next year to continue opening doors and spreading the Good News.



### **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](mailto:minion.youth17@gmail.com)) with any questions. Don't forget to stop by the Cookie Walk to fill a provided box with a custom mix of delicious Christmas cookies! Thank you for supporting our youth as they serve!



### **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 October totaled \$31.61.

### **Coconut Egg Fundraiser | Jan. 2-18**

The Christian Fellowship Class will make coconut eggs in January and peanut butter eggs in March. Place your order by contacting Nancy ([717-258-8954](tel:717-258-8954) or [mwrner@aol.com](mailto:mwrner@aol.com)). All eggs must be pre-ordered. Bags of six eggs cost \$10. Pick up your eggs in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, Jan. 25, or on Sunday, Jan. 28. Watch for more information about peanut butter eggs in the coming weeks!

## *First Church Mission Moments...*



### **Reverse Advent Calendar**



Each year, many of us look forward to opening an Advent Calendar to discover a special treat or prize to brighten the season. Once again this year, we are turning things around! Instead of getting a special treat, 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 bag and items 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.

Thank you for supporting the Little Free Pantry and for helping us celebrate this wonderful season of giving!

Lori Hoffnagle  
Volunteer Outreach Coordinator



# **Daily Bible Readings Dec. 2023/ Jan. 2024**

## **December**

Friday, December 1	Isaiah 9:2-7
Saturday, December 2	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 3	Worship
Monday, December 4	Isaiah 40:1-11
Tuesday, December 5	Psalms 85:1-7
Wednesday, December 6	Psalms 85:8-13
Thursday, December 7	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Friday, December 8	Mark 1:1-8
Saturday, December 9	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 10	Worship
Monday, December 11	Isaiah 61:1-11
Tuesday, December 12	Psalms 126
Wednesday, December 13	I Thessalonians 5:16-24
Thursday, December 14	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Friday, December 15	Psalms 103
Saturday, December 16	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 17	Worship
Monday, December 18	Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday, December 19	Luke 1:46b-55
Wednesday, December 20	Titus 2:11-14
Thursday, December 21	Luke 2:1-8
Friday, December 22	Luke 2:9-20
Saturday, December 23	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 24	Worship
Monday, December 25	John 1:1-14
Tuesday, December 26	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Wednesday, December 27	Psalms 8
Thursday, December 28	Revelation 21:1-6a
Friday, December 29	Matthew 25:31-46
Saturday, December 30	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 31	Worship

## **January**

Monday, January 1	Isaiah 60:1-6
Tuesday, January 2	Psalms 72
Wednesday, January 3	Ephesians 3:1-12
Thursday, January 4	Matthew 2:1-12
Friday, January 5	Mark 1:4-11
Saturday, January 6	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, January 7	Worship
Monday, January 8	I Samuel 3:1-10
Tuesday, January 9	I Samuel 3:11-20
Wednesday, January 10	Psalms 139
Thursday, January 11	I Corinthians 6:1-11
Friday, January 12	I Corinthians 6:12-20
Saturday, January 13	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, January 14	Worship
Monday, January 15	Genesis 1:1-5
Tuesday, January 16	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Wednesday, January 17	Psalms 62:5-12
Thursday, January 18	I Corinthians 7:29-31
Friday, January 19	Mark 1:14-20
Saturday, January 20	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, January 21	Worship
Monday, January 22	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Tuesday, January 23	Psalms 111
Wednesday, January 24	I Corinthians 8:1-13
Thursday, January 25	John 1:43-51
Friday, January 26	Mark 1:21-28
Saturday, January 27	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, January 28	Worship
Monday, January 29	Isaiah 40:21-31
Tuesday, January 30	Psalms 147
Wednesday, January 31	I Corinthians 9:1-15

## 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 Children 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:**

George Canonizado  
717-766-4611, ext.109  
maintenance@fumchurch.com

**Director of Finance:**

Amy Erno  
717-766-4611, ext.120  
financedirector@fumchurch.com

**Sounds of Worship Director:**

Flossie Ryder  
missflossie42@gmail.com

**Youth Worship Director:**

Allison Ometz  
allisonometz1@msn.com

**Director of Bell Choirs:**

Kathie Bittenbender  
rbittenben@verizon.net

**Praise Team Director:**

Sarah Pugh  
worship@fumchurch.com

**Organist/Accompanist:**

Brandon Rhody

**Director of Little Friends Preschool:**

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

**Timeless Connections:**

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

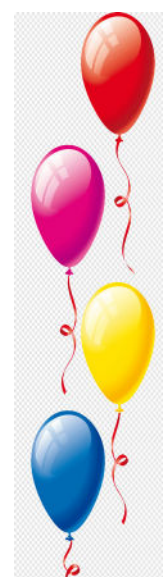
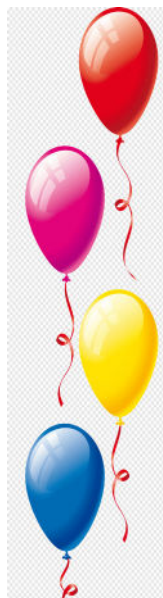


## News and Notes....

Sadie Heim would like to thank the First Church family for the outpouring of birthday cards and kind wishes for her recent 96th birthday. She received about 100 cards and notes, many coming from her First Church friends.



Joyce Woods.....December 1	Pat Hutter.....January 3
Don Mowrey.....December 8	Leta Rohlmeier.....January 23
Dolores Shell.....December 13	Don Coldren.....January 27
Darlis Aumiller.....December 21	Ed Johnson.....January 27
Joan Mains.....December 23	Dot Souder.....January 27
Elaine O'Hara.....December 26	Darrell Sill.....January 28
Sandy Coover.....December 28	



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**



♥ Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miller married 56 years December 9, 1967.



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

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
for the February 2024 issue is **January 15**.  
Early submissions always appreciated!