
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA

A blue rectangular background featuring silhouettes of people playing trumpets and a central starburst pattern.

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH

“Everlasting Father”

FOUNDATION SERVICE

DEC. 17, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome
Call to Worship

Hymn
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" - No. 213

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Hymn
"Fairest Lord Jesus" - No. 189, v. 3

Choir Anthem
"Beat On Your Drum"

Scripture
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Sermon
"Everlasting Father"

Hymn
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" - No. 206

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer
Announcements and Offering

Closing Hymn
"Joy to the World" - No. 246

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, Jason Kichline, Holly Kurten

WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA

A blue rectangular area with a background pattern of silhouettes of people playing musical instruments (trumpets, trombones, saxophones) and a central starburst pattern. The text "NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH" is written in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters across the center.

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH

“Everlasting Father”

THE GATHERING SERVICE

DEC. 17, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)"

"Same God"

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Sermon

"Everlasting Father"

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements and Offering

"Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team.....George Canonizado, Nate Erno, Emily Hammaker,
Krissy Marshall, Sarah Pugh, RJ Wertz

Sound and Media.....Jim Murdoch, Elijah Ometz, Holly Kurten

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

WEEK OF DEC. 17

Christmas Caroling

TODAY, 4 p.m.

Mom Connection

Monday, 6 p.m.

Isaiah 61

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

WEEK OF DEC. 24

The church office will be
CLOSED
from Dec. 25 through Jan. 2.
It will reopen Jan. 3 at 9 a.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. 17

Sunday	Worship
Monday	Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	Luke 1:46b-55
Wednesday	Titus 2:11-14
Thursday	Luke 2:1-8
Friday	Luke 2:9-20
Saturday	Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jack O'Hara and John, Paul and Michael O'Hara by Elaine O'Hara.

MACHE BASKET

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Gayle Ann Elder by her mother Annabelle Elder.

TEACHING NOTES

“Names for the Messiah: Everlasting Father”

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

“We are named. What we are named is not as significant as *that* we are named.”

– Eugene Peterson

*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

1. Jesus reveals to us God as *Everlasting **Father***.

*No one has ever seen God. It is **the only Son**, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.*

John 1:18

2. Jesus invites us into fellowship with God as our *Everlasting **Father***.

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “**Abba! Father!**”¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:15-17

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are.

1 John 3:1

3. Jesus helps us to know God as our *Everlasting **Father***.

⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?¹⁰ Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father in heaven** give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:9-11

“And in despair I bowed my head;
‘There is no peace on Earth,’ I said;
‘For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on Earth, good-will to men.’

Then rang the bells more loud and deep:
‘God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail,
With peace on Earth, good-will to men.’”

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFELONG LEARNER

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).

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, or by contacting Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com).

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

Join us in the multi-purpose room to hear from Bob Buhrig with Buhrig's Funerals and Creations. Bob will speak on various points of interest related to funeral planning, including some of the less traditional and newer burial options. This is the first of a two-part series on topics related to death and dying.

PRAYING FOLLOWER

Women's Retreat | Early Bird Registration Due Dec. 31

Sign up now for the 2024 Women's Retreat at Mount Asbury Retreat Center! Stay for the whole weekend (Jan. 26-28) or just Saturday. Local author Tabitha Deller will speak on "From Striving to Abiding: Made Whole in Christ." Register on the Church Center app or at fumchurch.com. You can also find paper registration forms at the display window (around the corner from the Church Library). If you have questions or would like a form emailed to you, contact Patti Herring (familyzeke@verizon.net). All registrations due by Jan. 14.

Share Your Joys and Prayer Concerns With Us!

Green prayer cards are located in the pews and at the prayer station under the balcony. Fill one out during worship and place it 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

Online Worship

Worship with us and invite others to join any time of the week! Check out our livestream at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays or watch recorded messages on our YouTube and Facebook pages 24/7. If you're unable to access online worship services, contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com) for other ways to connect to First Church.

DEDICATED MISSIONARY

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, the Missions Committee is 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. Contact Lori Hoffnagle or Sandy Walton with questions. Thank you for supporting the Little Free Pantry and for helping us celebrate this wonderful season of giving!

RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Joy in the Morning | TOMORROW, 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 or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

GENEROUS GIVER

Year-End Giving to First Church

The end of the year is coming quickly! The easiest way to guarantee that the office receives your donation in time is by giving on our website (fumchurch.com) or the Church Center app. You can also mail in your donation, stop by the church office (the office will be closed starting Dec. 22 at noon), or drop it off in the basket by the sanctuary exits after worship by Dec. 31. All offerings that are postmarked for Jan. 1 or later will be included in 2024. Additionally, if you use recurring giving through Church Center and want to change your contributions for next year (increasing your amount, altering withdrawal dates, etc.), you must make these changes through your Church Center account. Please contact the church office 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.

**Christmas Eve Family Service |
Dec. 24 5 p.m.**

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

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)

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST CHURCH



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