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**WELCOME TO**

**First United  
Methodist Church**

**MECHANICSBURG, PA**

A blue rectangular background featuring silhouettes of people playing musical instruments (trumpets and trombones) and a central starburst pattern with radiating lines.

# **NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH**

**“Prince of Peace”**

**10 A.M. COMBINED WORSHIP**

**DEC. 24, 2023**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
Welcome  
Call to Worship

Hymn  
*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"- No. 220*

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent

Hymn  
*"Fairest Lord Jesus" - No. 189, v. 4*

Choir Anthem  
*"Go Tell It On the Mountain"*

Scripture  
*Isaiah 9:2-7*

Sermon  
*"Prince of Peace"*

Hymn  
*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" - No. 218*

Pastoral Prayer  
Announcements and Offering

Closing Hymn  
*"What Child Is This" - No. 219*

Benediction  
Postlude

## **LEADING IN WORSHIP**

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller  
Liturgist..... Al Robinson  
Accompanist..... Kathie Bittenbender  
Special Music.....Sounds of Worship, Handbells  
Sound and Media..... Michael Garman, Ken Rapp, Sarah Pugh

# COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

## 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.

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## WEEK OF DEC. 31

### Pickleball

Tuesday 5 p.m.

### Men's Group (Off-site)

Wednesday 8 p.m.

### Men's Breakfast (Off-site)

Saturday 7:30 a.m.

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*Scan here or  
visit our website at  
[fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) for  
more details on all  
of our upcoming  
events!*



# WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

## WEEK OF DEC. 24

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Worship             |
| <b>Monday</b>    | John 1:1-14         |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Psalm 8             |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Revelation 21:1-6a  |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Matthew 25:31-46    |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Rest and Reflect    |

## ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our parents by Mary Beth and George Snoke.

# TEACHING NOTES

## “Names for the Messiah: Prince of Peace”

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy infant so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*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, Prince of Peace, is **our Shalom**.

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”*

Luke 2:14

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*

John 14:27

<sup>21</sup> *Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”* <sup>22</sup> *When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

John 20:21-22

## 2. The Church is **the Body of Christ**, the Prince of Peace.

*Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us.*

Ephesians 2:14

*<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 2:2-5a

*But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

1 Corinthians 12:24b-26

## 3. Peacemaking begins **where you are**.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9

**We'd love to get to know you more! Scan the QR code, submit the form and someone from our team will follow up with you.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **LIFELONG LEARNER**

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

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## **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](http://fumchurch.com). You can also find paper registration forms at the display window (around the corner from the Church Library). Please contact Patti Herring ([familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net)) with questions. 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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

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## **PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER**

### **Christmas Eve Luminaries | TODAY, Dec. 24, 3:30 p.m.**

Weather permitting, the luminary elves welcome new elves to join them at the church to assemble and place luminaries around the building while enjoying fellowship and the beauty of the season! Contact Mark Mengle if interested.

## 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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)) for other ways to connect to First Church.

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## 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!

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## RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

### Men's Breakfast | Saturday, 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 to RSVP.

### 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, ext. 112) with questions.

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

**Wonderful Wednesday |  
Starts Feb. 14**

## 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 <a href="http://fumchurch.com">fumchurch.com</a> ) |
| 11 a.m.   | THE GATHERING SERVICE (Modern)  |
| 4 p.m.    | REJOICING SPIRITS (Fourth Sunday of each month)                                   |

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

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



# CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST CHURCH



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