
WELCOME TO

**First United
Methodist Church**

MECHANICSBURG, PA



TAKING INVENTORY

“Taking Inventory”

FOUNDATION SERVICE

DEC. 31, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome
Call to Worship

Hymn
"There's a Song in the Air"- No. 249

Opening Prayer

Scripture
Luke 2:22-38

Sermon
"Taking Inventory"

Hymn
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" - No. 224

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer
Announcements and Offering

Closing Hymn
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" - No. 251

Benediction
Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Liturgist.....Sarah Pugh

Accompanist..... Brandon Rhody

Sound and Media.....Fred Espenshade, Jim Robinson, Ken Rapp, Sarah Pugh

WELCOME TO

**First United
Methodist Church**

MECHANICSBURG, PA



TAKING INVENTORY

“Taking Inventory”

THE GATHERING SERVICE

DEC. 31, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"King of Kings"

"Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)"

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

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

Scripture

Luke 2:22-38

Sermon

"Taking Inventory"

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements and Offering

"What a Beautiful Name"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Sarah Pugh

Worship Team.....John Gross, Jason Kichline, Sarah Pugh, Abby Wertz,
Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media.....Fred Espenshade, Jim Robinson, Ken Rapp, Sarah Pugh

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

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.

WEEK OF JAN. 7

Moms In Prayer

Monday 7:30 p.m.

Deborah Circle

Tuesday 7 p.m.

Pastor Denny's Bible Study

Wednesday 6:45 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. 31

Sunday

Worship

Monday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Tuesday

Psalm 72

Wednesday

Ephesians 3:1-12

Thursday

Matthew 2:1-12

Friday

Mark 1:4-11

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of my husband John Eddy Jr. by Nancy Eddy.

TEACHING NOTES

“Taking Inventory”

Luke 2:22-38



**In 2024, I am resolved...
Daily to Seek God’s Guidance**

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and **the Holy Spirit rested on him.** ²⁶ **It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ **Guided by the Spirit,** Simeon came into the temple.

Luke 2:25-27a

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of **Phanuel**, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with **fasting and prayer night and day.**

Luke 2:36-37

**In 2024, I am resolved...
To Look the Future with Hope**

²⁸ *Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,*
²⁹ *“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

Luke 2:28-32

³⁸ *At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

Luke 2:38

**In 2024, I am resolved...
To Be an Encourager**

²⁸ *Simeon took him in his arms and praised God...*

Luke 2:28

³⁸ *At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

Luke 2:38

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 running the race of faith and passing the Baton of Truth to the next generation. This five-week study meets under the balcony in the sanctuary, 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).

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. Find more details and get connected at zoemazi.org

PRAYING FOLLOWER

Women's Retreat | Early Bird Registration Due TODAY

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.

Passion Play Experience | March 28

Signups are officially open for our 2024 Passion Play Experience! If you're interested in participating on stage or behind the scenes in our interactive retelling of the life of Jesus, register on Church Center or by contacting Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) or Sarah Pugh (worship@fumchurch.com).

DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, 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 helps serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. To learn how you can help or if you would like to carpool, please contact Tiffany Holland (tholland1967@gmail.com).

RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Men's Breakfast | THIS 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.

Printed Church Directories

Printed church directories are available! If you'd like to have one placed in your church mailbox, please contact the office (office@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611). You can always update your information and view a digital version of the directory on the Church Center app or at fumchurch.churchcenter.com.

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.

Cookie Walk

Thank you to all the Cookie Walk bakers! You helped us raise over \$2,000 for our 2024 youth mission trip. If you labeled your cookie container and wanted it to be returned, please check the counter in the kitchen for your items.

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.

**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 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)

Health and Wellness Presentation

FUNERAL PLANNING



Hear from Bob Buhrig
with Buhrig's Funerals
and Cremation on
various points of
interest related to
funeral planning,
including some
of less traditional
and newer burial
options.

SUNDAY, JAN. 7 | 9:45 A.M.
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

RESPONDING TO OUR CALL:
THE WORK OF CHRIST

FIVE-WEEK STUDY STARTS
JAN. 10 AT 6:45



*Wednesday
Bible Study*