
WELCOME TO

**First United
Methodist Church**

MECHANICSBURG, PA



LORD, MAKE US GOOD SOIL

“Lord, Make Us Good Soil”

FOUNDATION SERVICE

JAN. 7, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

Affirmation of Faith

Hymn

"Into My Heart"

Choir Anthem

"Breath of God"

Scripture

Mark 4:1-20

Sermon

"Lord, Make Us Good Soil"

Hymn

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" - No. 629

Invitation, Confession, Pardon

Sharing Signs of Peace and Offering

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Bread & Cup and Announcements

Closing Hymn

"Spirit Song" - No. 347

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Liturgist.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Accompanist.....Brandon Rhody

Special Music.....Sounds of Worship

Sound and Media.....Michael Garman, Ron Nichols, Holly Kurten, Sarah Pugh

WELCOME TO

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Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



LORD, MAKE US GOOD SOIL

“Lord, Make Us Good Soil”

THE GATHERING SERVICE

JAN. 7, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"Holy Forever"

"A Thousand Hallelujahs"

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

"Living Hope"

Scripture

Mark 4:1-20

Sermon

"Lord, Make Us Good Soil"

Communion Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Communion

Announcements and Offering

"Christ Be Magnified"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team.....John McHenry, Sarah Pugh, Cynthia Smith, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media..... Michael Garman, Ron Nichols, Holly Kurten, Sarah Pugh

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

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.

WEEK OF JAN. 14

Mom Connection
Monday 6 p.m.

Women's Bible Study
Tuesday 1:45 p.m.

Men's Group (Off Site)
Wednesday 8 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 JAN. 7

Sunday	Worship
Monday	I Samuel 3:1-10
Tuesday	I Samuel 3:11-20
Wednesday	Psalms 139
Thursday	I Corinthians 6:1-11
Friday	I Corinthians 6:12-20
Saturday	Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Ray Powers' birthday by Nancy Eddy.

TEACHING NOTES

“Lord, Make Us Good Soil”

Mark 4:1-20

Parable = to lay alongside of

1. There is no shortage of seed.

Listen to this! A farmer went out to scatter seed...

Mark 4:3

The farmer scatters the word.

Mark 4:14

Lord, make us good soil.

2. Good soil is soft and receptive.

As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path; and the birds came and ate it.

Mark 4:4

This is the meaning of the seed that fell on the path: When the word is scattered and people hear it, right away Satan comes and steals the word that was planted in them.

Mark 4:15

¹⁶Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, ¹⁷so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Lord, make us good soil.

3. Good soil is deep.

⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. ⁶When the sun came up, it scorched the plants; and they dried up because they had no roots.

Mark 4:5-6

¹⁶Here's the meaning of the seed that fell on rocky ground: When people hear the word, they immediately receive it joyfully. ¹⁷Because they have no roots they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse

because of the word, they immediately fall away.

Mark 4:16-17

We haven't received the world's spirit but God's Spirit so that we can know the things given to us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:12

Lord, make us good soil.

4. Good soil is clean.

Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked the seeds, and they produced nothing

Mark 4:7

¹⁸ Others are like the seed scattered among the thorny plants. These are the ones who have heard the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the false appeal of wealth, and the desire for more things break in and choke the word, and it bears no fruit.

Mark 4:18-19

I will keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.

Psalms 119:11

Lord, make us good soil.

Other seed fell into good soil and bore fruit. Upon growing and increasing, the seed produced in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of one hundred to one.

Mark 4:8

The seed scattered on good soil are those who hear the word and embrace it. They bear fruit, in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case sixty to one, and in another case one hundred to one.

Mark 4:20

But this is precisely what is written: God has prepared things for those who love him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven't crossed the mind of any human being.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Lord, make us good soil!

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, or by contacting Tina Eaton (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 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).

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. 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

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).

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

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

Widows/Widowers Fellowship | Tuesday, Jan. 9, 11:30 a.m.

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

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](tel: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. If you would like to be added to the printed directory, contact the church office.

GENEROUS GIVER

Coconut Egg Fundraiser | Orders due Jan. 18

The Christian Fellowship Class will make coconut eggs in January and peanut butter eggs in March. Place your order by contacting Nancy Rutch ([717-258-8954](tel:717-258-8954) or 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.

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.

Giving to First Church

We're so grateful for all the ways you support First Church – through your prayers, time, talents and resources. Everything you give to First Church helps us build disciples and love our neighbors. You can place tithes or offerings in the baskets as you exit the sanctuary, send them into the church office, or give online at fumchurch.com or in the Church Center app.

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)