
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church
MECHANICSBURG, PA



REMEMBER



God's Covenants *and the* Cross

“Abraham: A Promise to the Nations”

FOUNDATION SERVICE

FEB. 25, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome
Call to Worship

Hymn
"God, Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us" - No. 100

Prayer of Confession
Silence for Confession
Words of Assurance

Women of Light Anthem
"Joy Overflowing"

Scripture
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Sermon
"Abraham: A Promise to the Nations"

Hymn
"Be Thou My Vision" No. - 451

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
Announcements and Offering
Doxology and Offering Prayer

Closing Hymn
"Standing on the Promises" - No. 374

Benediction
Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller
Liturgist.....Pastor Lisa Aronson
Accompanist.....Brandon Rhody
Special Music.....Women of Light
Sound and Media.....Ken Rapp, Jim Murdoch, Holly Kurten

WELCOME TO

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God's Covenants *and the* Cross

“Abraham: A Promise to the Nations”

THE GATHERING SERVICE

FEB. 25, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

"Who You Say I Am"

"Whole Heart (Hold Me Now)"

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

"Gratitude"

Scripture

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Sermon

"Abraham: A Promise to the Nations"

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements and Offering

"Promises"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team.....Janice Bowen, John Gross, Krissy Marshall, Allison Ometz,
Sarah Pugh, Lauren Sanker

Sound and Media.....Ken Rapp, Jim Murdoch, Holly Kurten

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

WEEK OF FEB. 25

Rejoicing Spirits

Sunday, 4 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesday

Wednesday, 5 p.m.

Men's Breakfast (Off Site)

Saturday, 7:30 a.m.

WEEK OF MARCH 3

Martha Circle

Tuesday, 12 p.m.

Men's Group (Off Site)

Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Squares & Prayers

Thursday, 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 FEB. 25

Sunday

Worship

Monday

Psalm 19

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Wednesday

John 2:1-12

Thursday

John 2:13-22

Friday

Exodus 20:1-17

Saturday

Rest and Reflect

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of marriage by Gary and Devon Betz.

TEACHING NOTES

“Abraham: A Promise of Nations”

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

1. We can trust the Promise Maker to be the Promise Keeper.

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 12:1-4

“Abram is susceptible to insecurities, doubts, and impatience, just like us. His story, especially in this season of Lent, reminds us that even you and I, with all of our foibles, can still be an exemplary model of faith. We, too, can be viewed by God as righteous.”

– Susan Robb,
“Remember” (p. 26)

2. The covenant is true, but the timing is God’s.

*When Abram was **ninety-nine years old**, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “**I am God Almighty**; walk before me, and be blameless.*

Genesis 17:1

El Shaddai = "All-Sufficient One"
"God, Who Is More Than Enough"

*No longer shall your name be Abram, but **your name shall be Abraham**, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.*

Genesis 17:5

Abraham = "Father of Many Nations"

¹⁵ *God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but **Sarah shall be her name**.* ¹⁶ *I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."*

Genesis 17:15-16

Sarah = "Princess"

"If you were baptized into the Christian faith, you experienced a sign of the covenant, an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace signifying to all that you are included in God's covenant and God's family of faith named 'Christian.' Your baptism was a name-changer."

– Susan Robb,
"Remember" (p. 31)

3. Through Jesus, the covenant made with Abraham is extended... to you!

⁶ *Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,"⁷ so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham.*

Galatians 3:6-7

"Where has Jesus called you to follow in the past? Where do you think he is calling you now?"

– Susan Robb,
"Remember" (p. 34)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFELONG LEARNER

Adult 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, 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).

Wednesday Night Men's Group | First and Third Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

This group is starting a new study on Easter by Pastor J.D. Greear. Enjoy fellowship and dive deeper into the Gospel of Matthew as you discuss Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. Contact Barry Eaton for more details.

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 meets in room 105, and all mothers and grandmothers are invited! All prayers remain confidential within the group. Please contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) if you have questions or want to join this group.

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

Rejoicing Spirits | TODAY, Feb. 25, 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.

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

February Mission Focus: One80 Ministries

One80 is a Mechanicsburg-based organization dedicated to meeting the physical and spiritual needs of our community and fostering Christ-centered relationships with people from all walks of life. To learn more about how you can support this ministry, stop by the missions display in the main entrance hallway or visit one80ministries.org.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Men's Breakfast | THIS SATURDAY, March 2, 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.

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

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



GENEROUS GIVER

Christian Fellowship Class Peanut Butter Eggs | Orders due Sunday, March 10

Get your peanut butter eggs just in time for Easter! Eggs are sold in packs of six for \$10 each. Contact Nancy Rouch (mwrner@aol.com or 717-258-8954) to place your order. Pick up your eggs in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 16, or on March 17 after Sunday School or either worship service.

Handbell Choir Sub Fundraiser | Orders due Thursday, March 14

Support our handbell choir by purchasing an R&K sub! Place your order on the forms outside the sanctuary entrances or by contacting a handbell choir member. Pick up your subs in the multipurpose room between 9:30 and noon on Sunday, March 24.

Ham Loaves

First Church will not host its annual Ham Loaf Dinner this year, but ham loaves are still available for purchase. Contact Bob Hamsher or Kathie Bittenbender to place your order.

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 |
Wednesdays 5 p.m.

Passion Play Experience |
March 28

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

Easter Sunrise Service | March 31

Youth Sunday | April 7

Mission Trip | June 30-July 6

Thanks for joining us in worship!

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|-----------|---|
| 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)

EASTER FLOWERS

Honor your loved ones and beautify our sanctuary this Easter! To order your lilies, fill out this form and return it to the church office or call or email the office (office@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611) by 3 p.m. on Monday, March 4.

Flowers cost \$11 each. Checks can be made out to First United Methodist Church (with "Easter flowers" on the memo line).

QUANTITY: _____ **TOTAL: \$** _____

☐ In Honor OR ☐ In Memory OF: _____

☐ In Honor OR ☐ In Memory OF: _____

☐ In Honor OR ☐ In Memory OF: _____

PLACED BY: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Please pick up your flowers between Easter morning worship on Sunday, March 31, and Wednesday, April 10. Flowers not claimed by April 10 will be disposed of.





Rejoicing Spirits

Today at 4 p.m.

All are welcome to join us on the fourth Sunday of each month for a "shush-free" service that celebrates all expressions of worship!

