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**WELCOME TO**

**First United  
Methodist Church**

**MECHANICSBURG, PA**



**REMEMBER**



*God's Covenants and the Cross*

# **"From Jeremiah to Jesus: A Covenant of the Heart"**

**FOUNDATION SERVICE**

**MARCH 17, 2024**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
Welcome  
Call to Worship

Hymn  
*"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" - No. 400*

Prayer of St. Patrick

Choir Anthem  
*"In the Garden"*

Scripture  
*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Chorus  
*"Change My Heart, O God"*

Sermon  
*"From Jeremiah to Jesus: The Covenant of the Heart"*

Hymn  
*"Near to the Heart of God" - No. 472*

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

Closing Hymn  
*"O Jesus, I Have Promised" - No. 396*

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, Ken Rapp, Jim Robinson, Sarah Pugh

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God's Covenants *and the* Cross

# **“From Jeremiah to Jesus: A Covenant of the Heart”**

THE GATHERING SERVICE

MARCH 17, 2024

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

*"Reckless Love"*

*"Rest on Us"*

Wee Worship & Kids Worship Dismissal

*"The Heart of Worship"*

Scripture

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Sermon

*"Jeremiah to Jesus: The Covenant of the Heart"*

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Offering

*"Christ Be Magnified"*

Benediction

Postlude

## ***LEADING IN WORSHIP***

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Pastor Lisa Aronson

Worship Team.....John McHenry, Sarah Pugh, Lauren Sanker, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media..... Jim Murdoch, Ken Rapp, Jim Robinson, Sarah Pugh

# COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

## WEEK OF MARCH 17

### **Mom Connection**

Monday, 6 p.m.

### **Women's Lent Study**

Tuesday, 1:45 p.m.

### **Men's Group**

Wednesday, 8 p.m.

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## WEEK OF MARCH 24

### **Rejoicing Spirits**

Sunday, 4 p.m.

### **Passion Play Experience**

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

### **Good Friday Prayer Walk**

Friday, 11 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 MARCH 17

### **Sunday**

Worship

### **Monday**

Mark 11:1-11

### **Tuesday**

Psalms 118

### **Wednesday**

Isaiah 50:4-9

### **Thursday**

Philippians 2:5-11

### **Friday**

Mark 14:1-15:47

### **Saturday**

Rest and Reflect

## ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary by Jim and Gail Siemons.

## MACHE BASKET

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Judy Rickards by John Rickards and family.

# TEACHING NOTES

## Jeremiah to Jesus: The Covenant of the Heart

### Jeremiah 31:31-34

*"The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah."*

Jeremiah 31:31

*And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is **the new covenant** in my blood."*

Luke 22:20

1. God is making **a new covenant** because God's people have been unfaithful.

*"It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband," says the Lord.*

Jeremiah 31:32

*"One of the most consistent themes in the story of the people who wrestle with God—from Abraham's descendants and continuing through us is human inconsistency. And the most consistent theme is God's faithfulness in the face of human infidelity."*

– Susan Robb, Remember (p. 81)

2. God is making **a new covenant** because God cares about the condition of our hearts.

*"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the Lord: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

Jeremiah 31:33

"The older I get, the more I come to understand that the things we possess can never bring us ultimate happiness. Contrary to what's implied in commercials, nothing we buy can ever take away our loneliness or fill our emptiness or heal our brokenness."

– Fred Rogers

3. Jesus initiates **the new covenant**.

*"No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," says the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more."*

Jeremiah 31:34

"History demonstrates our repeated failure to curb our bent toward wandering, self-centeredness, corruption, stony hearts, or violence. But God's grace has the ability to reach into our hearts and change us."

– Susan Robb, Remember (p. 90)

<sup>34</sup> *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 13:34-35

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **LIFELONG LEARNER**

### **Mom Connection | THIS MONDAY, March 18, 6:30 p.m.**

This group connects moms of children (newborns through high school age) who are seeking friendship, support and encouragement along the parenting journey. Monthly meetings begin with dinner followed by a theme-based topic designed to help develop connections and offer support, inspiration, and resources for Christ-centered parenting. Sign up now at [funchurch.com](https://funchurch.com) or on Church Center.

### **Vacation Bible School | July 15-19**

Save the date for VBS 2024! We'll announce this year's theme and open registration on Sunday, April 21.



## **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@funchurch.com](mailto:wecare@funchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112).



## **PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER**

### **Rejoicing Spirits | Sunday, March 24, 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.



## **DEDICATED MISSIONARY**

### **March Mission Focus: 2024 Special Sunday Offerings**

The Susquehanna Conference observes 23 special Sundays throughout the year, which highlight and support different ministries and missions within the United Methodist Church. Historically, congregations (including First Church) would collect special offerings on these Sundays to support the specific ministries. Today, First Church has a unified budget and supports all 23 of these ministries during the year. Our Missions Committee is grateful to partner with so many of these wonderful programs. Check out the display in the main entrance hallway to learn more about the many ways First Church's generosity stretches far beyond our church walls.



## **Mission Central Collections**

The Missions Committee is collecting gently used shoes and new pens for Mission Central. Drop off your donations at the collection site by the main entrance door.

## **Church Work Day | Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m.**

Anyone is welcome to come to the Trustees' annual Work Day at the church and parsonage to help with outdoor cleanup, mulching and other projects. Please bring gardening equipment if you have any.



## **RELATIONSHIP BUILDER**

## **First Step Gathering | Sunday, April 14, 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

New to First Church or haven't been around for a while? Stop by room 207 to get to know Pastor Denny, our staff and other newcomers, and learn about opportunities to take your next step in faith at First Church. Register for this event on our website ([fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com)), on the Church Center app or by contacting Katie Knorr ([kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)).

## **Summer Camp Registration is Open!**

Register online ([suscrm.org](http://suscrm.org)) and send your confirmation to Camp Coordinators Debb Noss ([sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) and Amy Ortiz ([amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com)) to be paired with a prayer partner and receive financial assistance from First Church. You can also contact our Camp Coordinators to become a prayer partner, support a camper financially, sign up for a campsite workday, or learn more about the Camp and Retreat Ministry.

## **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](mailto: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.



## **GENEROUS GIVER**

## **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.

## **Mission Central Collections**

The Missions Committee is collecting gently used shoes and new or gently used pens for Mission Central. Drop off your donations at the collection site by the main entrance door. Thank you for your support!

## 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 14**

**Mission Trip | June 30-July 6**

*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)

# THE PASSION PLAY EXPERIENCE

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.



*Experience an interactive retelling of the Easter story!  
No tickets are required for this free, all-ages event.*



GOOD FRIDAY

# PRAYER WALK

Mechanicsburg Borough  
Fri. March 29  
11 AM - 12:15 PM

Led by local pastors, prayer walkers will start at one of the prayer sites and then cover the surrounding area in prayer.

All participants will join together at 12:00 PM at the Mechanicsburg First Church of God on the square (28 East Main Street) for closing prayer and worship. All are welcome!

## PRAYER SITES

Mechanicsburg Area Senior High  
500 South Broad Street

First United Methodist Church  
135 West Simpson Street

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
117 West Keller Street

Soldiers & Sailors  
Memorial Park  
1 Memorial Park Drive

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
132 East Main Street

Turning Point Church  
201 East Green Street

*Visit Mechanicsburg & Upper Allen Area Churches Facebook Page for more information.*