

---

**WELCOME TO**

**First United  
Methodist Church**

**MECHANICSBURG, PA**



**EASTER**

**• AT FIRST CHURCH •**



**“An Easter of My Own”**

**FOUNDATION SERVICE**

**MARCH 31, 2024**

---

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
Welcome  
Call to Worship

Hymn  
*"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" - No. 302*

Affirmation of Faith

Handbell Anthem  
*"A Wondrous Beauty I See"*

The Gospel  
*John 20:1-18*

Choir Anthem  
*"Rejoice, He is Alive"*

Sermon  
*"An Easter of My Own"*

Hymn  
*"He Lives" - No. 310*

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer  
Announcements and Offering  
Offering Response and Offering Prayer

Closing Hymn  
*"Up from the Grave He Arose" - No. 322*

Benediction  
Postlude

## ***LEADING IN WORSHIP***

Preaching.....Pastor Dennis Keller  
Liturgist.....Sarah Pugh  
Accompanist.....Brandon Rhody  
Special Music.....Sounds of Worship, Handbell Choir, George Canonizado,  
Kathie Bittenbender  
Sound and Media.....Ron Nichols, Ken Rapp, Michael Garman, Jim Murdoch

---

**WELCOME TO**

**First United  
Methodist Church**

**MECHANICSBURG, PA**



# EASTER

• AT FIRST CHURCH •



**“An Easter of My Own”**

**THE GATHERING SERVICE**

**MARCH 31, 2024**

---

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Praise and Worship

*"Holy Forever"*

*"This Is Amazing Grace"*

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

*"Revelation Song"*

Scripture

*John 20:1-18*

*"Living Hope"*

Sermon

*"An Easter of My Own"*

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Offering

*"Because of Jesus"*

Benediction

Postlude

## ***LEADING IN WORSHIP***

Pastor.....Pastor Dennis Keller

Worship Leader.....Sarah Pugh

Worship Team.....Steve Almond, John McHenry, Trace Morgan, Sarah Pugh,  
Lauren Sanker, Cynthia Smith

Sound and Media..... Ron Nichols, Ken Rapp, Michael Garman, Jim Murdoch

# COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

## WEEK OF MARCH 31

**Martha Circle**  
Tuesday, 1 p.m.

**Bible Study**  
Wednesday, 6:45 p.m.

**Men's Breakfast (Off Site)**  
Saturday, 7:30 a.m.

---

## WEEK OF APRIL 7

**Moms In Prayer**  
Monday, 7:30 p.m.

**Pickleball in the Park**  
Tuesday, 5 p.m.

**Covered In Love**  
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

---

*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 31

<b>Sunday</b>	Easter Worship
<b>Monday</b>	Acts 4:32-35
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalms 133
<b>Wednesday</b>	I John 1:1-2:2
<b>Thursday</b>	John 20:19-25
<b>Friday</b>	John 20:26-31
<b>Saturday</b>	Rest and Reflect

### ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Tina Eaton and Tom Ziegler from the FUMC staff.

### MACHE BASKET

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Philp to honor her birthday on March 30 from her loved ones.

# TEACHING NOTES

## "An Easter of My Own"

John 20:1-18



*Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me.*

Revelation 3:20

1. For **Simon Peter**, Easter opens the door to **a new beginning**.

*<sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.*

John 20:6-7

*Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.*

Mark 14:72

*"Do you love me?..."*

*Do you love me?..."*

*Do you love me?..."*

John 21:15-17

Christ invites me to **let go** and **start anew!**

2. For **John**, Easter opens the door to **a new answer to life's most important question.**

"What brings people to worship – not just on Easter, but any day – is the unspoken question clinging to their hearts and minds, and that question is this: **'Is it true?'** Is it true that God lives and gives life?"

– Karl Barth  
(20th century theologian)

*<sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.*

John 20:8-9

*<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us...*

1 John 1:1-2

Christ invites me to **fellowship with God!**

3. For **Mary Magdalene**, Easter opens the door to **a new life's purpose.**

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.*

John 20:17-18

Christ invites me to **lavish grace on those around me.**

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 13:35

# 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](http://fumchurch.com)) for the most up-to-date listing of classes and the topics they are studying. Two new studies begin in April:

- **“1 Thessalonians: Living for Christ” | Begins April 7**

*Leader: Tina Eaton*

*Location: Room B006*

- **“Unshakeable Hope” | Begins April 7**

*Leader: Wayde Leister*

*Location: Room B003*

### **Wednesday Bible Study | Begins April 10, 6:45 p.m.**

Join Pastor Denny for a new five-week study, “Exploring Spiritual Guidance: The Spirit of Christ” (part 5 of the full “Companions in Christ” study series) in room B003. Learn more and sign up at our website ([fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com)), on the Church Center app or by contacting Pastor Denny ([pastordenny@fumchurch.com](mailto:pastordenny@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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

### **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](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)) if you have questions or want to join this group.

---

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





## **DEDICATED MISSIONARY**

### **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**

### **Pickleball in the Park | Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.**

Join us for some fun and games on the pickleball courts at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park! No experience is necessary, and paddles and balls will be available to borrow. Contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611, ext. 112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)) with questions or to be added to the email list for updates and alerts.

### **Men's Breakfast | THIS SATURDAY, April 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.

### **Disability Community Resource Fair | THIS SATURDAY, April 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Stop by Shepherdstown United Methodist Church (1934 S. York St.) to meet representatives from over 40 local resource organizations and enjoy fun family activities. Learn more on the Disability Community Resource Fair Facebook page.

---



## **GENEROUS GIVER**

### **Change for Water**

Water is the foundation of our very lives. Yet, according to the United Nations, over 2 billion people around the world lack access to clean, readily available drinking water. Help us to support well-digging efforts in Africa by dropping your loose change (or even paper bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket in the lobby in front of the multipurpose room.

### **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](http://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.

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

## 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

**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)

---

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

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

# EASTER FLOWERS

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Dr. & Mrs. Howard Fugate, Jr. ....	The Fugate Family
John A. Marr .....	The Fugate Family
Karen Marr Philp .....	The Fugate Family
My mom, dad, sister and two brothers .....	Martha Gerfin
Our parents, Glenn and Dolores Herring and Betty Good .....	Rick and Patti Herring
Ray "Skip" Hutter .....	The Hutter Family
Our parents, Glen and Betsy Kurtz and Dolores Walker .....	John and Denise Kurtz
Anita Bair .....	Debra Anita Lehmer
Barbara Kline .....	Krissy Marshall
Denny and Vicky Nally and Chuck and Gerri Keys .....	Preston Nally
William A. Ortiz .....	Matthew and Amy Ortiz
Mary Garrett .....	Bill and Karen Richie
Carl and Sonja Richie .....	Bill and Karen Richie
Earl W. Sollenberger .....	Jody Sollenberger
Our parents .....	Bob and Judy Wertz
Don, Frances, and John Zimmerman and Paul and Helen Finkenbinder .....	Murph and Lela Zimmerman
Harold and Doris Zimmerman .....	Steven Zimmerman
Merle and Della Zimmerman .....	Steven Zimmerman
Mark Zywan and Polly Blum .....	Karen Zywan and Ed Blum

## PLACED BY

## IN HONOR OF

Janice Bowen .....	Martha Gerfin
Pastor Denny and Betsy Keller .....	Martha Gerfin
Our dad, Don Good .....	Rick and Patti Herring
Sue Higgins .....	Debra Anita Lehmer

## PLACED BY

Donation to the stained glass windows given in loving memory of William Seig  
by Marilyn Seig and family.

Donation to the stained glass windows given in loving memory of loved ones  
by Beryl Morgan.



# FIRST STEP GATHERING

Sunday, April 14 | 9:45-10:45 a.m. | Room 207

---

Get to know Pastor Denny and the staff, learn about First Church and determine the best next step to grow in your faith!

Sign up at **fumchurch.com**, on the Church Center app, or by contacting Katie Knorr (**kidscount@fumchurch.com**).