



# First News First

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

*From the Pastor's Desk.....*

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## "Jesus Calls Us to the Center"

Near the end of his life, Rembrandt captured one of the most beautiful scenes in the Bible in his painting, "The Return of the Prodigal Son." At the center of the painting, the son kneels humbly at his father's feet. His clothes are tattered, and his body is thin and frail. Weeping, he buries his head in the father's robe. The father looks weary, but his face is full of compassion. He stands over his son with his hands tenderly placed on the young man's shoulders.

The father and son are the focal point of the painting, but they're not the only characters. There are four others in Rembrandt's masterpiece: two women and two men. One woman stands at a distance, in a dark corner. She is indifferent to the beautiful reunion. Another woman leans against a wall, a look of curiosity on her face. A third character, a man, is seated. While this powerful scene at the center of the painting takes place, he stares into space as if daydreaming. The other man, thought to be the older brother, stands upright, seeming quite upset as he watches the father so lovingly embrace the prodigal.

I first saw a print of this painting 30 years ago, after hearing the late spiritual writer, Father Henri Nouwen, lecture at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. Since then, I've had a small copy of it in my study. Looking at it reminds me of when Nouwen invited us to consider where we see ourselves in the painting. He asked, "Do you see yourself at the center of the painting, the repentant sinner receiving the warm embrace of the merciful Father? Or, are you one of the bystanders, looking on from a distance, but not entering into a relationship with the Father?"

Nouwen helped me to see that it's possible to be quite religious without really knowing God. One can attend worship, participate in a Sunday School class or a small group Bible study, serve on a church committee, do all sorts of good deeds, and still remain detached from a personal relationship with the heavenly Father. Christianity is not about the practice of outward forms. It is about a dynamic relationship with God that transforms our lives.

Rembrandt's painting calls us to the center. At the center is that place where we confess, as the prodigal did, that we have sinned and repent. At the center is also grace and forgiveness. We are welcomed into the Father's loving arms. We come to know, in a deeply personal way, peace and joy, which none of our wanderings could ever provide.

As we continue our Lenten journey this March, I encourage you to step into the center. Kneel before your heavenly Father. Confess your needs. Let His loving arms embrace you, as you remember Jesus' sufferings, death, and resurrection!

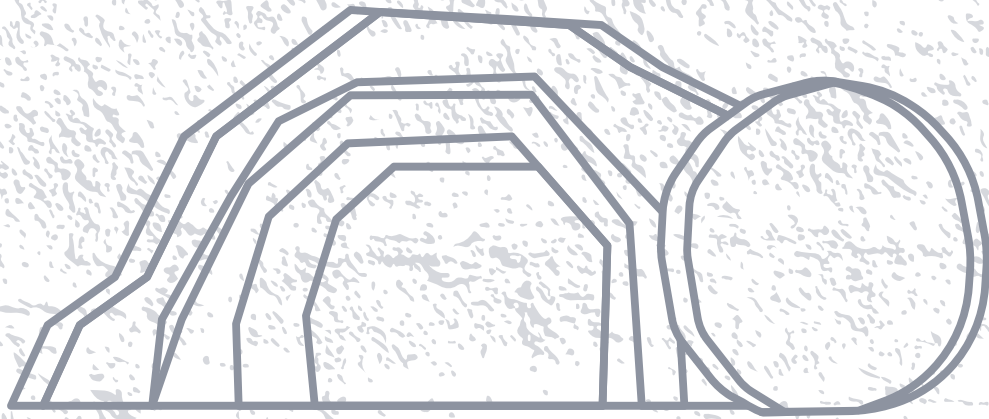
Celebrating the amazing grace of God with you,

Pastor Denny



# EASTER

• AT FIRST CHURCH •



**6:45 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE**  
Mechanicsburg Cemetery

**7:30 A.M. BREAKFAST**  
Fellowship Hall

**8:30 A.M. FOUNDATION SERVICE**  
Sanctuary

**11 A.M. THE GATHERING SERVICE**  
Sanctuary (Green Chair Side)

# Sermon Series

## "Remember: God's Covenants and the Cross"

Sunday, March 3	"Moses and Israel: Words of Life and Freedom"
Sunday, March 10	"David: An Eternal Covenant"
Sunday, March 17	"From Jeremiah to Jesus: The Covenant of the Heart"
Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday: "Jesus and the New Covenant"
Thursday, March 28 6:30 p.m.	The Passion Play Experience
Sunday, March 31 6:45 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service (Mechanicsburg Cemetery) Easter Services 8:30 and 11 a.m.

*Lifelong Learner*



Whether you're just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple or becoming a fully devoted follower, there's always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

### Daily Bible Reading Plan

God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan in our weekly worship bulletin and on our church website ([fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com)).

### 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. If you have questions, contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)).

### All-Church Study for Lent

Join us for "Remember: God's Covenants and the Cross," our small group study and sermon series for Lent. Together, we're exploring four foundational covenants between God and his people, then connecting those sacred promises to the fulfillment of God's plan through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Sign up on the Church Center app or at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com). The book upon which this study and sermon series are based (written by Susan Robb) is available to purchase through any major book retailer as an optional add-on for those interested in further enriching their experience. Contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 104) with questions.

### Lent Discipleship Guide

Lent is a perfect time to practice a new spiritual discipline. These practices invite God to take up

residence in us and produce in us the kind of person He desires us to be. Pick up a Lenten Discipleship Guide at church and give the spiritual disciplines detailed in the guide a try. Then, actively look for the ways God is both with you and with us as the body of Christ throughout the Lent and Easter season!

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

This group enjoys great fellowship while focusing on discussion-based Bible studies. Dive deeper into the Gospel of Matthew as you discuss Jesus's life, death and resurrection in their current study about Easter by Pastor J.D. Greear. Contact Barry Eaton for more details.

### **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. On the first and third Monday of each month, they meet at Strock's Corn Crib for a large group gathering that features worship and teaching from a local speaker. On the second and fourth Mondays, they meet at the home of Zoe Mazi Executive Director Shannon Zimmerman for a time of small group discussion. Find more details and get connected at [zoemazi.org](http://zoemazi.org)



### **Mom Connection**

This group connects moms of children (newborns through high school age) with other moms who are seeking friendship, support and encouragement along the parenting journey. The group meets monthly from September through May. Meetings begin with dinner followed by a theme-based topic designed to help develop connections and offer support (spiritual, emotional, practical), inspiration, and resources for Christ-centered parenting. Suggested donation of \$5 per meeting to cover program materials and dinner. Sign up now at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) or on Church Center. Contact Katie Knorr ([kids-count@fumchurch.com](mailto:kids-count@fumchurch.com)) or Lisa Aronson ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) with questions.

### **Deborah Circle | Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.**

All women are invited to join the Deborah Circle for their next meeting in room 105. Kathie Bittenbender will lead the group. Contact Sandy Walton ([717-433-3687](tel:717-433-3687)) for more details.

### **Healing Through Music Events**

Professional singer and harpist Jess Browning will tell of her experience as a survivor of childhood sexual assault and how she found music as a tool for healing. Jess will speak in Dickinson College's Rubendall Recital Hall on Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m. On Sunday, April 28, Jess will lead a Harp and Yoga event at Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg at 2 p.m., followed by her Healing Through Music talk at 4:15. Learn more at [blewharp.com](http://blewharp.com).

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

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

### **From the Library**

I'm writing this article on a dreary day, and I think there have been way too many of these gray days lately. While the earth needs rain, I feel like I need a little sunshine. But, I'll take my mind off the gloom by telling you about some great books in our library. A little later when I am reading, I'm sure I won't notice the gloom at all. See if that works for you.

Last year, the library introduced a new author, Sharon Mondragon, who wrote *The Unlikely Yarn of the Dragon Lady*. If you missed this heartwarming tale, you might want to read that first. The book features a ladies' knitting circle, whose pastor booted them out of the church to make their ministry and outreach project. When they start knitting in a mall, they encounter many new people. In her second book, Mondragon centers her group in a retirement community. Most of the community is living a life of book clubs, golfing and splashing in the pool. But,





for the marriages torn apart with one of the partners living in the memory care unit, life is not so good. *The Tangled Tale of the Woolgathering Castoffs* will tug at your heartstrings as the women not only knit for enjoyment, but also to solve the problems of their neighbors in any way they can. They start each meeting with a prayer for their neighbors and warmly welcome anyone who stops by their group. The women have different personalities, but they all look to the Lord for answers. In my favorite review of this book, someone said they didn't know how much fun the adventures of the elderly knitting would be. Don't miss this sweet and inspirational read!

If octogenarians knitting isn't your kind of book, Janice Cantore's romantic suspense novel might be more your style. *One Final Target* is a fictional story about the danger our first responders face in real life. Sergeant Jodie King's team was out on a routine assignment of serving a warrant. When they knocked on the door, a bomb went off killing all her teammates and friends. The grief and the trauma caused Jodie to leave the police department. Weeks later she returned to the bombing site to try and find some peace, only to be shot at again. Luckily for her Sam Gresham, the newest detective for the county sheriff's department, was near the scene. Sam knew about grief too, having lost his partner and friend in a crash caused by a drunk driver. The two bond by understanding what the other is feeling, and they throw themselves into finding out who is trying again to kill Jodie – and wondering if she was the real target in the bombing. This book will keep you from your housework until you turn the last page.

By the way, I want to mention that Lynette Eason's book *Double Take*, which I reviewed last month, has been a hit with a couple of the library patrons who have had a chance to read it. They said it was one of the better books they have read in a long time and can't wait for Eason's next installment in the Lake City Heroes series. Unfortunately, the second book *Target Acquired* won't be out till August. Good thing we have plenty of other options on the shelves.

See you in the library,

Pam, Mary, Annette, Debra, Sue, Marge and Donna

**Susquehanna Conference  
Camp & Retreat  
ministry**

**REGISTER NOW FOR  
SUMMER CAMP!**

**Visit [suscrm.org](http://suscrm.org) to register  
and see a complete list of  
2024 camps and retreats!**

**GROW IN FAITH // MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS  
ENJOY NATURE // HAVE FUN**

**SPECIAL OFFERS:**  
*Early Bird Discount* - Save \$25 if you register by May 1.  
*Sibling Discount* - Register the one at full price, and additional siblings receive a \$25 discount.  
*Invite-a-Friend Gift* - Invite a friend who has never been to camp and receive \$50 off the cost of camp.  
*Financial Assistance* - First Church will pay half of your camp fees! Camperships are also available through the Camp and Retreat Ministry.

**ASK GOD HOW HE WANTS  
YOU TO USE YOUR GIFTS FOR  
HIM THIS YEAR.**

**WILL YOU:**

- Attend a camp, retreat or event?
- Volunteer as a Dean, Nurse or Counselor?
- Provide financial aid to support campers and camp?
- Help with a work camp at one of the sites?
- Become a summer employee at camp?
- Be a prayer partner for a camper?

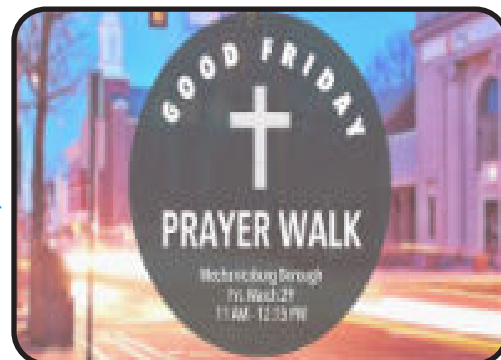
**FIRST CHURCH CAMP COORDINATORS:**  
**Deb Noss:** [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)  
**Amy Ortiz:** [amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com)

## Praying Follower



### Good Friday Prayer Walk | Friday, March 29, 11 a.m.

Cover our community in prayer! Meet at one of the prayer sites and go on a guided walk (led by local pastors) to pray for the surrounding area. Participants are also invited to join together at noon at Mechanicsburg First Church of God (28 East Main Street) for a closing prayer and worship. Watch for more details on our website and the Church Center app. Contact Lori Hoffnagle ([L\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:L_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)) with questions.



### 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, led by Deb Noss, meets on Monday evenings in room 105, and all mothers and grandmothers are invited! No prayer experience is required, and your child can be of any age or stage of life. 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



### Rejoicing Spirits | Sunday, March 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.

### Passion Play Experience | Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

For thirty years, First Church has performed a Passion Play where children, youth, and adults share the story of Jesus leading up to his death and resurrection. The Passion Play Experience will take the audience along the journey of Jesus from Palm Sunday to the resurrection. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this interactive performance – no tickets or preregistration required!



### Upcoming Choir Tributes

On Sunday, March 17, our Sounds of Worship choir will sing an anthem in memory of friend and accompanist Karen Philp. Additionally, the Women of Light sing on Sunday, April 28 in memory of Karen. Join us in honoring her wonderful spirit and talent!

### Easter Morning Worship | Sunday, March 31

Celebrate the risen King with us! Join us for a sunrise service at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at 6:45 a.m., followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall. We'll also worship together at 8:30 and 11 a.m.



MECHANICSBURG AREA CHURCHES invite the community to the

# GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK

**Friday, March 29th | 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.



## *Dedicated Missionary*



### **Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, March 20, 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 members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. To find out how you can help or if you would like to carpool, please contact Tiffany Holland ([tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com)).

### **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!

## *Relationship Builder*



### **March Hospitality Tip: The Joy of Easter**

Typically, when visitors attend an Easter church service, they're greeted with an especially welcoming and joyful spirit among the church members. People are in a festive holiday mood, and it shows in how they interact with visitors. But, if those visitors return a few weeks later, will they receive that same welcoming and joyful spirit? We need to maintain that same warm and welcoming presence throughout the year! Our Christian tradition maintains that every Sunday is a "little Easter." Let's remember to sustain the enthusiasm and joy of Easter so that weekly visitors experience the same welcoming spirit they encounter on special holidays!



### **Men's Breakfast | 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.

### **Widows and Widowers Lunch | Tuesday, March 12, 11:30 a.m.**

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

### **Joy in the Morning | Monday, March 18, 1-2 p.m.**

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this small group. We meet monthly on Monday afternoons on Zoom (in the winter months) or at Bethany Village. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings and devotionals. For more information, contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112).

### **Welcome Spring Senior Day | Wednesday, April 3, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Enjoy a picturesque ride to Mount Asbury Retreat Center for an afternoon of fellowship, delicious food, time soaking in the beauty of nature, and a guided experience painting a picture. Bring \$21 to cover the cost of the experience and lunch. Contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112) to reserve your spot.

### **Third Friday Food Trucks | Starts April 19, 4:30-8 p.m.**

The food trucks are back for another season! This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere. Each month, we welcome six to seven gourmet food trucks that serve a variety of delicious foods! We're always looking for help with set up and clean up. If you're interested in lending a hand with setting up or taking down the tables and chairs, we'd love to have you! Contact Lori Hoffnagle ([L\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:L_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)) for more details. The dates for the 2024 Third Friday Food Trucks are April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, and Oct. 18. See you there!



## Retirement Celebration for Pastor Denny and Betsy | Sunday, June 9, 4:30-7 p.m.

Save the date for a celebration in the multipurpose room honoring Pastor Denny and Betsy! More details to come.



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

Join us for some fun and games in the multipurpose room! No experience is necessary, and paddles and balls will be available to borrow. Contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel: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.

## Greeting Cards to Share!

Want to send well wishes for a happy birthday or speedy recovery to a friend? Stop by our greeting card display in the lobby outside the multipurpose room and help yourself to a card! If you'd like a bigger supply of cards or ideas of church members who would appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112).

## Visiting with Friends!

If you miss seeing your friends at church due to issues such as aging or driving limitations, Janice Bowen would like to hear from you! Janice is interested in taking people with her for visits so that friends can remain connected by visiting in person with one another. Whether you are feeling "stuck at home," no longer able to get out to church, or are simply missing your friends who can't get out as much, Janice would love to hear from you! Contact Janice for more information ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112).

## Generous Giver



## Financial Report

Through Jan. 31, 2024

8% of year

General Fund	
2024 Budget	\$925,398
Expected Income – YTD	\$71,184 (8% of budget)
Actual Income – YTD	\$67,920 (7% of budget)
Actual expenses – YTD	\$81,662 (9% of budget)

In the financial report for the first month of 2024, contributions are slightly behind the budget, while expenses are above our budget. We expect giving to catch up to the budget as we move through the year. Expenses in the month are higher because we made our full year budgeted payment of \$10,000 against our loans. Our remaining borrowing on the parsonage has been reduced to \$40,751, and the bell tower loan is down to \$58,869, thanks to the continued support from our congregation.

We're grateful to all our congregation and guests who continue to support the work of First Church, as we serve the Lord by opening doors for all to know salvation through Jesus. We continue to ask for your prayers, presence and support through service and gifts to First Church's mission. We look forward to having you join us this Lenten season as we serve the King together.

## 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 Routh ([mwrner@aol.com](mailto:mwrner@aol.com) or [717-258-8954](tel:717-258-8954)) to place your order. Pick up your eggs in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 16, after 12 p.m. 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.

### **Egg Your Yard**

Wake up easter morning to a yard full of plastic eggs filled with sweet surprises! Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit First Church Youth's summer mission trip. Sign up on Church Center to ensure your location is within our radius and to specify the number of eggs you want.



### **Squares and Prayers Fabric Need**

First Church's quilting group is in need of upholstery fabric. This will be used to make bags for walkers, as well as bags to donate to Mission Central. Contact Nancy Eddy for more details.

### **Little Free Pantry**

Thanks so much for your support of the Little Free Pantry through your donations and monetary contributions. We are building up our supply to stock the pantry, but we still welcome your donations, which can be dropped off at the church office or at the alley entrance in the marked basket. We're blessed to offer this barrier-free access point to food to our neighbors. If you have questions about the Little Free Pantry, please contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)).

### **Change for Water**

Water is the foundation of our very lives. Yet, according to CDC estimates, only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water! Help us to support well-digging in Sierra Leone by dropping your loose change (or even paper bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket located in the lobby in front of the multipurpose room. Donations from January totaled \$10.15.

## *First Church Mission Moments...*

### **Mission Moment: 2024 Special Sunday Offerings**

The Susquehanna Conference observes 23 special Sundays each year. Each of these Sundays highlights a different ministry or mission within the United Methodist Church, such as Human Relations Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday and World Communion Sunday. 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 throughout the year.

Our Missions Committee is grateful to partner with so many of these wonderful programs and wants to share how First Church's generosity stretches far beyond our church walls. We encourage you to check out the display in the main entrance hallway to learn more about the many ministries we support.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Missions Committee Treasurer Mike Ogden or myself.

Thank you for all the ways you help us spread God's love in our community and around the globe!

In Christ,

Debbie Karns  
Missions Committee Chair



# Daily Bible Readings March 2024

Friday, March 1  
Saturday, March 2  
Sunday, March 3

Exodus 20:1-17  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship

Monday, March 4  
Tuesday, March 5  
Wednesday, March 6  
Thursday, March 7  
Friday, March 8  
Saturday, March 9  
Sunday, March 10

Numbers 21:1-9  
Psalm 107:1-16  
Psalm 107:17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-19  
John 3:14-21  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship

Monday, March 11  
Tuesday, March 12  
Wednesday, March 13  
Thursday, March 14  
Friday, March 15  
Saturday, March 16  
Sunday, March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Psalm 51:13-19  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
John 12:20-33  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship

Monday, March 18  
Tuesday, March 19  
Wednesday, March 20  
Thursday, March 21  
Friday, March 22  
Saturday, March 23  
Sunday, March 24

Mark 11:1-11  
Psalm 118  
Isaiah 50:4-9  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship (**Palm Sunday**)

Monday, March 25  
Tuesday, March 26  
Wednesday, March 27  
Thursday, March 28  
Friday, March 29  
Saturday, March 30  
Sunday, March 31

John 13:1-17, 31-35  
I Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 18:1-19:43  
John 13 (**Maundy Thursday**)  
Mark 15:1-47 (**Good Friday**)  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship (**Easter Sunday**)



## News and Notes....

Thank you to my First Church family for all the prayers, cards, meals, phone calls, visits and love while recuperating from my shoulder replacement surgery. And, thank you to the Helping Hands class for the lovely planter. First Church family, you're the best!

– Marilyn Donak



*Help us celebrate special birthdays for our church members turning 80 or older!*

Gwen Harkins.....	March 3	Robert Meck.....	April 2
Pat Gavlick.....	March 9	Marilyn Seig.....	April 2
Ben Miller.....	March 12	Dee Farr.....	April 3
Larry Hall.....	March 13	Linda Hall.....	April 9
Sara Meck.....	March 15	Darlene Wilkinson.....	April 17
Marge Robinson.....	March 15	Janet Baker.....	April 25
Gail Siemons.....	March 15	Grace Brandt.....	April 25
Bob Wertz, Sr.....	March 17	Richard Schmick.....	April 26
Lorraine Strock.....	March 18	Terry Ketrow.....	April 26
Evelyn Fennell.....	March 25	Chuck Kershner.....	April 28
Mabel Strock.....	March 28		
Robert Erikson.....	March 29		
Buddy Miller.....	March 29		
Dave Scholl.....	March 31		



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**



- ♥ Dick and Marge Scott married April 2, 1963 for 58 years
- ♥ Terry and Marcy Ketrow married April 2, 1966 for 61 years.
- ♥ Elvin and Charlotte Hess married April 10, 1960 for 64 years.
- ♥ Ralph and Autumn Haines married April 17, 1965 for 59 years.
- ♥ Dean and Marty Otto married April 21, 1963 for 61 years.
- ♥ Donald and Kay Heiges married April 26, 1958 for 66 years.

**FIRST NEWS FIRST**  
EDITORS: Dawn Fisher  
Jennifer Myers

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
for the April 2024 issue is March **15**.  
Early submissions always appreciated!