



# First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

From the Pastor's Desk.....

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## “Let God’s Word Soak In”

*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I propose.*

Isaiah 55:10-11

It’s been a rainy spring so far! We had rain almost every day in April. And not the brief, storms that suddenly drench the hard soil, and quickly evaporate. This rain has been persistent, saturating the ground. I would’ve enjoyed a few more days of sunshine, but all this rain has given us lush green grass and blossoming trees and flowers.

Isaiah 55 gives us a beautiful picture of God’s faithfulness. Just as the earth is saturated with rain and snow, making it sprout and providing seed and bread, God’s Word will go forth and accomplish all that God proposes. The prophet envisions soaking in the Word of God. When God’s instruction floods our souls, we grow in His grace and wisdom.

While God’s Word is revealed to us in many ways, one of the most important is the Bible. Isaiah’s vision guides us toward receiving and responding to God’s Word. First, his image of every word that comes from God’s mouth falling like rain and snow reminds us that it takes time for the earth to become saturated. It doesn’t happen all at once. In the same way, **it takes time for our lives to be shaped by God’s Word.**

We need to set apart time and space in our lives to receive God’s Word. We receive God’s Word in worship and in small group study. We also receive it through a daily time reading the Bible and in prayer. We encourage you to take advantage of all the resources First Church provides to help you let God’s Word soak in. The Upper Room devotional is available online or on tables at the entrances to our sanctuary. In each month’s newsletter, and in our weekly bulletins, we provide daily readings that coincide with our worship themes. Numerous translations of the Bible are available online and in print, and you can always pick up a copy right inside the main entrance doors.

Secondly, Isaiah suggests that **how much Scripture you read** isn’t as important as **how you read it**. As we catch up on the daily news or enjoy a book, we tend to read quickly. The goal of reading the Bible, however, is to encounter God. We read slowly (maybe even out loud) so that the words can penetrate our hearts. Some will find a key verse and repeat it throughout the day, or write it down and post it somewhere as a reminder.

Thirdly, Isaiah’s words are filled with the promise that **growth is inevitable** when we receive and respond to God’s Word. By becoming saturated in Scripture, we become more like Jesus. As our hearts and minds are transformed, we learn to love others as Christ has loved us.

Isaiah invites us to be **Word-saturated people**. In your day-to-day life, and in your fellowship with one another, let God’s Word soak in. The Promise Maker is the Promise Keeper. His Word in you, in us, will produce far beyond what we can ask or imagine!

Letting the Word soak in with you,  
Pastor Denny



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. Keep an eye out for details on special summer classes and presentations!

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

This group meets at Bob Wertz, Jr.'s home and enjoys great fellowship while focusing on discussion-based Bible studies. In their current study, sportscaster James Brown and former NFL coach Tony Dungy explore how to live for God and serve him well. God has a purpose for you – are you ready to get on the field? Contact John Bowen for more information.

### **Wednesday Bible Study | Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.**

Join Pastor Denny as he continues the five-week study, "Exploring Spiritual Guidance: The Spirit of Christ" (part 5 of the full "Companions in Christ" study series) in room B003. Together, you'll explore the different ways we give and receive spiritual guidance through one-on-one conversation, small group accountability and Christian community. If you haven't previously participated in the study series, the workbook cost is \$8. 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)).

### **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 ([kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)) or Lisa Aronson ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) with questions.



### **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)

# FIRST CHURCH VBS 2024 // JULY 15-19



Register your child or sign up as a volunteer at [fumchurch.com/vbs2024](http://fumchurch.com/vbs2024) or on the Church Center app.  
*Kids registered by June 1 receive a free CD!*



## REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP!

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

### SPECIAL OFFERS:

**Sibling Discount** - Register the one at full price, and additional siblings receive a \$25 discount.

**Invite-a-Friend Discount** - 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.



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

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)



## Cru Evangelism Training | Sunday, May 19, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Striking up conversations about faith doesn't have to be intimidating! Join Cru missionaries Matt and LeeAnn Herring in the multipurpose room for a fun and interactive experience as you learn how to more effectively share the Gospel with people who don't know Jesus.

### From the Library

I have great news. First of all, the world didn't end during yesterday's solar eclipse (yes, that's usually predicted during unusual weather phenomena). And, today was not dreary. I think we've officially made it to spring! If all that good news hasn't already overwhelmed you, I'll also say we have some great new reads in the library. Let me get right to the books you'll want to read.

Melody Carlson is known for her short and sweet Christmas books, but she offers a sweet romance for the summer months. *Just for Summer* doesn't start as a romance, yet it seems to be headed that way. Two women, both in the hospitality industry and miles apart, discover that their jobs aren't right for them. Ginny Masters manages a boutique hotel in Seattle. While she's great at her job, the fast pace and her demanding boss keep her from having much of a life outside work. Meanwhile in Idaho, Jacqueline Potter manages her grandfather's fishing lodge because it's the only job she could find after college. She finds this backwoods hotel work stifling, if not downright boring. Ginny and Jacqueline decide to solve their problems by trading jobs for the summer. But, will a change of scenery really change their lives? Will both women be willing to trade back at the end of summer, or will they give up and run back to their old lives after two weeks? I'll let you sit on your porch swing, sip iced tea, and savor this sweet summer read.

If you're like me and prefer a little more excitement in your reading material, check out *Fatal Witness* by Patricia Bradley. This is the second book in her Pearl River Series. If you've caught your breath since reading her first book, *Counter Attack*, you know Bradley's suspenseful writing and realistic characters make it hard to stop reading, even long after bedtime. Dani Bennett has been living in Montana for 25 years under a new name. Her memory of the first nine years of her life was blocked out after Dani witnessed the murder of her parents. When her uncle whisked away from the rest of her family to protect her, Dani began pouring herself into her work as a potter. Unknown to her, Dani's grandmother, Mae, has never stopped looking for her granddaughter. When Mae stumbles across a picture in a pottery magazine, she knows it's her long-lost granddaughter. She asks K-9 officer Mark Lassiter of Pearl Springs, Tennessee to find Dani. But, someone else doesn't want Dani found and will go to great lengths to keep the past hidden. I think the bonus material in this book is the dogs each main character owns. They add to the story as only animals can.

As always, if neither of these books are right for you, stop in and let us help you find the right one.

See you in the library,

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



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, 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.





**Ecumenical Choir Concert | Sunday, May 19, 3 p.m.**

The Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches will feature more than 100 singers from over 30 local churches at its 35th annual concert. This free event will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Church (410 E. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg).



**FIRST CHURCH PRAISE RINGERS | MAY 5, 7 P.M**



**SARAH PUGH  
OCT. 13, 3 P.M.**



**FIRST UMC MECHANICSBURG'S  
2024 FREE  
CONCERT  
SERIES**



**BRANDON RHODY  
JULY 21, 3 P.M.**



**HOLIDAY HARMONY | DEC. 8, 7 P.M.**





**Mission Central's Grow with Us | Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Support Mission Central at its first plant and vendor fair. Enjoy shopping for seeds, plants, flowers, baked goods and handmade crafts from local artisans. The event will also feature music, activities for kids and tours of the Mission Central warehouse. Learn more at [missioncentral.org](http://missioncentral.org).

**Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, May 15, 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. Through December, we will also prepare the meal to share with our neighbors on the third Wednesday of the month. Contact Tiffany Holland ([tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com)) to find out how you can help.

**Gleaning at Oak Grove Farms | June 5, 6 p.m.**

According to Leviticus, God commanded the Israelites to leave some crops behind when harvesting their fields. This provided for the poor or hungry by allowing them to glean, or pick up leftover produce to eat. This growing season (June-October), we'll once again partner with Oak Grove Farms to glean crops on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet us in the parking lot before heading to the fields, where we'll collect produce to share with the Salem Shares Food Pantry at Fishing Creek Salem United Methodist Church, as well as to place in the four Little Free Pantries throughout downtown Mechanicsburg. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate. To learn more or be added to First Church's Glean Team, contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

**Food Truck Parking Lot Helpers Needed!**

At our Third Friday Food Trucks events, we provide free parking and parking attendants. Since most people who come to the event aren't familiar with our parking lot, we can show hospitality by offering guidance of where to park and how to enter and exit the lot. We're always in need of extra help during these events on the third Friday of each month from April to October. There are two shifts: 4:30-5:30 and 5:30-6:30 p.m. No experience us required, and our current volunteers will be happy to train you! If you're interested in helping, please contact Jeff Hoffnagle ([jeffrey.hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffrey.hoffnagle@yahoo.com)) for dates and details.



**May Hospitality Tip**

April showers bring May flowers, along with feelings of spring, sunshine, outdoor activities and hospitality to our neighbors! The Third Friday Food Trucks will return to our parking lot on May 17, and with it, the opportunity to extend Jesus' love to our community and beyond! We are truly blessed to have this opportunity to welcome people to our church and share the love of Christ with them. Hope to see you there!

**Men's Breakfast | Saturday, May 4, 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 John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if you are interested in attending.

### **Widows and Widowers Lunch | Tuesday, May 14, 11:30 a.m.**

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

### **Third Friday Food Trucks | May 17, 4:30-8 p.m.**

The food trucks are back for another season! Each month, we welcome five to six gourmet food trucks that serve a variety of delicious foods. This event is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere. This month, we welcome That's What Cheese Said, Audrey's Cup of Sunshine, Tomasic Sausage, Creative Crepes and Kokua Shaved Ice. 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.

### **Community Dinner | Sunday, May 19, 5 p.m.**

The next community dinner will be held at Mechanicsburg First Church of God (28 E. Main St.). This collaborative event with other local churches blesses the downtown community with a meal, music and a gift card drawing, free of charge. The concept comes from the book Welcome to Dinner, Church, which encourages churches to share a meal with their neighbors. We served over 100 neighbors and friends at the last meal! To learn more or volunteer, please contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)).

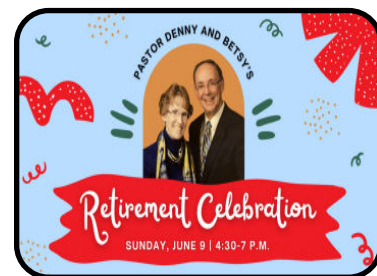


### **Joy in the Morning | Monday, May 13 1-2 p.m.**

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).

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

Join us to honor Pastor Denny and Betsy Keller for their many years of faithful service and joyfully celebrate their retirement! We will begin with a potluck dinner at 4:30 p.m. Please bring a side dish to share (we'll provide chicken, dessert and beverages). After dinner, a brief program will be held from about 5:30-6 p.m., followed by fun, fellowship and games until 7 p.m. Space will be limited so if you plan to attend, please register by May 19 at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) or on the Church Center app. You can also register by contacting the church office ([office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611)).



### **Jubilee Day Parking | June 20**

Did you know that our church parking lot is open to the public for free parking on Jubilee Day? Mechanicsburg's Jubilee Day is the largest, longest-running one-day street fair on the East Coast, attracting up to 70,000 attendees! As a service to the community, we provide parking with an optional donation to benefit First Church Youth's summer mission trip. If you'd like to help us practice radical hospitality on Jubilee Day, we'd love to hear from you! Sign up on Church Center or contact Lisa Aronson ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)). Thanks for helping us to open doors in our community!

### **Greeting Cards to Share!**

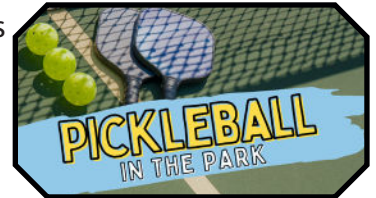
Want to send well wishes for a happy birthday or speedy recovery to a friend? Stop by our greeting card display in the lobby outside the multipurpose room and help yourself to a card! If you'd like a bigger supply of cards or ideas of church members who would appreciate receiving a card, please contact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

## Graduation Announcements

Graduates: we want to celebrate your accomplishments! Fill out the Graduation Announcements form on Church Center or at [fumchurch.com/2024grad](http://fumchurch.com/2024grad) so that we can honor your achievements, look forward to your future plans and stay in touch with you. Please also send a current photo of yourself to Pastor Lisa ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) to be shared in our graduate recognition newsletter and worship slides. Graduating high school seniors, remember to bring in a senior photo for our youth lounge.

## 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. If the weather is poor, we'll play in the church multipurpose room. 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.



## 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 March 21, 2024  
25% of year

General Fund	
2024 Budget	\$925,398
Expected Income – YTD	\$231,349 (25% of budget)
Actual Income – YTD	\$231,732 (25% of budget)
Actual expenses – YTD	\$232,244 (25% of budget)

Income for the four-week month of March was \$73,964, about \$2,000 ahead of our average four-week budget. As anticipated, expenses were a bit higher due to winter weather impacting costs of snow removal and heating fuel. For the year, expenses are right on target and in line with the contributions for the year. The church debt for the parsonage is now at \$40,751 and our bell tower loan is down to \$58,254.

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.

## First Church Scholarships | Applications due May 26

The First Church Trustees have available scholarships for the 2024-25 school year. If you're graduating high school or currently pursuing a postsecondary education, you can apply through the Church Center app, online ([fumchurch.com/scholarship2024](http://fumchurch.com/scholarship2024)), or by picking up a hard copy in the church office.



## Yard, Book and Bake Sale | Saturday, Aug. 17

Save the date for our annual Yard, Book and Bake Sale! Registrations for a vendor space at the yard sale will start July 1. All registrations will run through Church Center. The fee for a yard sale space will be \$15, and you'll be able to sign up for one or two spots. Watch for more details on registration information.

Start saving your wonderful treasures to donate to the Yard Sale, run by First Church Youth. Collection will start Monday, Aug. 5, in the multipurpose room. The Church Library is seeking donations of books, CDs, puzzles and movies (please no VHS tapes or encyclopedias). They will accept your donations anytime. Just place in the plastic tub outside the Church Library. We're so grateful for your continued support of this sale and look forward to this wonderful outreach to our community! Contact Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)) or Donna Nichols ([djnichols43@hotmail.com](mailto:djnichols43@hotmail.com)) with questions.

## Change for Water

Water is the foundation of our very lives. Yet, according to the United Nations, over 2 billion people 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 located in the lobby in front of the multipurpose room. Donations from April totaled \$17.45.

## 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)).

# First Church Mission Moments...

## Timeless Connections

Many factors impact mental health in the United States today, including political issues, social issues, racism, ageism, pressure to succeed, economic struggles, work and family life balance, tolerance or intolerance of differing views and lifestyles — just to name a few. When these become overwhelming and impact one's daily life, it is always a sign of strength, and not weakness, to seek help.

Timeless Connections is a life coaching practice with a focus on faith and hope. The practice is based out of First Church and operated by Patti Vogl, a Licensed Master Social Worker and Certified Grief Specialist with over 30 years of experience in individual and family counseling. Life coaching involves helping people to identify barriers, goals, and strengths, then working toward an action-oriented plan to live to their fullest potential. Timeless Connections offers hope to those struggling with grief and loss (death, divorce, loss of job, loss of home, etc.), relationship issues, anxiety, depression, and elder care issues, decision-making, and motivational strategies.

There are multiple ways to support Timeless Connections' ministry, including First Church's mental health fund to provide free or reduced-cost mental wellness services to those who are in need. This service is available to church members, as well as others in need in our community.

Timeless Connections will assess referrals for utilizing this fund and will provide help if the need falls into the scope of services provided by Timeless Connections. If Timeless Connections cannot provide services, resources and referrals will be provided.

To learn more, visit [timelessconnections.org](http://timelessconnections.org) or contact Patti ([pvogl@timelessconnections.org](mailto:pvogl@timelessconnections.org) or 717-766-4611, ext. 108).



# Daily Bible Readings May 2024

Wednesday, May 1	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Thursday, May 2	1 John 5:1-6
Friday, May 3	John 15:9-17
Saturday, May 4	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 5	Worship
Monday, May 6	Acts 1:1-11
Tuesday, May 7	1 John 5:9-13
Wednesday, May 8	Psalm 1
Thursday, May 9	Luke 24:44-53
Friday, May 10	John 17:6-19
Saturday, May 11	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 12	Worship
Monday, May 13	Acts 2:1-13
Tuesday, May 14	Acts 2:14-21
Wednesday, May 15	Psalm 104:24-35
Thursday, May 16	Romans 8:22-27
Friday, May 17	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Saturday, May 18	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 19	Worship
Monday, May 20	Isaiah 6:1-8
Tuesday, May 21	Psalm 29
Wednesday, May 22	Romans 8:12-27
Thursday, May 23	Ephesians 1:15-23
Friday, May 24	John 3:1-17
Saturday, May 25	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, May 26	Worship
Monday, May 27	1 Samuel 3:1-20
Tuesday, May 28	Psalm 139:1-6
Wednesday, May 29	Psalm 139:13-18
Thursday, May 30	2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Friday, May 31	Mark 2:23-3:6

## Church Staff

**Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller  
717-766-4611, ext.103  
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

**Director of Worship Arts:**

Sarah Pugh  
717-766-4611, ext.119  
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**Director of Discipleship:**

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**Director of Congregational Care:**

Janice Bowen  
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**Director of Office Management and Communications:**

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**Youth Pastor:**

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uthrock@fumchurch.com

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**Custodian:**

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**Director of Finance:**

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financedirector@fumchurch.com

**Sounds of Worship Director:**

Flossie Ryder  
missflossie42@gmail.com

**Youth Worship Director:**

Allison Ometz  
allisonometz1@msn.com

**Director of Bell Choirs:**

Kathie Bittenbender  
rbittenben@verizon.net

**Praise Team Director:**

Sarah Pugh  
worship@fumchurch.com

**Organist/Accompanist:**

Brandon Rhody

**Director of Little Friends****Preschool:**

Jemma Church  
717-796-0723  
director@littlefriendspreschool.org

**Timeless Connections:**

Patti Vogl  
717-319-7318  
pvogl@timelessconnections.org



## News and Notes....

To all of the great church members who helped during my hospital stay: much love and thanks to all.

– John Nesbit

We would like to thank our church family for your prayers and cards during the past few months for my mom, Dot Souder. We especially want to thank Pastor Denny for his visits during her time at Silver Spring Personal Care, UPMC West Shore and Messiah Village Nursing Care. Also, thanks for the luncheon and those who served it after her funeral service.


– Deb and Stu Diehl

Thank you all very much for your cards, well-wishes and gifts as we prepare for our retirement in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. While we are excited to be closer to some family there, we will both miss you all very much! You helped us to raise Godly children and you have helped us to grow and walk closer with Christ each day. We deeply appreciate all you have done and will always hold you close in our hearts. Wishing you all many blessings.


– Barry and Tina Eaton



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



**Richard Hoffnagle.....May 5**  
**Annabelle Elder.....May 10**  
**Nancy Otstot..... May 12**  
**Denny Kauffman.....May 13**  
**Marjorie Kohr.....May 15**  
**Donald Heiges.....May 16**  
**Mary Lou Vierthaler...May 19**  
**Ed Meckley.....May 24**  
**Bob Bittenbender.....May 27**  
**Flossie Ryder.....May 31**



**Dick Scott.....June 2**  
**Bill Morland.....June 6**  
**Barbara Sil.....June 7**  
**Jack Martin.....June 11**  
**Dolly Scholl.....June 16**  
**Bonnie Guyer.....June 19**  
**Caroline Brown.....June 21**  
**Marty Gerfin.....June 22**  
**Beryl Morgan.....June 30**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



♥ **Don and Debbie Karns married May 6, 1972 for 51 years.**

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

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
for the June/July 2024 issue is **May 15**.  
Early submissions always appreciated!