



First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

From the Pastor's Desk....

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“Hello-Goodbye-Hello”

“I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:3-6

When I announced my retirement plans last September, June 30 seemed far, far away. Now, suddenly, my retirement is here. As my Betsy and I prepare to say goodbye to our First Church family, these verses from Paul’s letter to the Philippians come to mind. I truly thank my God for every remembrance of you.

You welcomed Betsy and me joyfully, even before our first Sunday with you in July 2015. That spring, you bought a parsonage and, with the help of many volunteers, you beautifully renovated it. We first met many of you as you gathered to bless our new home. We soon discovered what a loving, welcoming congregation we would have the privilege to serve. It wasn’t long before we felt part of your church family.

Over the past nine years, we’ve laughed and cried together. We’ve celebrated together and faced difficult challenges together. We’ve completed many projects, big and small, and envisioned possibilities yet to be fulfilled. We’ve welcomed many new friends and grieved the loss of some dear ones. We navigated a pandemic and came through it united and open to new ways of “opening doors with Christ, one another, and our neighbors.”

Through it all, you have loved and cared for one another. You’ve been generous and committed, open to change and trusting in Christ that the best is yet to come! You’ve helped me to grow as a pastor and as a disciple of Jesus. As I reflect on our partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, my heart is filled with joy!

Soon, my Betsy and I will be saying “Goodbye.” After June 30, I will no longer be your pastor. We will always love you, and there’s nothing you can do about it! We will always treasure our relationships with you. However, beginning July 1, I will no longer be available for weddings, funerals, baptisms, counseling, or visitations.

But, as we say “Goodbye,” you’ll be blessed with another “Hello.” We rejoice with you as you welcome Rev. Mira Hewlett as your new pastor and her 11-year-old daughter, Grace, into your church family. Pastor Mira is very gifted and experienced, and I’m excited to see how she leads you into the future with energy, creativity, joy and enthusiasm. As Paul wrote to the Philippians, I am confident that the One who began a good work in you will complete it.

The word, “Goodbye” means, literally, “God-be-with-ye” or “Go with God.” My Betsy and I trust that God goes with us as we enter a new season in life and ministry. We also trust that God is with you as you begin a new season under the leadership of your new pastor. For Christians, “Goodbye” is never the last word. On the other side of every “Goodbye,” there is always another “Hello” – a new day, bright with possibilities! As you embrace the future together, First Church, you will forever be in our hearts and in our prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Denny

P.S. Our new address will be 56 Fairway Drive, Camp Hill, PA, 17011. After June 30, I will no longer receive emails at pastordenny@fumchurch.com. You can reach me instead at dkeller@susumc.org.

Also from the Pastor's Desk.....

Recently, I was putting my daughter to bed one night and went to shut the window in her room. It was one of those spring nights when the temperature was going to dip into the 40s. As I was about to close the window, she said, "Don't shut it, Mom! I love to hear the birds singing and the sounds of spring when I wake up."

Spring is a time of change. Flowers blooming, birds singing, mowers going and tree pollen everywhere all remind me of God's presence with us through seasons of change.

Since Pastor Denny announced in January that I would be your new pastor, we've all been in a season of change. As a congregation, you've spent nine years with Pastor Denny and Betsy. Together, you've been seeking God's presence for your church and seeing God's presence in your families and lives – in seasons of great joy, and of great grief. I've known Pastor Denny for many years, and he's shared a lot with me about First Church over the past few months. I've come to see his wonderful pastoral heart, giving spirit and love for Jesus in new ways. He has truly been a blessing for me in this transition. And, I pray your weeks honoring and thanking Pastor Denny and Betsy will be a time of celebrating his ministry as they prepare for a new season of retirement at the end of June.

As you're thanking and saying goodbye to Pastor Denny, I'm also saying goodbye and thank you to the people of Carlisle UMC where I have served in ministry for the past 18 years. I moved to Carlisle in 2006 after completing a master of divinity and a master's in youth ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. I've seen God move in amazing ways as I began serving as the associate at Allison UMC, shifted across the street to work at Dickinson College for five years, pastored at First UMC and Allison UMC for a year, and then served on the pastoral team that created the new Carlisle UMC from uniting three UMCs downtown. In this multitude of ministries and roles, I have been incredibly blessed by the people of Carlisle UMC and the community. We worked together to serve and grow in ways that only God knew were possible.

It's also an exciting season of change for me as I learn about the ministries at First Church and look forward to joining you in July. I'm excited to continue leading two styles of worship – I love honoring God through historic traditions and new concepts. I have a special heart for people with special needs and am really excited about Rejoicing Spirits services. I enjoy being around children and am thrilled to have an opportunity to build relationships with the kids, staff and parents of Little Friends Preschool. My few meetings with First Church's staff have been great, and I look forward to seeing how together we can continue to go and grow where God leads.

I'll move to First Church with my daughter, Grace, who was adopted from China in 2018. She will be going into fifth grade and enjoys singing, crafts, running and serving communion at church. Together, we love to hike and be outdoors. We also have a devious one-year-old cat, Zoe. In this season we also have Kenzie, a soon-to-be high school senior, living with us as she finishes high school and an early childhood education program at Vo-Tech. Together we enjoy local festivals, adventures to D.C. and Philly, and Starbucks.

I have been deeply blessed, stretched and loved by the people of Carlisle UMC. Yet, I know that God has been preparing this transition, and I'm excited to see where He leads us together in ministry to one another and to the Mechanicsburg community. I look forward to starting with you on July 1. Like the people of Pentecost coming with eyes, ears, and a heart wide open to see where God is calling, I look forward to the next chapter in the great adventure of faith, together.

In Christ,
Pastor Mira



GET TO KNOW

Pastor Mira



In the house: Grace (11), Kenzie (17), cat Zoe (1)

Favorite Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

Favorite Hymn: "Up from the Grave He Arose"

Favorite Praise Song: "Oceans"

Hometown: Bloomsburg, Pa.

Education: Bachelor's in Behavioral Science from York College of Pennsylvania; Master of Divinity and Master's in Youth Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary; Certificate in Religious Fundraising from the Lake Institute; Certificate in Leadership Development from Wesley Seminary

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Almond Joy

Favorite Starbucks Order: Iced Carmel Macchiato

Rev. Mira Hewlett

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Office Phone: 717-766-4611, ext. 103
Cell Phone: 717-448-7642

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).

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.

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.



Summer Sunday School | Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

This July and August we'll offer one combined class for adults entitled, "Finding Balance Through Christ." This series features a collection of Bible lessons, mission presentations, and a hands-on mission activity. Together, we'll look to Jesus, not to others, to determine our priorities for a fruitful and balanced life. Bible lessons will be held in room 123 (Guyer Classroom).

- July 7 | Welcome Reception for Pastor Mira Hewlett (Multipurpose Room)
- July 14 | Lesson: Finding Balance
- July 21 | Youth Mission Presentation (Multipurpose Room)
- July 28 | Lesson: Finding Balance
- Aug. 4 | Mission Presentation (Multipurpose Room)
- Aug. 11 | Lesson: Finding Balance
- Aug. 18 | Special Mission Activity: Brace Painting for Hope Walks (Fellowship Hall; activity appropriate for older children, youth and adults)
- Aug. 25 | Lesson: Finding Balance
- Sept. 1 | Lesson: Finding Balance

From the Library

I wouldn't believe that I was already writing the summer newsletter if I didn't have the air conditioner on. The first part of May has certainly felt like summer. This is a combined June and July newsletter, but the library will continue to get new books throughout the summer. You can always peek at our bulletin board and displays to see what we're featuring.

We also want to remind you about our annual Book Sale, coming up on Aug. 17. We accept donations year-round, but our biggest donation period is now until Aug. 12. The money from this sale buys all our books for the next year. To keep your favorite authors available, you can support our library by donating your pre-loved books, CDs, DVDs or jigsaw puzzles. Don't forget to stop by the sale to purchase donated items at our low prices. Anyway, on to the new books.

Linda Byler is a prominent writer of Amish fiction. Her three-book series, *A New Direction*, focuses on Susan Lapp, a hard-working Amish woman who wants to be independent and self-reliant. Susan isn't interested in marriage, since she has witnessed several rocky relationships. But, that won't stop friends and family from playing matchmaker. She struggles between dating and staying single. Then, Susan learns that a child she nannied is missing in Wyoming. Susan journeys from Lancaster to Wyoming on an adventure she never envisioned. Read these books in order and find out what twists and turns Susan will face.

Next, Rachel Hauck's new book will debut in early July. In *Meet Me at The Starlight*, Supermodel Harlow Hayes has landed in a quaint Florida beach town to hide out from the press and heal from an over-publicized breakup in Hollywood. To her surprise, Harlow encounters another Hollywood A-lister, Matt Knight, who is in town to help his grandmother save her skating rink, The Starlight. The rink has been a hub in the community for a century, but the threat of demolition is becoming more and more real. Harlow is fascinated by the story and begins helping Matt with his efforts. Hauck masterfully weaves together stories from multiple generations and effortlessly mixes comedy with romance in this perfect summer beach read.

If none of these books suit you, stop in and let us help you find some that are just right.

See you in the library!

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



FIRST CHURCH VBS 2024 // JULY 15-19



Register your child or sign up as a volunteer at 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 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

Amy Ortiz: amy.ogden7@gmail.com

Praying Follower



Share Your Joys and Prayer Concerns With Us!

We want to pray with and for you. You can share your prayer requests on Sunday mornings during worship by filling out a green prayer card (located in the pews and at the prayer station under the balcony) and placing it in the offering basket or Janice Bowen's mailbox. You can also share your prayer requests and subscribe to our weekly prayer letter by contacting Janice directly (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

Passionate Worshipper



Handbell Mini-Camp

This year, the First Church Praise Ringers will host their second annual Handbell Mini-Camp in July. If you want to give ringing a try or learn more about it, this event is for you. Keep an eye out for more details.



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



SARAH PUGH
OCT. 13, 3 P.M.



2024 ^{FREE} CONCERT SERIES



BRANDON RHODY
JULY 21, 3 P.M.



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

Impact | June 22-28

You're invited to join First Church for Salt 'n Light Youth Ministry's last Impact at Greene Hills (5125 Greene Hills Manor Dr., Alexandria, PA). This fun, faith-focused event unites worshippers of all ages from around central Pennsylvania. First Church Youth set up a site with tents, canopies and a kitchen area in Tent City. Twice each day, we'll head over to the main stage for a dynamic worship experience, filled with life-changing lessons, captivating dramas, inspiring dances, and so much more. Evenings end with a time of worship at the main stage and reflection at our site around the campfire. During free time, enjoy relaxing fun in the creek, at the recreation field or playing yard games. This youth event has historically been attended by youth, families, youth alumni, and college students. We welcome all past and present Impact attendees to come to this final Greene Hills Impact as overnight campers or day visitors are welcome. Register on the Church Center app or on our website (fumchurch.com). Contact Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com) with questions.

Brandon Rhody Piano Concert | Sunday, July 21, 3 p.m.

Originally from Greensburg, Pa., Brandon Rhody began studying piano at age 6. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree at Seton Hill University and master's degree from West Chester University in piano performance. Over the years, Brandon has served as the accompanist for the Seton Hill Women's Chorale and as the choir director for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (Newville, Pa.) and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Jeannette, Pa.). He is currently the accompanist at Shiremanstown United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church. Join us in the sanctuary as Brandon shares some of his favorite pieces on the piano.

Dedicated Missionary



Gleaning at Oak Grove Farms | Wednesday, June 5 and July 3, 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 Oak Grove 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 or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

Feminine Hygiene Sewing Day | Sept. 28

In many developing countries, women have to miss school and work and face cultural stigmas due to a lack of feminine hygiene products. Help us support these women by making reusable products that will be distributed around the world by Mission Central. Even if you don't sew, there is fabric to cut and prepare. Save the date for this important event and contact Donna Nichols (djnichols43@hotmail.com) for more information.

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 is 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) for dates and details.

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, June 19 and July 17, 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) to find out how you can help.

Relationship Builder



June Hospitality Tip: Wear Your Name Tag!

Why does wearing a name tag on Sunday mornings matter? We probably don't know everyone we see on a Sunday morning, and people tend to avoid conversations with others when they don't know or can't remember their names. But, calling one another by name goes a long way toward building relationships. Name tags foster a welcoming environment and help us forge deeper, more personal relationships. Wearing name tags is especially important as we welcome Pastor Mira in July. If you're not in the habit of wearing your name tag on Sunday mornings, now is a great time to start! If you need a name tag, please contact the church office (office@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611).



Men's Breakfast | Saturday, June 1 and July 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 John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if you are interested in attending.

Summer Fun Day | Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.-noon

Join First Church Kids and Little Friends Preschool for some free summer fun! Enjoy refreshments, games, crafts and (weather pending) outdoor fun including chalk and water playtime in our green space. Registration is highly recommended. Sign up on our website (fumchurch.com) or on the Church Center app to let us know you're coming.



Third Friday Food Trucks | June 21 and July 19, 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, casual atmosphere. In June, we welcome Mad Dash, Grapplin' Crab, The Italian Job, Philly Cheesesteak, East Coast Mini Donuts and Sarah's Creamery, along with live music on the Green Space Patio. In July, we'll host Mad Dash, Midnite Smokin BBQ, Bala Sahaas, Tomasic Sausage and Whistle Stop on Wheels. 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) for more details.

Welcome Reception for Pastor Mira and Grace | Sunday, July 7, 9:30-11 a.m.

Stop by the multipurpose room to meet Pastor Mira and her daughter, Grace, and enjoy light refreshments. Don't forget your name tag! Keep an eye out for details on additional meet-and-greets with Pastor Mira that will be scheduled for later in the summer.



Senior Ice Cream Social | Wednesday, July 31, 1:30 p.m.

Whether you're a generational senior or a high school senior, we invite you to gather with us in Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of friendship, fun and made-to-order sundaes. Pastor Mira will join us, along with Jeff Hoffnagle, who will provide some entertainment! Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112) with any questions.

Harrisburg Senators Game and Picnic | Sunday, Aug. 18

Invite your family and friends to join us at FNB Field on City Island for a picnic and a Harrisburg Senators baseball game! The buffet-style picnic starts at noon and includes hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ chicken, baked beans, pasta salad, chips, cookies, soda and water. The Senators game starts at 1 p.m. Discounted tickets are just \$25 for adults (age 13 and older), \$15 for children (age 4-12) and free for children 3 and under! Registration opens on June 23. All participants must register and pay by July 28. Learn more and get your tickets on the Church Center app or at fumchurch.com. Contact Jenn Myers (communications@fumchurch.com) with questions.



Church Picnic | Sunday, Sept. 8

Each fall, we look forward to reconnecting after the summer months at our annual Church Picnic. Don't forget to save the date!

Widows and Widowers Lunch | Tuesday, June 11, 11:30 a.m.

This month, the group will dine at Brothers Diner. If you plan to attend, please contact Bonnie Guyer (717-766-0145). Transportation will be provided upon request. Check Sunday bulletins for July date.

Joy in the Morning | Monday, June 10, 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 or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

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).



Community Dinner | Sunday, Oct. 6, 5 p.m.

The next community dinner will be held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (132 E. Main St., Mechanicsburg). 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. To learn more or volunteer, please contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

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, ext. 112 or 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 or 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 or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

Modified Church Office Hours

The church office will be open 9 a.m. to noon from June 24 to 28. The office will also be closed July 4 and 5.

Generous Giver 

Financial Report

Through April 30, 2024
33% of year

General Fund

2024 Budget	\$925,398
Expected Income – YTD	\$302,533 (33% of budget)
Actual Income – YTD	\$298,780 (32% of budget)
Actual expenses – YTD	\$322,934 (35% of budget)

Income for the four-week month of April was \$67,048, about \$4,200 short of our average four-week budget. Expenses for the month were \$91,396. This is the result of paying several full-year mission commitments totaling \$12,000, along with bills related to the colder weather. Year-to-date expenses are higher than contributions due to the timing of the loan payments, mission commitments and winter impacts. These will balance out as we move through the year. The church debt for the parsonage is now at \$40,751 and our bell tower loan is down to \$56,884.

As we move into the summer months, we pray for your safe travels. 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.

Share the Harvest

Looking to share extra flowers, fruits or vegetables from your garden this summer? Check out the Share the Harvest display in the lobby gathering area outside the children's wing. Feel free to leave some produce to share with our congregation and community, or take some with you. You can also place extra food in the Little Free Pantry alongside our parking lot. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112) with questions.

Scrip Program

Have you heard about First Church's Scrip Program? Scrip invites you to purchase gift cards from First Church for local and national retailers. When you do, a portion of the proceeds help fund ministries at First Church. Typically, you receive your gift cards one week after placing your order. Pick up an order sheet in the lobby gathering space next to the water fountains, and place your order today!

Exciting News from the Handbell Choir

The First Church Praise Ringers are grateful for your support this past season. The Handbell Choir is officially planning to travel to Scotland to attend its fifth International Handbell Symposium in 2026. Upcoming opportunities to support our fundraising efforts include the Yard, Book and Bake Sale (Aug. 17) and our Chicken BBQ (Sept. 21). We always appreciate your prayers and encouragement as well.



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 May totaled \$10.

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).

Yard, Book and Bake Sale | Saturday, Aug. 17, 8 a.m.-noon

Our annual Yard, Book and Bake Sale is back! Here are all the details:

- Yard sale vendor spots in the parking lot (2 parking spaces) are available for \$15. You may reserve up to two spots, and the proceeds benefit the United Women in Faith missions. Sign up at fumchurch.com or on the Church Center app starting July 1.
- Donate your household treasures to help First Church Youth fund future mission trips. Drop off your donations in the multipurpose room during church office hours starting Aug. 5. Please only bring items that are clean, unbroken and in working condition. Contact Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com) or Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) with any questions.
- First Church Kids Ministry will distribute free school supplies (including handmade pencil pouches from our Squares and Prayers group) to children who visit the sale.
- The Church Library will sell a variety of books, puzzles, CDs, and DVDs. You can donate your gently used books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs to the sale (please no VHS tapes, cassettes or encyclopedias). Proceeds keep our library stocked with the most current Christian fiction for your reading pleasure. Donations can be left outside the church library on Sunday mornings or in the multipurpose room during collection hours. Please contact Pam Van Kirk ([717-903-9196](tel:717-903-9196)) or Donna Nichols ([717-574-9894](tel:717-574-9894)) to make arrangements for dropping off large donations.
- The Handbell Choir will have food available for purchase to support their ministry of music.
- Enjoy tasty treats from the United Women in Faith Bake Sale! To donate baked goods, contact Denise Swank (dmom64@gmail.com or [717-795-8747](tel:717-795-8747)).

There's something for everyone at the sale! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Nichols (djnichols43@hotmail.com)

First Church Mission Moments...

June: Youth Mission Trip

This summer, a team of 19 First Church youth and adults will travel to Dayton, Ohio. We're partnering with an organization called LeaderTreks (leadertreks.org) to support long-term ministry work in the city. During our trip, we'll work alongside No Longer Strangers (nolongerstrangers.org), a ministry that aids refugees who have been resettled in the city from war-torn countries in Africa and the Middle East. We'll spend our time completing home repairs and other projects for those in need, as well as providing an afternoon children's ministry.

We're excited to follow God's command to care for the least of these and strive to live out Ephesians 2:19: "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

Stop by the table in the display table in the main entrance hallway during June to learn more about our trip and our team. We invite you to take a team member's trading card to learn more about who they are and how you can pray for them.

Along with your prayers, you can support our team by:

- Parking at First Church on Jubilee Day and offer a donation.
- Offering up your gently used household goods for the Yard Sale.
- Donating to the Youth Missions fund.

Thank you for investing in our students as they grow in Christ and share His love in Mechanicsburg and beyond. We look forward to sharing about our trip with you during our special mission presentation on Sunday, July 21!

In Christ,
Lisa Aronson
Youth Pastor
uthrock@fumchurch.com

PRAY FOR OUR TEAM

Lisa A.	Katie M.	Mady S.
Nate E.	Cheryl M.	Bob W.
Kendal F.	Mark M.	Dan W.
Abby G.	Cassidy N.	Ella W.
Emily H.	Max P.	RJ W.
Ben M.	Oliver P.	Tracy W.
	Lynn R.	

First Church Mission Moments...

July: Gleaning

We're grateful and excited to once again partner with Oak Grove Farms to glean crops!

So, what exactly is gleaning? Gleaning is the practice of picking up crops that have been left behind in the fields after the harvest. In Leviticus and Deuteronomy, God commands the Israelites to not harvest all of their crops, but to leave some for the poor to glean. This showed God's compassion for the poor and needy by ensuring they have access to nourishment. We also see gleaning depicted in the story of Ruth, and some farms still practice gleaning today.

On the first Wednesday of each month of the growing season (June-October), First Church's Glean Team will meet in the parking lot at Oak Grove Farms (846 Fisher Rd., Mechanicsburg). Then, we'll head into the fields to collect leftover produce to share with our neighbors in need.

Last year, we followed Oak Grover's Farmer Dwayne into the fields to harvest broccoli, corn, tomatoes and cucumbers. The food we collect supplies the Salem Shares Food Pantry at Fishing Creek Salem United Methodist Church with fresh produce. We also distribute a portion of the fresh produce to each of the Little Free Pantries in downtown Mechanicsburg.

When gleaning, we encourage you to dress for the weather (including shoes that can get muddy). Gleaning typically takes 45-60 minutes, though some gleaners will arrive a little early to enjoy a treat from Oak Grove's ice cream counter! This is a wonderful service opportunity for people of all ages and abilities.

Please feel free to reach out if you want to learn more about gleaning or to be added to our Glean Team communications, so you don't miss any updates or alerts.

"Whenever you are reaping the harvest of your field and you leave some grain in the field, don't go back and get it. Let it go to the immigrants, the orphans, and the widows so that the Lord your God blesses you in all that you do." Deuteronomy 24:19 (CEB)

Blessings,

Janice Bowen

Director of Congregational Care



Congrats, grads!



Congratulations to all our graduates!

Whether you've conquered high school, college, or any other academic milestone, we're immensely proud of your dedication and hard work. As you embark on this exciting new adventure, may God's light continue to guide your path. Remember, your church family is always here to support you as you grow in your faith.



KENDAL F.

Graduating from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

Future Plans: Attending West Chester University



KAILEE F.

Graduating from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

Future Plans: Attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania



ABIGAIL G.

Graduating from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

Future Plans: Attending Coastal Carolina University



EMILY H.

Graduating from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

Future Plans: Attending Elizabethtown College



CASSIDY N.

Graduating from Cumberland Valley High School

Future Plans: Attending the Pennsylvania State University



OLIVER P.

Graduating from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

Future Plans: Attending Messiah University



WESLEY P.

Graduating from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

Future Plans: Attending Messiah University



MADYSEN S.

Graduating from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

Future Plans: Attending Harrisburg Area Community College



GAVIN S.

Graduating from Cumberland Valley High School

Future Plans: Attending California University of Pennsylvania





KEVIN H.

Graduating from Harrisburg Area Community College
Automotive Technology



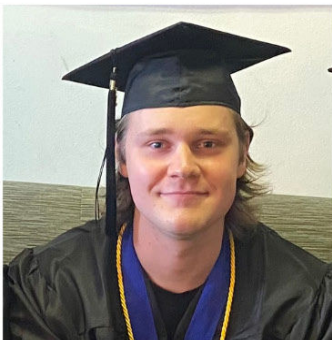
KEVIN K.

Graduating from Millersville University
B.S. in Mathematics Education, minor in Computer Science



NOAH S.

Graduating from the Pennsylvania State University
B.S. in Physics, minors in Mathematics and Economics



TRENT Y.

Graduating from Belmont University
B.B.A. in Music Business

Daily Bible Readings June 2024

Saturday, June 1	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, June 2	Worship
Monday, June 3	1 Samuel 8:4-20
Tuesday, June 4	1 Samuel 11:14-15
Wednesday, June 5	Psalm 138
Thursday, June 6	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Friday, June 7	Mark 3:20-35
Saturday, June 8	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, June 9	Worship
Monday, June 10	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Tuesday, June 11	Psalm 20
Wednesday, June 12	2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Thursday, June 13	2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Friday, June 14	Mark 4:26-34
Saturday, June 15	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, June 16	Worship
Monday, June 17	1 Samuel 17:32-49
Tuesday, June 18	Psalm 9:1-8
Wednesday, June 19	Psalm 9:9-20
Thursday, June 20	2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Friday, June 21	Mark 4:35-41
Saturday, June 22	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, June 23	Worship
Monday, June 24	Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Tuesday, June 25	Psalm 130
Wednesday, June 26	2 Corinthians 8:1-6
Thursday, June 27	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Friday, June 28	Mark 5:21-43
Saturday, June 29	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, June 30	Worship

***No Bible Reading Plan for July**

Church Staff

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Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller (Until June 30)
717-766-4611, ext.103
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

Rev. Mira Hewlett (As of July 1)
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Pastor of Discipleship:

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Sounds of Worship Director:

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Youth Worship Director:

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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....

The First Church Handbell Choir would like to thank you for your support this past season. We appreciate your wonderful comments of praise regarding our Bells and Friends concert on May 5. We had so much fun ringing with many of our other musician friends here at First Church!

– Kathie Bittenbender and the Praise Ringers



Happy Birthday

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

Dick Scott.....June 2	Charlotte Hess.....July 5
Barbara Sill.....June 7	Veloice Washburn.....July 6
Jack Martin.....June 11	Mary Beth Snoke.....July 11
Dolly Scholl.....June 16	George Snoke.....July 16
Bonnie Guyer.....June 19	Frankie Carley.....July 18
Marty Gerfin.....June 22	Mary Jo Skoglund.....July 19
Beryl Morgan.....June 30	Dianne Burgard.....July 20
	Marian Eichinger.....July 22
	Harry Woods.....July 27
	Jean Adams.....July 28



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Neidig married 53 years June 4, 1971.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shannon married 53 years June 6, 1971.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Robert D'Agostino married 55 years June 7, 1969.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Aumiller married 66 years June 7, 1958.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Ron Nichols married 52 years June 9, 1972.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Jim Chilton married 54 years June 20, 1970.
- ♥ Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Fugate married 52 years June 24, 1972..
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Larry Buddenbaum married 57 years July 1, 1967.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Gensler married 51 years July 1, 1973.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Marlin Simmons married 58 years July 2, 1966.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. John Behel married 51 years July 7, 1973
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Gary Klinger married 59 years July 24, 1965.

FIRST NEWS FIRST
EDITORS: Dawn Fisher
Jennifer Myers

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