
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



LOVE
CAME DOWN



DEC. 8, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOUNDATION SERVICE (8:30 A.M.)

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
No. 218

Lighting of the Second Candle of
Advent

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
No. 206

Choir Anthem
"Bring Us Hope"

Scripture Reading
Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon
Love Came Down

"Love Came Down at Christmas"
No. 242

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
No.238

Benediction

Postlude

THE GATHERING SERVICE (11 A.M.)

Countdown Video

Welcome

"Hope Has A Name"

"This I Believe (The Creed)"

Kids Moment

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Scripture Reading
Matthew 2:1-12

"Here I Am to Worship"

Sermon
Love Came Down

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Offering

*"King of Kings/Angels We Have Heard
on High"*

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Pastor Lisa Aronson

Liturgist

Lynn Rapp

Accompanist (8:30 a.m.)

Brandon Rhody

Special Music (8:30 a.m.)

Sounds of Worship, Women of Light

Worship Leader (11 a.m.)

Sarah Pugh

Worship Band (11 a.m.)

John Gross, Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, Cindy Smith, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media

Ron Nichols, Taylor Shepley, Holly Kurten, Jim Robinson

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Robert & Virginia Chilton, and John Chilton by Sue and Jim Chilton.

MACHE BASKET

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert and Mildred Shannon by The D'Agostino and Shannon Families.

KIDS

NEWBORN-GRADE 5

Kid Worship

At the 11 a.m. service, we offer Kid Worship for children in grades 1-5. At both services, we welcome children age 6 and under for Wee Worship and child care, located in the 1st floor children's wing. Kids activity bags are always available at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Coming up

Sensory Santa! | Dec. 14th | 10 a.m-5 p.m.

Do you have a child who gets overstimulated easily or needs some extra care going into new environments? Sensory Santa is a one-on-one experience for your family to spend time with Santa. Registration is required.

More info at fumchurch.com/santa2024

Stay Connected!

Learn more about our programs and upcoming events on our website (fumchurch.com) and on the Church Center app. Contact Director of Children and Family Ministry Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) with questions.

YOUTH GRADES 6-12

Small Groups | TODAY | 6:00-7:00

Students in 4th-7th grade meet in the gym for small group conversations before we join the older students with cookie baking for the Cookie Walk. Students from 8th-12th grade meet in the church kitchen to make cookies. ***WE WILL CONCLUDE EARLIER BECAUSE OF HOLIDAY HARMONY.

Coming Up:

- Cookie Walk | Dec 14 | Sign up to bake cookies & help at the event
- 4G Youth Group + Christmas Party/Meal | Dec 15 | 6:00-8:00

Keep in Touch!

Join our Remind text list (text @4Gyo to 81010)
Follow our instagram (@fourgyouthministry)
Visit our webpage (link on Church Center)
Contact Pastor of Discipleship Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com) to receive email updates.

NOTES

Ring In The News

Where can you hear us as we reach out into the community? All of these events are free!

We will be playing in church at the 8:30 worship service on December 22nd.

First Church's **Holiday Harmony Concert** featuring many of our Musical groups in the church will be Sunday, December 8th, at 7 pm.

We are once again hosting **The Great Christmas Ring** at the Capital City Mall Friday, December 13th beginning at 6:45 pm. We'll be playing 3 different places at the mall – hope you'll come!

We are playing for a **holiday dinner at the Enola River of God Church** Monday, November 25th.

And once again, we will be in **concert at the Fredericksen Library** in Camp Hill Monday, December 9th at 7 pm. Come early if you want a seat! This is always a popular event and we like seeing familiar faces!

Special Advent Events

Dec. 8 | 7pm **Holiday Harmony Concert** featuring our talented musical groups sharing beloved music of the season

Dec. 14 | 9am-11am (until cookies are gone) **Cookie Walk** fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip while packing up favorite cookies to share this season

Dec. 15 | 4pm **Service of Remembrance and Hope** offers a reflective Advent worship for those struggling with loss of loved ones, relationships, jobs, etc. to encounter Christ's light in the darkness

Dec. 22 | 4pm **All Church Christmas Caroling** combined with Rejoicing Spirits in the Main Lobby

Christmas Eve Worship

5pm Family Service for all ages to sing favorite hymns and retell the message of Christmas.

10pm Traditional Candlelight Service weaves together scriptures and hymns celebrating the birth of Jesus bringing light into the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Advent Study | Wednesdays, Dec. 4 through 18 | 9:30a.m

The Advent sermon series will dig into four characters, but there are more lives to look at that surround the birth of Jesus. The Characters of Christmas by Daniel Darling introduces us to “the unlikely people caught up in the story of Jesus.” Sign up on Church Center or in the Main Lobby if you would like a book (Cost: \$8.00). Read on your own or grab some friends and spend time wrapped up in the story of Jesus this Advent season.

Opportunities to study together:

Sunday Morning, 9:45-10:45, beginning December 1st

- Growing in Christ Sunday school, room B006

- Faith in Everyday Life Sunday school, room 105

Wednesday Morning, 9:30-10:30, December 4, 11, 18

- Hardwood Cafe (round tables under the Balcony), led by Lisa Aronson

Contact Lisa Aronson at adultministry@fumchurch.com with questions.



PRAYING FOLLOWER

Share Your Joys and Prayer Concerns With Us!

Green prayer cards are located in the pews and at the prayer station under the balcony. Fill one out and place it in the offering basket or Janice Bowen's mailbox. You can also contact Janice directly (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112).

Altar Flowers

We still have Sundays available in 2025 for dedicating altar flowers for worship if you would like to honor a special occasion in your family or remember loved ones by donating beautiful flowers! Dates available include: January 12, 19, 26, February 2, April 13, 20, May 4, June 1, 15, July 20, 27, August 10, 17, October 5, 12, 26, November 2, December 14. Altar flowers cost \$50 and a mache basket is \$35. Please contact Linda Weldon to confirm a date and submit payment: Lindaweldon@hotmail.com or 717-519-9615.



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Holiday Harmony | Today, 7 p.m.

Celebrate the season with the fourth concert in the 2024 Concert Series with Christmas selections! Featuring First UMC music and worship ensembles, come enjoy a collection of group numbers, solos, duets, readings, lessons and carols, including beautiful and moving selections from traditional classics to modern renditions. Concert will be held in the sanctuary; light refreshments available afterwards.



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Operation Christmas Child Volunteer Shift

Would you like to volunteer for a shift helping to process Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes at the Baltimore Center? We are forming a volunteer group for Monday, December 9th from 12-3 pm. Space is limited, so please contact Janice Bowen as soon as possible if you would like more information or to sign-up! wecare@fumchurch.com 717-766-4611

x112



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Christmas Caroling | Dec. 22, 4 p.m.

Come out and enjoy our long Christmas tradition and spread cheer, as we sing carols! Combining with the Rejoicers from our Rejoicing Spirits services, we'll meet in the Main Lobby to sing together around the Christmas tree. If your family or small group is interested in Christmas Caroling door-to-door afterwards to some of our members at home, we will have suggested lists of caroling routes and music sheets available at the gathering.

2025 Women's Retreat | January 24 to 26, 2025

Our 2025 women's retreat, "Enter His Gates," will be held at Rhodes Grove Retreat Center 7693 Browns Mill Road, Chambersburg. Lisa Aronson and Deb Noss will take us on a journey exploring the City Gates. Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday before noon. Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals are included. You can find the registration form at the entrances to the sanctuary, on the Church Center App, at the Display Window near the church library or send an email to Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net. Early Bird discount ends 12/31/24, all registrations due by 1/10/25.



GENEROUS GIVER

Cookie Walk | Dec. 14 | 9 a.m. -11 a.m.

Fill your Christmas table with a yummy selection of Christmas cookies. The youth will be having their annual cookie walk on December 14 th in the Multi-Purpose Room (Gym) from 9:00-11:00 (or until cookies run out). Purchase and fill a provided box with cookies, and don't be late – the cookies go fast! All proceeds benefit summer youth mission trips.

Reverse Advent Calendar Returns!

Once again this year, we are turning things around, instead of getting a special treat, you give to others! We are collecting food items for the Little Free Pantry located on our property. The pantry provides a 'no barrier access point to food' to those in our community. The Reverse Advent Calendar lists simple items for you to collect and bring back to stock our pantry. Feel free to pick up the list and a bag for your collected items at the Missions Table located in the Main Entrance hallway. Collect the items and return to the area under the balcony in the sanctuary any time during the month of December. Thanks again for your support of the Little Free Pantry and for helping us celebrate this wonderful season of giving! Questions, contact Sandy Walton or Lori Hoffnagle at (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).

Scrip Fundraiser

Support First Church by purchasing your Christmas gift cards through our Scrip program! Pick up a form and place it in the dropbox in the gathering area near the couches and water fountain. Orders placed on Sunday are filled the following week. Contact Kathie Bittenbender with any questions or call church office.

***Scan here or visit fumchurch.com
for more details on upcoming
events and opportunities!***





Rev. Mira Hewlett, Senior Pastor
pastormira@fumchurch.com | 717-766-4611, ext. 103

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors
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