
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



CURIOUS
PEOPLE



A decorative graphic featuring a starburst of light rays at the top center, a gold-colored frame with ornate corner pieces surrounding the text, and a small icon of a manger with a star above it at the bottom center, all set against a dark blue background with scattered stars and wavy lines at the bottom.

DEC. 15, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOUNDATION SERVICE (8:30 A.M.)

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

"We Three Kings"
No. 254

Lighting of the Third Candle of
Advent

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

Choir Anthem
"Christmas Bell Carol"

Scripture Reading
*Matthew 2:10-11, Isaiah 60:6 & Psalm
72:10-11*

Sermon
Curious People

"Love Came Down at Christmas"
No. 242

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering

"Lift Up Your Hands" No.213

Benediction

Postlude

THE GATHERING SERVICE (11 A.M.)

Countdown Video

Welcome

"Let the Light In"

"A Thousand Hallelujahs"

Recognition of New Members

Kids Moment

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Scripture Reading
*Matthew 2:10-11, Isaiah 60:6 & Psalm
72:10-11 Matthew 2:1-12*

*"O Come all Ye Faithful (His Name
Shall be)"*

Sermon
Curious People

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Offering

"Joy to The World (Joyful, Joyful)"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Pastor Mira Hewlett

Liturgist

John Bowen

Accompanist (8:30 a.m.)

Brandon Rhody

Special Music (8:30 a.m.)

Sounds of Worship

Worship Leader (11 a.m.)

Sarah Pugh

Worship Band (11 a.m.)

George Canonizado, Krissy Marshall, Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, RJ Wertz, 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 and in memory of Jack O'Hara and John, Paul, and Michael O'Hara by Elaine O'Hara.

MACHE BASKET

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gayle Ann Elder by Annabelle Elder, her mother.

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

Wonderful Wednesday Spring Session! Mark your calendars for March 12-April 9 2025.

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

-4G Youth Group + Christmas Party and Meal | TODAY, 6:00-8:00

Students 6th - 12th grade gather for our Thanksgiving-themed evening including our Friendsgiving meal. Enter at the office entrance.

-Youth Worship Practice | TODAY | 5:00-6:00

Coming Up:

-Christmas Caroling | December 22 | 4:00 PM

-Zeteo (8th-12th grade students) | January 31-February 2 | Register on Church Center

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.

A graphic of a spotlight with a yellow beam and a grey body, with three small yellow stars around it.

In the Spotlight

A graphic of a spotlight with a yellow beam and a grey body, with three small yellow stars around it.

Get to know our new members!
We encourage you to take some time to connect with these folks
and welcome them into our First Church family.



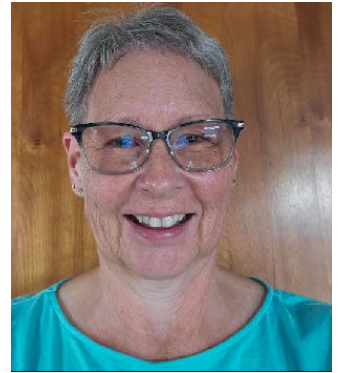
Brian Sanker enjoys worshipping at our 11 a.m. service. He lives in Mechanicsburg with his wife and two children and is an Investment Advisor. He also works on the Mechanicsburg School Board and the Board of the Cumberland Perry Area Career and Tech Center. Brian has been a regular attender but is happy to become a member of First Church today.

Kelsey Goll comes to our 11 a.m. worship service. She grew up in Stroudsburg, PA but has been living in Camp Hill for several years after graduating from Lock Haven University. You may recognize her face in our church office as the new Director of Office Management and Communications! Outside of work, she is usually found spending time with family and friends, traveling, watching and playing sports, and hanging out with her dog Tucker!





Lori Holtzinger comes to our 8:30a.m. worship service and is new to the area from Millsboro, DE. She is a retired Occupational Therapist. In her free time she enjoys crocheting, reading, attending plays/musicals, singing, indexing books, traveling and pet sitting!



Kathryn Bobak comes to our 11 a.m. worship service, with her husband Frank. Kathryn received her Optician diploma and is retired from Capital Vision Center where she worked with medical billing, certified claims. She enjoys volunteering, pet therapy, reading, crocheting, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.



Frank Bobak worships at our 11a.m. service with his wife Kathryn. Frank spent years working in Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). He received his Bachelors degree from the University of Pittsburgh and received his Masters fro Mount Saint Mary's. In retirement, he enjoys model railroading, geneology, volunteering, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

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

Lighthouse Grief Group | Jan. 27- Mar. 3, Mondays 1:30-2:30 p.m

Patti Vogl and Janice Bowen will co-facilitate a 6-week supportive grief group this winter at FUMC for anyone experiencing grief and loss. Contact Janice at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 or Patti at pvogl@timelessconnections.org or 717-319-731 to register or to receive additional information.

Joy in the Morning | Dec. 16, 1pm

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 at Bethany Village's West Apartments Commons Room. Janice Bowen facilitates, drawing upon readings and devotionals.. For more information, contact Janice (717-766-4611 x112 /or wecare@fumchurch.com)



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Service of Remembrance and Hope | TODAY at 4:00 pm

If you are feeling the weight of grief this holiday season....and missing your loved ones....please join us for a time of worship and reflection at our Service of Remembrance and Hope in the sanctuary. Contact Janice Bowen for more information - 717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | THIS WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18

Isaiah 61 Ministries serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. First Church members prepare a meal in our kitchen, then help dinner to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. Contact Tiffany Holland (tholland1967@gmail.com) or Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) to learn more and get involved.



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 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

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. 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.

New Hope Ministries Donations

Thank you First Church for your generous donations of canned yams for New Hope Ministries. We collected 334 pounds of cans which helped to supply the 665 families who came to the Mechanicsburg center for their boxes of food! As Matthew 25:35 says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Also, we will NO LONGER have a need for egg cartons at New Hope Ministries but we have appreciated all of your donations.

***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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