
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



*Letters from
God*



DEC. 29, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

The First Lesson – Isaiah’s Good News

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Lighting the Christ Candle

Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful* #234

The Second Lesson – Mary’s Song

Luke 1:46-55

Pastoral Prayer

The Third Lesson – Joseph’s Dream

Matthew 1:18-24

Carol: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* #230

The Fourth Lesson – Bethlehem’s Road

Luke 2:1-5

Kids Message (11am only)

The Fifth Lesson – Jesus’ Joy

Luke 2:6-7

Carol: *“Away in a Manger”*

The Sixth Lesson – Angels Announcement

Luke 2:8-14

Carol: *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”* #240

The Seventh Lesson – Shepherd’s Surprise

Luke 2:15-20

The Eighth Lesson – Wise Men’s Wonder

Matthew 2:1-11

Ministry of Music: *“Manger Throne”*

Prayer of Christmas

Announcements

Carol: *“Go Tell it On the Mountain”* #251

Benediction

Postlude - *“Agnus Dei”*

*Adapted from worship by Rev. Melissa Rynders, Desert Southwest Annual
Conference*

*“Christmas Love Letters from God” by Glenys Nellist; Angels letter written by
Pastor Mira*

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Pastor Mira Hewlett

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, Allison Ometz, Sarah Pugh, Abigail Wertz

Sound and Media

Jim Murdoch, Michael Garman, Ken Rapp, Holly Kurten

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Family members who now reside in heaven
by Nancy Eddy.

KIDS

NEWBORN-GRADE 5

Kid Worship

8:30 am - WeeWorship for infant-Pre K, 1st floor kids wing; drop off before worship or anytime during

11am - WeeWorship for infant-Pre K & Kid Worship K-5th; leave after Kids Message or drop off before worship, 1st floor kids wing
**Kids Activity bags at entrances anytime, see an Usher

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

Coming Up:

-No Youth on December 29 - Enjoy time with friends and family.

-4G Youth Group | January 5 | 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.

HOLIDAY REMINDERS

First UMC Worship
(including on Sun, Dec 29)

8:30 am - Traditional Worship with choir

11am - Contemporary Worship with Worship Band

*Both services also streamed live or view later at
www.youtube.com/@FUMCMechanicsburg

2024 Year End Giving

All gifts to First Church for 2024 must be postmarked or placed in the new outside mailbox near the flagpole by Tues, Dec 31st. If you wish to give in 2024 towards 2025 contributions, a written request can be sent to financedirector@fumchurch.com or to the Church Office. Thank you for all you give to help make ministry happen through First Church!

The Church Office will be closed Dec 24-Jan 1 for our staff to enjoy time with their families. For pastoral care, please contact Pastor Mira via email or cell phone directly. The new outside mailbox near the flagpole will be checked regularly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Wednesday Men's Group | 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.

This group enjoys great fellowship while focusing on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if interested in more information.

Deborah Circle | Jan. 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm, room 105

This monthly women's circle comes together to share in a time of devotion and to work together on a service project. January's devotion will look at the Biblical character Lydia. Service projects have included collections for a Thanksgiving Food Basket, an Easter Basket, and support for Isaiah 61 meals. If you are thinking of joining a women's circle, come join us! Most members are 50 or older but young at heart. Any questions text/call Sandy Walton [717-433-3687](tel:717-433-3687).

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 that pairs with the sermon series on our church website, fumchurch.com.



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](tel:717-766-4611) or Patti at pvogl@timelessconnections.org or [717-319-731](tel:717-319-731) to register or to receive additional information.

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](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112).



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Jan. 15

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 at tholland1967@gmail.com to learn more and get involved.



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Soupy Saturday | Feb. 1, 9 a.m.

If you enjoy cooking, we invite you to the church kitchen to cook-up some delicious soup and muffins to share with a friend, neighbor, or church member at home! Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) x 112.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Widows/widowers fellowship | Jan. 14, 11:30 a.m.

We will dine at Snappers Restaurant on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 11:30am. Please contact Bonnie Guyer at [717-766-0145](tel:717-766-0145) if you plan on attending. Transportation will be provided upon request. Thank you to the widows/widowers fellowship for their generosity at the Christmas Luncheon. It is always a blessing to spend time together!

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.

Giving to First Church

We're so grateful for all the ways you support First Church – through your prayers, time, talents and resources. Everything you give to First Church helps us build disciples and love our neighbors. You can place tithes or offerings in the baskets as you exit the sanctuary, send them into the church office, or give online at fumchurch.com or in the Church Center app.

***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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