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WELCOME TO

First United  
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA

A white line-art illustration of a nativity scene on a dark blue background. It shows a shepherd with a staff and sheep on the left, a manger with Mary and baby Jesus in the center, and three wise men on camels on the right. A star is visible in the sky above the manger. The scene is framed by decorative scrollwork and stars.

# STAR WORDS

Jan. 5, 2025

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## **FOUNDATION SERVICE (8:30 A.M.)**

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Pastoral Prayer

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*  
#103

Choir Anthem  
*"Song of Bethlehem"*

Scripture Reading  
*Matthew 2:1-12*

Sermon  
*Star Words*

Communion

Announcements

Offering

*"Theres A Song in the Air" #249*

Benediction

Postlude

## **THE GATHERING SERVICE (11 A.M.)**

Countdown Video

Welcome

*"Glory, (Let There Be Peace)"*

*"Midnight Clear (Love Song)"*

Kids Moment

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Scripture Reading  
*Matthew 2:1-12*

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Sermon  
*Star Words*

Communion

Announcements

Offering

*"We Three Kings"*

Benediction

Postlude

# LEADING IN WORSHIP

## Preaching

Pastor Mira Hewlett

## Liturgist

Pastor Lisa Aronson

## Accompanist (8:30 a.m.)

Brandon Rhody

## Special Music (8:30 a.m.)

Sounds of Worship

## Worship Leader (11 a.m.)

Allison Ometz

## Worship Band (11 a.m.)

John Gross, Emily Hammaker,  
Allison Ometz, Cindy Smith, Luke  
Wertz

## Sound and Media

Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols, Taylor  
Shepley

## ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Van and Gladys Squires 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](http://fumchurch.com)) and on the Church Center app. Contact Director of Children and Family Ministry Katie Knorr ([kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)) with questions.

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# YOUTH

## GRADES 6-12

### 4G Youth Group I TODAY, 6:00-8:00

Students 6th - 12th grade meet in the Youth Lounge/Gym for games, lesson, and conversation from 6:00-8:00pm. Enter at office entrance.

### Coming Up:

- Small Groups | January 12, 6:00-7:30  
- 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](https://www.instagram.com/fourgyouthministry))

Visit our webpage (link on Church Center)

Contact Pastor of Discipleship Lisa Aronson ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) to receive email updates.

# NOTES

## **Pastoral Letter from Council of Bishops**

For Epiphany Bishop Tracy S. Malone, President of the Council of Bishops, wrote a letter calling all United Methodists to welcome migrants, immigrants and refugees among us with the fullness of Christian love. Bishop Burgos-Nunez asked this be shared in worship today. A copy of this letter is available at either entrance & in the Church Office.

## Breath Prayers

Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.  
Help me rest; give me peace.  
Make clear my way, O Holy One.  
Out of darkness, into light.  
Fill me, Spirit, with your love.  
Lord, here I am.  
Abba, I belong to you.  
Let me know your peace, O God.  
Jesus, let me feel your love.

Eternal Light, guide me in your way  
Emmanuel, God with us.  
Lord Jesus, teach me your paths.  
Speak Lord, your servant is listening.  
Be still and know, that I am God.  
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
Lord, help me live, for you this day.

More information can be found at  
[upperroom.org/resources/the-breath-prayer](http://upperroom.org/resources/the-breath-prayer)

# 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 the church office, 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](http://fumchurch.com).

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## 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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) or Patti at [pvogl@timelessconnections.org](mailto:pvogl@timelessconnections.org) or [717-319-7318](tel:717-319-7318) 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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112).

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## PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

### **Greeters and Ushers**

As the new year begins, I am asking you to consider being a greeter and/or usher. The job is an easy one that only requires you to come in about 30 minutes before service and have a friendly smile. The more people I have signed up, the less each one has to work, usually only 1 or maybe 2 Sundays a month. If you are interested, please reach out to Judi Buddenbaum, either on Sunday morning or by email [ljcbuddenbaum@verizon.net](mailto:ljcbuddenbaum@verizon.net) or by text [717-805-2296](tel:717-805-2296). Thank you!

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## DEDICATED MISSIONARY

### **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](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com) to learn more and get involved.



## RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

### **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](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net). Early Bird discount ends 12/31/24, all registrations due by 1/10/25.

### **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!

### **Printed Church Directories**

Printed church directories are available! If you'd like to have one placed in your church mailbox, please contact the office ([office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611)). You can always update your information and view a digital version of the directory on the Church Center app or at [fumchurch.churchcenter.com](http://fumchurch.churchcenter.com).

### **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](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611 x 112](tel:717-766-4611).



## GENEROUS GIVER

### **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](http://fumchurch.com) or in the Church Center app.

***Scan here or visit [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) for more details on upcoming events and opportunities!***





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

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**Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors**  
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