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WELCOME TO

First United  
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA

A still life photograph of various food items on a dark wooden surface. On the left is a large round loaf of bread. In the center and right are several stalks of wheat. In the bottom right corner, there is a small bowl of nuts and a ball of twine.

A STARTLING  
guest

Mar. 30, 2025

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

*"Crown Him With Many Crowns" #327*

Unison Prayer

Choir Anthem  
*"More Love to Thee"*

Scripture Reading  
*Luke 14:1-24*

Sermon  
*A Startling Guest*

Hymn of Response: *"The Summons"*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering

*"Here I Am, Lord" #593*

Benediction

Postlude

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

Countdown Video

Welcome

*"Words We'll Sing Forever"*

*"Bless God"*

Kids Moment

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Scripture Reading  
*Luke 14:1-24*

*"Build My Life"*

Sermon  
*A Startling Guest*

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Offering

*"New Wine"*

Benediction

Postlude

# LEADING IN WORSHIP

## Preaching

Pastor Lisa Aronson

## Liturgist

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, Nate Erno,  
John Gross, Sarah Pugh, Tracy Wertz

## Sound and Media

Michael Garman, Fred Espenshade,  
Bill Richie, Holly Kurten

## ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Marr Philp by The Philp and Fugate Families and Patricia Marr.

# 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

11 am - 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

Easter Jam: April 5; VBS July 14-18, more information and details on church center!

### 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

### Coming Up:

-Today: Stay & Play Game Day - 12:15

-Next Week: April 6: 4G Youth Group 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](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) to receive email updates.

The Trustees have opened their scholarships for the 2025/2026 school year. See Church Center for information on applying.

# NOTES

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## Lenten Daily Bible Reading : March 30-April 5: Lent Week 4

### Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, your blessed Son was led by the Spirit  
to be tempted by Satan.

Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations.

And, as you know the weakness of each of us,  
let each one find you mighty to save;

through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, U.S.A., 1979, p. 166., ALT.)

**Monday:** Luke 14:1-24 A startling guest

**Tuesday:** Luke 11:1-36 How to pray and why

**Wednesday:** Luke 11:37-12:34 A full life

**Thursday:** Luke 12:35-13:9 Challenging of serving well

**Friday:** Luke 13:10-35 Healing accepted and refused

**Saturday:** Luke 14:25 – 15:32 Put aside pride, Praise God

## UPCOMING LENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter and is set aside as a time to prepare our hearts for Easter. It is the season in the church calendar where we are diligent in our coming to God, both in repentance and longing, as we recognize and long for the renewal and transformation that comes with Easter. Lent is a time to grow deeper and feel more fully the need and beauty of Jesus' sacrifice.

**Lent Study Options:** Consider participating in a group, with a friend, or individually with any of the following options. Sign up at Church Center or at the Registration Table in the Main Lobby and let us know what study you choose (study material information is on Church Center and at the Registration Table).

**Taste & See** By Margaret Feinberg

**Type:** Video-based study with optional personal daily study

**Description:** This study explores Biblical accounts of Jesus gathering at tables with others and considers the common items from those meals (fruit, oil, bread, salt, etc) to understand more about the goodness of God.

**Groups offering this study:**

-Growing in Christ Sun School (Sundays 9:45-10:45)

-Christian Fellowship Sunday school class (Sunday 9:45-10:45 AM, B003, March 9- April 13).

**Meeting Jesus at the Table** By Cynthia Campbell, Fohr, and Burns

**Type:** Weekly devotional book with reflection questions

**Description:** This study explores the Biblical accounts of Jesus gathering at tables with others and challenges us to see whom we choose to include or exclude from our tables. The study includes artwork to reflect and meditate on.

**Groups offering this study:**

-Wednesday Morning Discussion Group (Wed 9:30-10:30)

**Lent in Plain Sight** By Jill Duffield

**Type:** Daily devotion with prayer and reflection questions

**Description:** In this devotional book, the author draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days.

**Groups offering this study:**

-Faith in Everyday Life Small Group (most Sundays 9:45-10:45)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## LIFELONG LEARNER

### Next Step: New Members' Class | Apr. 27-May 25

Are you looking to be baptized, become a member of First Church, or want to explore the foundations of our faith? There will be a 5-week class April 27- May 25 during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45). A confirmation class for students will be offered during the same time. Registration and information can be found on Church Center.

### 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.



## PRAYING FOLLOWER

### Good Friday Prayer Walk, Friday, Apr. 18

The annual Community Good Friday Prayer Walk will be held on Friday, April 18 starting at 11:00 a.m. Led by local pastors, prayer walkers will start at one of the prayer sites and then cover the surrounding area in prayer. Participants are then invited to join together at noon at Mechanicsburg First Church of God on the square (28 East Main Street) for closing prayer and worship. All are welcome! The starting prayer sites are: Mechanicsburg Area Senior High, First United Methodist Church, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Park, and Turning Point Church. Watch for more details and updates on our website and on Church Center. If you have any questions about the Good Friday Prayer Walk, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). Looking forward to praying for our community with you!

1 Thessalonians 5:17



## PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

### Rejoicing Spirits | Today, 4 p.m.

First Church invites everyone to attend this inclusive praise and worship experience that celebrates all expressions of worship and individuals of all abilities. This monthly service includes music, scripture, prayer and a brief message, along with refreshments and fellowship afterward.

### Passion Play | Apr. 17, 6:30 pm

For over thirty years, First Church has performed a Passion Play where children, youth and adults share the story of Jesus leading up to his death and resurrection. The Passion Play will take the audience on the journey with Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter. There's no need to pre-register for this free, all-ages event. Be sure to invite friends and family!



## DEDICATED MISSIONARY

### Summer Mission Trip

The youth and other interested individuals are serving in Western North Carolina from June 29-July 4 to aid in disaster relief with Praying Pelican Missions. Register and learn more about the trip on Church Center.



## RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

## **Health and Wellness Presentation | Today, 9:45 a.m.**

Please join us in the multi-purpose room during the Sunday School hour to hear a presentation on 'Play Across the Ages' as we consider the value and benefits of taking time to play, regardless of our age! We encourage you to bring any games or puzzles you would like to place on our 'swap' table at this presentation. Everyone is welcome to give or take games and puzzles as we swap what we're done with for something new!

## **Stay & Play | Today**

Join others today after the 11:00 service for a game day! We will provide lunch. Register on Church Center, invite a friend, and bring a favorite game to play.

## **Easter Jam: a Family Easter Event- Apr. 5, 9-11 a.m.**

Looking for something exciting for the entire family to do this Easter? Join us for an unforgettable Easter Experience complete with fun, games, and music! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors for a morning to get you in the Easter spirit and learn about the true meaning of Easter. This is an event for kids and families to participate all together, this is not a drop-off event. We will start with an opening with games, music, and the story of Easter and then end with games and crafts. If you have any questions, please email Katie Knorr, Director of Children and Family Ministry at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

## **Friday Food Trucks at First, Save the Dates!**

The Food Trucks are back for another season starting May 16! New this year, we are excited to offer additional activities alongside the food truck events. In May, we will partner with the Simpson Library for a kick off to the Summer Reading Program, along with music on the patio from RJ Wertz. On July 18, we welcome Jazz 4 on the patio and a family-friendly movie. For our last event on September 19, we will partner with Sadler Health for a Fun and Fit Fair in the multipurpose room and music on the patio with Scott Hallman. The food trucks are a great way to meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere. We look forward to offering these events to our church family and our community. The food trucks serve from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. We can always use volunteers to help with parking, set up or tear down. Please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) to volunteer or learn more. Hope to see you there!



## **GENEROUS GIVER**

## **The Great Peanut Butter Challenge | Mar. 9-Apr. 20**

The Harrisburg/River Valley District is challenging churches to collect Peanut Butter and other nut butters during Lent which will be blessing One80 Ministry and Little Free Pantry. Drop off your peanut butter from 3/9-4/20 to the collection box located in the Main Lobby.

## **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!***



# First UMC Worship

8:30 am - Traditional Worship with choir  
WeeWorship for infant-Pre K  
Kids Activity bags at entrance for K-5th graders

11am - Contemporary Worship with Worship Band  
WeeWorship for infant-PreK & Kids Worship for K-5th graders  
Kids Activity bags at entrance for K-5th graders

**\*Both services also streamed live or view later at  
[www.youtube.com/@FUMCMechanicsburg](http://www.youtube.com/@FUMCMechanicsburg)**

**Looking for a Sign-Up? In the Main Lobby is the Registration Table where you  
can register for current studies, fundraisers, events, and more.**



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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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