



First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

From the Pastor's Desk.....

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One of my favorite activities is to go explore a new park or hike in the area. Since moving to the Camp Hill area, we have come to love the climb and view of the Cove Mountain trail in Marysville. Connecting three trails it normally takes us a bit under 2 hours to hike the 2.5 miles that has a beautiful view of the mini Statue of Liberty and goes along the ridge of the mountain.

As I hike there in different seasons, I love to see the changes of the forest coming to life, of brilliant greens of summer and then the assortment of colorful leaves in the fall. I have not seen too many animals on this path but keep my eyes open. As I walk this, it's also a time of prayer, reflection and recentering as I follow the trail markers through easy and sometimes challenging paths. Hiking has helped me connect with God, get in a mild workout, and enjoy creation.

In the Old Testament many people of faith climbed mountains that lead them to meet God. In August's sermons we are going to go "On the Mountain" and explore lessons learned and how people were transformed by their time on the mountain. We will look at the Mountain of Promise with Noah, the Mountain of Provision with Abraham, the Mountain of Endurance with Caleb, the Mountain of Blessing with Joshua and the Mountain of Rescue with David. Through the eye of these Old Testament leaders, we will travel to their mountains each Sunday in worship.

During this series I would also like to share pictures of mountains where you have traveled. If you have pictures of great mountains locally or from your travels, please send those to my email by August 17th.

On August 17th we will also celebrate Back to School and encourage kids to bring their bookbags. Adult working in education of any level are invited to wear your school shirt so we can pray over you as you begin the school year.

My hope and prayer during this series is that we would learn from these leaders and their mountain adventures so that our lives too can be transformed as we spend time with God this summer.

On the journey together,

Pastor Mira



Sunday School:

As summer comes to a close, our Sunday School classes will be resuming towards the end of August and kicking off by September 7th! This is a wonderful opportunity to find consistency and accountability in your faith journey while studying God's Word. In the meantime, be sure to check out the Sunday School offerings still available during the summer. Stay tuned for a list of available classes coming in September. We look forward to growing together!

- **Special Activity: August 10 - Operation Warm Hearts**

Operation Warm Hearts is a local grassroots organization that aims to provide handmade items for those encountering homeless situations. All ages are welcome to help us make no-throw blankets in the Fellowship Hall

- **Ongoing S.S. Classes:**

- * **Guyer Class:** This class invites all those looking for a class to their Sunday school to participate in the Cokesbury Adult Summer Bible Study called "Living Faith." Join others in this Bible study and conversation as you explore Paul's arrival in Corinth and his ministry there from the book of 1 Corinthians. Class meets in room 123 most Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45 (class participants in some special presentations/activities).
- * **Growing in Christ:** This welcoming group enjoys digging deeper into the Scriptures, to seek the knowledge and wisdom to apply Scriptural truths in their everyday lives. The class generally consists of prayer, a video, and a group discussion. Drop in for a single class, or a specific study, or stay as long as you like! They meet in B006 and will be meeting when there are no special activities or presentations.

First Church Service Shirts!

Our brand-new First Church Service Shirts — designed to unite and identify us as we serve together in our community. Whether you're volunteering at an outreach event, helping with church ministries, or participating in a mission project, these shirts are a simple and powerful way to represent First Church with love and purpose. Wearing a service shirt not only helps others recognize who we are, but it also shows that we're working together as the hands and feet of Christ. Shirts are available for purchase now — order yours today and wear it proudly the next time you serve! Shirts are available for \$10.00 and can be ordered at the registration table or on Church Center. Participation Discount: If you participate in one of the Summer Sunday school activities (Caitlin Smiles on June 15th or Operation Warm Hearts on August 10th), you can get a shirt for \$5.00 (or free for children and youth). Checks made out to FUMC, t-shirt in the memo, and given attention of Lisa Aronson.

From the Library

As I write this the library volunteers are getting ready for our annual book sale. If you have gently used books, puzzles, CDs or DVDs we would love to have them for the sale. I have to emphasize gently used. We have no way to recycle books we can't sell. We deeply appreciate your donations as it keeps new Christian books on the bookshelf all year long. After you donate, stop by the sale on August 16th to keep your bookshelf filled until next year!! I will give you the update on the sale in September. Thank you for supporting us.

I am always on the lookout for new authors for our library, and I think you will like Hallee Bridgeman. I have read two of her three books in the Love and Honor series. Each book is a mystery centered around



our special forces and set in a different location. In Honor Bound, Dr Cynthia Myers starts a clinic in war-torn Africa. She works in a peaceful village, but when a local warlord demands she save his mortally wounded son all chaos erupts. An Army Special Forces team has been battling this warlord, and they have followed him to the clinic, just in time to save Cynthia's life. Some of the members of the team have been seriously wounded and Cynthia pushes her skills to the max to save their lives. Then they all must flee through the jungle to evade the enemy. That is only the beginning of the story, and there are enough twists and turns to keep you guessing to the very end.

Word of Honor opens in Alaska where FBI special agent Lynda Culter and her partner have been captured, and her partner killed right before her eyes. Since she is the only person to have seen the terrorists the FBI is chasing, she joins a special forces team and flies to Istanbul to identify them and stop the terror. Not in a million years did she imagine she would be partnered with the man who broke her heart and her spirit while they were in college. Not only does she have to work with him, but she also has to pretend to be his Muslim wife. You can see there will be many subplots working in this story.

Last but not least is Honor's Refuge. Melissa Braxton was just five years old when she witnessed her father murdering her mother. Then she was then separated from her sister. Always wanting to help people in abusive situations like hers, she grows up, becomes a therapist, and opens a domestic abuse shelter. Phil Osbourne has lost not only his leg in the line of duty, but also his purpose in life. After hearing Melissa's story, he decides he will find her sister, Lola, for her. Little do either of them that this search will bring the cartel down on them and endanger both of their lives. See if Melissa and Phil can survive the journey and maybe even heal in each other's arms.

Don't miss these heart pounding books, and if you enjoy them visit Hallee Bridgeman's page online, sign up for her newsletter and receive a free e-book.

Church member, Maggie Stolar, has donated a six volume book series called The Bible and Its Story Taught through One Thousand Picture Lessons. This is a beautiful set of books that illustrates critical moments in the Bible and explains the times and trials through stories and pictures. These books are currently shelved on the new book cart. Stop by the library to check them out!

If these books are not your preferred genre, stop by the library and let one of our volunteers help you find just the right book. We also have lots of new puzzles to choose from while you are beating the heat indoors.

Hope to see you in the library!

Pam, Marge, Mary, Annette, Deb, & Donna

Praying Follower



Community Youth Worship Night – August 3rd

Join us at 7:00 pm on August 3rd in the green space outside FUMC for a worship night. Our students have been blessed by the worship offerings of Salt 'n Light Youth Ministry, and we are excited to partner with McBic to invite Salt 'n Light to Mechanicsburg for the evening. Please bring a bag chair, and come ready for a night of worship. (Inclement weather will move us into the sanctuary.)

Save the Dates:

As you are planning your schedule for this fall/next school year, please keep in mind these dates:

Church Picnic – September 7th, 4:00-7:00, at FUMC

Church Conference (and service event) – November 2nd, 4:00-7:00

Women's Retreat – January 23-25, 2026

Passionate Worshipper



Attention ALL SINGERS!!

We need YOU!! ALL are welcome!

Sounds Of Worship choir would like to “hear” and “see” you in our choir THIS FALL! No Auditions!! First rehearsal is Sept 4 at 6:45-7:45 p.m. in the music room which is located at the back end of Fellowship Hall in the basement. Contact Flossie Ryder with any questions at missflossie42@gmail.com.

Dedicated Missionary



Project: Back to School

August 19 and 20th many of our local school districts will begin school for the 2025-2026 school year! This summer we are partnering with Operation Wildcat to collect donations for Project Back to School. Project Back to School seeks to make sure every student in the Mechanicsburg Ares School District (MASD) has new supplies to start the school year. MASD has around 4,500 students in K-12th grade. Approximately 26% or 1,170 are considered economically disadvantaged and qualify for free or reduced lunch. Families that struggle to have consistent food available really struggle when trying to buy supplies to start the school year.

That’s where churches and the community come together to help make sure every child has all that’s needed for the school year through Operation Wildcat. **A list of items to donate is available in the Church Office or Main Lobby; and a collection box is in the Main Lobby. We will be collecting items through August 17th.**

Thank you to everyone who donates school supplies. May donating backpacks, pens, crayons and more be one of the ways we are able to live out our faith this summer and bless the kids in our community.

VIM Adult Trip with Carolina Rebuilding Ministry

Carolina Rebuilding Ministry, located in Plymouth NC, began through the local United Methodist churches and community coming together to help local residences whose homes have been hit by storms or in need of accessibility repairs. Since 2011 they have worked with 505 families all through the help of volunteer teams. Today they work in four counties in the eastern part of N.C.

Oct 19-25 Pastor Mira is looking to lead an adult mission trip to eastern North Carolina to help families whose homes in need of repair after storm damage. Work may include wall and ceiling sheetrock, floor repairs, wheelchair ramp, window/door installs, or weatherization. Housing will be in a local school turned into a volunteer center with dorm rooms style beds, a kitchen, and community rooms. Adults 18+ are welcome. We hope to fill a team of 6-12 members. The cost is \$350 per person that includes all meals, travel and supply costs in N.C.

If you are interested, or to learn more, contact Pastor Mira at pastormira@fumchurch.com. Deadline to sign up is August 17th with one team meeting on Sept 14th.

May we live out our faith as we help those in need!



Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members prepare and serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m. To find out how to get involved, contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com.

Gleaning 2025!

This growing season, we are excited to have the opportunity to once again glean locally in partnership with Oak Grove Farms! We will share the fresh produce with the individuals and families receiving support locally from One80 Ministries. If you haven't gleaned with us before, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 to have your name/contact information added to the FUMC 2025 'Glean Team' to receive additional information!

Gleaning 3 – Thursday, August 7th – 6 pm (meet in Oak Grove Farms parking lot)

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God" ~Leviticus 19:9-10.

Relationship Builder



Why We Serve

Have you ever considered serving on the Hospitality Team? Jeff Hoffnagle shares why serving as a greeter has been a meaningful experience for him:

"Why do I volunteer as a greeter at First Church? I was raised in a fairly reserved family (no problem there), but married into (yes, this may be shocking to many of you!) an outgoing, affectionate family that was quite a lot to adapt to, coming from my background. However, I must say, I never had to wonder if I was welcome in my in-law's home...they made it abundantly clear. It made quite the impression on me, and when I was approached about helping with the Sunday morning greeting here at First Church, I knew this was God telling me to make others feel the same way about coming to First Church that I felt going to my in-laws. I've been greeting here at First Church for several years now, and I can honestly say that I get more out of it than I put into it. I've developed positive relationships with church members and non-church members that would have never happened if I hadn't said yes to greeting. If you are feeling that nudge to join the hospitality team, I urge you to reach out to me to find out what's involved. You won't regret it."

Coffee is Brewing

In September, after a break for the summer, we will again offer coffee weekly on Sunday mornings. Coffee will be in the main lobby from 9:20-11:15. Come grab a cup of coffee or tea and spend some time catching up with friends. If you would be interested in being a part of our Coffee Team that helps make this possible, reach out to Lisa Aronson at adultministry@fumchurch.com.

Church Picnic

Save the Date! Join us for our Church Picnic on September 7th! As summer winds down and fall begins, this is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with friends and family in our church community. Enjoy good food, yard games, worship, and fellowship. We can't wait to see you there!

Community Dinner, September 28, 2025

The fall community dinner will be held on Sunday, September 28 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on Main Street at 5:00 p.m. This collaborative event with other local churches blesses the downtown community with a meal, music and a gift card drawing, free of charge. The idea comes from the book 'Welcome to Dinner, Church,' which encourages churches to share a meal with their neighbors. We serve close to 100 neighbors and friends at these meals. If you would like to help set up, serve or provide a food item, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com. Thanks for your support!



Friday Food Trucks at First!

Our last Food Truck event will be held on Friday, September 19. We be hosting a Fun and Fit Fair in the multipurpose room in partnership with Sadler Health in Mechanicsburg. Sadler Health Center is a federally qualified health center serving Cumberland and Perry counties, providing comprehensive community-based primary care, dental care and behavioral health services with a team of qualified professionals who can help you reach your healthiest life. Check our website for updated list of trucks attending. 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 to volunteer or learn more. Hope to see you there!

Yard, Book and Bake Sale, Saturday, August 16

We are looking forward to the annual United Women in Faith Yard, Book and Bake Sale in our church parking lot on Saturday, August 16 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. See all the details below:

- **Yard sale spots** in the parking lot (2 parking spaces) are \$15. You may reserve up to two spots. Proceeds benefit the United Women in Faith missions. Once again, for your convenience, you can easily sign up on Church Center. You may cancel up to August 1, with a refund, but no refund after that date (we will consider it a donation to the United Women in Faith). To reserve your space, contact Donna Nichols at [djnichols43@hotmail](mailto:djnichols43@hotmail.com) for the link.
- Support our wonderful Youth by **donating your treasures!** The Youth will sell the items to raise funds for future mission trips. Last year, they made over \$2,700 at the sale! The collection will start Monday, **August 4** and continue through Thursday, **August 14** in the multipurpose room from **9:00 am to Noon only**. There will be two evening collections on Wednesday, August 6 and August 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please bring only clean, unbroken and working items. Questions about your donations, contact Lisa Aronson at uthrock@fumchurch.com or Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.
- The Children's Department will once again hand out **free school supplies** in handmade pencil pouches (thanks to our Squares and Prayers Group) to children who visit the sale.
- The **Church Library** will have a variety of books, puzzles, CD's, DVD's available for purchase. The library is asking for gently used children and adult books, puzzles, cds and dvds (Please no VHS videos, cassettes or encyclopedias) for our annual sale. Proceeds from the sale keep the most current Christian fiction on our shelves for your reading pleasure. Donations can be left outside the church library (near Alley entrance) on Sunday mornings or in the multipurpose room starting August 5. If you have a large book donation, call Pam Van Kirk at [717-903-9196](tel:717-903-9196) or Donna Nichols [717-574-9894](tel:717-574-9894) to make arrangements for a drop off. Thanks in advance.
- The church **Handbell Choirs** will have food available for purchase to support their ministry of music.
- Enjoy tasty treats from the United Women in Faith **Bake Sale!** (We will be asking for donations of baked goods, so start thinking of something yummy to make!) To donate baked goods, contact Denise Swank at dmom64@gmail.com or [717-795-8747](tel:717-795-8747).

There is something for everyone at the sale! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Nichols at djnichols43@hotmail.com or Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com. Thanks for your support!

Summer Pickleball! Tuesday 5-7 pm

Join us on the Pickleball courts at Soldiers and Sailors Mechanicsburg Park! If the weather is unfavorable (excessive heat, rainy), we will play in the church multi-purpose room. No experience is necessary. Paddles/balls will be available to borrow if you'd like to learn how to play! Contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions or to be added to the Pickleball email list for updates and weekly alerts of where we will be playing.



Joy in the Morning - A small group invitation, Monday August 18 @ 1 pm

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 info., information, contact Janice ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com)

Greeting Cards to Share!

Looking for a birthday card or wanting to send 'get well' wishes to a friend? Stop by the 'Card Ministry' display in the lobby outside the multipurpose room and help yourself to a card! If you'd like a bigger supply of cards or suggestions of who may appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112)

Visiting with Friends!

If you miss seeing your friends at church due to issues such as aging or driving limitations, Janice Bowen would like to hear from you! Janice is interested in taking people with her for visits so that friends can remain connected by visiting in-person with one another! Whether you find yourself 'stuck at home,' no longer able to get out to church or you are able to get to church, but you are missing your friends who are 'stuck at home.' Either way, Janice would love to hear from you! [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com.

Backpack Blessing: August 17 8:30/11:00

Students, Teachers, and other School Workers are invited to bring their backpacks and bags to worship as we pray over you and your schools for this upcoming year. Please contact Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) with questions.

Save the Date- Mom Connection: Better Together- Starting Sept. 21.

Open to moms of kids infant-12th grade. More info to come at fumchurch.com or on Church Center. Contact Katie Knorr (kidscount@fumchurch.com) with questions.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!

On June 1st, during our Sunday morning services, we celebrated our graduates. As fall approaches and these students prepare for their next steps in their academic and employment journeys, please keep them in your prayers.

To our graduates: Whether you've conquered high school, college, or any other academic milestone, we are immensely proud of your dedication and hard work. As you embark on your next exciting adventure, may God's light continue to guide your path.

Remember, your church family is always here to support you as you grow in your faith.

Congrats to **Katie McKenney, Max Paris, RJ Wertz, Kallie Bower, Aubrey Orsinger, Kyle Sill, Michael Kurten, Allison Arnold, Kendyl Swank, Abigail Hoover, Nathaniel Hoover, Heather Bowen, Maya Bowen, and Courtney Nuss!**



Financial Report

Through June 30, 2025
General Fund

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2025 Budget | \$869,000 |
| Expected Income YTD \$ | \$434,500.00 (50% of year complete) |
| Actual Income YTD \$ | \$397,197.88 (45.7% of budget) |
| Actual Expenses | \$412,017.89 (47.4% of budget) |

The financial report for June shows revenues falling short relative to expectations midway through the year. Some of this can be attributed to decreased attendance in the summer but is still an area of concern we will continue to monitor. Fortunately, expenses remain lower than anticipated so far this year.

In June we completed a refinancing of the existing loan on the parsonage through the Conference. We took advantage of an offer the Conference made to all congregations with balances in the seedling loan program where refinancing would provide 0% interest and 10% forgiveness on the remaining principal if we made payments in good order, which First Church always has. This savings will help the general fund budget this year and over the next few years, and we are grateful for the refinancing opportunity provided by the Conference. The church debt for the parsonage stands at \$38,637, and the belltower loan stands at \$32,063, following a principal and interest payment on the belltower loan this past month.

We thank you for your continued generosity and prayers in support of First Church.

Share the Harvest

If you have extra flowers, fruits, or vegetables from your yard or garden this summer, we encourage you to share them with your church family and community! Whether you leave goodies or take some home with you, please check out the Share the Harvest display set-up on the counter space near the children’s department....as well as the shelf attached to the Little Free Pantry alongside the church parking lot. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112) with any questions.

Little Free Pantry

We had to shut down the pantry during an excessive hot week this summer, but we are back open and looking for donations to support this ministry. Most needed items are canned goods, such soups, pasta sauce, fruit, vegetables, canned chicken and tuna. You can bring your donations to the container at the alley entrance or to the church office. The pantry is filled every day and emptied out every day, so we appreciate anything you can contribute to this ‘no barrier access point to food’ to our neighbors. Questions about the Little Free Pantry, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

Camp Fancy Gala – Save the Date, September 13

Everyone who values the power of Camp and Retreat experiences to change lives, this invitation is for you! Come for an evening of inspiration, fun, and generosity. Camp Fancy means you can choose your attire from prom night outfits to outdoor gear just be sure to have one part of your outfit that is “fancy” as part of the celebration. The event will be held at the Conference Center at Central Penn College, 600 College Hill Road, Summerdale on Saturday, September 13, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The honoree for this year is Rev. Beth Jones. Read more about her camping ministry at <https://suscrm.org/gala/>.

The event features a catered meal, special music, auction items and the chance to honor Beth, as we raise needed funds for Camp & Retreat Ministry. Information about tickets, sponsorships and donations can be found on the camping website here: <https://suscrm.org/gala/>. If you have any questions about Camp Fancy, how to volunteer, make a donation or contribute an auction item, contact Steve Noss at sdppp@msn.com. Thanks for your support of Camp and Retreat Ministry!

Ringling in the News!

We hope you have enjoyed your summer so far. It sure has been hot! We appreciate all the kind words we've heard from you as we played for you this summer. 2nd service – we tried to play for you also, but you always have such a busy service, we didn't fit into the service! We have paid our deposits for our trip to Scotland next August and will be registering for the International Handbell Symposium this month! This is our 6th time we've been able to attend one of these and it is always a thrill! First of all, to be one of only a few choirs representing the USA, and then to be playing with 1000 other ringers from all over the world! We play under the direction of directors from Brittain, Australia, Japan, Korea, Canada and the US. We hope to play some of this music for you as we learn it this year.

Speaking of this year – we do have a couple of dates for you to mark on your calendars now! We will be at the Yard Sale this month selling hotdogs and sausage. Our 25th annual Chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, September 27 – our 25th! Can you believe it! And, of course, we will again be in our church parking lot for the Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade. We so much appreciate your support!

We will be kicking off our ringling year with our "Send a Bell to Scotland" fundraiser. Some of you have already given us some very nice gifts and we do appreciate it. The cost for each ringer just to register for the Symposium is \$800, but of course we have to take all our bells as well – and buy some foam to play on. You know what extra suitcases cost on an airplane..... Then of course we'd like to tour Scotland for a little while before we come home – hoping to see the Military Tattoo at the Edinburgh Castle right before our return. Our goal is to try and raise half the money needed for this trip. So, you will see us out and about in the community representing First Church this year. Please say hi if you do! Thank you Family of First Church!

First Church Mission Moments...

ISAIAH 61 MINISTRIES/HELPING THE NEEDY

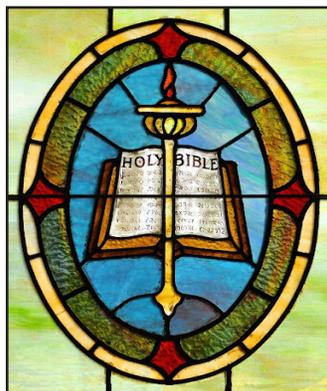
Isaiah 61 is a ministry started in Halifax, PA, that has offered a hot meal, clothes, toiletries and prayer with dignity and compassion to anyone in need. Like so many wonderful ministries that FUMC walks along side, Isaiah 61 Ministries started with a heart to serve the needy. After almost 13 years of serving in Harrisburg, they had to step back and asked each group to take the helm to not only serve but also prepare the meals. In 2024, FUMC started funding and preparing the meals through volunteers and donations, serving on the third Wednesday of each month.

There are many ways to serve. Prayers are always first and foremost to assist with discernment in how we can best assist our neighbors. Volunteers are also needed to help prepare the food in the church kitchen. Donated items for meals are always welcome. You could set up and serve the food in Harrisburg; children may help serve, along with supervising adults; carpooling from the church is available. Lastly, it is a wonderful opportunity to listen to our neighbor's needs and discuss how Jesus is always there to provide what they need in life. Amen.

Please check out the display in the tower hallway during August for a list of needs. We would also like to put together hygiene kits that include toothbrushes, brush-holders, toothpaste (travel size), soap and a washcloth. During the cold winter months, shoes, socks, coats, blankets, tents and sleeping bags are greatly appreciated. Those being served are always very appreciative of our presence and willingness to serve, pray or just lend an ear.

God has abundant and unending love for each person who comes through the line, and for all members of the homeless community. Helping to continue the mission of Isaiah 61 Ministries is a truly humbling and rewarding experience, and it is a great honor to serve as God's hands and feet.

Stained Glass Class



The Bible and the Torch

The stain glass window of the bible and lamp is located at First Church 1st floor 1st window from the Frederick St. entrance.

The lamp is a symbol of wisdom and enlightenment. Lamp represents Light. Light represents the direction and guidance of God. The Holy Bible represents God's word as direction for our lives. Notice that the Holy Bible is a single open book representing the Holy Word of God, which anyone can read to understand God's love for us. Psalm 119:105 says God's Word (the bible) is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path. 2 Samuel 22 says the Lord is a lamp, turning darkness into light.

Camp | Thank You

As the Summer Camp season winds to a close, we as Camp Coordinators would like to extend to you our thanks and appreciation for making this year's camping season memorable and successful. It seems like only yesterday when we had Camp Sunday in February to kick off the year with the camping theme: **"Building authentic connections in Christ, community, and creation."**

So, we would like to thank:

- Parents who made it a priority to register and take their children to camp this year;
- Campers who went into less familiar places yet willing to explore creation in search of fun, friends and fellowship;
- Volunteers (Deans, Nurses, Counselors, Special Guests, etc.) who took time away from their regular lives to provide programming and a safe and fun environment for campers to make new and lasting friendships with others and with Christ;
- Prayer Partners who prayed for individual campers, others attending camp and all the volunteers/permanent camp staff - for safety, fun and to grow relationships with the Lord;

- Members of First Church who support this ministry through your willingness to help pay half of camper registrations – this is a **huge** blessing to our camp families;
- Individuals who gave special scholarship gifts to help cover additional fees and expenses; and
- You for undergirding this vital program!

This year, there were **41** First Church campers/volunteers, **54** who were covered in pray by multiple partners, and **44** who received financial assistance.

FUMC (you) also offered a special partnership with **The Journey** church in Harrisburg to support their initiative to send **14** children from their church to camp for the very first time.

How has being a member of FUMC who in some way supported camp this year helped to connect you to Christ, community, and/or creation?

We would love to hear from you as our partners in the Camping Ministry.

Your Sisters and Brother in Christ,
Amy Ortiz, Deb Noss and Steve Noss

Contact Info Needed

Church Staff are working to contact the almost 700 members who have not worshipped with us since 2020. As we do this, attempts to contact the members below were unsuccessful because emails or mailing addresses were returned undeliverable. If you know any of these members and have current contact information, please contact the Church Office (office@fumchurch.com).

If we do not have contact information these names will appear before Church Conference for removal from membership.

Thank you for your assistance as we work to contact all the members at First Church we have not seen in many years.

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Chad Adams | Crystal Dickinson | Wilbur Hamsher | Joyce Morrow | Luella Sanders |
| Angela Allgood | Matthew DiLoreto | Bonnie Hartsock | Norman Morrow | Craig Senior |
| John Anderson | Rocco DiLoreto | Thomas Hartsock | Katelyn Murk | Virginia Senior |
| Kirk Baker | Joann Dum | Eric Hess | Charles Murray | David Shakespeare |
| Karlene Beaver | Joseph Dysinger | Steve Hilderhoff | Benjamin Musser | Teresa Shakespeare |
| Thomas Benner | Susan Dysinger | Dana Hilderhoff | Jane Musser | Timothy Shannon |
| Joan Benner | Lee Eberly | Lisa Hillegas | Harry Musser | James Shannon |
| Tammie Berkheimer | Deborah Eberly | Tracy Hipple | Lisa Nailor | Carl Simmons |
| Amber Bowman | Virginia Eidenschink | Gloria Hughlett | Lucas Nailor | William Simpson |
| Tomv Brown | Kathy Emanuelson | Daniel James | Gary Oberman | Darwin Spangler |
| Cheryl Brown | Armilda Fertenbaugh | Kimberly James | Susan Oberman | Mary Startzel |
| Mary Buechel | Creedon Fertenbaugh | Sarah Janis | Arlene Palmer | John Stauffer |
| Nancy Burdulis | Angela Fetterolf | Simon Janis | Fred Pennington, | Rebecca Strawn |
| Stephen Butler | Michael Fetterolf | Jeffrey Johnson | Leonard Peterman | Alison Strickland |
| Holly Butler | Christine Fetterolf | Johanna Jones | John Pollock | Jenna Taylor |
| Betty Caddy | Virginia Fetterolf | James Jones | Kristine Pollock | Angela Tennis |
| Orwin Caddy | Justin Filson | Nancy Kantor | Robert Powell | Cynthia Thumma |
| Benjamin Calhoun | J. Fred | Michael Kipp | Matt Provost | Adam Tosh |
| Stephen Cassel | Lori Fry | Janeene Lam | Meredith Provost | Sharon Wert |
| Roxane Cassel | Nancy Gawlikowski | Woody Lehmer | Lisa Provost | Kimberly Wert |
| Gary Cassell | Anne Greenawalt | Kylie Lerew | Kristin Quave | Samuel Wert |
| Joan Cattie | Laurie Greenawalt | Lizbeth Lerew | Glenn Renard | Judy White |
| Eileen Chapman | Mark Greenawalt | Krystal Lerew | Grace Renard | Sandra Wilkinson |
| Geraldine Coleman | Mike Greenawalt | Daniel Lichtenberger | Deborah Rentfrow | Pamela Williams |
| Taylyn Conner | Matthew Groce | Mary Lodge | Trent Rentfrow | Thomas Williams |
| Christine Croce | Laurie Greenawalt | Mary Lou | Gail Rich | Richard Wolford |
| Matthieu Croce | Mark Greenawalt | Amanda Love | Linda Ritter | |
| Shirley Crownover | Mike Greenawalt | Lisa Maniscalco | Melani Russell | |
| Stephen Dell | Matthew Groce | Eric Michael | Scott Russell | |
| Grace Demler | Mary Hamsher | Anita Moore | Pamela Ryder | |

First Church Family ~ Thank you for your generous donations of Tastykakes for Vacation Bible School snack! The kids definitely enjoyed eating the Tastykakes! Thanks to your abundant generosity, we have extra Tastykakes to share with both Isaiah 61 and St. Mark's Lutheran Church for their 'Kids Day Camp.' What a tremendous blessing! ~Janice Bowen

Dear First Church,

What a joy it is for our family to remember your prayerful and generous financial support towards our ministry with DiscipleMakers as we transition back to Mechanicsburg! Thanks for your investing in God's work on campuses across south-central PA as we plant gospel seeds and raise up students to point others to Christ. We eagerly anticipate joining you on a Sunday morning later this summer/fall! Yours in Christ, Josh & Megan Herring."



Help us celebrate special birthdays for our church members turning 80 or older!



| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Marty Coover.....August 1 | Sally Kauffman.....September 8 |
| Barry Adams.....August 5 | Pat Sheely.....September 11 |
| Carl Hutchison.....August 8 | Judith Brown.....September 14 |
| Joan Maybee.....August 10 | Sue Shier.....September 18 |
| Pauline Trace.....August 12 | Joan Stokes.....September 19 |
| Al Maybee.....August 14 | Marty Otto.....September 20 |
| Jerry Sheely.....August 18 | Marley Ann Schmick.....September 21 |
| Kay Coldren.....August 25 | Gary Klinger.....September 22 |
| Jo Barth.....August 27 | Ralph Harkins.....September 25 |
| Dean Otto.....August 31 | Curt Bonser.....September 26 |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Fred Junkins married 59 years August 9, 1966.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Curt Bonser married 64 years August 17, 1963.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Allan Maybee married 60 years August 21, 1965.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Harry Woods married 72 years August 23, 1953.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Semanko married 50 years August 23, 1975.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sheely married 67 years August 24, 1958.

FIRST NEWS FIRST
EDITORS: Kelsey Goll

The **deadline** for submitting articles
for the Sept. 2025 issue is **August 15**.
Early submissions always appreciated!