
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



THE GIFT OF Love



December 21, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOUNDATION SERVICE **8:30 A.M**

Prelude- *"Joy to the World"*

Welcome

Call to Worship

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"
#218

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of
Advent

"Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)"

Scripture Reading
Luke 1:9-12; John 3:16; Romans 8:38-39

Sermon:
The Gift of Love

Handbell Anthem
"Gift of The Manger"

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering

"There's a Song in the Air"
#249

Benediction

Postlude - *"Now The Green Blade Riseth"*

FOUNDATION SERVICE **11:00 A.M**

Countdown Video

Welcome

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of
Advent

Kids Moment
Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Scripture Reading
Luke 1:9-12; John 3:16; Romans 8:38-39

"Here I am to Worship"

Sermon:
The Gift of Love

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Offering

"Manger Throne"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Mira Hewlett

Liturgist

Al Robinson

Accompanist (830)

Brandon Rhody

Special Music (830)

Handbell Choir

Worship Leader (11)

Sarah Pugh

Worship Band

Emily Hammaker, John McHenry,
Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, Cindy Smith,
Abigail Wertz, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media

Michael Garman, Ron Nichols, Bill
Richie, Violet Sanker

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents placed by George & Mary Beth Snoke.

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

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

Keep in Touch!

We have a **new** Youth Ministry texting platform. To get the most up-to-date and real time messages please text "fumyouthmin" to 717-722-4800 to opt into receiving texts. Contact Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com to receive email updates.

Christmas Eve Worship

5pm | Family Service for all ages to sing favorite hymns and retell the message of Christmas.

10pm | Traditional Candlelight Service weaves together scriptures and hymns celebrating the birth of Jesus bringing light into the world.

December 28 Worship

8:30am | Traditional Worship

11am | Modern/Contemporary Worship

We encourage you to come in Christmas Casual for worship as we continue to celebrate Jesus' birth. Kids are encouraged to wear Christmas pjs.

Holiday Reminders!

***The Church office will be closed December 24-Jan 1.
The Church office will resume open on Friday, January 2, 2026.***

POINSETTIAS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Glen & Betsy Kurtz and Delores Walker.....
The Guyer Family
The Crowl Family.....
Paul & Virginia Miller, and James D. Donak.....
Ralph, Edna, & Edwin Barclay.....
Sharon Vollert.....
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lancaster.....
Nicholas R. Vogl.....
Our Loved Ones.....
Elvin Hess.....
Earl W. Sollenberger.....
Cliff Gustafson.....
Jackie & Joe Baker and Carl Burd.....
Doris & Harold Zimmerman.....
Merle & Della Zimmerman and Carrie Rife.....
Murph Zimmerman.....
Ivan J. Otstot.....
L. Gene Adams & Rose A. Myers.....
Our Parents.....
Carol Miller.....
Our Loved Ones.....
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chilton Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Strohmenger.....
Walter & Eleanor Capewell
Bob & Verna Andreas.....
John Behel.....
Polly Blum & Mark Zywan.....
Butch Glace.....

PLACED BY

John & Denise Kurtz
Bonnie Guyer
Bonnie Guyer
Marilyn Donak
Kurt, Gloria, & Alex Vollert
Kurt, Gloria, & Alex Vollert
Don & Kay Heiges
The Vogl Family
Larry & Judi Buddenbaum
The Hess Family
Jody Sollenberger
Joanne Arenzana
Bob & Judy Wertz
Steven Zimmerman
Steven Zimmerman
Lela Zimmerman
Nancy Otstot
Jean Adams & Family
Don & Debbie Karns
Ben Miller & Family
The Fugate Family
Jim & Sue Chilton
Jim & Sue Chilton
Dennis & Roberta Capewell
Dennis & Roberta Capewell
Jeannette, Amy, Becky
Ed Blum & Karen Zywan
Kirk & Sue Bobb

IN HONOR OF

Tom Walker.....
The Glory of God.....
My children — Randy Otstot and Stacy Balaban —, my
grandchildren — Alaina, Olivia, Peyton, Ray, and Ryan —
and six granddoggies

PLACED BY

John & Denise Kurtz
Carl & Rose Hutchison

Nancy Otstot

Donation to the stained glass windows given in loving memory of
L. Gene Adams & Rose A. Myers by Jean Adams & Family.

Donation to the stained glass windows given in loving memory of William Seig by Marilyn Seig
and family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Growing Together | Jan. 4th, 12pm – 1:30pm | Hardwood Café

Paul writes to the Philippians that he is truly happy when believers are “agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose” (Phil 2:2). We, too, value learning and serving together with one heart and one mission. Stick around after service at the round tables in the green chair side of the sanctuary. We will provide lunch and a learning/service activity for all ages. Registration is encouraged to help us plan for food and accommodate any dietary restrictions. Registration is on Church Center and at the Registration Table. Reach out to Katie Knorr with questions. Future Dates: March 15, April 19



PRAYING FOLLOWER

2026 Women’s Retreat – Jan. 23-25 2026, Register Now!

Our 2026 women’s retreat, “Awakening Awe, Rediscovering God’s Greatness,” will be held at Rhodes Grove Retreat Center, 7693 Browns Mill Road, Chambersburg. Lisa Aronson will lead us in experiencing a central element of worship: Awe. We will explore the profound importance of rekindling our sense of wonder in a culture that often dulls our spiritual sense. Together we will learn to stand in awe of God and reignite our hearts with amazement, empowering us to carry that sense of awe back into our daily lives. Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, food and faith! Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday before noon. Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals are included. We are pleased to offer a One-Day option (lunch and dinner included)! You can find the registration form at the sign-up table in the church lobby (outside the multipurpose room), on the Church Center or email Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com. All women welcome!



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Lent Devotional | Submit by Jan. 11

Help us create a First Church devotional for Lent. Lent is a season of preparation - a time of deep reflection and honest confession as we move with Jesus towards the cross and to the personal challenge of sharing in Christ’s sacrifice and living fully for Him. You can submit a Lent Devotional to Lisa at discipleship@fumchurch.com any time before January 11th. Directions on how to write a Lent Devotional can be found on Church Center and at the Registration desk.



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

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. Thanks again for your support of the Little Free Pantry and for helping us celebrate this wonderful season of giving! Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

All Church Christmas Caroling | TODAY, 4pm

Enjoy our long Christmas tradition and spread cheer to our neighbors as we sing carols with our Rejoicing Spirits crew in the main lobby, with an option to join a group or take names of at-home members for caroling beyond our building. We'll also enjoy fun fellowship and hot cocoa!

Deborah Circle | Jan. 6, 7pm | Hardwood Café

We are studying unknown women of the Bible. Jenny Dose will be our facilitator this month, she will be talking about Huldah. We welcome new members to join us. Any questions you can contact Sandy Walton at 717-433-3687.

Solo Seniors Fellowship | Jan. 13, 11:30am

The Solo Seniors will dine at The Morning Fuel restaurant on Tuesday, Jan. 13th at 11:30am. If you plan on attending, please call Bonnie Guyer at 717-766-0145. Transportation will be provided upon request.



GENEROUS GIVER

Mission Central | Every Third Tuesday of the Month

Once a month, FUMC members and friends bag groceries at Mission Central for the Bethesda Food Bank. On Tuesday Dec 16, we surpassed the 5,000 bag mark for the first time since 2016. We bagged 5,210 bags in 2025. There are no weather delays or cancellations for this dedicated group of individuals. Thank you to this group! Reach out to Sandy Walton at 717-433-3687 if interested!

End of Year Giving

We are thankful for all the monetary gifts to First Church that support our ministries and missions. We are currently running behind in our offering this year, likely ending with a deficit. We have some savings set aside but if you are able to help with a gift of any size it would be greatly appreciated. For gifts to be applied to the 2025 budget and Giving Statement, they must be postmarked by December 31st or delivered directly to the office by that date (Church Office is closed, but mailbox outside the office door will be checked over the holiday). If you are giving a donation before December 31st that you wish to be applied to 2026 giving, please include a note. If you have any questions or would like to make special arrangements for a donation, please contact Amy Erno at financedirector@fumchurch.com or 717-512-6111.

Upcoming Handbell Events and Fundraisers!

If you've been so busy that you haven't had time to relax and go to a concert, please join The Praise Ringers as we "Ring in The New Year"! It'll still be Epiphany, so Christmas continues. The concert is here at First Church, Sunday, **January 4th at 4pm**. We will be hosting a **Trivia Night** at the **Maple Shade Barn in Dillsburg**, Please see the papers on our Handbell Table in the main tower entrance to register! **AND** we thank you for your continued support of our **Send a Bell or Chime to Scotland**. Find a card with the bell or chime you want to send and keep the card as a reminder to pray for us. In the envelope, place your cash or check (made out to FUMC). Then put it in the Scrip box or give it to Kathie Bittenbender. Thank you to all!

**Scan here or visit 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

Looking for a Sign-Up?

In the Main Lobby is the Registration Table for current studies, fundraisers, events, and more.

Church Center

FUMC app to sign up for classes, donate, and request access to the church directory. Scan QR code:



Rev. Mira Hewlett, Senior Pastor | pastormira@fumchurch.com

Kelsey Goll, Office Manager & Communications | communications@fumchurch.com

Lisa Aronson, Youth & Adult Discipleship | discipleship@fumchurch.com

Katie Knorr, Kids & Family Ministry | kidscount@fumchurch.com

Sarah Pugh, Worship Arts | worship@fumchurch.com

Janice Bowen, Congregational Care | wecare@fumchurch.com

Paul Zito, Facilities Manager | facilities@fumchurch.com

Lori Hoffnagle, Administration & Outreach | outreach@fumchurch.com

Amy Erno, Finance Director | financedirector@fumchurch.com

Janet Rice, Director of Little Friends Preschool | director@littlefriendspreschool.org