
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



THE GIFT OF Peace



December 7, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
#211 v. 1, 2, 6, 7

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Lighting of the Second Candle of
Advent

"Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)"

Sounds of Worship
"A Cradle Waits"

Scripture Reading
Luke 2:12-14; John 14:25-27

Sermon:
The Gift of Peace

Communion

Announcements
Offering

"In the Bleak Midwinter" #221

Benediction

Postlude

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

Countdown Video

Welcome

"O, Come, O Come Emmanuel"

"King of Kings"

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Lighting of the Second Candle of
Advent

Kids Moment
Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Scripture Reading
Luke 2:12-14; John 14:25-27

"Manger Throne"

Sermon:
The Gift of Peace

Communion

Announcements
Offering

*"O Come All Ye Faithful/His Name Shall
Be"*

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Mira Hewlett

Liturgist

Lori Holtzinger (830), Bob Wertz Jr. (11)

Accompanist (830)

Brandon Rhody

Special Music (830)

Sounds of Worship

Worship Leader (11)

Sarah Pugh

Worship Band

George Canonizado, Krissy Marshall, Sarah Pugh, Cindy Smith, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media

Jim Murdoch, Jim Robinson, Sarah Pugh (8:30a), Ken Rapp (11a)

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Louise Nailor Shelley placed by W. Michael Nailor.

MACHE BASKET

This week's mache basket is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert and Mildred Shannon placed by the D'Agostino and Shannon families.

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

Upcoming: Sensory Santa on 12/13. More info on church center!

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

Upcoming Youth Events:

December 13th – Cookie Walk Fundraiser
December 14th – 4G Youth Christmas Party
January 30-February 1 – Zeteo High School Conference

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](text:fumyouthmin) to 717-722-4800 to opt into receiving texts. Contact Lisa Aronson (uthrock@fumchurch.com) to receive email updates.

Special Advent Events

Advent Devotional Books

Grab a copy off the registration table and take time to prepare yourself for Christmas. Read with a friend, on your own, or follow along with the sermon series. If you'd like to follow the sermons in worship, we are following the UMC Advent Candles in the order of: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love.

Take time this Advent to prepare your heart for Jesus' arrival in our lives!

Nov. 30- Dec. 21 | Advent Study, Sun. 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Join Pastor Mira in this 4 week video study in Rm 105 to see the richness of the Advent season of expectant waiting and preparations that draw us closer to Jesus.

Dec. 7 | Service of Remembrance and Hope, 4pm. A reflective advent worship for those struggling with loss of loved ones, relationships, jobs, etc. to encounter Christ's light in the darkness.

Dec. 13 | Cookie Walk & Marketplace of Miracles, 9am-12pm. These two events will be once again held alongside each other. This year, we welcome Peace Promise, She's Somebody's Daughter, Greenlight Operation, Northstar and Hope.Inspire.Love. These organizations provide support and advocate for survivors of human trafficking and exploitation.

Dec. 13 | Sensory Santa, 10am-4pm. A way for you and your family to spend some time with Santa in a calm and quiet way. This experience is designed especially for children who get over-stimulated easily and need some extra guidance going into new environments. Sign up required.

Dec. 21 | Church Christmas Caroling, 4pm. combined with Rejoicing Spirits in the main lobby with option afterwards to visit some at-home members.

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.

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Advent Study | Nov. 30- Dec.2, Sundays 9:45-10:45 a.m., Rm. 105

Join Pastor Mira in this video study to see the richness of the Advent season of expectant waiting and preparations that draw us closer to Jesus. Book is optional for daily readings during the week: *Waiting Here For You* by Louie Giglio. Sign up on church center by Nov 23 if you want to order a book. Come one week or every week, reach out to Pastor Mira for questions!

Writing Our History

We are seeking a person to research and update First Church's history from around 1983 to 2004. This covers the ministry of Rev. Donald Ciampa, the building of the 1997 addition and the beginning of the contemporary service. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Alan Robinson at 717-919-9065, or Pastor Mira by Dec. 15th.



PRAYING FOLLOWER

2026 Women's Retreat – Jan. 23-25 2026, Register Now! Early Bird Due Dec. 14, 2025

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 Aronson any time before January 11th (the sooner, the better!) 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

Solo Seniors Fellowship

The Solo Senior's fellowship will dine at Perkin's Restaurant (Erford Rd) on December 9th at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Bonnie Guyer at 717-766-0145 if you plan on attending. Transportation will be provided upon request. We hope to see you there!

Sensory Santa Saturday, Dec. 13th, 10-4p.m.

This is a one-on-one experience for you and your family to spend some time with Santa in a calm and quiet way. This experience is designed especially for children who get overstimulated easily or need extra guidance and care going into new environments. This event is open to all, but time slots are limited. Registration is required, no walk-ins will be permitted. Register on church center or at fumchurch.com/santa2025. Questions? Email Katie Knorr at kidscount@fumchurch.com.



GENEROUS GIVER

Christmas Decorating

We would like to thank Marilyn Seig for the generous donations of greens and ornaments this year, and also Mary Juson for her donation of the tree in the green chair section. We also would like to thank Marcia Espenshade, Flossie Ryder, Jeannette Behel, Barb Strock, Bob Taylor, Devon Betz, & Larry Buddenbaum for their help this year. - Steve Zimmerman & Judi Buddenbaum

Cookie Walk | Dec. 13, 9-11am, CALLING ALL BAKERS!

The annual Youth Cookie Walk needs bakers! Try out a new recipe or stick to grandma's secret recipe. Anything will do! To have a great enough quantity of cookies, we ask bakers to provide 4-5 batches (8-10 dozen) per style of homemade cookie. (If baking 4-5 batches is too much, please still reach out - we would love to have what you can make). Fill out the form on Church Center or at the Registration Table. Any questions? Email Lynn Rapp at minion.youth17@gmail.com.

Upcoming Handbell events and fundraisers!

Tune in to **ABC27 on Friday, December 12th** and catch First Church Praise Ringers' appearance on **Good Day PA!** Hear a performance from our handbells, and promotions of the upcoming Handbell and Harp concert, our concert on January 4th, and the International Handbell Symposium trip next summer!

If you're going to **Silver Spring's township Winter's Nite** this Wednesday (the 10th), be sure to listen for the bells! The Praise Ringers will be ringing in the season at the New Kingston Fire Company location.

We're excited to announce we will be hosting a **Trivia Night** at the Maple Shade Barn in Dillsburg! Our own Brian Sanker is our host for the evening. All you Trivia buffs, please see the papers on our Handbell Table in the main tower entrance. Registration is open and spots will fill up quickly!

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