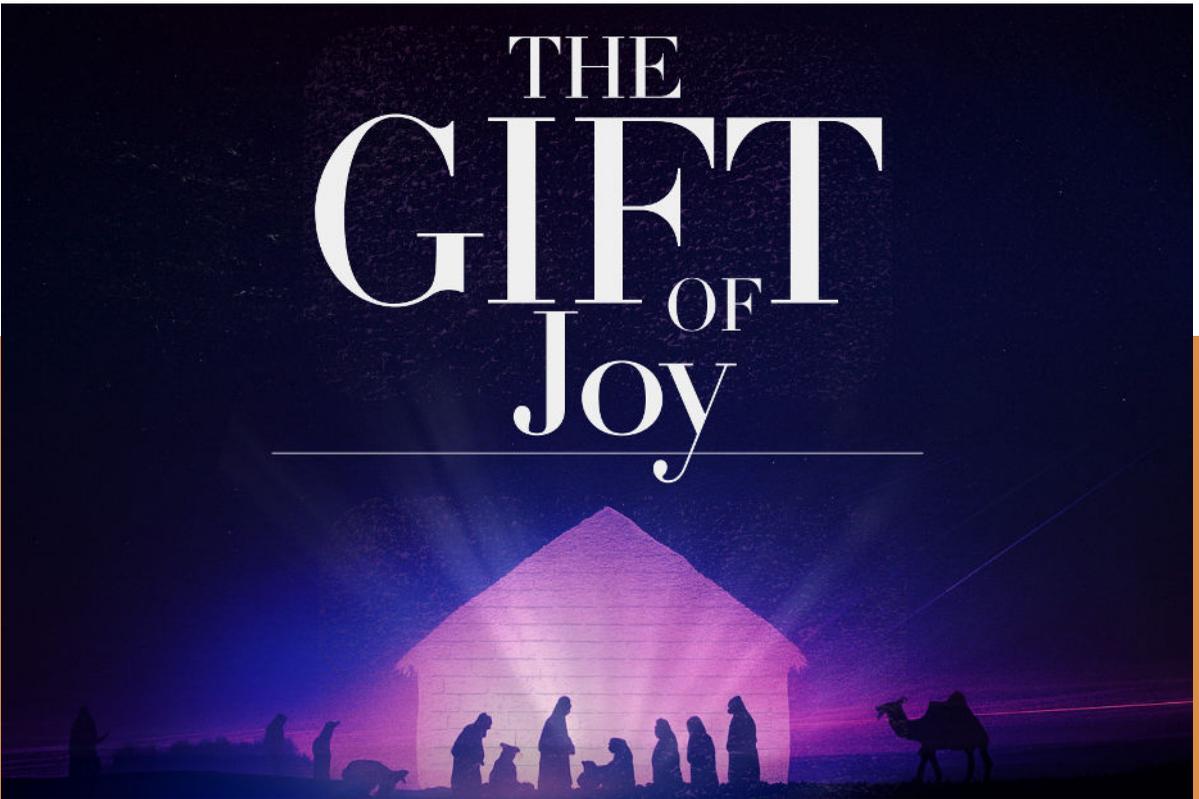

WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



THE GIFT OF Joy



December 14, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude- *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* & *"Jolly Old St. Nicholas"*

Welcome

Call to Worship

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"
#213

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

"Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)"

Mission Moment
Kids Message

Sounds of Worship
"An Advent Invitation"

Scripture Reading
Luke 2:8-11 & 1 Peter 1:3-9

Sermon:
The Gift of Joy

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Announcements
Offering

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230

Benediction

Postlude

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

Countdown Video

Welcome

"Holy Forever"

"Joy to the World/Raise A Hallelujah"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Mission Moment
Kids Moment
Wee Worship Dismissal

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Scripture Reading
Luke 2:8-11 & 1 Peter 1:3-9

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sermon:
The Gift of Joy

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements
Offering

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Mira Hewlett

Liturgist

Lisa Aronson

Accompanist (830)

Brandon Rhody

Special Music (830)

Sounds of Worship, Marshall Family

Worship Leader (11)

Sarah Pugh

Worship Band

George Canonizado, John Gross,
Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, Allison Shield,
Abigail Wertz

Sound and Media

Fred Espenshade, Jim Murdoch, Holly
Kurten (8:30a), Ken Rapp (11a)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Last week's flowers were given to the
glory of God and in
loving memory of Robert &
Virginia Chilton placed by Sue and
Jim Chilton.

This week's flowers are given to the
glory of God and in honor of our four
wonderful grandchildren, Lily, Becky,
Carter & Elliot placed by Bill & Karen
Richie.

MACHE BASKET

This week's mache basket is given to
the glory of God and in loving
memory of Gayle Ann Elder placed by
Annabelle Elder.

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

Today:

December 14th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
4G Youth Christmas Party

Upcoming Youth Events:

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
to 717-722-4800 to opt into receiving texts.
Contact Lisa Aronson (uthrock@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.

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Advent Study | Nov. 30- Dec.21, 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. Come one week or every week, reach out to Pastor Mira for questions!



PRAYING FOLLOWER

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

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.

Canned Yam Collection for New Hope Ministries

We are excited to report that First Church collected **406** pounds of canned yams for New Hope Ministries' Thanksgiving holiday meal giveaway. Thank you so much for your generous donations. God bless you! - *Deb Karns*



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Mom Connection | Monday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

This group connects moms of children (newborns through high school age) with other moms who are seeking friendship, support and encouragement along the parenting journey. The group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, September through May. Meetings begin with family-style dinner followed by a theme-based topic designed to help develop connections and offer support, inspiration, and resources for Christ-centered parenting. Sign up on Church Center. Questions? Contact Katie Knorr, Director of Children and Family Ministry.

All Church Christmas Caroling | Dec. 21, 4 p.m

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!



GENEROUS GIVER

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.

Covered in Love Report

I just wanted to let the congregation know that our small group of knitters and crocheters have been very busy this year. We just delivered 12 full size blankets to the Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project through the Charles Bruce Foundation. They were delivered to Carlisle, but will be shipped to Denver, CO this year. In the past, they have gone to Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Washington, DC, and Carlisle. This was our largest donation yet! Just a word of thanks to all of those who worked on them and to anyone who has donated yarn to us! - *Judi Buddenbaum*

Upcoming Handbell events and fundraisers!

If you need any gift cards from **First Church's Scrip** program for Christmas, TODAY is the day to place your orders! Gift cards will be delivered next Sunday. 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