
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA

A dark purple silhouette of a woman's head in profile, facing right. A small crown is positioned on top of her head. The text "A BOLD REQUEST" is written in white, gothic-style capital letters across the front of her face.

A BOLD
REQUEST

January 18, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude *"Jubilation Fanfare"*

Welcome

Call to Worship

"In Christ, There Is No East or West"
#548

Affirmation of Faith

Sounds of Worship
"Many Gifts, One Spirit"

Scripture Reading
Esther 8:1-17

Sermon:
"A Bold Request"

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering

"Standing on the Promises" #374

Benediction

Postlude

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

Countdown Video

Welcome

"This I Believe (The Creed)"

"Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

Kids Moment
Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Pastoral Prayer

"Lord I Need You"

Scripture Reading
Esther 8:1-17

Sermon:
"A Bold Request"

Announcements

Offering

"Promises"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Josh Herring

Liturgist

Rev. Mira Hewlett

Accompanist (830)

Brandon Rhody

Special Music (830)

Sounds of Worship

Worship Leader (11)

Sarah Pugh

Worship Band

John Gross, Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, Lauren Sanker, Allison Shield, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media

Michael Garman, Jim Murdoch, Ken Rapp (830a), Violet Sanker (11a)

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Paul & Dorothy Davis, and Don & Lucy Small placed by Daryl and Melody Small.

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.

SERMON NOTES

"A Bold Request"

1. The Perplexing King (v1-2)
2. The Courageous Esther (v3-8)
3. The Strategic Mordecai (v9-14)
4. The Thankful People (v15-17)
5. The Invisible Hand of God (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28)

Reminder: The Church office will be closed on Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Regular business hours resume Tuesday, January 20.



Reading Together...

The Book of Esther: Seeing the Invisible Hand of God

Week 3: Divine Reversal — God Turns Evil for Good

God is able to reverse the plots of evil and bring justice, often in unexpected ways.

- Jan 19: Esther 5:1–8 — Esther's First Banquet
- Jan 20: Esther 5:9–14 — Haman's Pride and Plans
- Jan 21: Esther 6:1–9 — The King Honors Mordecai
- Jan 22: Esther 6:10–14 — Haman's Humiliation
- Jan 23: Esther 7:1–10 — Esther Reveals Haman's Plot and Haman's Downfall

Reflection Question: How have you seen God transform a difficult or unjust situation into something that revealed His justice or mercy?

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Spiritual Gifts | Short Term Class with Pastor Mira

Spiritual Gifts in 2 Weeks - Each Christian is given spiritual gifts that are unique to us and enable us to live more fully as God created us. Join Pastor Mira for a 2 week class on Feb 1 & Feb 8 at 9:45-10:45am in Room 105 to learn about these gifts listed throughout scripture, take an at-home quiz to learn your spiritual gifts, and learn how these gifts can be used in our lives and church to serve others and honor God. Sign up at Church Center or in the Main Lobby.



PRAYING FOLLOWER

Daily Bible Reading Plan

God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan that pairs with the sermon series on our church website, fumchurch.com.

Share Your Joys and Prayer Concerns With Us!

Green prayer cards are located in the pews and at the prayer station under the balcony. Fill one out and place it in our prayer box on the registration table in the main lobby or Janice Bowen's mailbox. You can also contact Janice directly at wecare@fumchurch.com.



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Jan. 21, 6:30pm

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 January 21 at 6:30 p.m. To find out how to get involved, contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com.

Online Worship

Worship with us and invite others to join any time of the week! Check out our livestreams on Sundays at www.youtube.com/FUMCMechanicsburg. If you're unable to access online worship services, contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com) for other ways to connect to First Church.



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Soupy Saturday | Jan. 31, 9am

If you enjoy cooking, we invite you to the church kitchen to cook-up some delicious soup and muffins to share with a friend, neighbor, or church member! Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

FUMC Volleyball | Wednesdays, 6-8pm in multi-purpose room

If you enjoy volleyball, please reach out to Geri Nuss (717-802-1329) for more information about playing Wednesday evenings! All skill levels welcome!

FUMC Pickleball | Tuesdays, 5-7pm in multi-purpose room

Please join us for weekly Pickleball 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 at wecare@fumchurch.com with questions or to be added to the Pickleball email list for updates.



GENEROUS GIVER

Upcoming Handbell Events and Fundraisers!

The Praise Ringers at First Church are continuing to prepare for their August 2026 trip to Aberdeen, Scotland, where they'll participate in the 22nd International Handbell Symposium!

You can help support the Handbell Choir in their endeavor with multiple fundraiser opportunities and events listed below. There will be more fundraisers listed throughout the year. Please visit the website, Church Center, or the handbell table in the tower entrance for more information and to sign up for fundraisers.

Texas Roadhouse Dine-In & Fundraiser Table – Wednesday, Jan. 28th (must present flyer, available at the handbell table)

Pie Fundraiser – orders due by February 1; pickup on Saturday, Feb. 7 in Fellowship Hall

Trivia Night – Thursday, Feb. 26th, 6pm at Maple Shade Barn

Sponsor a Bell – more info at the handbell table in the tower entrance

Penny Bucket

Water is the foundation of our very lives. Yet, according to the United Nations, over 2 billion people lack access to clean, readily available drinking water. Help us to support well-digging efforts in Africa by dropping your loose change (or even paper bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket located in the lobby -in front of the multipurpose room. Thank you!

***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