
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA

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

A KING'S
FEAST

January 4, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

"We Three Kings" #254

Epiphany Prayer

Sounds of Worship Anthem
"Christ is Come"

Scripture Reading
Esther 1:2-4 & 10-12 and 2:1-4

Sermon:
"A King's Feast"

Communion

Announcements

Offering

"God Be With You till We Meet Again"
#672

Benediction

Postlude

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

Countdown Video

Welcome

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

"Waymaker"

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Kids Moment
Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Scripture Reading
Esther 1:2-4 & 10-12 and 2:1-4

Sermon:
"A King's Feast"

Communion/ *"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"*

Announcements

Offering

"The Joy/Joy to the World"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Mira Hewlett

Liturgist

Sarah Pugh

Accompanist (830)

Brandon Rhody

Special Music (830)

Women Of Light

Worship Leader (11)

Sarah Pugh

Worship Band

Youth Band

Sound and Media

Jim Murdoch, Bill Richie, Holly Kurten,
Ken Rapp

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Van and Gladys Squires placed by Nancy Eddy.

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.

NOTES



Reading Together...

The Book of Esther: Seeing the Invisible Hand of God

This four-week study explores the themes of God's providence, courage, justice, and faithfulness in the Book of Esther. Each week includes daily readings, a central theme, and a reflection question to help you grow spiritually and apply the lessons personally.

Week 1: God's Invisible Hand

Even when God's name isn't mentioned, God's hand is at work behind the scenes — setting people and circumstances in place for God's purposes.

Daily Readings:

- Jan 5: Esther 1:1–12 — Queen Vashti's refusal
- Jan 6: Esther 1:13–22 — The king's decree
- Jan 7: Esther 2:1–7 — The introduction of Esther and Mordecai
- Jan 8: Esther 2:8–14 — Esther's preparation
- Jan 9: Esther 2:15–23 — Esther chosen as queen; Mordecai uncovers a plot

Reflection Question: Where might God be working behind the scenes in your own life — arranging circumstances you cannot yet see?

For Reflection and Active Prayer...

Coloring pages for kids and adults around the book of Esther are available in the Main Lobby. As you read and reflect on Esther and where you see God's hand, we invite you to color as an active time of prayer.

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

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!



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

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

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, **TODAY 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!

Reverse Advent Collection

Thanks to everyone who has donated to the Reverse Advent Collection for the Little Free Pantry, we have collected 1,413.8 pounds of food so far, fantastic! We will continue to collect the items through the end of this year and you can bring your donations to the church anytime throughout the year. There is a collection basket near the Alley Entrance or drop off in the church office during office hours. Thanks again for your support!

***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