



# First News First

*Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors*

*From the Pastor's Desk....*

On April 12th we will join with over 30,000 other United Methodist Churches worldwide to explore the new vision of the United Methodist Church in worship. The new visions help us focus on the simple but transformative truth: disciples of Jesus Christ as shaped, empowered, and sent by God to bless the world.

Shaped by our Wesleyan heritage, since 2021 the Council of Bishops and Connectional Table have journeyed together in prayerful collaboration, seeking God's wisdom and discerning a hope-filled vision for the next era of The United Methodist Church. The renewed vision is:

*The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.*

**Love Boldly** means we passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender and walk of life.

**Serve Joyfully** means with the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy.

**Lead Courageously** means following Jesus' example, we seek to resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation.

This new vision is grounded in scripture and looks forward to a unified hope-filled vision for The United Methodist Church and our local churches. Personally, I am excited about this new vision as one that will help guide our discipleship for all ages, across diverse contexts and communities, and becomes the framework for our ministries in our church, in the community, and beyond.

In this six-week series we will dive into the core dimensions of discipleship – being formed by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, loving boldly, serving joyfully, leading courageously, and ultimately joining God in transforming the world. During this series we will also be dreaming together as a congregation how our current ministries flow into these areas and where God may be helping us dream forward.

Join us in worship April 12-May 17 as we dig into this new vision, look into the scriptural foundations and seek how God is leading First Church, and us as individuals, to be United Methodists in this community!

On this journey with you,  
Pastor Mira



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**Sunday Morning Enrichment | 9:45-10:45 | Sunday Mornings**

**Sunday School:**

This is a wonderful opportunity to find consistency and accountability in your faith journey while studying God's Word. Here are the list of opportunities for enrichment during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 AM). We look forward to growing together!

◇ **Growing in Christ, B006**

A welcoming group that enjoys digging deeper into the Scriptures to seek the knowledge and wisdom to apply Scriptural truths in our everyday lives. The class generally consists of prayer, a video, and a group discussion. Drop in for a single class, or a specific study, or stay as long as you like! If interested, contact Marjorie Snyder at [57masnyder@gmail.com](mailto:57masnyder@gmail.com).

◇ **Christian Fellowship, Room B003**

A friendly and caring group of adults, eager to apply God's Word to life's challenges. The class generally explores scripture and faith themes through book or video-based series. If interested, contact Wayne Leister at [waydeleister@outlook.com](mailto:waydeleister@outlook.com).

◇ **Helping Hands, Room B004**

A group of active seniors who focus on encouraging instructions for faithful living, and who enjoy fellowship activities together outside of class. If interested, contact Bob Wertz Sr: [robert\\_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com](mailto:robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com).

**Spring Study: Cokesbury's Adult Bible Study**

This quarter's theme: Lament. Confession. Rebirth

This spring, our Bible lessons follow the theme "Exclusion and Embrace," and encourage us to consider what we need to let go of and what we need to take on as followers of Jesus.

◇ **Guyer Class, Room 123**

This class, comprised of a wonderful group of seniors who are young at heart, is taught by a variety of church leaders. Lessons follow the Adult Bible Study series which includes daily devotions. If interested, contact Steve and Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com).

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**Small Groups:**

There are also Small Groups that regularly meet during the Sunday School hour and strive to not only support each other through faith growth in a classroom space, but also through fellowship and connection as they navigate similar stages of life.

◇ **Faithful Families**

Contact: Bob and Tracy Wertz at [wertzfive@gmail.com](mailto:wertzfive@gmail.com). An active group of parents with college-aged and young adult children who study Scripture, encourage one another and celebrate life together in and out of the classroom.

◇ **Faith in Everyday Life**

Contact: Amy at [amyerno@gmail.com](mailto:amyerno@gmail.com) or Jenell at [jparis@messiah.edu](mailto:jparis@messiah.edu). A group for adults of all ages focused on fellowship and friendship/mutual support in and outside the classroom.

## **Discipleship Opportunities:**

No matter whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple, or becoming a fully devoted follower, there is always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

◇ **Wednesday Men's Group – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 8:00 p.m.**

This group enjoys great fellowship while focusing on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if interested in more information.

◇ **Mom Connection: Better Together. Next Class: April 20, 6-8pm**

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 monthly September-May. Meetings begin with dinner followed by a theme-based topic designed to help develop connections and offer support (spiritual, emotional, practical), inspiration, and resources for Christ-centered parenting. Suggested donation of \$5 per meeting to cover program materials and dinner (or a one-time suggested donation of \$30 for the full year). Mom Connection monthly gatherings begin Sept. 15 and last through May 18th. Sign up now at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) or on Church Center. Contact Katie Knorr ([kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)) with questions.

◇ **Growing Together: April 19, 12-1:30pm**

Join us for lunch and a time of learning and fun! 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

◇ **NEXT STEPS:** A New Member and a Confirmation Class will be offered after Easter. Contact Pastor Mira with any questions. The classes will run from April 19th to May 10th. Please sign up at the Registration Table or on Church Center.

- New Members: Ready to become a member of First Church? Just want to explore the foundations of our faith? Join us for a four-week study, "A Disciple's Path." Together with Pastor Mira, you'll explore what it means to faithfully participate in the life of the Church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.
- Confirmation Class:  
If you are a student wishing to join as well, we will be offering a confirmation class at the same time led by Lisa Aronson. Confirmation is best suited for those 6th grade and older. Older high school can choose to attend the adult class if preferred.

◇ **United Women in Faith Circle Groups:**

United Women in Faith Circle groups are small, local communities within the United Women in Faith organization, a mission-focused group for women within the United Methodist Church. These circles are where women gather for spiritual formation, mutual support, fellowship, mission education, and to take action on issues of justice at local and global levels.

\* **Martha Circle – Leader: Marley Ann Schmick**

This circle meets in the church Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM, and members rotate in helping to lead lessons.

\* **Deborah Circle – Leader: Sandy Walton**

This circle meets every other month at church in room 105 at 7:00 PM (Next: May 5) and meets together off-site for a meal on the opposite months. This circle studies women of the Bible.

# From the Library

If you read last month's featured books *The Queen's Cook* and *The Royal Artisan* by Tessa Afshar, I have another book you might enjoy: ***A Deeper Well*** by Jill Eileen Smith. This book is based on the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. From the Bible we know little about this woman except that she was a Samaritan, had five husbands and was currently living with a man outside of marriage, and most importantly, she recognized Jesus as the Messiah. She brought the people from the town so they could meet Jesus, and many of them also believed. Ms. Smith has written a book from the perspective of the woman called Nessa, and how she came to have five husbands and to be living a life outside of marriage, probably making her an outcast in the town. The story begins very sadly for Nessa as she was a beautiful girl, and her father sold her for a high bride price. When tragedy strikes her new family, Nessa is sent back to her father only to be sold again. She is passed from one marriage to another and not able to change her life until the fateful day she meets Jesus. He sees the deep sadness in her life like no other man she has ever known, and He doesn't reject her for being a Samaritan or being the village outcast. Her life is changed. I think you will see the woman at the well in a whole new light with this book. Fiction—yes, but historically accurate for women at that time.

If you need something much lighter and just a fun read, Sharon Mondragon has a new offering called, ***Grandma Ruth Doesn't Go to Funerals***. Bedridden Mary Ruth McCready reigns supreme in her small town where gossip flows like a mighty river. Grandma Ruth makes it her goal in life to "meddle with love". When her best friend is shook up by a scandalous revelation from her dying husband, Grandma Ruth with assistance from her granddaughter Sarah Elizabeth, begins tracking down the truth. They bring long-held secrets into the light and get to the bottom of all the town's secrets and gossip. I think you might enjoy this lighthearted story as some of the reviewers said they not only had a smile on their face permanently while reading the book, but also laughed out loud! You'll have to let me know if you think so, too.

If neither of these books seems like your cup of tea, stop in the library and our volunteer will help you find just the right book for you. March was a good month for many new books and, of course, the shelves are full of older books, well-liked authors and complete series.

See you in the library,  
-Pam, Mary, Marge, Annette, Deb, & Donna



## Praying Follower



**Prayer Room** | Tower Room located off the back of room 216

We learn in scripture that Jesus often withdrew and found a quiet place to pray: "Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went out to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35)." A place where his focus could be on his Father. The prayer room will be available as a quiet place you can sit with God on Sunday mornings during the Sunday enrichment hour (9:45 AM-10:45 AM).

**Joy in the Morning | A small group invitation, Monday April 13th , 1 pm**

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this small group. We meet monthly at 1 pm on a Monday afternoon at Bethany Village's West Apartments Commons Room. Janice Bowen facilitates, drawing upon readings and devotionals. For more info contact Janice [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).



## Health and Wellness Presentation | April 12th, 9:45 a.m.

Please join us in the gym during the Sunday School hour for the next Health and Wellness presentation titled: 'Resources for Caregivers of Loved Ones with Dementia: A Panel Presentation.' The panel will consist of Sandy Leister, RN; John Bowen, MSW; and both Serenity Hoch and Marina Bardsley from Artis Senior Living. Each will share thoughts and ideas about support and resources for caregivers from their individual experience and expertise. The panel will happily receive questions from those in attendance.



## Visiting with Friends!

If you miss seeing a special friend at church, Janice Bowen would like to hear from you! Janice enjoys taking people with her for visits so that friends can remain connected by visiting in-person with one another! Whether you find yourself 'stuck at home', no longer able to get out to Church, missing your friends who are at home..Janice would love to hear from you! [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

## Greeting Cards to Share!

Looking for a birthday card or a way to send 'get well' wishes to a friend? Stop by the 'Card Ministry' display in the lobby and help yourself to a card! If you'd like a bigger supply or know of who may appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

# VBS 2026

## Vacation Bible School is gearing up!

Registration is now open for kids, as well as teen and adult volunteers to join us July 13-17th from 9am-noon. Kids will Join Activities Director Miss Katie and Ollie the Arctic Seal on an epic adventure filled with games, music, crafts, snacks and amazing Bible stories. Sign up today at Church Center or at [fumchurch.com/vbs](http://fumchurch.com/vbs) and receive a free gift if you register before June 1st.



## Passionate Worshipper



## Passion Play - April 2, 2026 - 6:30 pm

For over thirty years, First Church has performed a Passion Play where children, youth, and adults share the story of Jesus leading up to his death and resurrection. The Passion Play will take the audience on the journey with Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter. There's no need to pre-register for this free, all-ages event.

## Good Friday Prayer Walk, Friday, April 3

The annual Community Good Friday Prayer Walk will be held on Friday, April 3 starting at 11:00 a.m. Led by local pastors, prayer walkers will start at one of the prayer sites and then cover the surrounding area in prayer. Participants are then invited to join together at noon at Mechanicsburg First Church of God on the square (28 East Main Street) for closing prayer and worship. All are welcome! The starting prayer sites are: Mechanicsburg Area Senior High, First United Methodist Church, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Town Square Green Space and Turning Point Church. Watch for more details and updates on our website and on Church Center. If you have any questions about the Good Friday Prayer Walk, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). Looking forward to praying for our community with you! 1 Thessalonians 5:17

## Save the Date! One Church Sunday - Sunday, June 7th | 9 a.m.

Save the date for a special combined worship service coming up in June! Be on the lookout for details in May.

*Dedicated Missionary*



### Coffee Ministry

Coffee is available before the Sunday Enrichment hour (9:45) and the 11:00 Gathering Service. Coffee is located in the main lobby (near the mailboxes), and we hope you find it a welcoming space on Sunday mornings. Contact Lisa Aronson at [Discipleship@fumchurch](mailto:Discipleship@fumchurch) if you have any interest in helping support this expression of hospitality and being a part of the Coffee Ministry Team.

*Relationship Builder*



### Pickleball | Tuesdays 4:30 - 7 pm

Please join us every Tuesday evening for the joy of Pickleball! Weather depending, we play at either Soldiers and Sailors Mechanicsburg Park or in the gym. No experience is necessary. Paddles/balls will be available to borrow if you'd like to learn how to play! Contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611, ext. 112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)) with questions or to be added to the Pickleball email list for location updates and alerts.



### FUMC Volleyball | Wednesdays 6 - 8 pm

If you enjoy volleyball, please come on out to the church gym Wednesday evenings! Please contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112) with questions or to be added to the list to receive volleyball communications.



### Solo Seniors Fellowship | Tuesday, April 14th at 11:30am

The Solo Seniors Fellowship will dine at Dalicia's Ristorante and Bakery on Tuesday, April 14th at 11:30 a.m. If you plan on attending, please call Bonnie Guyer at 717-766-0145. Transportation will be provided upon request. Address: 105 S. Market St, Mechanicsburg.

### Community Dinner | June 7, 5pm

Our spring community dinner will be held on Sunday, June 7 at First Church of God on Main Street at 5:00 p.m. This collaborative event with other local churches blesses the downtown community with a meal, music and a gift card drawing, free of charge. The idea comes from the book 'Welcome to Dinner, Church,' which encourages churches to share a meal with their neighbors. We serve over 100 of our neighbors and friends at these meals. Watch for more details on how you can get involved

### Men's Breakfast | April 4th & May 2nd 7:30 a.m., Brothers Restaurant

An open invitation is extended to all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday of each month (Brothers Restaurant is located at 705 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, 17055). Please contact John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if you are interested in attending.

### Women's Morning Meet-Up | April 11th & May 9th, 7:30 a.m., Down To Earth Café

Start your morning with a warm cup of coffee and great company. Order food or a drink, or just grab a seat and connect with other women of faith, share stories, and find support in a welcoming atmosphere. (100 Legacy Park Dr. Suite 108, Mechanicsburg)



### Registration for our 2026 camp and retreat events is now open!

Families can check out the programs offered at Wesley Forest and Camp Penn by visiting the website at [suscrm.org](http://suscrm.org) or check out the registration table in main lobby for more info! Those who register by May 1st will receive \$25 off on select events! You can forward your camp registrations and/or questions to Deb Noss [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) or to [mattandamyortiz@gmail.com](mailto:mattandamyortiz@gmail.com).

### Senators Baseball Game/Picnic | June 7, 1pm

Invite your family and friends to join us at FNB Field on City Island for a picnic and a Harrisburg Senators baseball game! The buffet-style picnic starts at noon and includes hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ chicken, baked beans, pasta salad, chips, cookies, soda, and water. The Senators game starts at 1 p.m. Discounted Picnic/Ballgame tickets are just \$26.50 for adults (age 19 and older), \$15 for children/youth (age 4-18) and free for children 3 and under! New this year...bleacher seats (no picnic included) are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Bleacher seats will be adjacent to the picnic area. Meal vouchers will be available for \$8 (includes hot dog, chips and a drink). All participants must register and pay by May 17th. Contact Jeff Hoffnagle with questions at jeffrey.hoffnagle@yahoo.com.



### Graduating?

If you or someone you know from our church community is graduating (high school, college, master's, etc.) this spring or this past January, please fill out the graduation information form found on Church Center so that we can celebrate their accomplishments. The deadline for submissions is May 15th.

*Generous Giver* 

## General Fund

<b>2026 Budget</b>	<b>\$811,683</b>
<b>Expected Income YTD</b>	<b>\$135,308 (16.7% of budget)</b>
<b>Actual Income YTD</b>	<b>\$116,477 (14.4% of budget)</b>
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$135,672 (16.0% of budget)</b>

February's revenue continues to lag expenses, but is better than January where weather disrupted attendance and tithing. Revenue through the first two months of the year is at 14.4% vs. 16.7% expected, which is a gap of about \$19,000. We are feeling hopeful that revenue will improve in March.

Expenses are in-line with budgetary projections for February, with some areas like missions not expending much at this point in the year, while maintenance costs like snow removal, fuel, and utilities are running over projections.

Our Parsonage loan currently stands at \$38,386.99 and the Bell Tower Loan principal balance is \$27,163.83. We thank those who continue to give in service of our debt.

We thank everyone for their continued commitment and support of First Church through gifts of all sizes and through the many other ways that we as a faith community come together and worship.

### Penny Fund/Penny Bucket

For years, Marilyn Seig cared for "The Penny Bucket" at First Church that collected change to help provide clean water in South Congo through the UMC Advance. Funds keep existing wells working and drill new wells so clean water is within walking distance of every person in the Mulungwishi, South Congo area. Since 2004, \$15,744 has been collected for clean water in several areas in Africa. The Penny Bucket is in the Main Lobby for any size donations. We are happy to announce Barb Strock will continue to take care and manage this moving forward in honor of Marilyn. Thank you!



# Ring in the News!



## → ICYMI...

• We had an **AMAZING** evening at our Handbell Trivia Night in February! Thank you to everyone for coming out and making the evening as joyously fun as it could be. In total we had 60 people attend to enjoy dinner as well as four rounds of trivia (including one handbell-focused round). Our Emcee for the evening, Brian Sanker, also happily announced our winners for the evening, Team Banks with runner up Team Odd Bells. We hope everyone enjoyed the homemade food, the amazing dessert, and the lively atmosphere.

? **One final Trivia question for those who did not get to come:** Which album is the best-selling of all time worldwide?

✓ **Answer:** Michael Jackson's "Thriller"

• **Krispy Kreme/R&K Subs and Sandwiches:** Many thanks for your generous support of both our Krispy Kreme and R&K sub/sandwich fundraisers in March! Be on the lookout in May for sign-up sheets for our next R&K sub/sandwich sale on June 7.

• **Spaghetti Dinner:** Back by popular demand, our annual All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner is returning! Come enjoy a meal and fellowship on Saturday, April 11th anytime between 4 and 6:30 p.m. Prices are \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 4-10, kids under 3 eat free. Registration is open on Church Center, at the Handbell Hub table, or see a Handbell member. Location: Fellowship Hall

• **Panera Fundraiser:** Join us on Tuesday April 14th from 4-8 p.m. at Panera for another dine-in fundraiser! Must present flyer (flyers are located on Church Center's Handbell fundraiser event, and at the Handbell Hub table in the church). Location: 6391 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg

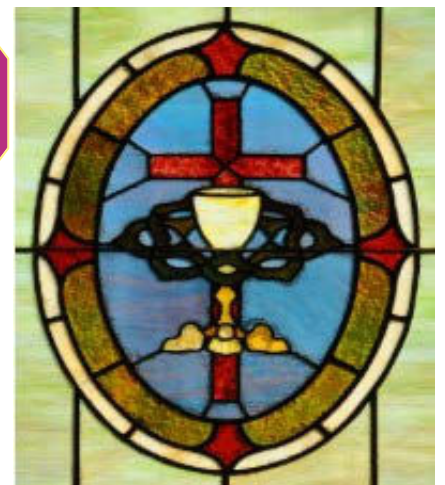
• **Spring Garden Tea Party:** For those who love tea, and plants-- come to the Praise Ringers Spring Garden Tea Party on Saturday, May 2nd from 11am to 1pm. Space is limited so reserve your seat early. \$45 per person includes a delicious tea party prepared by the Praise Ringers and all the supplies to make a tea cup succulent garden to take home with you. Contact a ringer you know to make reservations and come wearing your prettiest floral outfit or hat! Location: Fellowship Hall

• **Spring Concert: Save the date!** Our annual spring concert, "Make Me an Instrument" will be Sunday, May 3rd at 7 p.m. Come enjoy beautiful handbell music as we take a look back on some of Kathie's favorite handbell pieces over the years. Concert is free to attend, donations are welcomed. Light reception will follow in the MPR. Location: Sanctuary

## Stained Glass Class

### The Chalice, Cross, and Crowns of Thorns

The Chalice, Cross and Crown of Thorns is located at First Church on the first floor, fourth window from the Frederick St entrance.



The window in general symbolizes the passion of Jesus. The cup symbolizes the cup of salvation that Jesus gave to us. "In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.'" 1 Corinthians 2 25-26.

The cross represents Jesus's death on the cross to save us from our sins. The gospels tell of how Jesus was nailed on the cross at Golgotha and how he suffered and died. The Roman soldiers twisted a crown of thorns into a crown and put it on him.

## *First Church Mission Moments...*

**Backyard Missions** is our way to serve the larger Mechanicsburg community by completing yard work and miscellaneous household repairs for folks who can't do it for themselves and may not be able to pay a professional.

It is a lot more fun than doing our own maintenance since we work together as a team where we fellowship and encourage each other to get the job done more easily. And if you don't think you have the skills or strength to do the dirty work, there are other ways to support this wonderful ministry. Contact John Bowen for more information.



## **FIRST CHURCH YOUTH**

Are you a student between 4th and 12th grade? Check out the format for our Youth Ministry here at First Church and consider plugging in and joining us when you can. We would love to see you at our gatherings. For more information contact Lisa Aronson [uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)

### **4G YOUTH GROUPS | 6:00-8:00 | 6th-12th Grade**

1st Sunday: Large group Gathering - starts in the youth lounge or gym and begins with a casual time to hang out, play games, and eat snacks. Afterwards, we dig into God's word and listen to a lesson. Our time of learning is a space to ask questions, have discussions, and support you in your spiritual growth.

3rd Sunday: Large Group Gather and Dinner - similar to the 1st Sunday, with the addition that we will begin our youth group time with a meal in the Fellowship Hall.

## **STUDENT SMALL GROUPS | 6:00-7:30| 4th-12th Grade**

**2nd Sundays:** A chance for small group interaction with Students of Similar Ages. This Space is intended to allow for conversation, questions, and age-appropriate faith topics.

Grades 4th - Grade 7th - Meets at First Church in the gym

Grades 8th-12th - Meets at First Church in the youth lounge

## **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES | 6:00-8:00| 6th -12th Grade**

**4th Sunday:** Events will vary and may be at First Church or offsite. Some service opportunities will be open to our younger students (4th & 5th graders), but that will be communicated in the information provided.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

See Youth Information Page or the Youth Ministry Event page on Church Center for dates, times, and event information. \*Special events may alter the pattern of Sundays.

## **What does the 4G mean?**

It is our statement of purpose for the youth ministry. While we want Youth Group to be a fun place where you can spend time with your friends, we want to make sure that we GATHER together to GROW as we GAIN from God's Word and learn to GIVE back to God in how we live and treat others. (It is also handy to have a 2-letter way of referencing Youth Group for when a text message only allows a certain number of characters.)

## **Confirmation Retreat**

Did you recently get confirmed or are you planning on participating in the spring confirmation class? Mark your calendars to a conference-wide Confirmation Retreat. This one-day retreat held at Wesley Forest on April 18th will join you with other confirmands around the state, engage in confirmation-related topics, and give you time to meet our Bishop. Please register on Church Center (under the new member class registration) to participate and for more information.

**Summer Missions:** Join us this summer as we care for our neighborhood and stay local and serve the city of Harrisburg. We will be partnering with Wild Hearts "Love the Hill" and lodging here at First Church. We will be serving the week of June 28th- July 3rd. Meet at the round tables in the back of the sanctuary (the Hardwood Café) for an informational meeting on April 12th, following the 11:00 service.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** If you are planning to attend the 6:40 A.M. service and can help with reading, communion, or prayer, please reach out to Lisa Aronson and tell her of your interest. The youth band is also leading worship and would love your help!

**Save the Date: Zeteo "Wasteland" Film Premier** on April 9th, Battle-Ball Tournament and Worship Night at Camp Hill UMC on April 26th, Volunteer for FUMC VBS from July 13-17, Sn'L "Revive" Camping festival at McBic from July 22- July 25.



# 2026 First Church Concert Series

The Worship Arts Ministry is pleased to announce the schedule for the 2026 First Church Concert Series! All concert and events open to the public to celebrate the joy of music, as we feature various performers and musicians. All concerts are free, though donations are accepted. This year's concerts include:

- **Praise Ringers in Concert** – FUMC Handbell Choir | Sunday, May 3, 7 p.m.
- **An Acoustic Evening of Worship** – Christy Holliday & Jesse King | Sunday, Sept. 20, time TBD
- **"Holiday Harmony"** – First Church Music Ensembles | Sunday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.



**How do I register and find information for events?**

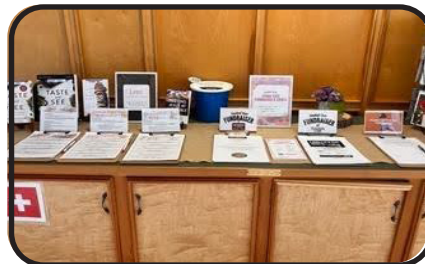
When in Church Center (website or in the app):

Icon on the bottom of Church Center App for Events →



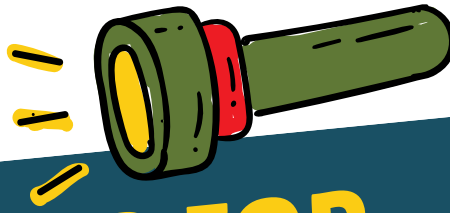
- Click on "Signups"
  - The Sign-Up page is for more than signing up --- it's a place of information! You can find information for ministries, service opportunities, worship, and events. When you hear "information is on Church Center", this is where you go.
  - The drop-down menu bar along the top lets you search for event types (adult, youth, service, worship, etc.) On the app, the drop-down menu is defaulted to "all categories," and the web version is defaulted to "upcoming events". Use this bar to filter your search or leave it as is.
  - Scroll down to your desired event block.
  - Click on whichever event you want to learn more about or register for.
  - The event will open to an information page and tell you about the event, provide links to associated pages, and, if relevant to the event, a "register button" will be present.
    - If an event is not yet open, if it is full, or if you have already registered, the registration button will clarify that detail and will no longer say "register."
  - Click "register" and follow the prompts.
    - If you have multiple people in your household, some registrations will require you to specify who each of the registrations is for.
    - Proceed through the registration form by hitting the "next" button
    - Provide payment information if required. (Often, if payment is required, there is a "pay in person" option that allows you to pay by cash or check.)
  - Submit your registration by clicking the final "register and pay" or "register" button after completing all the required information.

**Looking for a sign-up? In the Main Lobby is the Registration Table, where you can register for current studies, fundraisers, events, and more.**



**First Church Service Shirts Reminder**

As you prepare for summer, do you have a First Church service shirt? Consider ordering one for the service projects you plan to serve during the summer. Sign up on Church Center or email Lisa Aronson at [discipleship@fumchurch.com](mailto:discipleship@fumchurch.com). The First Church Service Shirts are designed to unite and identify us as we serve together in our community. Whether you're volunteering at an outreach event, helping with church ministries, or participating in a mission project, these shirts are a simple and powerful way to represent First Church with love and purpose. Wearing a service shirt not only helps others recognize who we are, but it also shows that we're working together as the hands and feet of Christ. If you don't have room, this can wait until May



# REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP!

BUILDING AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS TO  
CHRIST, COMMUNITY, AND CREATION.



## SPECIAL OFFERS:

*Sibling Discount* - Register the one at full price, and additional siblings receive a \$25 discount.

*Invite-a-Friend Gift* - Invite a friend who has never been to camp and receive \$50 off the cost of camp after they register.

*Financial Assistance* - First Church will pay **half** of your camp fees!



## TO LEARN ABOUT:

- Financial assistance for campers
- Details on discounts
- What to expect at camp
- Becoming a prayer partner
- Volunteering as a camp dean, nurse or counselor
- Working at camp
- Campsite workdays

**CONTACT OUR FIRST CHURCH  
CAMP COORDINATORS!**

DEB NOSS: SDPPP@MSN.COM  
AMY ORTIZ: MATTANDAMYORTIZ@GMAIL.COM



Visit [suscrm.org](https://suscrm.org) to register and see a complete list of 2025 camps!

# Church Staff

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**Timeless Connections:**

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717-319-7318  
pvogl@timelessconnections.org



*Help us celebrate special birthdays for our church members turning 80 or older!*



Robert Meck.....	April 2	Barb Eckert.....	May 4
Dee Farr.....	April 3	Ginnie Miller.....	May 4
Linda Hall.....	April 9	Richard Hoffnagle.....	May 5
Darlene Wilkinson.....	April 17	Annabelle Elder.....	May 10
Gina Johnson.....	April 24	Nancy Otstot.....	May 12
Janet Baker.....	April 25	Denny Kauffman.....	May 13
Grace Brandt.....	April 25	Marjorie Kohr.....	May 15
Richard Schmick.....	April 26	Donald Heiges.....	May 16
Larry Buddenbaum.....	April 26	Roy Miller.....	May 16
		Mary Lou Vierthaler.....	May 19
		Bob Bittenbender.....	May 27
		Flossie Ryder.....	May 31



- ♥ Dick and Marge Scott married April 2, 1963 for 60 years
- ♥ Larry and Sue Bruner married April 12, 1975 for 51 years.
- ♥ Ralph and Autumn Haines married April 17, 1965 for 61 years.
- ♥ Dean and Marty Otto married April 21, 1963 for 63 years.
- ♥ Donald and Kay Heiges married April 26, 1958 for 68 years.

**FIRST NEWS FIRST**  
EDITORS: Kelsey Goll

The **deadline** for submitting articles for the May 2026 issue is **Apr. 15**. Early submissions always appreciated!