
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



The
Geography
of Our
Faith

Part 1: Open Spaces

July 5, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE **8:30 A.M**

Prelude: *"The Washington Post"*

Welcome

Call to Worship

"America The Beautiful" #696

Prayer for the Day: 250th
Anniversary of the Nation

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer (Psalm 33:12)
*"Happy is the Nation whose God is the
Lord, the people whom he has chosen
as his heritage"*

The Lord's Prayer

Solo: "Amazing Grace"

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 18:1-6,16-19; Ephesians 3:14-19

Sermon:
*Our Geography of Faith, Part 1: Open
Spaces*

Announcements
Offering & Offering Prayer

"He Leadeth Me" #128

Benediction

Postlude

THE GATHERING SERVICE **11:00 A.M**

Countdown Video

Welcome

"Reckless Love"

"Abide"

Kids Moment

Summer Childcare Dismissal

Pastoral Prayer (Psalm 33:12)
*"Happy is the Nation whose God is the
Lord, the people whom he has chosen
as his heritage"*

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 18:1-6,16-19; Ephesians 3:14-19

Sermon:
*Our Geography of Faith, Part 1: Open
Spaces*

Announcements

Offering

"Goodness of God"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Lew Parks

Liturgist:

Sarah Pugh (830), Lisa Aronson (11)

Accompanist

Kathie Bittenbender

Special Music

George Canonizado, Kathie Bittenbender

Worship Band

Oliver Paris, Sarah Pugh, Allison Shield, RJ Wertz, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media

Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols, Bill Richie (830), Ken Rapp (11)

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

11 am - 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

VBS Registration is open!

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Merle, Della, and Isabel Zimmerman placed by The Family.

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

Upcoming Special Summer Sunday School:

July 12 – Presentation: Katie Dang

Hear from Katie Dang as she shares her knowledge on Estate Planning. Katie shared very helpful information (regardless of life stage) last year, and has more to share. This year she is presenting: "Estate Planning Pitfalls: What People Still Miss After They Think They've Done Everything Right."

July 26 – Service Project: VBS and Caitlin Smiles

Learn about the mission projects from our VBS week and make additional kits/bags for Caitlin Smiles hospital ministry.

August 16 – Service Project: Back to School

Mechanicsburg churches pray and care for our nearby schools. Come help prepare items to donate to the schools and to learn how you can be praying for the school communities.

PROJECT BACK TO SCHOOL



MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL
STUDENTS IN OUR DISTRICT

Back to school supplies for all students in need

School Supplies Needed

(new please)

- Colored pencils
- Earbuds
- Erasers
- Folders
- Highlighters
- Index cards
- Mechanical Pencils
- Post-its
- Tape

Collecting at
First UMC
July 1 thru 26
in Main Lobby

- Big backpacks with water bottle pouch
- Lunch boxes/bag
- Reusable Water Bottles



Operation Wildcat is a 501C3 works with the Mechanicsburg Area School District administration, staff and community to pool resources to help our local students, families and staff in need.

Learn more at
www.operationwildcat.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

VBS 2026 | July 13-17th

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.

Women's Summer Bible Study - Tuesdays | 6:30 -7:30 P.M

This summer, join us for a 10-week women's Bible study as we walk through Jonah: God's Relentless Grace by Lydia Brownback. This study encourages women to dig deep into Scripture through the summer months with thoughtful reading and reflection each week. This is a space for conversation, encouragement, and accountability as we grow together in God's Word. Come for one week or join us whenever you are home — no pressure, just connection and study. While childcare isn't provided, children who are comfortable playing independently are welcome to enjoy the nearby playground during our time together. Bring your Bible, your workbook, and a heart ready to grow — we'd love to see you there! Sign up on Church Center or at the Registration Table to get a workbook and to be included in future communications regarding the study. For questions, contact Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com



PRAYING FOLLOWER

Travel Blessing Cards

Please join the Handbell Choir in prayer, as they prepare for the exciting opportunity to participate in the 22nd International Handbell Symposium in Aberdeen, Scotland. Travel Blessing Cards are available to take at the Handbell Hub table in the tower entrance. Each card features a ringer attending the symposium, and offers a chance to get to know the bell choir members while keeping them in your prayers before and during their journey. Thank you for your generous support, encouragement, and prayers as they prepare for this special experience.



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Thank You From Pastor Mira

"THANK YOU First Church staff, leaders and congregation for your cards, gifts, and prayers as we start a new chapter ahead. It has been a privilege to worship together, serve boldly in the community and beyond, and share life together. May you continue to shine with the heart and light of Christ as you welcome Pastor Lew and live out your faith ahead. Be God's Always, Pastor Mira & Grace"



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Gleaning 2026 | 6 pm in the Oak Grove Parking Lot 3rd Thursdays: June – October

This growing season, we are excited to once more have the opportunity to glean locally in partnership with Oak Grove Farms! We will share the fresh produce with our local community. If you haven't gleaned with us before, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112 to have your name/contact information added to the list to receive more info!



Sign up for Church Summer Camp!

Visit suscrm.org to register and see a complete list of camps and retreats. Forward your camp confirmations/questions to Deb Noss (sdppp@msn.com) or to (kidscount@fumchurch.com). FUMC will pay half (50% OFF) of all camp fees. The conference provides additional discounts for "Siblings" as well as "Inviting-a-Friend" who has never been to camp.

Single Solo's Fellowship | July 14

The Single Solo fellowship will dine at T J Rockwells on Tuesday, July 14th at 11:30 a.m. If you plan on attending, please call Bonnie Guyer at (717)766-0145. Transportation can be provided upon request.

A Hundred Thousand Thank-You's Event

Join the Handbell Choir for one final event on Saturday, July 25th in the MPR before they leave to participate in the 22nd International Handbell Symposium in Aberdeen, Scotland. But this event is not a fundraiser-- this event is for YOU, the generous supporter! To show our appreciation, we are hosting a FREE Thank You Event! Come enjoy the family-friendly animated movie, Brave, from 4-6pm, or simply stop by anytime between 6-9pm for an open house. You can learn more about what we'll be doing at the symposium, enjoy some Scottish food, music, handbell ringing, and more! We could not have gotten to where we are without your support, so allow us to say THANK YOU!



GENEROUS GIVER

Operation Wildcat Project Back to School

FUMC will be collecting Back to School items for Operation Wildcat during the month of July. Project Back to School provides students in the Mechanicsburg Area School District with necessary school supplies to ensure they have the essentials needed in their classrooms. The school supplies are collected and OW prefills backpacks with these items and delivers the filled backpacks to school counselors to be given out to students in need before school starts. This will help ensure the children of families who cannot afford these items will have a positive start to their school year. Find the list and drop off your donations to the collection bin at the Missions Table by July 26.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

The United Women in Faith are partnering with Staples to recycle pens, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, markers, highlighters, glue sticks. No need to separate the items, just place in the marked bins at the Donation Station located near the Alley Entrance. These items can be empty, unused, dried out, broken, etc. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

Yard Sale | Aug 15th

SAVE THE DATE! Annual Yard, Book and Bake Sale is Saturday, August 15. Yard Sale spaces go on sale July 1 (contact Donna Nichols). Start saving your treasures for this popular sale! See all the details on Church Center "Yard, Book, and Bake Sale". Thanks 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. Dr. Lew Parks, Senior Pastor | pastorlew@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

"Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously"

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