
WELCOME TO

**First United
Methodist Church**

MECHANICSBURG, PA

A decorative background featuring a dark blue circle with a golden crown and radiating lines. The background is filled with faint musical notes and lyrics. Large, bold, serif text is centered over the circle.

FAIREST
LORD JESUS

THEE WILL I CHERISH

August 30, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE

8:30 A.M

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

"Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes"

Prayer For The Day

Kids Moment

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
(Psalm 104:1-2a)

"Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**O Lord my God, you are very great. You
are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment."**

Ministry of Music: *"I Speak Jesus"*

Scripture Reading: "Matthew 16:21-28"

Sermon:

*"Fairest Lord Jesus, Part 4: Thee Will I
Cherish"*

Announcements

Offering

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Benediction

Postlude

THE GATHERING SERVICE

11:00 A.M

Countdown Video

Welcome

"What a Beautiful Name"

"I Speak Jesus"

Kids Moment

Summer Childcare Dismissal

Pastoral Prayer (Psalm 104:1-2-a)

"Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**O Lord my God, you are very great. You
are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment."**

Scripture Reading: *"Matthew 16:21-28"*

Sermon:

*"Fairest Lord Jesus, Part 4: Thee Will I
Cherish"*

Announcements

Offering

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Lew Parks

Liturgist:

Sarah Pugh (830), Katie Knorr (11)

Accompanist

Brandon Rhody

Special Music:

George Canonizado, Katie Knorr,
Sarah Pugh

Worship Band

Janice Bowen, John Gross, Geri Nuss,
Sarah Pugh, Allison Shield, Cindy
Smith

Sound and Media

Michael Garman, Ken Rapp, Holly
Kurten (8:30a), Violet Sanker (11a)

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**

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 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Katheryn & George Fishel placed by the Vankirks and Taylors.

NOTES

Going Deeper

Sunday, August 30, 2026 - Matthew 16:21-26

Fairest Lord Jesus, Part 3: Thee Will I Cherish

From the beginning, the most decisive characteristic of followers of the risen Jesus is this: we worship him as “Lord”. We pray to him as we pray to God. We sing hymns to him. We renounce other lords on his behalf. This lord holds together power and love like no other. In this series, we will unpack the implications of having such a Lord, drawing on five stories from Matthew’s gospel and leaning into the words, imagery, and haunting tune of a 350-year-old hymn.

Mon. Aug 31: A prophet who challenges power and suffers (1 Kings 3:1-18)

Tues. Sept 1: God can circumvent evil rulers to protect the Messiah (Matt 2:1-2)

Wed. Sept 2 : Peter performs Satan’s role of distracting Jesus from doing God’s will (Matt 4:1-11)

Thurs. Sept 3: An early hymn to Lord Jesus who “emptied himself” for us (Philippians 2:1-11)

Fri. Sept 4: Christ crucified is foolishness to some, but not to those being saved (1 Cor 1:18-25)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Deborah Circle | Resuming Sept 1 at 7pm in Rm 105

Deborah circle will be resuming meetings on September 1, 2026 at 7:00 PM. We study unknown women of the Bible. New members are welcome to join us for 1 meeting or all of them. We meet every other month on the first Tuesday. Join us in room 105. Any questions text/email Sandy Walton at 717-433-3687/swalton54@comcast.net. Hope to see you there.

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.



PRAYING FOLLOWER

One Church Sunday and Church Picnic | Sunday, September 13th | 10:00 A.M.

Join us for a special combined worship service as we come together – all generations, one church, gathered around one table – to mark the end of summer and step into the rhythms of fall. This service is all about unity – across all ages, worship styles, and backgrounds – as we gather to worship, then continue that spirit of togetherness with a meal at our annual church picnic.

Following worship, all are invited to the annual church picnic! We'll provide hot dogs and hamburgers, and ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share. No need for sign-ups (however, you can share what you plan to bring in order to help assure variety). Food can be kept warm or chilled during the service. Come dressed for a day of connection and celebration--no need for traditional church attire. In fact, this is the perfect day to give your Hawaiian shirts one last hurrah before summer ends! While indoor seating is available, you're invited to bring a bag chair or picnic blanket and enjoy yard games and fellowship outdoors. Let's gather-- one church, one table, and have one joyful day together! Call the church office with any questions!



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Next opportunity is Sept.17, 6:30 p.m.

Isaiah 61 Ministries serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County through a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and life groups. First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. To find out how you can help or if you would like to carpool, please contact Tiany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com



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! New this year.....come at 5 pm for picnic table fellowship, a chance to purchase ice cream before Oak Grove closes, and to share in a devotional from the book "Playing in the Dirt."



RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Camp Fancy Gala | Saturday, Sept. 12, 4 - 8 p.m. | Order tickets by Sept 1st!

Everyone who values the power of our Camp and Retreat Ministry experiences is invited to enjoy an evening of inspiration, fun, and generosity. This annual fundraising event will take place this year at Calvary UMC in Harrisburg. The Gala features a catered meal, special music, and a silent auction. The event will celebrate the stories, relationships, and transformations that happen through camp. This year, we will welcome Jody Oats of Kaleidoscope who will share exciting plans and news regarding our Expansion Project. Buy tickets, make a donation and learn about sponsorship opportunities at suscrm.org/gala. If you have questions, want to volunteer, or donate an auction item, please contact Steve Noss (sdppp@msn.com).

Solo Seniors Fellowship | Sept. 8, 11:30am

The Solo Seniors will dine at the Middlesex Diner on Tuesday, Sept. 8th at 11:30 a.m. If you plan on attending, please call Bonnie Guyer at (717)766-0145. Transportation can be provided upon request.



GENEROUS GIVER

Share the Harvest

If you have extra flowers, fruits, or vegetables from your yard or garden this summer, we encourage you to share them with your church family and community! Whether you leave goodies or take some home with you, please look for the Share the Harvest display set-up on the counter space near the children's department.....as well as the shelf attached to the Little Free Pantry alongside the church parking lot. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112) with any questions.

Giving to First Church

We're so grateful for all the ways you support First Church – through your prayers, time, talents and resources. Everything you give to First Church helps us love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. You can place tithes or offerings in the baskets as you exit the sanctuary, send them into the church office, or give online at fumchurch.com or in the Church Center app.

***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"

135 W. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg PA 17055
office@fumchurch.com | 717-766-4611 | fumchurch.com | [@fumchurch](https://www.instagram.com/fumchurch)