
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



PRAYERS FROM THE HEART



joy praise
surrender mercy grace thank you
hoping please justice teach
transform how long? healing
renewal comfort protection
glory be eternal forgiveness us
lead peace your will be done clarity
wisdom sorry speak
courage

please!

September 13, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

COMBINED SERVICE

10:00AM

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Song: *"Bless God"*

Prayer of the Day & Sharing Signs of Peace

Sounds of Worship Anthem: *"We Are the Church"*

Kids Moment

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
(Psalm 72:4)

**"May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor."**

Scripture:

Exodus 32:1-2, 7-14; Mark 2:1-12

Sermon:

"Prayers from the Heart, Part 2: Please!"

Announcements

Offering

Doxology #95

Offering Prayer

Closing Song: *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Lew Parks

Musicians: Sounds of Worship Choir, Janice Bowen, John Gross, Krissy Marshall, Sarah Pugh, Allison Shield, Cindy Smith

Sound and Media

Fred Espenshade, Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

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.

NOTES

Going Deeper: ***Prayers from the Heart, Part 2: Please!***

The most fundamental act for a Christian believer is so simple you could miss it. We are a people who talk to a Higher Power. We do it because we believe God is and God “rewards those who seek him” (Heb 11:6). In this sermon series we are exploring Prayers from the Heart. We’ll study the Bible for the raw experiences behind five fundamental types of prayers. Through the centuries the church has given them formal theological names: petition, intercession, thanksgiving, contrition, and praise. But before that reflective stage they were and are vivid encounters between God and the believer. Won’t you join us as we look at: *"Help! Please! Thanks! Sorry! and Wow!"*

Sun. Sept 13: Friends who interceded for a friend to Jesus. (Mark 2:1-12)

Mon. Sept 14: Curses are intercessions turned upside down. (Deuteronomy 27:11-26)

Tues. Sept 15: Moses intercedes for his people and changes God’s mind. (Exodus 32:1-14)

Wed. Sept 16: Parents who interceded for children to Jesus. (Mark 7:24-29; Matt 9:18-26; 15:21-18)

Thurs. Sept 17: Like them or not we are to pray for our leaders. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Fri. Sept 18: Benedictions are intercessions for the gathered people of God about to scatter. (Numb 6:24-26; Hebrews 13:20-21; Jude 24-25)

From Janice Bowen, Director of Congregational Care:

Here at First Church, we offer a variety of avenues for sharing a prayer concern, as outlined below. These prayer requests are lifted either in confidence by the church staff or shared with the broad-er praying community through the **weekly Prayer Letter** email.

- **Green Prayer Cards** available in the pews, from the ushers, at the sanctuary entrances, and at the Prayer Box in the main lobby.
- Prayer cards can be dropped in the offering bins, turned into the church office, or placed in Janice Bowen's mailbox.
- Prayer Concerns can be shared on-line via the church web site. (fumchurch.com)
- Requests can be emailed to Janice Bowen. (wecare@fumchurch.com) or you can call the church with a prayer request. (717-766-4611)
- If you would like to begin receiving the **weekly Prayer Letter** email, please sign-up at the registration area in the Main Lobby or contact the church office

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFELONG LEARNER

Short-Term Class Offering: The Bible Simplified, Room 123, 9:45am-10:45am

This video-based series by Zac Windahl, led by Lisa Aronson, offers participants a chance to gain an overall understanding of the Bible. When read in chunks or maybe only read when listening at church, the Bible might seem daunting or confusing. Yet, this literary masterpiece is a gift from God and well worth exploring! This 8-week class, beginning on September 20th, will help you go from feeling lost in Scripture to making Scripture clear, accessible, and life-changing so you can gain confidence in your faith. Open to high school students and beyond. Sign up on Church Center or at the Registration Table. For questions, contact Lisa Aronson discipleship@fumchurch.com

Women's Morning Bible Study | Wednesdays, 9:30 -10:30 A.M. | Hardwood Café

Join Lisa Aronson and other women at the round tables in the green chair section of the sanctuary on Wednesday mornings beginning September 16th. Meeting for 10 weeks, we will read the book of Ephesians and use Lydia Brownback's workbook to further our study. This is a space for conversation, encouragement, and accountability as we grow together in God's Word. Come as often as you can — no pressure, just connection and study (the workbook can lend itself to solo study as well). Bring your Bible, your workbook, and a heart ready to grow. Sign up on Church Center or at the Registration Table. For questions, contact Lisa Aronson discipleship@fumchurch.com



PRAYING FOLLOWER

Share Your Joys and Prayer Concerns With Us!

Green prayer cards are in each bulletin today, but typically located in the pews and at the prayer station under the balcony. Fill one out and place it in prayer request box at the registration table in main lobby or wooden box in green chair section. You can also contact Janice directly at wecare@fumchurch.com.

Finding Hope & Peace in Grief | Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm, Rm 105 (10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17)

If you are experiencing grief and loss and would like to share in a group experience this fall, we invite you to journey with us Tuesday afternoons for 4-weeks as we search together for hope, peace, and meaning in our grieving. Contact Patti Vogl or Janice Bowen with questions or to register by October 20th.

Patti - pvogl@timelessconnections.org 717-319-7318

Janice - wecare@fumchurch.com 717-766-4611 x112



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 Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Gleaning 2026 | 6pm in the Oak Grove Parking Lot: Remaining Opportunities: 9/17, 10/15

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

Handbell Choir Chicken BBQ | Sept. 26

The Chicken BBQ is back!

On Saturday, September 26th, the Handbell Choir will be hosting the 26th Annual Chicken BBQ. See any bell choir member for a ticket or sign-up at the bell table in the tower entrance. You can also register on Church Center! Pick-up is from 11am to 4pm. Dinners include a half chicken, baked potato, roll, and applesauce. We'll also have a bake sale that day!

Monthly Ladies Night I Third Mondays September-May I 6-8 p.m.

Join us for our Monthly Ladies Night hosted by the Women's Ministry of First UMC (previously known as Mom Connection). Our goal for this ministry is to be a gathering of women from all stages of life. Women of all stages of life (single, mom (of...), empty nester, grandma, young adult, etc) are invited to a once a month evening of friendship, support, and guidance. We meet together for a meal, learning, conversation and prayer in the hopes of creating connections and cultivating community. Sign up on Church Center or contact Katie Knorr at kidscount@fum-church.com or Lisa Arsonson at discipleship@fumchurch.com for more info!



GENEROUS GIVER

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.

Hoss's Community Day | Sept.17

Come check out Hoss's Community Day to benefit the Mechanicsburg Crop Walk all day on Thurs. Sept. 17 at The Hoss's at 61 Gettysburg Pike. Proceeds from the community day benefit New Hope Ministries, Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels and the relief efforts of Church World service. Make sure to present your flyer to the server when ordering. Flyers can be found at the registration table, or reach out to the office to have it emailed to 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. 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

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