
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
renew comfort protection
glory be trust give us
lead peace your will
wisdom sorry be done clarity
courage speak

September 20, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE

8:30 A.M

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

"To God Be the Glory" #98

"My Tribute" #99

Prayer of the Day

Kids Message & Bible Sunday

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
(Psalm 136:2-3)

**"O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever."**

Sounds Of Worship:
"Clap Your Hands and Sing Hallelujah"

Scripture:
Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19; Romans 5:6-8;
Luke 15:8-10

Sermon:
"Prayers from the Heart, Part 3: Thanks!"

Announcements

Offering

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

Benediction

Postlude

THE GATHERING SERVICE

11:00 A.M

Countdown Video

Welcome

"Battle Belongs"

"Goodness of God"

Kids Moment & Bible Sunday

Wee & Kids Worship Dismissal

Pastoral Prayer (Psalm 136:2-3)
**"O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever."**

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19; Romans 5:6-8;
Luke 15:8-10

Sermon:
"Prayers from the Heart, Part 3: Thanks!"

Announcements

Offering

"Gratitude"

Benediction

Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Lew Parks

Liturgist:

Jeff Hoffnagle (830), George Canonizado & Lauren Sanker (11)

Accompanist

Brandon Rhody

Special Music:

Sounds of Worship

Worship Band:

George Canonizado, Geri Nuss, Sarah Pugh, Lauren Sanker, Tracy Wertz

Sound and Media:

Fred Espenshade, Ken Rapp, Holly Kurten (8:30a), Violet Sanker (11a)

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Deanna Lynn Otto placed by her parents.

MACHE BASKET

This week's mache basket is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Earl W. Sollenberger placed by his wife, Jody Sollenberger.

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 3: Thanks!

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!"*

Sunday, Sept 20

Jesus told three lost and found stories that ended in joyful “thanks!”
(Luke 15:1-32)

Monday Sept 21

God parades natural wonders before Job to change his lament to “thanks!”
(Job 38 - 39)

Tuesday Sept 22

Giving thanks to God after a close call.
(Psalm 124)

Wednesday Sept 23

Gratitude is the right response to a divine intervention.
(Luke 17:11-19)

Thursday Sept 24

The apostle Paul was good at thank you notes.
(1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Philippians 1:3-5)

Friday Sept 25

Predecessor to our Thanksgiving celebrations – Harvest in the Bible.
(Deuteronomy 16:9-13)

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

Health & Wellness Presentation | Oct. 18th, 9:45am

AI: Understanding the Myths and Risks of Artificial Intelligence

Health and Wellness invites you to this upcoming presentation with Jason Fisher on Sunday, October 18th, 9:45 a.m. in the Multi-purpose room.

A presentation and conversation about what AI is, how it's perceived in shaping our daily tasks, and the opportunities and challenges it presents. We'll explore its uses in everyday life, as well as concerns about privacy, misinformation, scams, jobs, bias, and the environment.



PRAYING FOLLOWER

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](mailto:pvogl@timelessconnections.org) 717-319-7318; [Janice - wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) 717-766-4611 x112



PASSIONATE WORSHIPPER

KidWorship and WeeWorship Volunteers Needed! | 11:00 service

We are looking for some people to help with KidsMinistry on Sunday mornings once a month during the 11:00 am service. We are looking for 2 volunteers to assist our preschool teachers and 1 volunteer to assist our K-5th grader teacher, each volunteer role takes place one Sunday a month with the ability to switch Sundays if a scheduling conflict arises. Volunteers will need to provide their clearances to the church. Please contact Katie Knorr at kidscount@fumchurch.com for more details.



DEDICATED MISSIONARY

Trash Pick Up| Sept 26

If you have nothing to do on September 26th from 9-noon, join Eliza and friends at picking up trash in Harrisburg through Wildheart Ministries! We're excited to partner with Wildheart for this trash pick-up event. If you can attend, please remember to wear your FUMC service shirt. Also, please let Wildheart know that you are coming!

<https://www.wildheartministries.net/programs/love-the-hill/volunteer/sign-up-today>



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 | Third Mondays September-May | 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!

Community Dinner | Sept. 27, 5pm at Buhrig's Gathering Place

Our next Community Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 27 at 5:00 p.m. at Buhrig's Gathering Place in Mechanicsburg. Local churches collaborate to bless the downtown community with a meal, music and a gift card drawing, free of charge. We are expecting 100 neighbors and friends and are in need of table hosts for this dinner. If you would like to sign up or have questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.



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.

***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)