
WELCOME TO

First United
Methodist Church

MECHANICSBURG, PA



PRAYERS
FROM THE
HEART



joy praise
surrender mercy grace thank you
hoping please justice
transform how long healing
glory be us
lead peace you will be done clarity
wisdom sorry speak
courage

help!

September 6, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE

8:30 A.M

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #117

Prayer For The Day

Kids Moment

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
(Psalm 90:17 NIV)

**"May the favor of the Lord our God rest
on us; establish the work of our hands
for us—yes, establish the work
of our hands."**

Ministry of Music: *"How Great Thou Art"*

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 12:1-7; Matthew 20:29-34

Sermon:
"Prayers from the Heart, Part 1: Help!"

Communion

Announcements
Offering

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

Benediction

Postlude

THE GATHERING SERVICE

11:00 A.M

Countdown Video

Welcome

"The Joy"

"Defender"

Kids Moment

Summer Childcare Dismissal

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
(Psalm 90:17 NIV)

**"May the favor of the Lord our God
rest on us; establish the work of our
hands for us—yes, establish the work
of our hands."**

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 12:1-7; Matthew 20:29-34

Sermon:
"Prayers from the Heart, Part 1: Help!"

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"Lord I Need You"

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LEADING IN WORSHIP

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Lew Parks

Liturgist:

Lisa Aronson

Accompanist

Brandon Rhody

Special Music:

Sarah Pugh, Brandon Rhody

Worship Band

Emily Hammaker, Sarah Pugh, Allison Shield

Sound and Media

Jim Murdoch, Ron Nichols, Jim Robinson

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 remembrance of 9/11 placed by Georgianna Braund.

NOTES

Reminder:

**The Church office will be CLOSED on Monday, Sept. 7, 2026
in observation of Labor Day.**

Going Deeper:

Prayers from the Heart, Part 1: Help!

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 6: Two blind men shout even louder, “Lord, have mercy!” (Matt 20:29-34)

Monday Sept 7: Hannah prays desperately for help in her barrenness (1 Samuel 1:1-20).

Tuesday Sept 1: Hezekiah’s desperate prayer when the Assyrian enemy is near (1 Kings 19:1-20).

Wednesday Sept 2: David cries for help with his enemies & God answers (Psalm 18).

Thursday Sept 3: The disciples fear they are about to drown (Mark 4:35-41).

Friday Sept 4: A prayer for help answered in an unexpected way (2 Corinthians 12:1-10)

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 - Wednesday | 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

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 | 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 | 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@fumchurch.com or Lisa Arsonson at discipleship@fumchurch.com for more info!

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

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"

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