



First News First

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Bid Our Anxious Fears Subside

Against a background of the booming business of Halloween (sophisticated house decorations, elaborate costumes, "haunted" venues) I ask how the Bible helps us to address one of the strongest and (these days) most pervasive human emotion: **fear**. From fear of social contact (a legacy of covid) to fear of a declining economy, from fear of failure, to fear of strangers, from fear of AI, to fear of the onset of dementia, not to mention the many exaggerated fears of phobias, our lives are diminished by fear, sometimes to a crippling degree.

The Bible has much to say about fear. It describes fear vividly and concretely as "trembling" (Gen 3:10), "creeping flesh" (Job 21:6), "pounding heart" (Jer 4:19), and "hair standing on end" (Job 4:15). The Bible addresses the full range of fears from everyday scares to fear for one's life, from visible dangers "in your face", to vague forces of harm and evil that provoke dread.

Here's the twist: about four fifths of the mentions of fear in the Bible are directed toward a religious disposition. Above all else, "fear of God" and "fear of the Lord" must be given their due. That fear, when coupled with a sense of God's love and faithfulness, is the basic prescription for heartfelt worship, doing no harm/doing all the good you can, and resting in the peace of God. The final counsel of God on fear is an expression that occurs 90 times in the Bible: **fear not!**

I invite you to join me this fall as we listen for that "fear not!" and confront seven contemporary (yet ancient) fears. We will explore the storytelling genre of horror literature to amplify the conversation with Scripture. Our journey maps out like this: Oct 11 *The Frankenstein Monster*... Oct 18 *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*... Oct 25 *Haunted Houses*... Nov 01 *Zombies*... Nov 08 : *King Kong & Godzilla*... Nov 15 *Dracula*... and Nov 22 *Aliens from Outer Space*.

I have taken the title for this sermon series from one of my favorite 20th century Scottish (or Cornish) prayers:

*"From ghoulies and ghosties
And long-legged beastsies
And things that go bump in the night,
Good Lord, deliver us!"*



Yours in the Journey,
Pastor Lew

P.S. In the spirit of God's final word to fear not! that puts all our other fears in perspective, I invite you (no, I double dog dare you!) you to wear garb or costumes related to the subjects of this sermon series.

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Discipleship Opportunities:

No matter whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple, or becoming a fully devoted follower, there is always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

- **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.
- **Women's Morning Bible Study – Wednesday | 9:30-10:30a.m. | Hardwood Cafe**
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
- **New Member Class – October 4th-25th | Sundays at 9:45 A.M. | Room 207**
Looking to be baptized? Ready to become a member of First Church? Just want to explore the foundations of our faith? Join us for a four-week Sunday morning study, "A Disciple's Path." Together with Pastor Lew, you'll explore what it means to faithfully participate in the life of the Church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Contact Pastor Lew at pastorlew@fumchurch.com with any questions.

Sunday Morning Enrichment | Sunday Mornings | 9:45-10:45am

As summer comes to a close, our Sunday School classes will resume towards the end of August and kick off by September 20th! This is a wonderful opportunity to find consistency and accountability in your faith journey while studying God's Word. Here is a list of opportunities for enrichment during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 AM). We look forward to growing together!

- **Growing in Christ, B006**

A welcoming group that enjoys digging deeper into the Scriptures to seek the knowledge and wisdom to apply Scriptural truths in our everyday lives. The class generally consists of prayer, a video, and a group discussion. Drop in for a single class, or a specific study, or stay as long as you like! If interested, contact Marjorie Snyder at 57masnyder@gmail.com.

Fall Study: Short Stories of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine

This video study explores the parables of Jesus in the NT by taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture.

- **Christian Fellowship, Room B003**

A friendly and caring group of adults, eager to apply God's Word to life's challenges. The class explores Scripture and faith themes through book or video-based series. If interested, contact Wayne Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com.

Fall Study: Awe of God by John Bevere

In this video study, John Bevere invites you to take a fresh look at what it means to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. This healthy, holy, and largely forgotten virtue is the uncommon path to a more fulfilled and fruitful spiritual life.

- **Helping Hands, Room B004**

A group of active seniors who focus on encouraging instructions for faithful living, and who enjoy fellowship activities together outside of class. If interested, contact Bob Wertz, Sr., at robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com.

Fall Study: Cokesbury Adult Bible Study

This quarter's theme: "Faith and Faithfulness"

What does it truly mean to live by faith? And how do we remain faithful when life makes that difficult? This study explores the book of Hebrews and OT prophets and the relationship between faith and faithfulness, two foundational traits of the Christian life, and how together they shape the way we walk with God.

- **Guyer Class, Room 105 *NEW LOCATION**

This class, comprised of a wonderful group of seniors who are young at heart, is taught by a variety of church leaders and continues to meet during the summer months. Anyone looking for a class to attend is welcome here! This class will often join the combined offerings, but will notify the class when doing so. Class leaders: Steve and Deb Noss, sdppp@msn.com.

Fall Study: Cokesbury's Adult Bible Study

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- **United Women in Faith Circle Groups:**

United Women in Faith Circle groups are small, local communities within the United Women in Faith organization, a mission-focused group for women within the United Methodist Church. These circles are where women gather for spiritual formation, mutual support, fellowship, mission education, and to take action on issues of justice at local and global levels.

-----Martha Circle – Leader: Marley Ann Schmick-- Starting October 6th

This circle meets in the church Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM, and members rotate in helping to lead lessons

-----Deborah Circle – Leader: Sandy Walton -Next meeting: Nov 3rd

This circle meets every other month at church in room 105 at 7:00 PM and meets together off site for a meal on the opposite months. This circle has been studying women of the Bible.

- **Short-Term Class Offering: The Bible Simplified, Room 123**

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

Growing Together: Sunday October 18th | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Hardwood Café

Several times throughout the year, we will have a Growing Together opportunity following the 11:00 AM service. Stick around after service at the round tables in the green chair side of the sanctuary. We will provide lunch and a learning/service activity for any and all ages. Registration is encouraged to help us plan for food and accommodate any dietary restrictions. Registration is on Church Center and at the Registration Table. Reach out to Katie Knorr with questions at kidscount@fumchurch.com.

Small Groups:

There are Small Groups that regularly meet during the year and strive to not only support each other through faith growth in a classroom space, but also through fellowship and connection as they navigate similar stages of life.

Current Small Group Offerings:

- **Faith in Everyday Life**

A group for adults of all ages focused on fellowship and friendship/mutual support in and outside the classroom. Contact: Amy at amyerno@gmail.com.

- **Faithful Families**

An active group of parents with college-aged and young adult children who study Scripture, encourage one another and celebrate life together in and out of the classroom. Contact: Bob and Tracy Wertz at wertzfive@gmail.com

Interested in starting a small group?

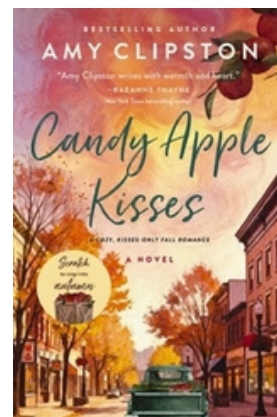
Reach out to Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com to discuss ideas and options for how to gather people together for intentional connection, support, and faith growth.



FROM THE LIBRARY....

"As I write this fall newsletter, the air conditioner is still blowing chilled air and a little later I will be swimming laps in the pool. It is hard to think about fall. So I started browsing books that are coming or have recently arrived that remind me of fall.

The book **Candy Apple Kisses** by Amy Clipston really stood out with its fall cover and theme. And if that wasn't enough, it is subtitled "a cozy, low-spice fall romance". So far we know it has an apple theme, a fall scenery, and it will be sweet. But I will give you a few more tidbits to entice you. Jack Hughes is struggling to save the beloved Hughes Family Orchard which to him is more than a business. It is his legacy. Though artist Emily Carmichael has been away from Splendid Lake in the western North Carolina mountains for a long time, she still considers it her home. When she hears about Jake's troubles, she immediately packs her bags and without a plan heads to her hometown to help her childhood friend. Now the stage is set with two childhood friends bonding over saving the orchard. Now enter the ex-girlfriend to add drama to this sweet story. I will let you not only fill in the gaps, but also discover the end of this fall romance. Hope you like it!



I always think of October as mystery month as Halloween looms on the calendar. October newsletters always include a good murder mystery, and this year is no exception. Lynette Eason always delivers high octane thrills and great mysteries. Her new series "*Soldiers in the Shadows*" starts with **Twilight Tactics**. FBI agent Sully Sullivan and survival expert Elena Thompson arrive at Broken Chains Ranch.



Their goal is to help Ollie Callahan remain safe until he can testify in a trial for a prominent mob hit, and he is the only witness. All too soon the ranch comes under attack. As danger engulfs them Sully and Elena fight to keep everyone at the ranch safe. Find out in this fast-paced thriller if all of them survive the siege. You might need some hot cocoa to keep your calm. Enjoy the ride!!

As usual, if neither of these books is right for you, stop in the library and let one of our volunteers help you find just the right book. And if you are settling into your fall routine, you might want to grab a jigsaw puzzle for entertainment.

See you in the library,
Annette, Debra, Mary, Marge, Kathy, Pam & Donna

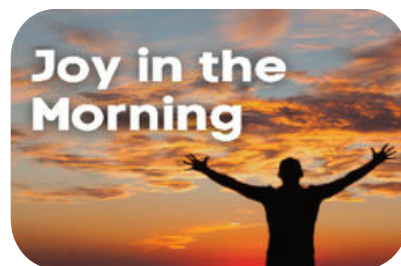


Prayer Room | Tower Room located off the back of room 216

We learn in scripture that Jesus often withdrew and found a quiet place to pray: "Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went out to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35)." A place where his focus could be on his Father. We have a prayer room, and it's a perfect place of quiet where you can sit with God. The prayer room will be available as a quiet place you can sit with God on Sunday mornings during the Sunday enrichment hour (9:45 AM-10:45 AM). We welcome you to visit the space and use it for your place of prayer.

Joy in the Morning | A small group invitation, October 19 at 1pm

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this small group. We meet monthly at 1pm on a Monday afternoon at Bethany Village's West Apartments Commons Room. Janice Bowen facilitates, drawing upon readings and devotionals. For more info contact Janice wecare@fumchurch.com.



Visiting with Friends!

If you miss seeing a special friend at church, Janice Bowen would like to hear from you! Janice enjoys taking people with her for visits so that friends can remain connected by visiting in-person with one another! Whether you find yourself 'stuck at home', no longer able to get out to Church, missing your friends who are at home..Janice would love to hear from you! 717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com.

Greeting Cards to Share!

Looking for a birthday card or a way to send 'get well' wishes to a friend? Stop by the 'Card Ministry' display in the lobby and help yourself to a card! If you'd like a bigger supply or know of someone who may appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen wecare@fumchurch.com.

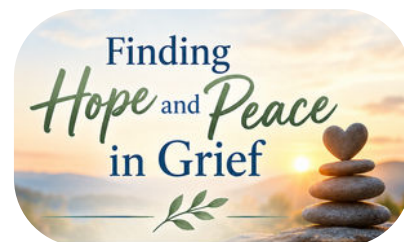
Flu Shots | Sunday, October 18th, 9-11 a.m.

We will offer flu shots provided by Sandy Leister, RN on October 18th. There's no need to preregister - simply stop by the Main Lobby between 9-11 am. Anyone 18 or older is welcome to receive a vaccine. Some insurance plans will be accepted. Without insurance, the flu shot costs \$40 (cash or check, made out to VNA of Central PA). Please contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions. Accepted insurances: Medicare B; Medicare B and a secondary insurance; Medicare B and AARP; Medicare B and commercial (supplement); Railroad Medicare B; GHP; GHP Gold; Humana Gold; Humana Choice PPO.

**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



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.



Passionate Worshipper



Home Communion

We offer home communion approximately every other month to anyone who may be unable to attend worship in-person to receive the Lord's Supper. If you would like to receive communion at home, or have someone to suggest for home communion, please contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611 x 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com)

Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | How to Volunteer - Next Opportunity is Oct. 21

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members prepare and serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunities are Wednesday, October 21, at 6:30 p.m. To find out how to get involved, contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com. We now have a simpler way to sign up for items, see the Time to Sign Up link on Church Center and the church website at fumchurch.com.

Sermon Series Bible Reading: Enhance your experience with the sermon series by following along with the daily bible reading plan. Bible reading plans are found typically in the bulletin but also under the "Daily Reading Plans" on the Church website under the "resources" tab.

**Save the Dates: As you are planning your schedule for this fall/end of year,
please keep in mind these dates:**

Church Conference – November 1, 2026

Consecration Sunday – November 8, 2026

Sunday School Mission Presentation: Matt & LeeAnn Herring – November 8, 2026

Youth Retreat – December 4-6, 2026

Zeteo (Sn'L High School Event) – January 29-31, 2027

Women's Retreat – January 29-31, 2027

Dedicated Missionary



First Church Service Shirts - Do you have a First Church service shirt? Contact Lisa Aronson at

discipleship@fumchurch.com to order a shirt. The First Church Service Shirts are designed to unite and identify us as we serve together in our community. Whether you're volunteering at an outreach event, helping with church ministries, or participating in a mission project, these shirts are a simple and powerful way to represent First Church with love and purpose. Wearing a service shirt not only helps others recognize who we are, but it also shows that we're working together as the hands and feet of Christ.

Coffee Ministry

Even if you don't love coffee, you can't deny that our coffee space becomes a space of gathering on Sunday morning. It's like an old-time Biblical well or town center that draws people in to have conversations and make connections. Have you considered supporting the Coffee Ministry?

Join the team that helps make Sunday morning coffee possible. Sign up for the Sundays you are available; even just one weekend every several months can be a huge help! Sign up on Church Center or at

<https://www.timetosignup.com/fumchurch/sheet/1363471>

Rainy Day Service Projects

Kid-friendly, anytime, anywhere at-home service bags are available in the Youth Ministry window well of the small lobby (along the wall with the water fountain). These bags provide simple at-home service projects. Develop a heart for service by engaging not just in events of service, but the simple projects that anyone can do. Return completed items to the basket on the window well, to Lisa Aronson, or to the main office.

Relationship Builder



FUMC Pickleball Tuesday 5-7 pm (earlybird start at 4:30 for those interested)

Join us for Pickleball in the church gym Tuesday evenings! We also periodically play outdoors at Mechanicsburg's Memorial Park when the weather suits. No experience is necessary. Paddles/balls are available to borrow if you'd like to learn how to play! Contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions or to be added to the Pickleball list for weekly updates and alerts.

FUMC Volleyball | Wednesdays 6 - 8 pm

If you enjoy volleyball, please come on out to the church gym Wednesday evenings! Please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com with questions or to be added to the list to receive volleyball communications.



Men's Breakfast | October 3 and Nov 7th at 7:30 a.m., Brothers Restaurant

An open invitation is extended to all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday of each month (Brothers Restaurant is located at 705 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, 17055). Please contact John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if you are interested in attending.

Women's Morning Meet-Up | October 10, 7:30 a.m., Down To Earth Café

While this group takes a hiatus in the summer, it's not too early to add the second Saturdays to your calendar. Restarting in September, join us for a warm cup of coffee and encouraging conversation. Order food or a drink, or just grab a seat and connect with other women of faith, share stories, and find support in a welcoming atmosphere. Down to Earth Café is located at 100 Legacy Park Dr. Suite 108, Mechanicsburg.

College Connection

Help us gather addresses for our post-high school students. In an effort to send a fall care package to our college and post-high school students, Lisa Aronson is gathering addresses. Regardless of whether addresses are the same or changed from last semester, please email Lisa at discipleship@fumchurch.com with an accurate fall address. Join us at Growing Together in October when we will work together to assemble our college care boxes.

Mechanicsburg Parade and Streets of Treats | October 13 & 17

We will once again be offering our parking lot and surrounding areas for neighbors to watch the **Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 13**. Come out for a fun night and enjoy the parade!

The annual **Streets of Treats** will be held on **Saturday, October 17** in downtown Mechanicsburg from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is a free event that provides a safe and fun environment for daytime trick or treating.



CROP Walk | October 18

The West Shore CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 18 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg. Over \$42,000 was raised to care for the needy at the 2025 Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk! Since the first Mechanicsburg CROP Walk in 1971, this walk has raised an impressive \$727,740 to care for our needy local and global neighbors!



100% of donations collected will go to New Hope Ministries, Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels and Church World Service. For more information on how to contribute or put together a team of walkers, visit the website at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/mechanicsburgpa>.

River Valley District (former Harrisburg District) Annual Day, October 24

The United Women in Faith River Valley District Annual Day will be held on Saturday, Oct 24 at Calvary United Methodist Church, 4700 Locust Lane, Harrisburg. All women are invited! If you would like to learn all about the missions of the UWF, this is a great opportunity. If you have questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle, President of First Church, United Women in Faith at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.



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 Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com for more info!



Women's Retreat | January 29-31, 2027

Our 2027 Women's Retreat will be held at Rhodes Grove Retreat Center, 7693 Browns Mill Road, Chambersburg. We are pleased to announce that Lisa Aronson will be leading our retreat. Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, food and faith! Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday before noon. Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals are included. We continue to offer a One-Day option (lunch and dinner included)! You will find the registration form, starting November 1 at the sign-up table in the church lobby (outside the multipurpose room), on the Church Center App or send an email to Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com. All women are welcome!



Gleaning 2026 | Thursday, Oct 15, 6 pm in the Oak Grove Parking Lot (Last opportunity this season)

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 at One80 Ministries, Keller Senior Living, and the 3 in-town Little Free Pantries. If you haven't gleaned with us before, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com to have your contact information added to the FUMC 2026 "Glean Team" list to receive additional information! 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."

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God" ~Leviticus 19:9-10.

Generous Giver



August 2026 Financial Update

2026 Budgeted Income \$811,683

2026 Budgeted Expenses \$846,822 (\$35,139 deficit / greater expenses than income)

Expected Income YTD \$541,122 (67% of budget)

Actual Income YTD \$561,802 (+2% over budget/expected)

Actual Expenses \$541,280 (-3% under budgeted/expected expenses)

General Fund Update

Through the month of August the Church's general fund is doing better than we had anticipated, about 2% better in income than anticipated and with expenses 3% lower than expected at this point in the year. Thank you all for your continued giving in service of the ministries of our Church! The interest-free parsonage loan balance as of August 31, 2026, was \$35,575, but we also received a gift of \$2,000 toward the loan in September which will be applied.

Special Giving / Estate Planning / Memorials

If you are feeling led toward a larger gift for our Stained Glass renewal project or want to direct a gift toward a specific mission, you can specify where the donation is to go. Please reach out to Brian Sanker, chair of the First Church Finance Committee, at sankerb@gmail.com or to Amy Erno, Director of Finance, at financedirector@fumchurch.com (or by calling the church office) if you need assistance. We can also answer some basic questions or help direct you for more information on legacy gifts related to wills and estate planning or how to direct charitable giving to First Church from retirement accounts. For questions on the stained glass renewal project timeline or other project questions please contact Jim Murdoch.

Consecration Sunday

This newsletter will be published near to Consecration Sunday. As we enter this season our question for all is: how is God calling you to do in your faith journey toward giving and discipleship? Giving itself is an act of worship, be it in tithing or in giving of our time in service. The members of First Church are generous givers in all ways, and we challenge you to pray and consider how God has blessed you and how you can in turn bless others.

Thank you for your continued support of First Church!



Penny Bucket/Change Bucket | You can make a change!

Since 2024 First Church has been collecting change to help provide clean water through the UMC Advance to areas in Africa. Change, and bills, are welcome to continue to care for existing wells and drill new wells for clean water in the Mulungwishi, South Congo area. The Penny Bucket/Change Bucket is in the Main Lobby. We thank Barb Strock, who as part of the Mission Team will care for this international mission project. Thank you for your continued support!

Little Free Pantry

Thanks so much for your continued support of the Little Free Pantry through your donations and monetary contributions. We are building up our supply to stock the pantry, but we still welcome your donations which can be dropped off at the church office or at the Alley Entrance in the marked basket. We are blessed to be able to offer this 'no barrier access point to food' to our neighbors. Questions about the Little Free Pantry, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.



United Women in Faith Baked Good Giveaway, November 1

Support the United Women in Faith World Thank Offering on Sunday, November 1 with your sweet tooth! Stop by the table, near the Children's Hallway, to pick up a tasty treat and make a donation to the World Thank Offering. "The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundant grace in the midst of change." Visit us between worship services for a sweet treat and a chance to help women, children and youth. If you can donate a baked good, please bring to the display that morning, we'd love your support! Questions about United Women in Faith or the World Thank Offering, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Go Green!

We are now recycling the following items to keep them from landfills!

- 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. Thanks for helping us to care for our environment!

Broad Street Cooking and Caring for Families | Thursday, November 12

First Church will once again be partnering with other community churches to cook and serve a meal for Broad Street Elementary families on Thursday, November 12 at 5:00 p.m. First Church will be providing the BBQ and volunteers. First Church is responsible for 70 pounds of BBQ (the amount is increased due to more people attending the meal) using a simple recipe provided by the school (see below). We plan to serve over 300 for dinner and provide take-home meals to families unable to attend. Please consider making a 5 lb. batch of BBQ or more for the families at Broad Street. Questions or if you can provide BBQ, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

- 5 lbs. Ground Beef (80% lean or higher, please only use beef)
- 1/2 cup White Vinegar
- 1/2 cup Brown Sugar
- 3 and 3/4 cups Ketchup
- 1/4 cup Mustard

Cook beef and drain fat, mix in other ingredients and heat thoroughly. Thanks for cooking and caring for our community! Details will be sent out as to where and when you can drop off your BBQ donation, thanks!

Ringing in the News!



Bekah Henry is pleased to be the new handbell director at FUMC! She is an active teacher, composer, conductor, and piano technician, as well as the director of Augti Music Studio in Mechanicsburg. Bekah holds her undergrad degree in Music Composition, and M.M degrees in both Music Composition and Music Theory from Messiah University and West Chester University. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, drinking tea, and planning travel adventures. Her favorite hymns are “The Love of God,” and “Great is Thy Faithfulness.”



👍 Feel free to like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages, where you can keep up with when and where we'll be playing, fundraisers, more!

Facebook Page: @The Praise Ringers at First United Methodist Church

Instagram handle: @praiseringers



COMING UP IN NOVEMBER...

Fall Pie Sale – Save the Date!

Saturday November 21st, our Fall Pie Sale is BACK!

Keep an eye out for more details to come.

STAINED GLASS CLASS

There are two stain glass windows at first Church with the Holy Bible on them. One is located on the second floor, third window from the alley entrance and the other is located in room 122, the 4 year old classroom, fifth window.

The Holy Bible represents God's word as direction for our lives. Notice that the Holy Bible is a single open book representing the Holy Word of God, which anyone can read to understand God's love for us. Psalm 119:105 says God's Word (the bible) is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path.

“Holy Bible”



MISSION MOMENT:



Operation Christmas Child Support Operation Christmas Child

It's time to start filling a shoebox with gifts for the upcoming holiday season! Start by picking up the instructions and a shoebox at church (or use your own shoebox). You'll find these items on the display table in the main entrance hallway. Next, fill your box with items suggested on the list (also available on the display). Finally, remember to bring your filled shoeboxes back to the church display in the main lobby no later than November 22 (by 12:00PM). On that day, we'll load them in the truck after the 11:00 am worship service and send them to the distribution center for delivery by Christmas!

What is the purpose of this mission project: "Through Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with millions of boys and girls in more than 100 countries each year. Many of these children have never before received a present or heard the true meaning of Christmas—until they open a gift-filled shoebox from a person like you." (Excerpt taken from Operation Christmas Child Website)

- **Online virtual boxes:** Not everyone has the capacity or time to leave their house to gather items to fill a box. You can visit First Church's Online Box page and purchase and fill a box online for \$25.
- **The Shoebox Supply House:** This local non-profit that serves as a one-stop-shop location to purchase items for your shoebox. They are open for limited hours so make sure to check out their website before going to shop: <https://shoeboxsupplyhouse.com/>. The Shoebox Supply House is located at 709 Marden Avenue, Shippensburg, PA.
- **Adopt a box:** Operation Christmas Child Boxes require a \$10 donation to get the boxes to their destination, but not everyone can contribute to that need when making a box. Money donations are always accepted on behalf of this campaign. (Checks can be written with the memo: Operation Christmas Child).
- **Processing Center:** Consider gathering a group of friends and volunteering at the processing center in Baltimore, MD. See all the work that goes into ensuring that boxes are ready to be sent to the children who will receive them. Learn about volunteering here: <https://www.occvolunteersignup.com/>

FIRST CHURCH YOUTH

Stay Connected:

Text [fumyouthministry](https://text.fumyouthministry.com/) to 717-722-4800 to be added to our text communications. Make sure to save the number as a contact to ensure you don't miss any messages.

To join the following text groups, please do the following:

- To join the [Youth Ministry Text](#) thread (students and/or parents of students 6th-12th grade), please text [fumyouthministry](https://text.fumyouthministry.com/) to 717-722-4800 to be added to our text communications.

- To join the [Small Group Text](#) thread (our 2nd Sunday of the month gathering for students 4th -12th grade), please text [2ndSunday](#) to 717-722-4800 to be added to our text communications.
- To join the [Post-High School/College Text](#) thread (any student wishing to stay connected to church happenings/reunion events after high school), please text [whatsnext](#) to 717-722-4800 to be added to our text communications.
- To join the [Parents Only Text](#) thread (for parents of 6th-12th graders), please text [parents](#) to 717-722-4800 to be added to our text communications.

(If a message is being sent to multiply text threads, due to its relevance for each group, please know that you will only receive one message, not multiple for each group you are sign up under.)

If you wish to be manually added or removed from any list please reach out to Lisa Aronson at Discipleship@fumchurch.com

Are you a student between 4th and 12th grade?

Check out the format for our Youth Ministry here at First Church and consider plugging in and joining us when you can. We would love to see you at our gatherings. For more information contact Lisa Aronson discipleship@fumchurch.com

4G YOUTH GROUPS 6:00-8:00 | 6th-12th Grade

1st Sunday: Large group Gathering - starts in the youth lounge or gym and begins with a casual time to hang out, play games, and eat snacks. Afterwards, we dig into God's word and listen to a lesson. Our time of learning is a space to ask questions, have discussions, and support you in your spiritual growth.

3rd Sunday: Large Group Gather and Dinner - similar to the 1st Sunday, with the addition that we will begin our youth group time with a meal in the Fellowship Hall.

STUDENT SMALL GROUPS 6:00-7:30 | 4th-12th Grade

Come and hear more about what this group is and enjoy a night together as a family.

2nd Sundays: A chance for small group interaction with Students of Similar Ages. This space is intended to allow for conversation, questions, and age-appropriate faith topics.

Grades 4th-7th - Meets at First Church in the gym

Grades 8th-12th - Meets at First Church in the youth lounge

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES |6:00-8:00| 6th -12th Grade

4th Sunday: Events will vary and may be at First Church or offsite. Some service opportunities will be open to our younger students (4th & 5th graders), but that will be communicated in the information provided.

SPECIAL EVENTS

See Youth Information Page or the Youth Ministry Event page on Church Center for dates, times, and event information.

*Special events may alter the pattern of Sundays.

What does the 4G mean?

It is our statement of purpose for the youth ministry. While we want Youth Group to be a fun place where you can spend time with your friends, we want to make sure that we GATHER together to GROW as we GAIN from God's Word and learn to GIVE back to God in how we live and treat others. (It is also handy to have a 2-letter way of referencing Youth Group for when a text message only allows a certain number of characters



First Church uses **Church Center** as a platform for sharing information and registrations for events. Church Center can be accessed on both desktops and mobile devices, and will prompt you to create an account to log in. This platform can also be used for electronic giving, registrations, and to access our directory.

Does a profile picture *REALLY* matter in my Church Center Account?

YES! Especially in our transitions of pastors. It has been a huge help to our interim pastor, Pastor Lew, to have faces to associate with names, and it will be a great help to whoever is our next pastor come July.

What matters most in a profile picture?

- **A current photo** --- something that would help someone recognize you in person
- **A clear photo** --- blurry or busy images make recognizing you hard
- **A photo for each member in your household** --- a household photo is great, but adding a picture for each member of your household helps clarify who is who
- **Update regularly** -----especially for our younger members; some faces change more quickly than others.

****REMEMBER**, you have the choice to make the images viewable to others on the church directory; otherwise, they will only be viewable by the staff of First Church.

To add photos for each person in a household:

- Choose “My Information and Settings” near your name (If this is not viewable on the desktop version, click the first church logo or the right circle on the menu bar to bring up the profile dashboard)
- Choose “Personal and Household Info”
- Click “Edit” in the “Profile Information” section
- Under the circle at the top should be the clickable phrase “Update Photo” (on the desktop version, there is a clickable pencil image near the circle with your initials/picture)
- A pop-up will prompt you to take a photo, choose a photo from your library, or remove the photo.
- Click “Update” in the top right corner to save your photo.

*If you have multiple people in your household, there will be circles along the top for each member in the household (on the desktop version, there is a dropdown menu with each member’s name), and pictures can be uploaded for each by clicking on the circle/choosing the name and following the same steps

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Lew Parks
717-766-4611 ext. 103
pastorlew@fumchurch.com

Facilities Coordinator:

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Director of Office Management & Communications:

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Custodian:

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Allison Shield
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Director of Youth & Adult Discipleship:

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Director of Children and Family Ministry:

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Timeless Connections:

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

Organist/Accompanist:

Brandon Rhody



Help us celebrate special birthdays for our church members turning 80 or older!

Jane Bonser.....October 1
Pam Weaver.....October 7
Bonnie Klinger.....October 14
Kay HeigesOctober 18
Jim Siemons.....October 20
Carol Ann Moomaw.....October 21
Gail Leinhos.....October 28



Pat Bricker.....November 23
Patricia Marr.....November 23
Marlin Lehmer.....November 24
Jeanne Eakin-Miller.....November 26
Reeves Power.....November 27

Please Note:

If by chance we overlooked your special birthday as well, please notify the church office. Thank you!



- ♥ Mr. and Mrs. Leon Bricker married 66 years November 19, 1960.
- ♥ Mr. and Mrs. Don Coldren married 64 years November 24, 1962.
- ♥ Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meck married 74 years November 25, 1952.

FIRST NEWS FIRST
EDITORS: Kelsey Goll

The deadline for submitting articles for the
NOVEMBER 2026 issue is OCTOBER 15.
Early submissions always appreciated!