

EPIPHANY

JANUARY 4, 2026



Methodist Church of Lancaster
29 E. Walnut St., Lancaster, PA 17602
EngageGodFirst.org . 717-394-7231

**First United
Methodist Church**

Our Vision

To be a central hub of Christian
ministry in Lancaster County & beyond

Our Mission:

Connect people to Jesus Christ
& the church, grow Christian disciples,
& relieve suffering

**January 4, 2026
8:15 & 10:45 AM**

Prelude

“We Three Kings”

(arr. Heather Sorenson)

Peter Omundsen, piano

Announcements & Greeting

Pastors Jason Ríos & Laura Sambrick

(10:45 AM) Introit

“The First Noel”

Chancel Choir– Jeff Guy, conducting

*Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we welcome the magi into our Christmas story.

People: A story of wonder and light, of angels, shepherds, virgin births.

Leader: In the midst of darkness, they chose to follow the light.

People: Their story gives us hope that God still sends light for us to follow.

Leader: We come today knowing we too are on a journey.

**People: May we be faithful followers of the light of God so that we too can be bearers of hope
and justice for a dark and lonely world.**

*Hymn No. 254

“We Three Kings”

Common Prayer

God of love, from generation to generation, across nations, cultures and beliefs, we see
evidence of you. Let your light continue to shine in our hearts and help us to make a reality
Your desire for a world filled with justice and peace. That, just as the Three Wise Men of the
East recognized the call and invitation made by Your Star, also we must be willing to listen for
your voice, follow you and give you the best of our lives. May that light ever shine, and may it
lead us always to You. And may we shine in the radiance of your glory. In the name of Jesus,
we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 60: 1-6

(pew Bible, OT, p. 649)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:15 AM) Anthem

“The First Noel”

(arr A. Burger)

Bill Crabtree, piano

(10:45 AM) Anthem

“A Little Light Was Born”

(Michael Barrett)

Chancel Choir– Jeff Guy, conducting

Preparation for Prayer, No. 143

“On Eagle's Wings”

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Laura Sambrick

** * Children ages 3-5th grade are dismissed to Jr. Church * **

*Hymn No. 244

“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

Scripture

Matthew 2: 1-12

(pew Bible, NT, p. 2)

Message

“Hope and Light Lead the Way”

Pastor Jason Ríos

Affirmation of Faith

“Apostle's Creed”

Hymnal No. 881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Song of Praise, No. 64 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” (stanza 1)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Invitation to The Lord's Supper

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence.)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Sacrament

You may bring your gifts of tithes and offerings to the Lord as you move forward for Communion

Congregational Prayer

Radiant God, You revealed your glory through the shining star that guided wise travelers to the Christ child. Shine your light upon us today, that we too may follow where you lead. Dispel the shadows of our hearts and show us your truth. As those magi offered their gifts, help us offer our lives in joyful service to your kingdom. May your light shine through us, drawing others to the hope and peace we find in Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

*Hymn No. 249

“There’s a Song in the Air”

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Response, No. 246

“Joy to the World” (stanza 1)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Postlude

“Epiphany March on ‘Salzburg’”

(arr. Franklin Ashdown)

Peter Omundsen, organ

8:15 AM Worship

Usher Chief - Bill Henry

Liturgist - Marc Russo

Sound Tech - Jim Day

Pastors- Jason Ríos & Laura Sambrick

Ministers- First Church Congregation

10:45 AM Worship

Usher Chief - Sue Kepner

Liturgist - Correen Russo

Sound Tech - Wayne Betty

Pastors- Jason Ríos & Laura Sambrick

Ministers- First Church Congregation

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in the marked bins. Thank you!*

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Join us for a New Sermon Series

“RESET”

Sundays, January 11-February 1

8:15 & 10:45 AM Traditional
9:30 AM Contemporary & Sunday School
for all ages
Nursery and Children's program available
at all services

God's mercies are new every morning! But sometimes it is easy for us to get stuck in the same old routine. This New Year let's hit the "reset button," so we can claim the fresh start God makes available to us. As we rediscover our true identity in the love of God, we will discover new purpose and, guided by the compass of God's values, head off in an exciting God-given direction! Designed for the New Year.

January 11 | Week 1: Soul Reset | Luke 3:21-23

Resetting your soul begins with remembering who you are. In baptism, God calls us beloved.

January 18 | Week 2: Reset Purpose | Mark 1:32-39

Spending time with God enables us to start our year with intention. Centered living comes from understanding God's purpose in this season.

January 25 | Week 3: Reset Values | Galatians 5:24-6:10

What does it mean to live by God's Spirit and not our own, to live according to God's values and not those of the world?

February 1 | Week 4: Reset Direction | Acts 9:1-15

Whether we've been in the church for a long time or are exploring the faith, Jesus sometimes calls us to move in a new direction, even when we think we are already heading in the right direction.

VISITING FROM OUT OF TOWN?

You can still worship with us online. Our 10:45 AM Sunday worship service is livestreamed each week and available anytime on YouTube. Links are easy to find on our website engagegodfirst.org or by searching for us on YouTube.

WHAT TO DO WITH OLD HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES? Collect them now for the Green Team's battery drive from Jan 5 - Jan 31! Bring your single-use batteries (**AA, AAA, 9V, C or D cell only, no rechargeables**) with you to church and look for the battery drop off bin by the church office. The Green Team will deliver them to the proper recycling center!

OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the table by the office window. Please take them as you leave today. If you would like to be assigned offering envelopes or you can't find yours, contact the church office (office@engagegodfirst.org) and we will see that you get them!

IN CASE OF SNOW OR SEVERE WEATHER, please check **WGAL website** for closure information. Church closings/delays are not included on the scrolling TV banner. We will also post delay/closing information on our First Church website & Facebook page and send out a churchwide email in the event of closing. Please note that we do not cancel Sunday worship except under severe conditions.

PRAYER REQUESTS— There is a space on the Connect Card included in the bulletins each week for you to share prayers concerns and praises. Church staff prays for all requests each Wednesday during staff meeting. Prayer requests are not shared on Sunday mornings unless we have permission so please mark your request so we know best how to pray for you. Thank you!

THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday. Anchor Lancaster will serve breakfast as usual but no other meetings will take place.

