

CREATED FOR

CONNECTION

CONNECTION WITH COMMUNITY

We are called to prioritize time for our church and community, to encourage each other in the faith.

September 21, 2025

First  United

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

September 21, 2025
8:15 & 10:45 AM

Prelude "Simple Gifts" (arr. Joseph Martin)
Deb Kelleher & Peter Omundsen, piano duet

Announcements & Greeting Pastors Jason Ríos & Laura Sambrick

(10:45 AM) Introit "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (William Bennett)
Chancel Choir– Brian Norcross, Director

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Day is coming when the lion and lamb shall dwell together!

People: The Day is coming when justice will roll down like a river!

Leader: The Day is coming when there will be pain and sorrow no more!

People: The promises of God spur us on toward love and good deeds!

All: So let us encourage one another and worship our Lord Jesus Christ!

*Hymn No. 127 "Guide Me, O Great Jehovah"

Common Prayer

Lord, you have called us here this day for healing, hope, and transformation. As we listen to the Scripture, pray our prayers, sing our hymns, and hear the words of wisdom, open our hearts to hear your claim on our lives; that we may fully and joyfully serve you. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 34: 1-8 (pew Bible, OT, p. 480)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:15 AM) Anthem "Lord, Here Am I" (John Ness Beck)
Chapel Choir - Peter Omundson, Director

(10:45 AM) Anthem "It Is Well with My Soul" (Rene Clausen)
Chancel Choir– Brian Norcross, Director

Mission Moment "Taizé Worship"

Preparation for Prayer, No. 361 "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me" (stanza 1)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Pastoral Prayer (8:15 AM) Pastor Jason (10:45 AM) Pastor Laura

(10:45 AM) The Lord's Prayer

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

*Hymn No. 348	"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"	
Scripture	Hebrews 10: 23-25	(<i>pew Bible, NT, p. 211</i>)
Message	Worship Series: "Created for Connection" Week 3: "Connection with Community"	Christian Faux
*Affirmation of Faith	"The Hispanic Creed"	by Rev. Justo González

Pastor Jason

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of the heavens and the earth;
Creator of all people and all cultures; Creator of all tongues and races.

Pastor Laura

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,
God made flesh in a person for all humanity, God made flesh in an age for all the ages,
God made flesh in one culture for all cultures, God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.

The People:

We believe in the Holy Spirit through whom God Incarnate in Jesus Christ makes his presence known in our people and our cultures; through whom, God, Creator of all that exists, gives us power to become new creatures; whose infinite gifts make us one people: the body of Christ.

Pastor Jason

We believe in the Church universal because it is a sign of God's Reign,
whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues where all the colors paint a single landscape,
where all tongues sing the same praise.

Pastor Laura

We believe in the Reign of God—the day of the Great Fiesta!
When all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,
When all the people will join in the joyful banquet,
when all the tongues of the universe will sing the same song.

All:

**And because we believe, we commit ourselves;
To believe for those who do not believe, to love for those who do not love,
to dream for those who do not dream, until the day when hope becomes a reality. Amen.**

Offering of Our Gifts & of Ourselves

*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!**

8:15 AM ONLY

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

Congregational Prayer (8:15 seated, 10:45 remain standing)

God, you know our hearts, you know our innermost secrets. You know we have faith and trust, until we don't. Keep us in community even when our lives are filled with doubt. You know we have hope and joy, until we don't. Keep us near to you and one another even when our lives are filled with despair. Keep us on the journey with one another for we know you have created us to be in connection. We pray all of this with thanksgiving. Amen.

*Hymn No. 374

"Standing on the Promises"

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Response, No. 374

"Standing on the Promises" (refrain)

**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!**

Postlude

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
Peter Omundsen, organ

(arr. Benjamin Culli)



The carnation on the altar is in memory of Peggy Schneebeli, who passed into the arms of her Savior on Sunday, September 14, 2025. A graveside service will be held on Thursday, September 25th at 11:00AM at Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster.



First United Methodist Church Annual

Church Picnic

SUNDAY
SEP. 28, 1-4 PM

Longs Park, Pavilion #3

With Hess's BBQ!

Suggested donation \$5/person

***Picnic moved to Fellowship Hall if it rains**

The summer is over but not the fun! Join us for a picnic and family friendly games. You're an essential ingredient! Hess's BBQ, drink and paper products

provided. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost. Bring a friend! We are saving a seat for you!

WHAT TO BRING:

- Last names A–L: Salad, fruit, or salty snack
- Last names M–Z: Dessert (Main dish, drinks, and paper products will be provided!)

Sign up [here!](#)



**TAIZÉ PRAYER
SERVICE
September 27th
6:00 PM
(4th Saturday, monthly)**

First UMC invites you to embrace simplicity in a chaotic world with the return of Taizé worship—an ecumenical evening prayer service modeled after an inter-denominational service developed in the French community of Taizé. These sacred candlelit services incorporate meditative readings from Scripture, prayers of praise, times of silence, and contemporary Scripture-based chants. Join us on the fourth Saturday of every month at 6PM in our restful candlelit sanctuary.

**Homes for All:
A Conversation w/ Amos Stoltzfus
Sunday, October 5, 9:30 AM
Fellowship Hall**

Join us for an interesting and thought-provoking presentation from Amos Stoltzfus, born and raised in Lancaster Co. and deeply committed to the people of Lancaster City. As the SoWe Director for Tenfold and a Planning Commissioner for the City of Lancaster, Amos works to help neighbors maintain housing, advocate for effective policies, and build a community where everyone belongs. With a master's degree in community and regional planning and over a decade of experience collaborating with local governments, Amos brings insight into the challenges and solutions for creating affordable housing for all. No registration needed.



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Thank you for giving!

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**DONATE
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**MISSION &
OUTREACH**

**This month's mission
focus: Discovery
Corner Academy
Scholarship Fund**
Choose "DCA
SCHOLARSHIP"
from the drop
down menu

DISCOVERY CORNER ACADEMY'S "ADOPT A CHILD" SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER begins next week! DCA has been a supported program at First Church for over 30 years. Our school offers a safe & nurturing learning environment for children to grow in Christ's love. The Scholarship Fund helps children to attend DCA who otherwise may be unable to afford a Christian education. Starting next Sunday 9/28, stop by the DCA table in the Gathering Place after all services and pick a leaf which shows the cost of one week's tuition for a child. These are just suggestions, though. All contributions are greatly appreciated!

Open House: Sunday October 1st! Director Ashley Richter will be in the school to show you around and answer questions.



The Janus School is holding their Third Annual Ginger Goudie Memorial 5K in memory of long time First Church member, Ginger Goudie. The event supports the Ginger Goudie Financial Aid Fun which helps students with learning differences.

For more information and to register for the race, please go to TheJanusSchool.org/FallFest or scan the QR code

EVENT SCHEDULE

9:00 am

Ginger Goudie Memorial 5K Run/Walk

Registration is \$45 per participant and closes Oct. 1 at Noon

10:30 am

½ Mile Fun Run (untimed)

Registration is \$20 per participant and closes Oct. 1 at Noon

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fall Fest

Enjoy food trucks, bounce houses, family-fun activities, and more! There is no cost or registration to attend Fall Fest. Simply save the date, and we'll see you there!

Find your connection this fall!

FALL 2025 BIBLE STUDY Oct 16-Nov 20 6-7:30 PM

Led by Pastor Jason & Pastor Laura

Context: Putting Scripture in Its Place by Josh Scott

Join us for a six-week Bible study looking at familiar verses we may know by heart, but not always in their original setting. We will explore the people, places, and times behind these passages, uncovering fresh insights often missed when verses are read out of context. Childcare is provided. Sign up [HERE!](#)



YOUNG ADULT

“Friends Living On the Word” (FLOW) Young Adult Small Group Tuesdays, 7:30-9PM

FLOW is a network of young adults (ages 18-39) who are growing in Christ together through fellowship. We meet for both Bible studies & social events. For more info please contact Christian Faux (youth@engagegodfirst.org)

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children’s Sunday School 9:30AM in Room 209

Children ages 3-5th grade gather for a relaxed mixed-age format. Each week is filled with engaging Bible stories, hands-on crafts, games and lots of music! Meet in Room 209! With questions on our Children's Ministry, contact Faith Kickery (fkickery@engagegodfirst.org)

Youth Sunday School (grade 6-12) meets in the youth room on the lower level of the church. Join us anytime for great discussion & learning!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

We offer three classes, each with its own style and focus, so you can choose the one that’s right for you. Sunday School is more than a lesson—it’s a small group experience with teaching, discussion, and prayer, where faith grows and friendships form. Many say it’s their favorite part of church!

Christian Journey Class: Room 232/234

- **September 21 - November 2** — “The Lord’s Prayer, The meaning and power of the prayer Jesus taught.” We will be using a series of videos by Adam Hamilton to ‘open up’ our discussion and our experiences with the Lord’s Prayer.

Koinonia Class: Room 201

- Sept 21 — Bible Trivia
- Sept 28 - Hymns of Praise and the Stories Behind them with Jeff Guy
- Oct 12 & 19 - Heroes of the Faith with Mark Campbell

Wesleyan Class: Room 214/215

“Before the Throne” by Cricket Keeth

Join us for a journey through the prayers of biblical men and women. We’ll discover how to bring our struggles, questions, and worship before God with confidence, learning from examples like Moses, David, & Paul.

