



5 PRACTICES

of Fruitful Congregations

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

INTENTIONAL FAITH
DEVELOPMENT

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

**EXTRAVAGANT
GENEROSITY**

RISK-TAKING
MISSION & SERVICE

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

November 16, 2025
8:15 & 10:45 AM

Prelude "For the Beauty of the Earth" (arr. Kevin McChesney)
"My Friend, Jesus" (arr. Tammy Waldrop)
Youth Handbell Choir– Peter Omundsen, Director

Announcements & Greeting Pastors Jason Ríos & Laura Sambrick

(10:45 AM) Introit "Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above" (Charles Wesley)
Chancel Choir– Brian Norcross, Director

*Call to Worship

Leader: Our God, Creator and Sustainer of all life

People: instructs us to give generously and cheerfully.

Leader: We come, giving the funds, time, and gifts God has given us

People: cheerfully and without hesitation or pressure,

Leader: Trusting that in our upside-down life of the Gospel,

People: our wealth is measured not by what we have but what we give away.

Leader: We give joyfully as an act of our faith trusting you great God,

All: to bless your church, your people, and your creation through our giving.

*Hymn No.155 "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

Common Prayer

Gracious God, help us to live in a community that finds contentment not in things but in our relationship with you. We offer you thanksgiving for all that you have given us. Lead us to be good stewards of our resources of time, talent, and treasure so that we might be a blessing to others. Today we will strive to focus on growing in righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness, as we remember all that you have provided. We ask this in your son's name. Amen.

Scripture 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 (pew Bible, NT, p.173)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(8:15 AM) Anthem "How Beautiful" (Twila Paris/arr. Craig Courtney)
Chapel Choir– Peter Omundsen, Director
Judy Williams, piano

(10:45 AM) Anthem "Stained Glass" (Heather Sorenson)
Chancel Choir– Brian Norcross, Director

Preparation for Prayer, No. 454 “Open My Eyes, That I May See” (refrain)

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Laura Sambrick

(10:45 AM) The Lord’s Prayer

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

*Hymn No. 436

“The Voice of God is Calling”

Scripture

Acts 2: 42-47

(pew Bible, NT, p.112)

Message

Worship Series: “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”
Fourth Practice: “Extravagant Generosity”

Pastor Jason Rios

Invitation to the Ministry Fair

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles’ 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.

*Gloria Patri, No. 70

“Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Invitation & Receiving the Offering

*Doxology, No. 94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

8:15 AM ONLY (continued)

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)

Faithful God, remind us today that everything big and small can be used to bless the community. Help us to remember that you can take what we have and multiply it to meet our needs. Increase our faith as we trust you for our provision. We recognize that we are better together than alone. You have called each of us to live in connection with each other. God, we give you thanks that as we love you, you give us the heart to love our neighbor. Today we give you praise for all the ways you have blessed us in our personal lives, our church and our community. Amen.

*Hymn No. 438

"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Response, No. 673

"God Be With You till We Meet Again"

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (RUSTINGTON)"
Peter Omundsen, organ

(arr. C. Callahan)

8:15 AM Worship

Usher Chief - Bill Henry
Liturgist - Karen Senkowski
Sound Tech - Roselyn Ovalles
Pastors- Jason Rios & Laura Sambrick
Ministers- First Church Congregation

10:45 AM Worship

Usher Chief - Sue Kepner
Acolyte - Rachel Ridgeway
Liturgist - Gregory Adkins
Sound Tech - Roselyn Ovalles
Pastors- Jason Rios & Laura Sambrick
Ministers- First Church Congregation

*Please recycle your bulletins
in the marked bins. Thank you!*

**DONATE
HERE**

**GENERAL
BUDGET**

**DONATE
HERE**

**MISSION &
OUTREACH**

**This month's
mission focus:**

Rev. Mutwale, Tanzania
Choose "Rev. Mutwale,
Tanzania" from the drop
down menu

RESPONDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The recent shutdown has disrupted SNAP benefits and strained local food programs. Our church is responding with:

- \$3,220 to the Lancaster Food Hub (Missions Team)
- \$1,500 for food boxes through LUMINA (Outreach Team)
- \$2,438 to our Social Service Fund (Outreach Team)
- A Christmas food drive for Lancaster Food Hub (Youth & Outreach)
- Nonprofits like Anchor Lancaster are now paying \$1,000 a week for food once provided free. This year's Christmas Eve offering will go entirely to Anchor Lancaster.

If you or someone you know is struggling to afford food, please contact Pastor Jason (jrios@engagegodfirst.org) or Pastor Laura (lsambrick@engagegodfirst.org). All inquiries are completely confidential.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Teachers and helpers are urgently needed in Jr Church and Sunday School. Use the links below to find what time slot and position would work for you and get ready to have some fun! Your time and care make such a difference in creating a meaningful experience for our kids. You are appreciated!

[Sunday School](#)
[Sign up link](#)

[Jr. Church](#)
[Sign up link](#)

WORSHIP

TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICE: November 22nd | 6 PM

Join us for peaceful, candlelit Taizé worship every 4th Saturday of the month - a time of simple songs, scripture, and silence to help you rest in God's presence. This contemplative gathering is open to all and offers a quiet space for prayer, reflection & connection with God.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHARGE CONFERENCE- Wednesday, December 3rd, 6:30 PM

Once each year, every church in the UMC holds a business meeting with our District Superintendent to review the previous year's ministry and vote on the budget and other administrative matters vital to the operation of our church. All active members are welcome to attend.

THANK YOU!

I want to send a big **THANK YOU** out to my church family for the wonderful 40th celebration last Sunday. I am grateful for all the time, effort, cards, gifts, videos, decorations and thoughts that went into my special event.

Peter Omundsen

**Just in time for Christmas!
DCA's Stroopie Sale begins tomorrow!**

Discovery Corner Academy's Stroopie sale runs from November 17th - December 5th! All orders are placed online and will be shipped directly to you or can be picked up at the store.

Place your orders at www.stroopies.com/shop



- ◆ **Use the code DCA25 at check out** so our school gets the credit. Put it in the box under the order summary that says gift or discount code and click apply.
- ◆ After typing your address, select "local pickup" if you would like to pick up your order at the Sweet Shoppe (141 N. Duke St.-one block down from the church) Or select "delivery " if you would like your order to be shipped to you.
- ◆ You may also have it delivered to DCA with the school's order but you must note that in the "special instructions" box. Do not choose "local pickup", make a note in the instructions box.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Discovery Corner Academy!

LET'S COUNT OUR BLESSINGS!

1. Our **Generosity Unleashed** campaign in honor of Pastor Joe's 40 years in ministry has given \$125,000 each to our 3 mission projects. *Anchor Lancaster* has an endowment fund. *Women's Medical Center* in Sierra Leone is building steadily (when it doesn't rain!). *Rising Hope Medical Center* in Bor, South Sudan, is ready to open.
2. We give **radical hospitality** to thousands of people who use our facilities every week. From the little ones at *Discovery Corner Academy* to the many recovery groups and the multiple services of Anchor, God's amazing grace is lived out. Multiple choirs, Sunday School classes, 3 worship styles (including Taize), and pastoral care for members and friends declare the wonders of God's love in Jesus.
3. We are **gaining ground** on the usual "summer giving slump". NOTE: We overestimated our income and **we need your help to balance the books by year's end with an extra gift.**
4. Our **Generosity Growth Sunday** is next week (11/23). Pastor Jason encourages us to name our 2026 Pledge. Pray, think, and look for information in your mail.
5. We have **extravagant giving** opportunities at First UMC and Extra-Give. If you have investments, you have a rising market. We all grow at different paces. Include our monthly mission projects. Be ready to include legacy gifts in your wills and plans.

Let's count our blessings and our capacities.
Grow toward *extravagant giving* at your pace.

Thank you! First UMC Generosity Team



Lots of helping hands are wanted for Christmas decorating!



Help of all kinds is needed to decorate our church for Advent & Christmas! There are all levels of skill needed, so there's definitely a spot for you! Sign up on the Connect Card or email Brian Lehman (brianslehman@gmail.com) to help!

- **Friday, November 28th (Black Friday): 9 AM - 2 PM**
Advent decorating begins! With many Christmas trees & various displays, all skill levels are needed! Sit & separate items, climb ladders & assemble 15 ft trees, arrange & hang decorations, move boxes & supplies. Crews are needed for both worship spaces as the Contemporary space has its own challenges with ladders & décor
- **Saturday, November 29th 9AM-2PM**
Decorating continues! Come for as long as you are able
- **Saturday, December 6th 9 – 10:30AM**
Help is needed to place and arrange the many poinsettias that will decorate our church.
- **Monday, December 22nd 3 -6 PM**
Come help us set up live trees in the sanctuary!

POINSETTIA "WATER-ERS" ARE NEEDED!

Wed, Dec 10th / Sat, Dec 13th / Wed, Dec 17th / Sat, Dec 20th

Twice weekly watering is a necessity! With one person, it takes about 2 hours– with 2 or more it goes faster.

LUMINA Children's Christmas Shop

LUMINA is providing a shopping experience so children can have the joy of choosing a gift for their family for Christmas morning. There are 16 families who are part of LUMINA's outreach program. If you would like to help, please look over the suggestions below. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the church office by December 8.

**Please Note: All items should be new
or very clean, unscratched, and very gently used**

- | | |
|---|---|
| * Games and Toys for all ages, including toddlers | * Candles |
| * LEGOs, Barbies w/ brown skin | * Dressy scarves/accessories |
| * Craft kits for all ages | * Warm gloves for men |
| * Nail polish kits for teens | * Board books for toddlers |
| * Sports equipment for teens (including all types of balls) | * Pretty calendars |
| * Sports team items for adults (mugs, hats, calendars, etc) | * Earphones |
| * Hand tools & Baking kits | * Boxes of chocolates |
| * Home Decor | * Phone charging cords |
| * Small kitchen appliances | * Funny socks for teens |
| | * \$5-10 gift cards for gas, Starbucks, McDs, etc |

Please no coloring books. We have plenty of those! THANK YOU!



Sweet & Festive Fun



GINGERBREAD HOUSE EVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2025 12-2PM

Fun family event where All are welcomed!

What you need to know:

- Gingerbread house, candy, and icing provided.
- Join us for pizza lunch!
- Take a fun family photo at our photo booth.

Cost:

- \$5 per person. Includes one house and two slices of pizza
- Pizza only \$2.
- Please bring 2 bags of candy to share.

Payment collected day of event. Cash or check accepted.



REGISTER NOW



DONATE ♥