

God can be found in even the
least expected places.



impossible

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

**December 28, 2025
8:15 & 10:45 AM**

Prelude “God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen” (arr. George Wright)
Peter Omundsen, organ

Announcements & Greeting Pastors Jason Ríos & Laura Sambrick

*Call to Worship

Leader: God is with us as a new year begins.

People: We bring our bright possibilities and lingering questions.

Leader: Like Mary and Joseph, may we trust God guiding us forward.

People: We bring open hearts and discerning minds.

Leader: Like God did for Jesus and his family, may God make a home for us.

People: We bring our relationships and stories, knowing God is in them.

All: Let's pay attention to where God is showing up!

*Hymn No. 220 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Common Prayer

Lord, your guidance calls us out of comfortable spaces into the unknown. Those comfortable spaces seem safe, but you know they limit our possibility. Help us to trust in you, to seek you out, to turn to you in every moment with every thing. May you continue to come among us, shaking up our lives and shaking up the world. Amen.

Scripture Isaiah 63:7-9 *(pew Bible, OT, p. 652)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:15 AM) Anthem “The First Noel” (arr. Melody Bober)
Mary Lou Fisher, piano

Preparation for Prayer, No. 229 “Infant Lowly, Infant Lowly” (stanza 2)

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you!

Pastoral Prayer 8:15 AM– Pastor Laura Sambrick
10:45AM– Pastor Jason Ríos

(10:45 AM) The Lord's Prayer

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

*Hymn No. 249

"There's a Song in the Air"

Scripture

Matthew 2:13-23

(pew Bible, NT, p. 2)

Message

"God is Found in Impossible Places"

Christian Faux

*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.

*Song of Praise, No. 204

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

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)

O God of goodness and light, illumine a path for us by which we may walk in faithfulness. Grant us the opportunity to celebrate this coming year with a faithfulness that we scarcely knew we had in us. Power this celebration through your Holy Spirit—the greatest gift you can offer us today. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Receiving the Offering “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (arr. Melody Bober)
Mary Lou Fisher, piano

*Doxology, No. 160 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” (stanza 5)

Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

*Hymn No. 251 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Response, No. 251 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (refrain)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Postlude “O Come All Ye Faithful” (arr. Alvin Whitworth)
Peter Omundsen, organ

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

8:15 AM Worship

Usher Chief - Jeff Greiner
Acolyte - Barb Greiner
Liturgist - Barb Greiner
Pastors— Jason Rios & Laura Sambrick
Ministers— First Church Congregation

10:45 AM Worship

Usher Chief - John Spear
Liturgist - Marlin Houck
Acolyte - Katherine Spear
Pastors— Jason Rios & Laura Sambrick
Ministers— First Church Congregation

**DONATE
HERE**

**GENERAL
BUDGET**

**DONATE
HERE**

**MISSION &
OUTREACH**