
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved,

Lent prepares our hearts to remember God’s grace in our lives, and Holy Week invites us to see God’s love bridging humanity and Godself through Jesus’ death on the cross. The cross is a stark reminder of how costly grace is to God. Giving ourselves to God in response to this grace costs us our lives. It calls us to a life of discipleship. The disciples experienced God’s grace and followed Jesus. The events of Holy Week disrupted their lives and shattered their hopes and dreams. They saw how costly grace is to God. Amid darkness, the light of hope shone on Easter morning.

Easter comes each year as a quiet yet strong reminder that hope never fades. The empty tomb on Easter morning changed everything. What appeared to be the end became a new beginning.

The message of Easter isn't just about what happened long ago — it's about God's ongoing promise to bring life out of hopeless situations.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

Easter	2
Children’s Ministry	4
Discipleship	5
Anchor Lancaster	6
Missions	8
New Partnership	10
Finance	11
Green Team	12
Upcoming Events	13
Discovery Corner	14

EngageGodFirst.org

Continued on page 15...

EASTER 2026

COME EXPERIENCE THE STORY AND FIND HOPE!

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1 PM
MUSSER PARK
135 N LIME ST., LANCASTER, PA



Rain or Shine

Thousands of CANDY-FILLED eggs! Children 2 YRS-5TH grade welcomed. Get a picture with the Easter Bunny!

[\(Click the button to sign up\)](#)

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 7 PM SANCTUARY (NURSERY PROVIDED)

Maundy Thursday was the night that Jesus and the disciples gathered together in the Upper Room for their last meal together. Jesus washed the disciples' feet and instituted what we now observe as the sacrament of Holy Communion.

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE FRIDAY, APRIL 3

2-4 PM Journey Through Christ's Passion
3 PM Worship Service
Christ United Methodist Church
935 E Walnut St., Lancaster

Sponsored by the United Methodist Churches of Lancaster City

Join us this Good Friday for a meaningful, self-guided community experience from 2:00–4:00 PM, featuring interactive stations where people of all ages can reflect, pray, and engage with the story of Christ's passion in a personal and powerful way. Come at any time and move at your own pace. Then gather with us at 3:00 PM for a worship service as we remember the depth of Christ's love and sacrifice. All are welcome—bring your family and invite a friend to enter this sacred story together.

EPIC EASTER EVE CONCERT & LIVE ART SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 8 PM

Doors open at 7:30 PM. Early seating advised. FREE! An offering will be received to defer costs. Featuring Brian Lehman, Worship Arts & Brian Norcross, Director of Music



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5

8:15 AM Traditional
9:30 AM Contemporary
10:45 AM Traditional & Live Streamed
Nursery and children's program provided at all services.

Join us this year at **First United Methodist Church** for a special look at how the death and resurrection of Jesus changes everything, from the challenges you face today to the direction of your future. Whether you're exploring faith or getting back to it, you'll find a place to connect, grow, and discover what Easter truly means.

SHARE THE HOPE OF EASTER

Easter is the most joyful proclamation of our faith: Christ is risen! The hope of the resurrection is not just good news for us — it is good news for the world.

Every year, Easter provides a unique opportunity. Many who would not normally attend church are open to coming on Easter Sunday. Hearts are often more receptive. Invitations are more readily accepted. This is one of the moments God especially uses to draw people to Himself.



So how can we prepare?

1. PRAY: Pray intentionally in these weeks leading up to Easter for:

- Your pastors and church leaders as they prepare to proclaim the good news clearly and faithfully.
- Softened hearts in our community.
- The Holy Spirit to guide you to someone who needs the hope of Christ.

Ask the Lord a simple question: **“Who can I invite?”** Write down the name He brings to mind. Pray for that person daily.

2. INVITE: A simple invitation can change someone's life. A text message. A phone call. A face-to-face conversation. A door hanger. An invitation to the community Good Friday service or the Easter egg hunt.

Most people attend church for the first time because someone personally invited them. Easter is one of the times people are most likely to say yes. Don't underestimate what God can do through one invitation.

3. VOLUNTEER: Easter is also a time when our church family can shine the love of Christ in tangible ways.

From helping with the community egg hunt, assisting at the Good Friday service, distributing door hangers, greeting guests, or serving behind the scenes — every role matters.

When we serve, we remove obstacles so others can clearly see Jesus.

THIS EASTER, LET'S BE A PRAYING, INVITING, SERVING CHURCH!

The tomb is empty. Hope is alive. And someone you know may be waiting for an invitation.

Let's share the love of Christ together.

Click button to volunteer, to pray, and serve or use the connect card found in the Sunday bulletin.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT (Rain or Shine)

Saturday, March 28 at 1 PM
Musser Park - 135 N. Lime St., Lancaster
Ages 2-5th Grade

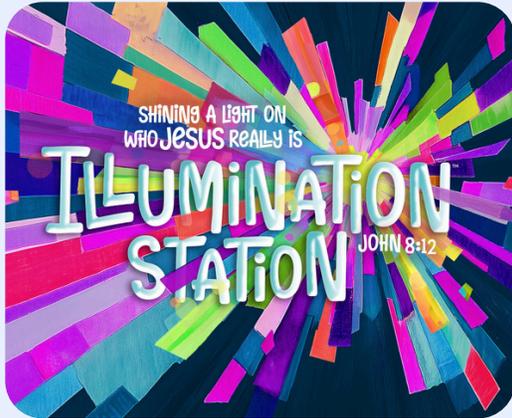
Thousands of Candy Filled Eggs! Prizes! Get a Picture with the Easter Bunny! Click button to register or donate.

REGISTER HERE

CLICK
HERE

DONATE ♥

CLICK
HERE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

ILLUMINATION STATION
JUNE 22ND-26TH, 6-8PM
AGE 4YRS - 5TH GRADE
(OPEN TO KIDS FINISHING 5TH GOING INTO 6TH FOR 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR)

CLICK
HERE

Shining a light on who Jesus really is through Worship Rally, Spotlight Bible Adventure, Suncatcher Recreation, Kaleidoscope Craft, Mirror Ball Music and more! Click button to register!

POCONO & GRETNA SUMMER CAMP

POCONO PLATEAU: JUNE 28 - JULY 21
GRETNA GLEN: JUNE 14-26

Faith Kickery, First Church kids and volunteers will be attending Pocono Plateau July 19-24th, 2026.

Scholarships available! Click the button.

CLICK
HERE



CELEBRATE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY, MAY 17

Kids from Preschool to 5th grade will share a little of what they learned this year in Sunday School as some are gearing up to move into Youth!

Join us in the Celebration Center during the 9:30 Contemporary Service to celebrate the kids, teachers and volunteers!



DISCIPLESHIP

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR OUR YOUTH?

BY: CHRISTIAN FAUX

Attendance has been stable and consistent with a core group of six which attend every week. We're looking forward to a number of special events, going **paintballing in April** and **Skyzone in May!** Over the last couple months we've taken time to get into things like managing stress, what Lent means for us, and making sure we have a strong foundation on the stories of the Bible which make up the bedrock of our faith.

Our **confirmation class** for the year has been going well and we're looking forward to preparing a special meaningful worship service for Confirmation Sunday. Our class this year may be small but the youth in it are putting in effort and I'm excited for what we have in store.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult group has been enjoying an in-depth study of **the book of Revelation**. We just scheduled our big annual events for the year, our **trip to Sight and Sound** to see the Story of Joshua in **July**, and a beach trip to **Ocean City, NJ in mid-September**. We've been richly enjoying the growing fellowship and study of the Bible over the last couple months and are excited to see all the new young families join First United Methodist Church.

ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

His Story, Our Story

This summer in Adult Sunday School, we'll explore "His Story, Our Story." Throughout the Bible, we see how God works through ordinary people in extraordinary ways—and that story is still being written today. From biblical character studies to testimonies from members of First United Methodist Church, and stories of mission both locally and globally, we'll celebrate the many ways God is at work in and through our congregation. Come listen, reflect, and discover how your story is part of God's greater story.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY - APRIL 19TH

This has been an exciting year for the **children's choirs** at FUMC. We are small, but mighty! We'll be ending our choir season on Sunday, April 19 with a **special musical presentation by Carol Choir at the 8:15 and 10:45 AM services. Cherub Choir will sing at the 9:30 and 10:45 AM services.** This year's musical takes a lighthearted look at facing our fears. Pastor Jason will be making an appearance and there will be a special **"mystery guest"**. Come, join us. What are you afraid of?

ANCHOR LANCASTER

24/7 Coverage During Code Blue:

During the coldest stretches of winter weather, Anchor extended the Day Shelter to 24-hour coverage in partnership with Tenfold, ensuring that neighbors had a warm and safe place to stay when temperatures dropped. Around-the-clock shelter requires more than simply keeping the lights on. It means additional staffing, higher utilities, more meals prepared, more supplies used, and constant coordination. Choosing to remain open during a budget deficit is not automatic. It is a deliberate commitment to ensure no one is left outside in dangerous conditions. Throughout the long nights and early mornings of Code Blue, God sustained the work through volunteers who rearranged schedules, donors who stepped in to help, and the prayers of churches and supporters across the community.



SPREAD THE LOVE & FEBRUARY SNAPSHOT:

Throughout February, our Spread the Love campaign brought together an incredible range of support from across the community. Banks, youth basketball teams, community workers, fellowship programs, churches and many others gathered supplies and encouraged others to give alongside them. We are deeply grateful for the generosity that continues to strengthen the work happening each day at Anchor. **February by the numbers: 3,650 meals served, 348 showers provided, 70+ guests welcomed daily at the Day Shelter.**

CELEBRATING TWO MILESTONES AT ANCHOR:



For the past **four years, Stan has faithfully served behind the scenes at Anchor**—coordinating volunteers, managing supplies, and preparing meals each morning—and during that time the number of meals served annually has grown significantly, a testament to his steady, essential, and often unseen work.

Three years ago, Connor joined Anchor and helped expand the day shelter and social services program from serving a small number of guests during extreme weather to welcoming more than 70 neighbors daily at the new E. King Street location, leading coordinated efforts that help people navigate housing, medical care, identification, employment barriers, and other challenges on the path toward stability.

SUSTAINING THE WORK:

Extended winter operations place additional strain on resources. Staffing, utilities, meals, and supplies increase significantly during periods of 24/7 shelter coverage, and costs have risen beyond what we initially anticipated. And yet, time and again, we have seen God provide through the generosity of individuals and churches who care deeply about the neighbors we serve. If you feel led to support the work, your generosity helps ensure the lights stay on, the meals stay warm, and the doors remain open. If you cannot give financially, please continue to pray for the ministry at Anchor Lancaster.



Give online: anchorlancaster.org

Mail a check: Anchor Lancaster
29 East Walnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

A STORY WORTH CONTINUING TO PRAY FOR:

Some outcomes in this work don't fit neatly into a monthly summary. They unfold slowly, sometimes quietly, and only reveal their meaning later. Back in November, during construction on the Day Shelter, it would have been reasonable to scale back operations. Instead, God provided through Trinity Lutheran Church, allowing the Day Shelter doors to remain open. Because one church made room, one neighbor walked in. A member of our team prayed with him and offered encouragement before he left. Like many moments in this work, the story appeared to end there until last week. He returned—three months sober after completing rehab — ready to pursue employment and housing. When he came back, he shared something we don't move past lightly: the prayer spoken over him here stayed with him when little else did. At Anchor, practical steps matter. Applications matter. IDs matter. Employment pathways matter. But we have learned repeatedly that the work of rebuilding a life often begins before the paperwork ever starts. Forms can open doors, but prayer invites the God who changes hearts to walk someone through them. Please continue to pray for the work happening at Anchor and for the neighbors walking through our doors each day!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHENING THE WORK:

Anchor Lancaster continues to be strengthened by the many organizations, churches, and community groups who come alongside the work each day. In recent months, partners such as Lancaster EMS, I Support the Girls, the



UPMC Women's Health Van, Hand Up Partners, Tenfold, and First United Methodist Church, along with individuals and volunteer groups, have provided support through resources, services, supplies, and time. Donations ranging from cases of water and quilts to hygiene items and volunteer hours help make daily care possible. We are deeply grateful for every partnership that helps sustain this work. As planning begins for Anchor Lancaster's 2026 Gala, we are currently seeking business and community sponsors who may be interested in supporting the event. If your workplace or organization would like to learn more about getting involved, we would be glad to connect.

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

2026 LIST

- March 20** - MARCH: A Novel by Geraldine Brooks
- April 17** - HOW TO AGE DISGRACEFULLY by Clare Poole
- May 15** - REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES by Shelby Van Pelt
- June 19** - HOUSE OF LINCOLN: A Novel by Nancy Horan
- July 17** - THE DEMON OF UNREST by Eric Larsen
- August 21** - LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI by Buck Rinker
- Sept 18** - THE CORRESPONDENT: A Novel by Virginia Evans
- October 16** - ATMOSPHERE by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- Nov 20** - MORE OR LESS MADDY by Lisa Genova
- Dec 11** - TIME OF THE CHILD by Niall Williams



You're invited to visit or join the First Church Book Club, which meets on the third Friday of each month from 9:30–10:30 a.m. We read an exceptional book each month, with a group member leading the discussion. Together, we reflect on where we see God's hand in the story and give each book a 1–5 rating (5 being masterful). Interested? Contact Katherine Spear at Kgs.130@gmail.com.

FAMILY OF FUNDS



One of the gifts First Church has is the Family of Funds. The Family of Funds was created to facilitate funding for certain missions. Legacy gifts to the church are invested in the Family of Funds and help sustain its ministries. Annually, funds are distributed from these accounts to support various church ministries. The distributions support different initiatives, including Connectional Ministries, Pastoral Housing, Capital Improvements, Missions, Outreach, Scholarships, Discovery Corner Academy, Worship, Neighborhood Ministries, Children's and Youth Ministries, and other community funds. **For 2026, the distribution is \$223,508.**

As we reflect on the future of the church, we also recognize the importance of legacy giving. Legacy gifts – such as bequests in wills, charitable trusts, or other planned gifts – allow members to continue supporting the church's ministry for generations to come. Through the Family of Funds, we can expand ministries, maintain facilities, and strengthen mission outreach because faithful members chose to include the church in their long-term stewardship plans.

Legacy giving is a meaningful way to leave a lasting testimony of faith and ensure that the work of sharing the gospel continues far into the future. If you want to learn more about including the church in your estate planning, the **Family of Funds Board and its Chair, Cathy Herneisen**, are happy to provide information or connect you with helpful resources, along with our **Generosity Team and its Chair, Rev. Kent Kroehler**.

MISSIONS UPDATE:

The Missions Team is beginning the year by looking for opportunities to help here and abroad. Below are a few disbursements we've made on behalf of the congregation:

- \$1320 from Family of Funds to **Rev Mutwale in Tanzania** to cover the entire cost of a needed water pump which will allow more school days to occur even in the rainy season!
- \$1000 from Family of Funds to assist in funding the **Yatasha Deaf School** in Tanzania so that more may hear the word of God, learn and know their value.
- \$1000 from Family of Funds to assist **Sudan Rebirth Ministry** with deficits in scholarships specifically for university level students.
- \$1000 from the **Prison Ministry Fund** to participate in "Undies for Easter" (Click button for more info, we did this last year as well) because everyone deserves to have clean undies.



GO GENEROSITY RECAP

Our Generosity Team had a BIG project this year – our Generosity Unleashed Capital Campaign for Others and in honor of Pastor Joe DiPaolo. Most congregations do capital campaigns for themselves. In the past 20 years, we designated \$200,000+ for others in 2 campaigns. In 2025, we gave 100% to others.

In January 2025, we recommended to Church Council a \$600,000 campaign for 6 mission projects. **They agreed to \$300,000 for 3 projects.** We combined the campaign with celebrating our former pastor's 10 years with us, his 40 years in ministry, and his retirement.

Members unleashed their generosity. **The current total is \$491,556.07!** That means each project will receive 1/3 of that. Our three projects and their progress are: Anchor Lancaster, Women's Health Center - Kabala, Sierra Leone, and Rising Hope Medical Center in Bor town, South Sudan.

**RISEING HOPE
MEDICAL CENTER**



Mission Trip to Sierra Leone

NOVEMBER 4-11, 2026

COME EXPERIENCE THE MISSIONS BUILT BY REV. DORCAS KAMANDA AND HER FAMILY—WHERE HOPE IS RISING AND LIVES ARE BEING CHANGED.



About Us

In Fall 2026, our church will send its **third mission team** to Sierra Leone, West Africa. For many years, we have supported the ministries led by **Rev. Dorcas Kamanda**, retired clergy, beloved friend and member of First UMC. Now we are invited to return and serve once again.

Nearly 60% of Sierra Leone lives in poverty, and 60% of the population is under 25. A generation is longing for opportunity to not just survive but thrive.

Life-changing Opportunity

Through our partnership, we have made a significant investment in a **community center in Mamaland Village** and, most recently, in a **women's clinic now in progress**. Ministries include:

- Narsarah Clinic
- Salone Rising Microloans
- Mamaland Village
- Women's Clinic (in progress)

This fall, we will experience and support this life-changing work firsthand. **Pastor Laura Sambrick** will be traveling with **Jenny Freymoyer, West District Superintendent**, and we invite you to prayerfully consider joining the team. An info meeting will be held June 13, 9 am. **A firm commitment is needed by September 19.** Interested? Email Pastor Laura at lsambrick@engagegodfirst.org or scan QR Code today. Space is limited! Don't miss this life-changing opportunity!



For more information about the ministries, visit: salonerising.org and servingsierraleone.org

SCAN ME

NEW PARTNERSHIP!

"First UMC Partners with Chestnut Housing for New Affordable Housing Mission"

Article by Chestnut Street

In recent years, First UMC has been wrestling with a challenge that many congregations face. More than a decade ago, the congregation purchased several residential properties next to their church building to ease its parking burden, thereby assuming responsibility for managing 13 apartments and 1 single-family home that serve as naturally occurring affordable housing.

As the years went by, church members felt increasingly compelled to provide apartments at affordable rents. As they saw more opportunities to use the apartments as resources for refugees and other low-income households, the church supported these efforts in various ways.

Yet they faced a challenge: they never aimed to be landlords, and church volunteers were growing tired of the numerous activities and decisions that managing the properties involved. Some suggested selling the residential properties.

But last year, First United Methodist Church made the important decision to keep these valuable resources and dedicate them to providing affordable housing for lower-income households for years to come.

"The time was right to view the apartments as a mission opportunity, and the church felt empowered to act," reflects the Rev. Jason Ríos, lead pastor. "Our church has always been mission-focused, so they're always looking for ways to serve missions."

We've also been exploring ways to make these apartments more than just sources of income, aiming to develop them as a mission that can serve the city. It has been on our hearts to pursue this, and it's more achievable with a partner like Chestnut Housing.

Starting earlier this year, Chestnut Housing, Trademark Real Estate Services, and First United Methodist officially formed a partnership to manage the apartments at First UMC.

Chestnut Housing's mission is to provide affordable rental housing for people experiencing homelessness because a home is the foundation of a healthy and fulfilling life. Additionally, Chestnut Housing connects people and faith communities with meaningful ways to create more affordable homes in Lancaster.

Through this partnership, the organization now manages over 50 apartments and homes in and around Lancaster City. Trademark, based in Lancaster City, oversees hundreds of apartments and homes, including all Chestnut Housing-related properties.

"We're thrilled to partner with First United Methodist," says Chestnut Housing board chair Sue Waterfield.

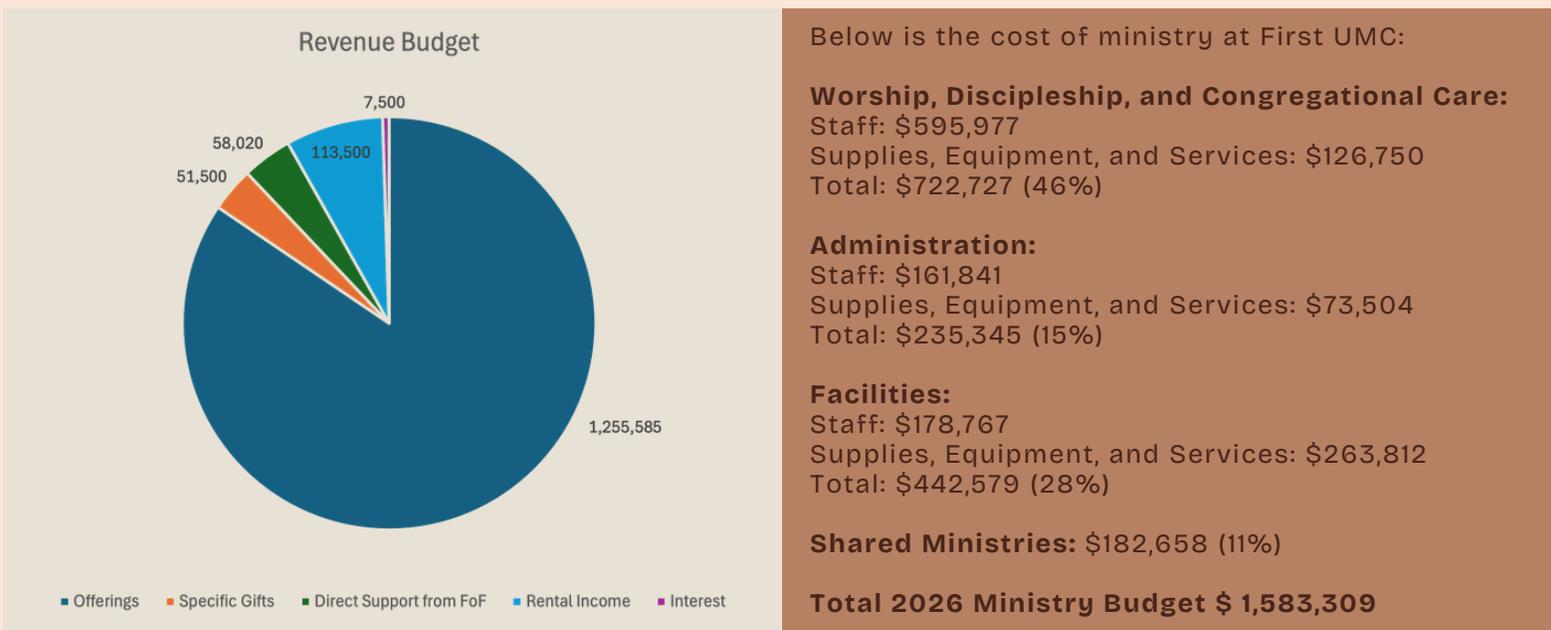
Partnerships with local congregations are a crucial part of Chestnut Housing's strategy for creating and maintaining affordable housing. Combining Chestnut Housing's expertise with First United Methodist's resources enables both organizations to achieve more for our community.



As we near the end of the first quarter of the year, we want to thank our church family for your ongoing generosity and faithfulness. Your contributions enable our congregation to fulfill our mission of connecting people to Jesus Christ and the church, developing Christian disciples who serve and help alleviate suffering in our community and around the world. While the beginning of the year often brings fluctuations in giving after the holiday season, we are grateful for those who continue to support the church's work. Faithful stewardship allows us to meet our financial responsibilities and sustain the ministries to which God has called us.

As we enter the spring months, we invite everyone to prayerfully consider how you can continue supporting the church's life and mission. Every gift—big or small—helps us share the love of Christ and serve our neighbors. We recognize that for many families, these times can feel financially uncertain. Rising costs and unexpected expenses may cause stress and worry. During moments like these, the church community becomes especially vital. We are called to care for one another, to give generously, and to support those in need within our community.

Here is our income goal for 2026 to support the ministry of First United Methodist Church:



As you can see, we are projected to have a shortfall of \$97,704 in 2026. Our goal is to find new sources of income to support our ministry and cut costs.

As we move forward together, let us continue practicing faithful stewardship—praying about our resources, giving with joyful hearts, and trusting that God will provide for our needs. Through our collective generosity, our church keeps serving our neighbors, supporting ministries, and sharing the love of Christ in our community.

May we remember that generosity is not only about sustaining the church—it is about shaping our hearts to reflect the grace we have received.

If you have questions about church finances or ways to give, please don't hesitate to contact the Finance Committee Chair, Kathy Johnson, or our bookkeeper, Pam Young-White. Thank you for your continued generosity, prayers, and dedication to our shared ministry.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

THINKING GREEN YEAR-ROUND



You're using the designated recycling bins as you leave the sanctuary or Celebration Center to recycle church bulletins and water bottles. Thank you! First Church Green Team members empty these bins weekly and take recycling from Anchor and the church office, as well, to the city recycling center.

Snow did prevent us from attending church one Sunday in January so we extended the January Battery Drive into mid-February. **First Church collected 97 pounds of used batteries recycled by the Green Team.** Because the 2024 and 2025 battery drives yielded this significant amount of used batteries to safely recycle, we will continue collecting used batteries for recycling. Battery collection bags will continue to be available at the Welcome Center and a battery bin will remain outside the church office.

Spring arrived! On **Saturday, March 21**, the FUMC Green Team and Mighty Men and Women invited First Church members, family, and friends to spend the morning for a Spring Clean-Up. Thank you to all who participated, preparing the church beds for mulching and sprucing up the church, inside and out.



Questions? Contact Judy Williams at williaju1588@gmail.com

AMPHIBIANS ANNOUNCING SPRING

By Clyde McMillan-Gamber



The charming courtship calling of male wood frogs, spring peepers and American toads help announce spring's arrival in eastern North America. Being cold-blooded, these amphibians can only vocalize, with bulging throats, in warmer weather to invite females to shallow water to spawn hundreds of eggs per female.

Every spring, I am excited to hear the ancient chorusing of these camouflaged amphibians, created by God, as all life is. Their simple concerts are unchanged relics of the distant past.

On a rainy day in March, scores of male wood frogs awaken, hop over soggy, dead leaves on woodland floors and enter growing puddles. There they croak hoarsely to attract females.

Hundreds of male peepers begin their nearly incessant peeping by late March. Each inch-long male climbs a plant stem in wetlands and peeps loudly. Many peepers calling at once create a wild din that female peepers readily respond to.

By mid-April, many male American toads sit upright in shallow wetlands and emit musical, 30-second trills that make female toads come a-hopping. Sometimes, toad trilling mingles with peeper peeping for a wonderful, primeval concert.

Lucky are they who hear male frogs' and toads' spring chorusing coming from local ponds and wetlands.

A New Way to Stay Connected

SUBSPLASH

We're excited to share that our church has partnered with **Subsplash**, a digital platform designed to help us stay better connected as a church family. Subsplash gives us one easy place to access sermons, event information, online giving, small group resources, and important announcements—right from a phone, tablet, or computer. This new tool will help us communicate more clearly, respond more quickly, and make it easier for everyone to engage in the life and ministry of our church, whether you're here every week or joining us from afar.

We know that not everyone feels comfortable with new technology, and we want to assure you that this change is meant to support our communication, not complicate it. We will be offering clear, patient training to help anyone who would like assistance, and no one will be left to figure this out on their own. Printed communication will not disappear—it will simply be used a bit less as we add this new option. Our hope is that Subsplash will make it easier for all of us to stay informed, connected, and engaged in the life of our church, in ways that work best for each person.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28 - Egg Hunt, 1:00 PM, Musser Park
April 02 - Maundy Thursday, 7 PM
April 03 - Good Friday, 2 PM
April 04 - Easter Eve Concert, 8 PM
April 05 - Easter, 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 AM
April 19 - Children's Sunday
April 26 - Cantata Sunday
May 10 - Mother's Day
May 17 - Celebrate Sunday School 9:30 AM
May 31 - Discovery Corner Academy Graduation
May 25 - Summer Sunday School begins for Adults, Youth, and Children
May 31 - Confirmation Sunday
June 22-26 - Vacation Bible School
July 19-24 - Pocono Plateau Camp

WWW.ENGAGEGODFIRST.ORG/EVENTS

SPRING CANTATA: SUNDAY APRIL 26, 8:15 & 10:45 AM

- This is the Easter Response to the Christmas cantata "The Winter Rose," also by Joseph Martin.
- In this case the Easter story of the "Rose of Sharon," Jesus, spans the entire Easter story from Palm Sunday to Resurrection.
- FUMC Chancel Choir, along with orchestra will be conducted by Dr. Brian Norcross, Director of Music

Discovery Corner Academy

discoverycorner.org

DCA

WRITTEN BY DIRECTOR ASHLEY RICHTER



Happy to Serve

We are beyond blessed to have the opportunity to serve 40 wonderful families in our community. It is truly a joy to partner with them as we teach, nurture, and grow together.

DCA has been quite busy over the past few months! We have been jampacked with teaching children all about Jesus, preparing many of them for kindergarten and first grade, and having so much fun along the way.

We kicked things off with Pet Day, where exotic animals came to visit our school – what an exciting and memorable experience for the children! We also celebrated Valentine’s Day by reminding our students just how deeply loved they are by Jesus, through special activities, sweet treats, and meaningful conversations.

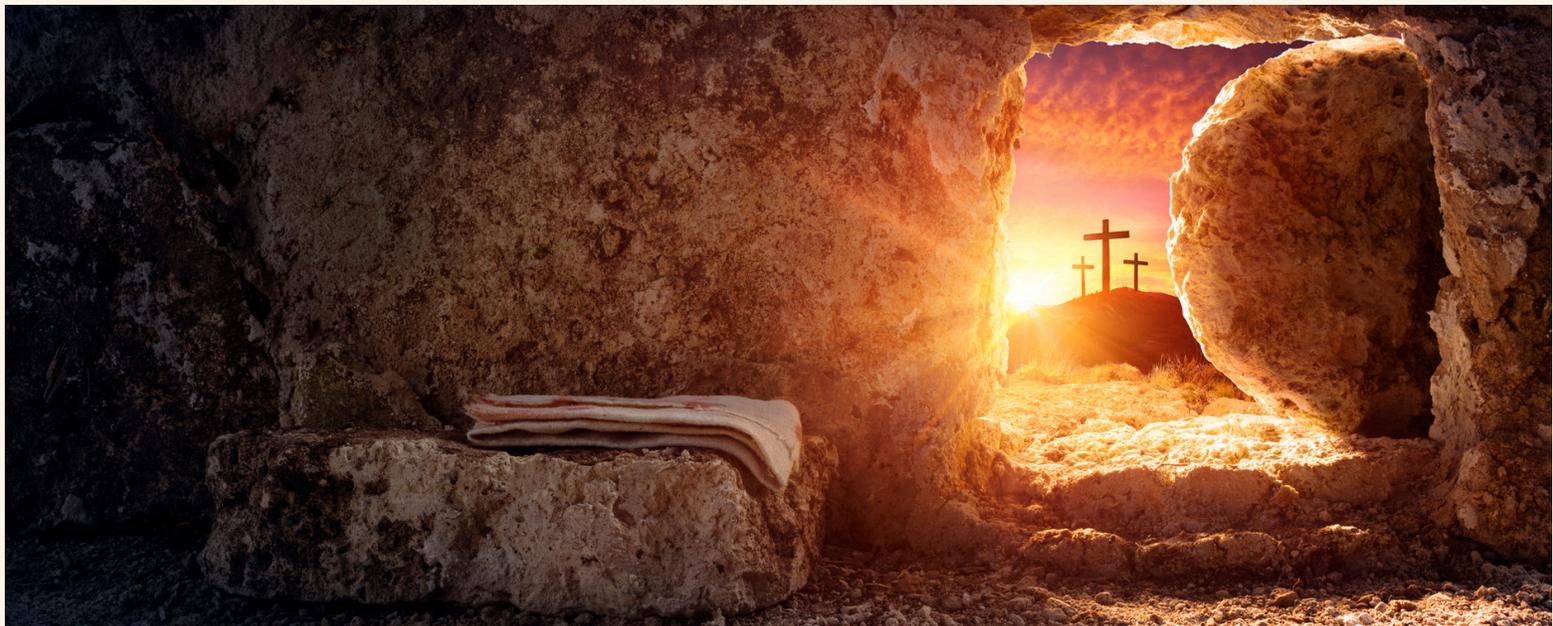
One of our favorite traditions, Donuts with Grown-Ups, was another huge success. We packed Fellowship Hall with nearly 90 people and enjoyed delicious donuts, warm fellowship, and special moments between children and their loved ones.

Our kindergartners have been busy exploring Lancaster City with exciting field trips to Nook’s, the library, Buchanan Park, the Science Factory, and Pottery Works. They have worked so hard all school year, and we are now preparing for graduation this May. We will celebrate five bright kindergarten students as they move on to first grade, along with 15 Pre-K students who are ready to begin their kindergarten journey.



Creating Happy Memories, One Day at a Time





Resurrection shows us that despair doesn't have the final word. God is always at work, even when we can't see the results yet. We live in a world where many people carry heavy burdens: conflict, illness, grief, uncertainty, and fear about what the future holds. Easter speaks directly to these realities. It reminds us that the same God who rolled away the stone still works in our lives today. When darkness surrounds us, the hope of resurrection encourages us to trust in this living hope: Christ is Risen!

Easter calls us to live as people of the resurrection. It invites us to be bearers of hope in our communities—offering kindness where there is pain, encouragement where there is discouragement, and compassion where there is need. Every act of love becomes a small sign of the new life God promises. We, as Easter people, share the good news: Christ is Risen! Hope lives again! And because it lives, we can face tomorrow with peace, trusting that the Risen Christ is with us.

As we celebrate Easter, let's remember that hope is not just a feeling—it's a promise rooted in the risen Christ. May you be blessed as you rediscover what Peter calls our "living hope."

Peace and grace in the Risen Christ,

Rev. Jason Ríos

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

First  United

Methodist Church of Lancaster

29 East Walnut Street
Lancaster PA 17602

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*Sign up for First Church's
email list & get all the news
delivered straight to your inbox!*



JOIN US FOR EASTER



He is Risen

SEE WHY EASTER MATTERS AT
First United Methodist Church

APRIL 5

8:15, 9:30 & 10:45AM