



# The Ambassador

June 2025

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## From the Pastor

*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.  
Philippians 3:12*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Through our worship series that started in May, we have been exploring the meaning of the opportunities that we have to bloom. We have seen that sometimes our life could be full of struggles and distress, but that does not mean that is the end. Naomi is an example of that. She went to another place wealthy and blessed. There, everything turned dark and confusing. She lost her husband and her two only sons. She was devastated, so she thought, "This is the end for me," but God had another plan for her. After she grieved her loss, she decided to go back to her homeland, but now she was traveling with her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpha. Orpha went back to her family and her gods, but Ruth decided to stay side-by-side with Naomi and be her companion. Naomi believed it was the end because she felt empty and lonely, but God provided Ruth's company. Ruth was like a daughter to her. Everything was lost for Naomi.

Sometimes, we face problems, distress, and losses, but that does not mean the end of it. That's the idea that the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Philippians. Paul knew that sometimes we are not feeling well at all. Sometimes we feel like there is no hope, nor motivation, nor joy; but that does not mean that is the end for us, or for our faith. Paul tried to let the Philippians know that even in those bad days, we can keep pressing on to make it happen; he wanted to them know there is a light at the end of the tunnel: the promise of God working through Jesus Christ to make us more

## Staff

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Worship Mary Ellen Clinard  
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## Worship With Us

Online & In Person  
Worship @10:30 am  
Sunday School @ 9

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courageous, more confident, and stronger. Maybe we are not living our best season today, but the promise of new beginnings hasn't ended yet.

As this series is concluding, we are going to discover how God always provides and opens ways to experience His love, caring, and mercy. We will see how great our God is, even when things don't make any sense at all. Our call to be faithful, even when going through the bad days, continues to invite us not to be afraid and to wait in the Lord's trustworthiness and goodness.

In Christ,  
Pastor Daniel

## Worship Series Continues

### Easter: An Opportunity to Bloom

Throughout our Christian journey, we will face distress and challenges. Those situations will make us wonder if we are walking in the right way. We can feel discouraged and disturbed, but even in the times when everything seems to be getting darker, God always opens a way out, giving us a new beginning and a new chance to bloom.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>
6.1.2025	Wait!	Ruth 3:15-18 and Revelations 22:12-14
6.8.2025	Be Glad and Rejoice!	Ruth 4:11-15 and John 14:8-17, 25-27

## Upcoming NEW Summer Series---"GROW"

### June 15-August 17

Ideas have been "growing" about this summer series already! Our new Worship Design Team has come up with some creative and memorable ideas that will help us learn and put into action the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26). Each Sunday will focus on a different fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. Expect to find colorful window boxes, a weekly take-home reminder card, recipes, stickers (of course), a garden harvest give-away, and more! Each Sunday is "stand-alone" so if you plan to travel this summer, you can catch up when you return. Come and "grow" with us this summer!



### MAD Camp

If you have children in your life, you will want to be sure and register them for our MAD Camp July 28-Aug 1. The morning will be spent learning fun music, creating art (some will be used as part of the stage design for the musical), and by working on a short musical about the Parable of the Sower. Many who attended last year have already signed up. Space is limited so go to our website [www.myfumc.net](http://www.myfumc.net) and click the scrolling screen when the MAD Camp image appears. Registration and all other information is online.



## Planning Music for the Summer Grow Series

Many church choirs take the summer off. Here at First Church, we believe that the choir is an integral part of worship-not only offering special music, but also leading congregational song. We are so blessed that our choir members are so dedicated to this all year ministry!

So when other choirs aren't meeting in the summer, ours is busy rehearsing anthems that relate to a theme – this summer it's "GROW-The Fruit of the Spirit". Pastor Kim provides a list of dates, topics, and scripture and I spend several weeks sorting through our Music Library finding anthems that will reflect those ideas. Because our Music Library is so extensive as a result of a strong music program for decades, I am usually able to find just what I need. But if I think we need something more direct, or want to add more variety, I will introduce something brand-new to the choir. In this series, we will look forward to offering a couple of lively new pieces along with some classics. I love "deep-diving" into music for worship and working on it until it feels just right. We pray that the music for this series is meaningful to our congregation and will honor God.

Mary Ellen Clinard

## Pastor and Staff Appreciation

Staff Parrish Relations Committee (SPRC) has designated **Sunday, June 29th as Pastor/Staff Appreciation Sunday**. On that day we will present monetary gifts to Pastors Kim and Daniel and Mary Ellen, Greg, Pam, Betsy, & Susan. We are asking the congregation to contribute toward these love gifts. Monetary donations should be received in the church office by **Thursday, June 27th. Please mark your checks or cash donation "Pastor/Staff Appreciation"**.

Following worship on Sunday, June 29th, SPRC is hosting a reception in the Fellowship Hall for the congregation to share our appreciation for all the assistance, care, and spiritual guidance our pastors and staff have given to us. There will be a basket in the Fellowship Hall for you to share your personal cards and wishes.



If you have any questions, please talk with any of the members of the SPRC committee. We are Barb Balsmeyer, John Hoffman, Sally Jo Inwood, Lynda Goecke, Rick Lyke, JC Shew, Marilyn Clark, Sue Faulkner, Ken Krummrich, Dee Young and Melanie Alderton. Please join us in saying "Thank you" to the wonderful people who help us be "Christ our Life, Service our Lifestyle".

This is an opportunity to bloom.

While I am preaching this Easter series, I am discovering the opportunities that I have to grow and bloom.

Since Pastor Kim asked me and encouraged me to develop a sermon series while she was gone, I must confess that I felt afraid, nervous (I am still feeling that way), and distressed. First, preaching a series is something completely new for me. I haven't preached that way before, so I decided to give it a try, even when that means doing something different. Second, preaching a series means that I develop it all by myself from scratch. I must look for a title, bible verses and things like that; it scared me to death because I was thinking, "What happens if I mess this up?". I knew it wasn't easy, therefore I felt afraid but motivated.

However, I prayed and put all those feelings in God's hands. I saw this as an opportunity to bloom and grow in ministry. I appreciate that Pastor Kim encouraged me to do this. I can feel God's providence throughout this series by the helpful and supportive attitude from all the staff, the congregation, and my family. It has been challenging, but a good experience as well.

So, I am thankful for this chance to develop a worship series. It has been so wonderful. I cherish this time of new beginnings.

*"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."  
Romans 8:28*

Con cariño y amor  
Rev. Daniel Cardenas

### **Pentecost Sunday June 8th**



Having grown up as a Methodist, I take for granted that everyone surely knows the reason we celebrate Pentecost. But here at First Church, we have been blessed by members of our congregation who come from other religious backgrounds, or are perhaps new to the faith. For those familiar with Pentecost, continue to dig in your closet for something red to wear on June 8 while I take a moment to explain to those new to Pentecost what all the excitement is about!

The word "Pentecost" is rooted in the word fifty. This represents the 50 day period after Easter. This 50 day celebration is also important to the Jewish faith as they celebrate the important festival of Shavuoth that occurs 50 days after Passover. (This will be important later!)

The story of Pentecost is found in the second chapter of Acts in the New Testament. The apostles had gathered together to celebrate Shavuoth as were throngs of people from all over the land. There were Jews, of course, and I imagine like any large festival today, there were also vendors selling food, offerings, and trinkets, who were of other faiths or maybe no faith at all. As the disciples gathered, they heard the rush of a mighty wind and tongues of fire appeared above each of their heads and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and were given the ability to speak in other languages. So with the ability to speak in all of the languages of the people who were attending the Festival, the disciples went out and spread the word about Jesus. In Acts 2:41, it says that three thousand people were baptized as a result!!

Because of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of communication given to the disciples, this is considered the first "church". Therefore, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the church.

We wear red to symbolize the "tongues of fire" that were given to the disciples on that day. The large cross in the sanctuary will be draped with a dramatic red cloth. Sometimes we have congregation members who speak other languages read portions of the scripture. It's an exciting day that reminds us that we, too, have been commissioned to go out and spread the word of Jesus. Wearing red is just the beginning!!

Mary Ellen Clinard





## Congratulations Danica Murphy & Liz Morales!

On Sunday, June 1st, we will honor Danica & Liz as 2025 High School Graduates. Danica is the daughter of Nick & Angela Murphy. Liz is the daughter of Roberto & Petra Morales. We had the joy of seeing both of them confirmed in the church last year. Please join us for small reception immediately following Worship on that Sunday.

## Food Pantry Item for June

We are spotlighting a different pantry item each month. The pantry item for June is white rice. We need the 3 lb bag. Rice is a staple for many of our shoppers. We usually buy it at Aldi. Thanks for all you do!



## Peace With Justice Sunday June 15th

Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. The special offering benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conference and through the General Board of Church and Society. The annual conference retains 50 percent and the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) receives 50 percent of the funds received.

## Congregational Care

We are continuing to collect "Thinking of You" cards. A list of participants and instructions is available on the table in the North Foyer. All cards should be turned in by Sunday, June 15th. This is a great way to let people know that we think about them and care about them. They enjoy hearing from us!



## A Saturday Morning Celebration! Coming Soon ..... Pablo Cardenas

Daniel and Anahí hosted a small celebration to honor the coming birth of their son, Pablo on Saturday, May 17th. We gathered in the Fellowship Hall and enjoyed beverages and breakfast pastries along with stories and much laughter! After a game of "baby bingo" we shared in Anahí's opening of gifts and picture-taking (mostly of precious Eliette!) Thank you to Anahí and Daniel for allowing us to share in their joy!



*An update from Dr. Les and Debbie Dornon, missionaries to Nepal working in the Tansen Hospital*

The new post-partum maternity ward was finished and had an official opening. Now we just need more patients to fill it up! We continue to struggle with lower patient numbers due to the failure of the govt. insurance scheme. Looking for new ways to bring in patients, Les has started a once a week "general appointment clinic" (GAC) where people can book a time to meet with him for their exam and tests. Every Tuesday he has what we teasingly refer to as the "Great American Clinic". Many years ago, patients would frequently come asking to see the "American" doctor and some of our missionary colleagues from countries like U.K., Australia, Canada and other European countries threatened to go drink tea while Les saw all the patients! (At the time he was the only American in the project).

The annual Hospital "marathon" (actually about 7 km) happened again this year. I walked with a group of other non-runners, and Les came in 6<sup>th</sup> overall – but 1<sup>st</sup> in the over 60's division.

We celebrated the opening of the waste water treatment plant after many years and many struggles! We are thankful to have cleaned up the hillside significantly for future generations.

At the hospital "bhoj" (feast/celebration) Les and I were honored with a certificate for our 25 years of service here. There was a 10 year gap in the middle, but it was nice to be recognized. We were also pleased to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tansen School of Health Science, a school for nurses and lab technicians. It is wonderful to see all the bright young people studying to serve others in the medical professions when just 70 years ago there were none!

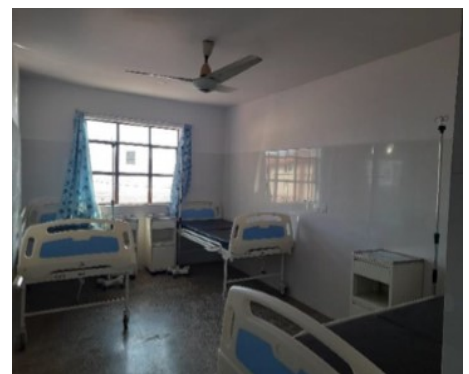
Finally, we are very thankful to have learned that our CT scanner has been fully funded! We are now in the process of purchasing an appropriate machine and preparing a room for it in the hospital. This was such a huge answer to prayer.

We are coming to the end of our time here in Tansen – we plan to return to the U.S. in late October. We will spend several months visiting churches, and have been or will be in touch about that. Then we will retire from Global Ministries.

We pray that we will finish well – and that those who are staying here and coming after us will find that we have been faithful in our service.

And we pray for you – we are so thankful for your support and prayers over these many years. We pray if you don't already, that you would come to know the grace and peace that can come only through faith in Jesus. He alone has seen us through the good and the bad, and we are thankful.

Love from Les & Debbie




June 2015

# Birthdays

- 1 Erin Edgren
- 7 Eliette Cardenas Hernandez
- 8 Larry Fillnow
- 10 Joni Turner
- 18 Mike Freeman
- 24 Ron Davis
- 27 Norm Harsh
- 29 Tom Hazelbaker

Happy Birthday!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Ascension/ Communion/ Graduation Sunday Graduation Reception	2 8:00 Breakfast Club	3 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Pantry	4 No Choir	5	6 NO UWIF Board 12:00 First Friday Concert	7
8 Pentecost Sunday	9 8:00 Breakfast Club 6:00 Legal Clinic	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 SPRC 2:00 Pantry	11 MAD Camp Vol. Mtg. Time TBD 7:00 Choir	12	13	14 9:00 Hope Circle (Bob Evans)
15 Father's Day/ Peace with Justice Sunday Pop for Pops! Last day for Thinking of You cards	16 8:00 Breakfast Club	17 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Pantry 5:30 Finance 6:00 Admin Council	18 No Choir	19 Ambassador Articles Due	20	21
22	23 8:00 Breakfast Club	24 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Cong. Care 2:00 Pantry 6:30 Trustees	25 7:00 Choir	26	27	28
29 Pastor Appreciation Sunday/Reception	30 8:00 Breakfast Club	 <p><b>Dates to Remember in July:</b>  4 Fourth of July Holiday OFFICE CLOSED  11 First Friday Concert Note Date Change  2nd/16th/30th No Choir  July 28-Aug1 Mad Camp</p>				



# **2025 First Friday Concert & Artist Series**

**June 6, 2025  
My Brother's Keeper**

**Get ready for some high energy  
gospel and modern bluegrass!**

**First UMC - Middletown  
@noon  
Free Admission**