

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

*Summer Sermon Series*  
*Week 4: "Esther"*



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

**June 28, 2026  
8:15 & 10:45 AM**

Prelude "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" (arr. Dale Wood)  
"Beautiful Savior" (arr. Dale Wood)  
Allen Popjoy, Guest Organist

Announcements & Greeting Pastor Laura Sambrick

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Doers of Justice,

**People: Come and be encouraged.**

Leader: Lovers of kindness,

**People: Be still and let God renew your hearts.**

Leader: Humble God-walkers,

**People: Rest and refreshment awaits.**

**All: Come and lift your voice in praise to the One who encourages,  
renews, and refreshes!**

\*Hymn No. 117 "God, Our Help In Ages Past"

Common Prayer

**God of us all, we give thanks that you are ever present with us. In times of joy and in times of difficulty, your Spirit leads us, guides us, and shows us the way. For this we are filled with gratitude. We humbly ask that you open our eyes to see the places in our world where your people are hurting and in need. Give us such courage as to speak out on their behalf that we might use our position, voice, and skillset to bring about your justice. Raise us up to be your faithful leaders in such a time as this. We pray all of this in the powerful name of Christ. Amen.**

Scripture Psalm 150 (*pew Bible, OT, p. 150*)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**(8:15 AM)** Anthem "By Grace Alone"  
(Martin Luther & David Ward, Arr. French & Grassi)  
Breighana Guy, mezzo-soprano

(10:45 AM) Anthem

“Great is the Lord”  
Summer Choir– Brian Norcross, Director

(Jay Althouse)

VBS Celebration

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

(10:45 AM) The Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn No. 441

“What Does the Lord Require?”

Scripture

Esther 3:13, 4:13-17

*(pew Bible, OT, p. 425)*

Message

Sermon Series: Heroes of the Faith

Week 4: “Esther”

Deacon Correen Russo

\*Affirmation of Faith, No. 881

Apostles’ Creed

\*Song of Praise, No. 71

“Glory Be to the Father”

**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

Sharing the Sacrament

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

**God of courage and calling, when fear rises within us and the needs around us feel overwhelming, remind us that You have placed each of us here for such a time as this. Give us the bravery to stand for what is right, to speak with compassion, and to trust You even when the path is uncertain. May we walk in faith instead of fear, knowing that You are with us in every moment. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

Receiving the Offering      "How Can I Keep From Singing"  
(Quaker Song, Arr. Jay Althouse)  
Breighana Guy, mezzo-soprano

\*Doxology, No. 682      "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (stanza 5)

\*Hymn No. 575      "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Response, No. 575      "Onward, Christian Soldiers" (stanza 1)

Postlude      "Come, Thou Fount"      (arr. Jason D. Payne)  
Allen Popjoy, Guest Organist

### **8:15 AM Worship**

Ushers– John Spear  
Liturgist – Katherine Spear  
Sound Tech - Amayah DiBiasi  
Projector- Christian Faux

### **10:45 AM Worship**

Usher Chief – John Spear  
Acolyte – Rachel Ridgeway  
Liturgist – Greg Adkins  
Sound Tech - Amayah DiBiasi  
Projector/Livestream– Alexandria  
Newman

Pastors– Jason Ríos & Laura Sambrick  
Ministers– First Church Congregation

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



**Thank you for giving!**

Offering is received  
in the pews. For online  
giving, please scan  
the QR code