



LIFE LINE



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UMC

OUR MISSION: MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD
OUR VISION: DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, MAKING GOD'S KINGDOM REAL

PRAISE KIDS POOL PARTY AND MUSIC CAMP



THE VIEW FROM HERE

One of our Community Groups is working through a discussion of Craig Groeschel’s book, Divine Direction. The focus is on 7 questions or decisions that can deeply impact your life. As we look to the Fall, many of us reengaging in lots of things after a busy summer, I think these are important questions for us to reflect upon. I offer them here for two reasons: 1) Just a reminder that participating in community groups is, I think, one of the most important practices in becoming a deeply devoted follower of Jesus who connect, grow, serve and go, and 2) Reflecting on these questions will prepare each of our hearts for some of our Fall sermon series.



Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
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570-368-2459

- *Made for Mondays* – working to connect what we do on Sundays to what we do the rest of the week.
- *The Micah Project* – What does it mean to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God?
- *Paper Walls* – moving beyond the excuses that hold us back.

Each question focuses on a word:

- **Start** - What do I need to start doing to move in the direction of the life story I want to tell?
- **Stop** - What can you stop in order to move you closer to God’s divine direction?
- **Stay** - Am I choosing to give up because it’s the right thing or because it seems like leaving would be easier?
- **Go** - What is God calling me to leave? Where is He calling me to go?
- **Serve** - God, how are You calling me to serve? Who are You calling me to serve? Where are You calling me to serve?
- **Connect** - What do I need to do to connect with the right people?
- **Trust** - Will we trust that God is good even when life is not?

I’m looking forward to continuing to journey together into this next season, and I hope that you will join us as we connect, grow, serve and go as part of this amazing community of Faith Church.

In Christ,
PL



FAITH CHURCH STAFF

Larry L. Leland, Lead Pastor.....lleland@faithum.net
 Jim Anthony, Preschool Custodian.....jim_anthonysr@comcast.net
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 Mason Neiman, Director of Worship & Creative Arts.....mneiman@faithum.net
 Jody Robinson, Treasurer.....treasurer@faithum.net

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

Jim Carpenter - Chairperson
 Lisa Vrabec - Recorder
 Ben Clark
 Hillary Hofstrom
 Scott Konkle
 Chip Lamade
 Sheila Lomax
 Susan Marshall
 Paul Zimmerer

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



WELCOME JESSICA NEIMAN

Jessica is our new part-time Director of Children's Ministries. Jessica will provide primary leadership for our ministries with and for children from birth through 5th grade and their families. Specifically, Jessica will focus on Kid Connection and Nursery Care, as well as provide staff support for special events like Vacation Bible School and Easter Jam.

Having a Masters in Social Work, Jessica brings a wonderful spirit to this ministry. Prior to moving back to Pennsylvania with Mason and their children, Jessica served on staff at The Gathering Church as their Children and Youth Director. In that role, Jessica led (pre-COVID) a ministry that reached 60-70 children and 30 students. Her ministry included recruiting, training and supporting teachers, working with the larger leadership to build connections across generations, and helping that congregation navigate the COVID season while offering ministry primarily online to those age groups – no easy task. If you were at our Ash Wednesday service, you'll have heard Jessica preach already, and will have heard her heart. Jessica's passion is to set a place at the table for all of God's children, where we can meet Jesus together, and be formed into the image of Christ together – no matter our age.

Jessica Neiman
Dir. of Children's Ministries
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570-368-2459



ORANGE SPOTLIGHT

This September our kids will seek wisdom from the Bible and focus on what it really means to trust God in all circumstances. Our elementary age children will be learning important lessons about friendship and what it means that God created us to be in relationship with others. They'll hear about David and Jonathan, Paul and Barnabas, the power of forgiveness and more! Meanwhile, our preschool age children will focus on the basic truth that God knows what is best for us and helps us make good choices. They will be opening God's true Word and discovering people like Jonah, Namaan, and Moses who had to choose whether or not they would trust God and follow His leading. Thank you for sharing your kids with us as we explore the Bible together and discover the priceless treasures God's Word contains!

KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

Team 1: Jenn Larson, Linda Lloyd, Lauren Reeder, Vanessa Johnston		
Team 2: Ryan Tira, Amy Tucker, Kim Rakestraw	9/03	Team 3
Team 3: Danielle or Matt Harris, Carrie Knapp, Cherie Wurster, Jamie Burns & Lilly	9/10	Team 4
Team 4: Susan Ravert, Lisa Good, Tiffany Feigles, Kim Winters	9/17	Team 5
Team 5: Rachel/Chris Knipe, Tessa Little, Jenna LoCricchio	9/24	Team 6
Team 6: Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael	10/1	Team 7
Team 7: Crystal Miller, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach	10/8	Team 8
Team 8: Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Pamela/Riley/Cameron Nelson	10/15	Team 1
	10/22	Team 2
	10/29	No KC/FX Sunday

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

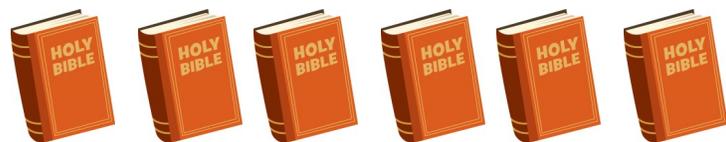
9/03 - Hillary Hofstrom, Kitty Hofer 9/10 - Michelle Eckert 9/17 - Joni Perchinski 9/24 - Katie Farley

SERVING OPPORTUNITY: SEEKING NURSERY HELPERS!

Please consider signing up to serve in the nursery during our contemporary service Sundays at 9:45. Our helpers hold and play with our infants and young toddlers and help them feel safe and comfortable while parents are in the worship service. All you need is a willing spirit and up to date background checks! Please contact Jessica to sign up.

URGENT KID CONNECTION SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Friends, we rely on your participation in the serving rotation to provide safe and fun environments for our kids! As we prepare for the upcoming school year we are in need of at least 8 people willing to join the serving rotation and commit to help once every 8 weeks. If your child is attending Nursery or Kid Connection and you are not currently a member of the serving rotation, please consider signing up to serve. In addition, if your child is graduating out of Kid Connection into FSM please consider whether you might be willing to continue serving periodically either on your own or with your middle schooler assisting. We LOVE when our teens step into serving! Please contact Jessica with questions.



BIBLE PRESENTATION WEEKEND FOR 3RD GRADERS

We are excited to present your third grader with a Bible! This year the Bibles will be presented on Sunday, October 29 during the worship services. Children receiving Bibles should plan to attend a meeting with a parent or "sponsor" who will come forward with them during the presentation. The meeting dates are currently TBD. Parents of 3rd graders will receive additional information, but please contact Jessica with any questions or concerns.

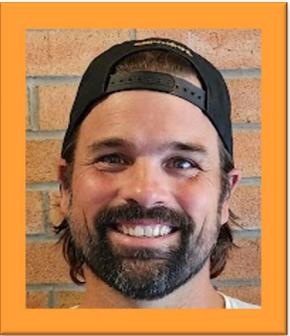


Join us this winter for
Upward 2024!
Details coming soon.

FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES



FSM BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
FSM 6:8 - 4-6:00 pm and FSM 9:12 - 5:30-7:30 pm
Dinner served at 5:30 pm for both groups



Christian Calehuff
FSM Team Leader
fsm@faithum.net
Text - 570-916-1429



CALLING ALL COOKS AND BAKERS

We are looking for different people to help provide weekly meals. Each week we offer a main dish, side dish, and dessert for about 20-40 teenagers and helpers. If you are interested in being a part of this vital ministry or maybe your small group would like to sponsor an evening meal, please contact Barbara Leland at 570-898-5979, blleland31@gmail.com or scan the QR code to go to the Sign Up Genius. Any and all help is appreciated!



CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Marion Handley
Dir. of Age-Level Ministries
and Cong. Care
mhandley@faithum.net
570-368-2459



DEAR FRIENDS AT FAITH CHURCH,

If we've not met yet, my name is Marion and I consider it an honor and a privilege to step into the role of Director of Age Level Ministries and Congregational Care as I continue to serve here at Faith Church. I am excited to serve alongside the members of our incredible Congregational Care Team and I am thankful for the welcome and support you have offered through this summer of transition. It is an incredible blessing to be called into this role that allows me to stay connected to Children's Ministry, focus more attention on discipleship across the entire life span, and walk with you through the joys, transitions, and losses that we experience throughout our lives. Since I have spent the past 8 years at Faith Church with the children and youth of the congregation, I now have a lot of grown ups to meet! I am a bit of a bookworm and I love spending time with family, sipping coffee, walks outdoors, and cooking shows. I did not take a direct path into ministry, my calling has gently unfolded over many years. I am a former preschool teacher and was also a licensed social worker in Virginia serving in schools and in the shelter system before we moved to Pennsylvania and ultimately to Montoursville. When I'm not at the church, you'll find me enjoying a meal with my husband Kevin, cheering on our kids at soccer and dance, playing at our local sensory garden, or enjoying a good book on our front steps. I welcome your calls, texts, emails, and social media messages as we journey together in faith. I'm excited to hear your stories and have opportunity to share with you the hope I have through Jesus Christ.

COLLEGE STUDENT OR MILITARY SERVICE

If your child is going to be away from home this fall for college or the military, the Congregational Care Team at Faith Church would like to be praying for them. Let us know their name and mailing address. Mark your Connect Card or email Marion with your child's information.

OUTREACH

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FAITH BUILD IS A GO!

Last month, we were finally able to get to work on the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build project! The Faith Build is a home being built for a qualifying local family with the labor and resources provided by local faith community partners, of which we are one! On August 12th and 26th, teams from Faith Church had a wonderful time framing walls, sweating, and getting to know one another! Faith folks also pitched in to provide lunches as well.



If you would like to join the fun, our next scheduled volunteer day will be Saturday, September 30th. To participate, simply scan the QR code, or email Mason Neiman at mneiman@faithum.net.

We are also looking for help to feed our crew for the 30th as well, and many hands make light work! Becky Stabley is kindly coordinating providing lunches for the crew. If you would like to provide a little something to feed the volunteers on that day or in the coming months, feel free to reach out to her at 570-368-1714. The more the merrier!

This project is an extended opportunity to put our faith into action and love our neighbors well, enjoying wonderful fellowship at the same time.



Left to Right: Patrick McGee, Larry Leland, Jerry Cartwright, Dottie and Dan Mathers, Marlene Brown, David Tanney, Jack McGee, Mason Neiman
Not pictured: Kim McGee



Mason Neiman
Director of Worship &
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GROW/SERVE



Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group Life
and Assimilation
dottemiller@faithum.net
570-368-2459

BAPTISM

Our next Baptism will take place on Sunday, September 10. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or your children, please contact Pastor Larry at lleland@faithum.net.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

Join us for Pizza with the Pastor on Sunday, September 10 at 11:15 am in Large Group Room 21. Whether you're new to Faith Church or have been connecting with us for some time and desire to know what we're about, join Pastor Larry and others for Pizza with the Pastor. You'll hear a little about our story, and the ways God is working in and through our church. To sign up, all the office at 570-368-2459 or go to: <https://faithumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1849549>.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 17

There will be a New Community Group Formation Meeting on Sunday, September 17 at 1:00 pm for people who have never been part of a group or want to start a new group at Faith. If that date doesn't fit for you, join me on ZOOM that week at a time that works with your schedule! How do you plan to become a part of the story through Community Group life at Faith? Questions? Contact Deb.

TWO MEMBERSHIP OFFERINGS

1. In-Person - Sunday, September 24 - 2-6:00 pm
Sign-up link: <https://faithumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1849570>
2. Online - Tuesdays, September 19 and 26 - 7-9:00 pm Pastor Larry will provide the class link to participants who register. Please Register by **September 10** at <https://faithumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1849629>



COMMUNITY GROUPS

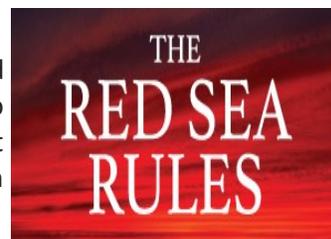


SUGAR FAST

If you run to sugar for comfort or reward, eat mindlessly or out of boredom, feel physically and spiritually lethargic, or struggle with self-control, this fast will help you discover not only freedom from your craving but an entirely new appetite for the good things God has for you. Beginning September 6, please join us in the Student Ministries Room (BRRW) each Wednesday morning at 10:30 am or each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm, location TBD. Questions? Contact Crystal Miller at dcil_miller@yahoo.com or 570-916-7050.

THE RED SEA RULES COMMUNITY GROUP

Just as Moses and the Israelites found themselves caught between "the devil and the deep Red Sea", so are we sometimes overwhelmed by life's problems. Come join us Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm beginning September 12 in the Student Ministries Room, as we see that even in the midst of seemingly impossible situations God promises to make a way for us. For more information contact Larry Eckert at 412-996-5070 or Michelle Eckert at 724-309-5742.

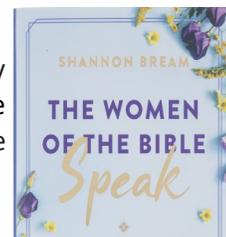


WOMEN'S GATHERING

PEW SISTERS. Real women. Real lives. Real faith stories. Every woman in the pew has a story of God's faithfulness. We are all one in the body of Christ, these beautiful women are your pew sisters. Their joys are your joys, and their sorrows are your sorrows. We share the same faith, eat at the same table and inherit the same paradise. Join us on Wednesday, September 20 at 10:00 am in Faith Café and every third Wednesday of the month going forward.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Study: *The Women of the Bible Speak*. All women are invited to join this group which will meet Monday nights, Sept. 18-November 20 from 6-7:30 pm in Room 10. The book is needed for the group, and available to purchase individually on Amazon. Come join us to learn from their experiences how we can incorporate their lessons to our own faith journey. Lead: Brenda Schmick at 570-971-3689 or bjschmick@gmail.com.



MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

This group meets at Wegman's Café from 12-1:00 pm each Monday. Grab lunch and join the group any week. Study - YouVersion or WordGo. Contact Pastor Larry at lleland@faithum.net.

WOMEN'S JAVASCRIPT

This group meets at Wegman's Café from 6:30-7:30 am each Thursday morning. Grab a cup of Java and join the group any week. Currently studying the book of Acts. Contact the Church Office at 570-368-2459.



Keep an eye out for a new **MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP** forming this fall! Stay tuned for details.

NEW SERMON SERIES



MADE FOR MONDAYS

Our Mondays have more meaning than we may give them credit. Whether you're in the marketplace, in school, or in the home, God has a purpose for you. Through this series, your church will discover what it looks like to go from simply working a job to fulfilling God's unique mission for each of us.

September 10 - *With a Purpose*
Ephesians 4:11-12, Romans 12:1-2

September 17 - *For God's Glory*
I Corinthians 10:23-33

September 24 - *Hard Worker or Workaholic?*
Psalm 127:1-2, Exodus 20:8-11

October 1 - *Salt and Light*
Matthew 5:13-16, I Peter 3:15

MUSIC



Lisa Konkle
Choral Coordinator/Organist
lkonkle@faithum.net
570-259-8957



THANK YOU to Jeff and Kristine Conklin for hosting the Praise Kids Pool Party. A great time was had by all!

THANK YOU to Joe Harner, Kyra Anthony, Chelsea Burkholder, Renee Bower, Julie Wesloskey and all the kids who attended Music Camp. We sang, danced and crafted our way to growing closer to Jesus.

MUSIC GROUPS STARTING UP SOON!

- Praise Kids (Children's Choir for Grades K-5) - Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 4-5:00 pm in Large Group Room 21 - Children's Wing
- Kids Bells (Bells for Grades 3-5) - TBD
- Voices of Faith (HS Teens/Adult Choir) Thursday, Sept. 7 from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Music Room
- Bells of Faith (Adult Bell Choir) Start Date TBD at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary Watch your bulletins for more information. Questions? Contact Lisa Konkle.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-3:30 pm and Friday-8:00 am-Noon
(Closed Daily 12:30-1:00 pm for Lunch)

PHONE #: 570-368-2459 **EMAIL:** office@faithum.net

WEB: www.faithum.net **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/faithmontoursville

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Call or email the office or fill out an online Connect Card on our website.

If you would like to receive the newsletter (in color!) via email, please contact the church office.

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