LIFE LINE

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH

AUGUST

OUR MISSION: MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

GENEROSITY UPDATE

As Council and Staff leaders, we have sought to be faithful and transparent in sharing updates regarding the financial part of our ministry here at Faith Church. In adopting a budget for 2025, Church Council shared that an increase of 7.5% in our regular giving for us to meet this year's expenses or we would have to have conversations around staffing levels and other areas of vital ministry.

We're happy to share with you that, in the first six months of 2025, regular giving has increased by just over 10%, allowing us to meet our expenses for the year so far. While we still have work to do to be able to absorb the mortgage into our general expenses beginning next year, we wanted to celebrate God's faithfulness and yours in the first half of this year. Thank you, Faith Church, for responding to the nudges of the Spirit!

"BRING A FLOWER" WORKSHOP

Get ready to get crafty! We're having a garden/ wildflower arrangement workshop! If you think you lack creativity, don't be intimidated! This fun step-by-step tutorial will demonstrate how to turn our backyard blooms into beautiful bouquets. Bring a few of your favorite garden/wildflowers and let's have some fun creating unique bouquets. Space is limited (20 people) sign up by 8/6 at the Sign-Up Center in Faith Café.

Host: Sarah Young
When: August 13th at 6pm
Where: Faith Café
What to bring: A few of your favorite garden flowers (long stemmed & a few to share), a small/medium sized vase or mason jar.

Don't have a garden, no problem! Flowers and mason jars will be available if needed.

PRAISE KIDS

If you were in Praise kids, this past year or are planning on attending this Fall, you are welcome to come join the FUN! Please join us August 4th from 6-8:30pm at the home of Dave and Chris Meckbach, at 20 Heim Drive, Cogan Station. The rain date is August 5th same time. Parents and families are welcome to stay and enjoy the fun and a brownie sundae! Please mark your connect card or contact Lisa Konkle at 570-259-8957 or email Lkonkle@faithum.net

Families are invited to stay with your child/ children to enjoy a swim and brownie sundaes!

COMBINED OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE & CHURCH PICNIC

On Sunday, August 17th, please join us for a combined outdoor worship service, followed by a good, old-fashioned church picnic! Following worship, we will picnic and have fun together! (Two inflatables bounce houses for the kids)

- Outdoor Worship: 10:00 am (Brushy Ridge Road side of the church)
- Parking: Fairview Drive parking lots, or across the street at McCall Middle School, if necessary.
- Food: Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The church will provide the main dish, drinks and paper products.

We ask that all food items be dropped off outside on the serving tables, and not the kitchen area. No need to pre-register – just show up Sunday morning for worship, community and delicious food!

CHURCH PICNIC SERVING NEEDS

- Kid Fun: 4-6 people to man the inflatables from 11-12:30.
- Food & Clean Up: 8-10 people to set up food and beverages, then clean up after. Please call the church office or indicate on your connect card.

Many Hands Make LIGHT Work

Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
lleland@faithum.net
570-368-2459

The View From Here

By the time you read this article, the Leland family will be well into our two week northwest adventure, as we hope to visit Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Northern California and Oregon. One short side trip I hope to take is to Bridal Veil, Oregon, about 30 miles outside of Portland. Just outside the town, along the Columbia River Highway, is the Gorge Aspen Colony – a colony of white-barked Quaking Aspen trees not usually found in Western Oregon.

Several years ago, I was introduced by Pastor Beth (who was my District Superintendent at the time) to the image of a grove of aspen trees. Of the many powerful images of this journey of faith and life that the aspen trees offer, the one that struck me most is the root system. Aspens do not grow alone. They grow in colonies that share an interconnected root system. While individual trunks vary in size, shape and all of the external things, all of the aspens in a grove share a single, common source that makes them what they are and links them together. Healthy aspens, through their connected roots, can support weaker ones, and even trees that die continue to support the overall health of an entire grove.

Aspen groves are known for their resilience, often regenerating after disasters like floods and fire, and able to withstand harsh conditions because of the spread out roots. I don't know about you, friends, but that sounds a lot like the church to me. We are beautiful, unique individuals, formed on the single foundation of our faith in Jesus Christ. We support one another when we feel strong and others feel weak. We strengthen each other by our roots. We are able to withstand storms and struggles when we remain connected to Christ and to each other. And we create beauty and life that spreads and sometimes, like the Gorge Aspen Colony, shows up in places we didn't expect.

Connect. Grow. Serve. Go.

In Christ,
PL

Calling All Musicians and Vocalists

Looking for special music for the 8:15 service for August. If you enjoy singing, playing an instrument we'd love to have your presence. Please contact Lisa Konkle 570-259-8957 or email Lkonkle@faithum.net

Marion Handley
Associate Pastor
mhandley@faithum.net
570-368-2459

Congregational Care

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Act 2:42-47

The book of Acts gives us such a beautiful picture of the vibrant faith and community experienced by the early church. The gift of the Holy Spirit brought joy and wisdom and prompted generosity and care. We have this same gift today and we are blessed to see the same results! I am continually amazed as I see our church family caring for one another well.

Just as the early church met immediate needs around them day by day, our daily lives are filled with opportunities to care. I continually pray God will give each of us the eyes to see the needs of others and compassion and wisdom to meet those needs. Some days we'll meet the need by throwing a party and some days by quietly holding a hand. At Faith Church, we walk together through injuries, losses, and other painful transitions. This care is evident as we love one another.

In addition to the informal support we regularly offer one another, Faith Church has a congregational care team that exists to meet the needs of the congregation. Our Congregational Care Team serves by praying faithfully, mailing cards to folks recovering from illness or grieving losses, visiting with people in hospitals and nursing homes, delivering meals through Casserole Ministry, bringing communion to our homebound members, and more. Interested in serving our congregation as a member of the Congregational Care Team? Contact mhandley@faithum.net or call the church office for more information.

Blessings,
Pastor Marion

GROW/SERVE

Young Adults Group At Faith Church

Whether you're in college, getting started in your career, or just looking for a community, Faith Young Adults has a place for you. This is where we build real connections, grow in faith, and walk alongside each other – discovering purpose in Christ.

Where: Room 12
When: Thursdays @ 7 pm
What: Fellowship & Study
Contact: Olivia @ 717-437-1467 or
Jason @ 570--651-5969 for more information.

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

Moms Met Up

During the month of August, Deb Ottenmiller will host a "Moms Meetup" in the rear parking lot of Faith Church 700 Fairview Drive 17754. This time together is open to all moms, from the immediate and surrounding cities. We will meet Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 on August 5, 12, 26. Bring along an outdoor chair or blanket to sit on and come enjoy getting to know other moms! Coffee provided 10:15 a.m. -11a.m. If you would like more information about this new group, please contact Deb Ottenmiller 570-244-7002.

Weekend To Remember

As a church, we're passionate about building up families. One of the ways we've committed to that is by lifting up marriages through sponsoring couples who are willing to attend Weekend to Remember – described as an intersection between a faith-based marriage conference and romantic retreat from everyday life. Thanks to your generosity during last year's Christmas Offering, we hope to be able to sponsor at least 25 married couples to attend a Weekend to Remember in 2025 – covering the cost of both the registration for the event and the hotel for two nights. If you and your spouse are interested in attending one of the following events, please register by emailing Pastor Larry at lleland@faithum.net or via connect card or sign-up center.

November 7-9, 2025 – Pittsburgh, PA
November 21-23, 2025 – King of Prussia (outside Philly), PA

Hospitality Team Training

Training of new team candidates on August 3, 2025. This Hospitality Team is the first face you see as you enter onto Campus. This essential ministry team is a vital part of who we are at Faith Church. Training is available following the 8:15 Service [Room 12], then again following the 9:45 Service [Room 10]. If you can make one or the other, please do! If you are interested and this training and the date doesn't fit for your schedule, no problem! Contact Deb, at 570-244-7002 and we can go from there. Let us know you are coming on your connect card. All adults and students are welcome to serve on Team.

Summer Cleaning

We are spring cleaning in August! Our Faith Church Resource Center, located on the Brushy Ridge wing, is flowing out of its' bookcases. On August 3rd and again August 10th there will be an abundance of new and gently used resources available in Faith Café area for anyone to make use of. Please feel free to take as much as you like.

Interested in a Small Group?

- ZOOM Group - Men and Women (any adult life-stage)
  This is a weekly meeting: Tuesdays from 3-4pm.
  A link is emailed and you can join on a PC, Mac, Smart phones, or tablets via the Zoom app. If you would like to join the group and need help with the app, please feel free to reach out to the church office 570-368-2459 or Keith Atherholt at 570-447-5292.
- Men's Small Group-
  This is a weekly meeting: Wednesdays at 6:00 am—7am in person at Lewis Lumber, Hughesville. The meeting is a mix of churches Currently studying Ephesians with JD Greer in a video series. Coffee supplied.

Seeking Director of Worship and Creative Arts

Faith Church currently has a staff opening we are looking to fill. If you are interested in applying, please see the website https://www.faithum.net/careers-at-faith-church for full job descriptions. Cover letters and resumes can be submitted to lleland@faithum.net.

Director of Worship – full-time (may consider part-time depending on applicant)

Pray for God to raise up the right person for this important role in the ongoing ministry of Faith Church. And please show your gratitude to the volunteer leaders and teams who are serving us so faithfully in this interim time.

Do you enjoy cooking and baking? Are you and/or your small group looking for a way to serve? FSM needs you. We are looking for individuals and /or groups to prepare a meal for the youth during their FSM meetings on Sunday nights. Check out the QR code for the Sign Up Genius to see how you can plug in and help. You can sign up for the entire meal or just part of it. If you have any questions, reach out to Barb Leland at blleland31@gmail.com.

QR code:

LOOKING AHEAD September

Group Beginning in September!

Keep your eyes open for the following groups! We would love to have you join us! Connect with the Group Lead for info and conversation.

Mondays

- Women's Group on campus. Lead: Brenda Schmick bjschmick@gmail.com
- Women's Group on campus. 1x a month 2nd week. Lead: Deb Ottenmiller dottenmiller@faithum.net 570-244-7002.
- Monday Night Men devotions, food, and football. Lead: Jim Anthony 570-651-0240

Tuesdays

- Mixed Group of men and women, both single and married. 6:30pm on campus. Lead: Larry Eckert larry.eckert@gmail.com or 412-996-5070.
- Mixed 3pm ZOOM Group. Lead: Keith Atherholt. keitha@lewislp.com 570-447-5292.

Wednesdays

- Men's 6am Group at Lewis Lumber. Lead: Keith Atherholt.
- Moms in Prayer Group. 4-5pm on campus. Begins September 10th. Lead: Michelle Eckert silvermichelle@gmail.com 724-309-5742.
- Women's Group meets every week. 6:30pm on campus. Lead: Tara Crebs 570-971-3018.
- Women's Gathering 1x a month. 10am, Café on Campus. Begins September 17th Leads: Michelle Eckert and Deb Rowles 570-337-1149. NEW Women's Gathering same content/day at 6:00pm. Lead: Deb Ottenmiller.

Thursdays

- Young Adult Group. 7pm on campus. Lead: Olivia 717-437-1467 and Jason 570-651-5969 Good.

None currently on Friday or Saturday

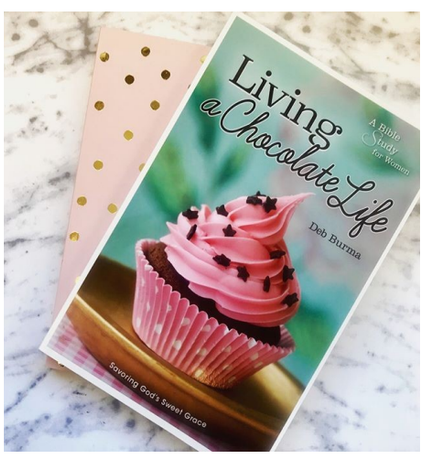
Sundays

- Mixed Group of men and women, both single and married. 9:30am on campus.

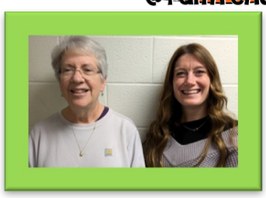
Monthly Women's Gathering! Now at 10am and 6pm

The Women's Group first gathering will be Wednesday, September 17th. This year we will be learning what it means to live a chocolate life, savoring God's sweet grace. We will be using a book called "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma. (She is the same author as Beautiful Feet.) We meet in the Faith café on the third Wednesday of each month from 10 to 11 AM. We would love to have you join us. Leaders: Michelle Eckert 724-309-5742, Deb Rowles 570-337-1149

For those who cannot come during the day, we would like to offer a Women's Group Evening Edition at 6pm in the café. Same content/day, fun laughter and devotions, plus a sweet snack. If you would be open to assist in spearheading the evening session, please contact Deb Ottenmiller 570-244-7002.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Julia Edler - Director
Gail Rollman - Assistant Director
Email: children@faithum.net
570-368-2459

This Fall, we're talking all about FAITH—what it means and how we can live it out every day! Did you know that our faith begins when we remember how God has been at work from the very beginning? From creating the world to sending Jesus and helping us today—God has always been faithful! Even when we can't see what's ahead, we can choose to trust in what we can't see because of what we can see. We see God's love in our families, His care in answered prayers, and His power in the amazing world He made. When we remember all that, our faith grows strong!

Family Challenge:
Take time this month to make a "God's Faithfulness Jar."
Every day, write down one way you've seen God at work—big or small! By the end of the week, you'll be amazed at how much God is doing!

- Keep remembering—keep trusting—and keep growing in faith!
- Kid Connection Needs You!
- Do you have a heart for kids and a passion to help them grow in their faith? Our children's ministry is looking for volunteers to join our team!

Whether you love storytelling, crafts, music, tech, or just being a friendly face, there's a place for you to serve. No teaching experience required—we provide all training and materials!

We're currently in need of:
Classroom assistants (age 2–5th grade)
Hallway monitor
Nursery helper (birth through 2 years old)
Substitute helpers
Serve just once a month or more—whatever fits your schedule!

Interested? Email Julia at children@faithum.net for more info. Let's help raise the next generation to love and follow Jesus!

FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES

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

FSM For Grades 6-12 - Sundays from 4:30-6:30 PM

Faith Student Ministries (FSM) is excited to say we are starting a new time of year and welcome your family. We have been praying for our students and as the school year kicks off we invite you to share this new season with us.

Just as a reminder, FSM is for students in 6th through 12th grade and usually meets at the Faith Church on Sundays from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Typically, our nights together will have a game, lessons followed by small groups and dinner.

We will be having an end of summer pool party on August 10th (Rain Date: Aug. 24, same time) and a FSM season kick off night on September 7th.

CALENDAR

Aug 3-6	FSM - TRANSFORM Youth Lycoming County Mission
Aug 10	FSM - End of Summer Splash Down (Noon - 3pm at the Loyalsock Pool) 24th rain date
Aug. 17	FSM - @ 10am One Worship Service & Church Picnic/Backpack Sunday
Aug. 24	FSM - Rain Date, Same time
Aug. 31	FSM - No FSM Labor Day weekend
Sept. 7	FSM - Season Kickoff (wear your favorite jersey or uniform)

Stay Connected

To ensure you receive timely updates and information, we recommend checking the FSM Facebook page regularly. Facebook is the platform where leaders share information, news, and updates, so checking it frequently will help parents and students stay informed!

OUTREACH

Flood Relief

With recent flooding in Central Texas and closer to home, we will partner with UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) to collect cleaning buckets which will be distributed to areas who are experiencing natural disasters as visible signs of Jesus' love. Throughout August, we will be collecting buckets, supplies and/or donations.

A completed Cleaning Kit needs to include:

- One five-gallon round bucket with lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
- One 32–64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16–40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
- One 16–34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap
- One 4–8 oz. pump spray air freshener
- One 6–14 oz. pump spray insect repellant (pack of 10–20 wipes also acceptable)
- One scrub brush
- 18 re-usable cleaning wipes
- Five scouring pads
- 36–50 clothespins
- One 50–100 ft. clothesline
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33–45-gallon sizes)
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1–3 mm thickness)
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
- One pair work gloves

Please bring completed Cleaning Kits, or donations of supplies to the Faith Café on Sundays or during regular office hours. Monetary donations should be marked UMCOR – Flood Relief and can be made on Sundays or online at www.faithum.net/give

We have been the recipients of the generosity of this community and the larger Church during our own area's floods in the past. This is an opportunity to pass the love of Jesus forward.

More information can also be found at https://umcmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/

Harvest of Hope

Harvest of Hope's backpack food pantry shelves are a little bare! We have had a full year of sorting, checking, packing, and distributing needed weekend food to over 100 students in the Montoursville School District. We rely heavily on donated food to help us keep up with this need. We are asking our Faith Church family if they could help restock some of the items that are most in demand for the upcoming school year. Specifically, we are asking for the following items:

HARVEST OF HOPE PANTRY

SOUP and CANNED PASTA (12 oz. cans)
BOXED MAC and CHEESE (6-8 OZ)
INDIVIDUAL FRUIT CUPS or APPLESAUCE
CANNED VEGGIES

These can be dropped off in one of the two wooden bins near the main entrances of the church. Thank you so much for your generous support of this ministry!

Faith Church Staff

Larry L. Leland, Lead Pastor.....lleland@faithum.net
Jim Anthony, Preschool Custodian.....jim_anthonysr@comcast.net
Christian Calehuff, FSM Team Leader.....fsm@faithum.net
Diane Dunlap, Office Assistant.....diane.dunlap@hotmail.com
Julia Edler, Director of Children's Ministries.....children@faithum.net
Marion Handley, Associate Pastor.....mhandley@faithum.net
Matthew Harris, Facilities Manager .....facilities@faithum.net
Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faithum.net
Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanist .....dvlindner@gmail.com
Kristen Lowe, Tech Director .....klowe@faithum.net
Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life/Assimilation.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
Megan Perkinson, Director of Harvest of Hope.....harvestofhope@faithum.net
Jody Robinson, Business Manager.....treasurer@faithum.net
Gail Rollman, Assistant Director of Children's Ministries.....children@faithum.net
Sarah Young, Office Administrator.....office@faithum.net

Faith Church Council

Rachel Knipe - Chairperson
Ben Clark - Vice Chairperson
Susan Marshall - Secretary
Larry Eckert - Lay Leader
Scott Konkle
Sheila Lomax
Dan Mathers
Lori Parke

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Grief Share

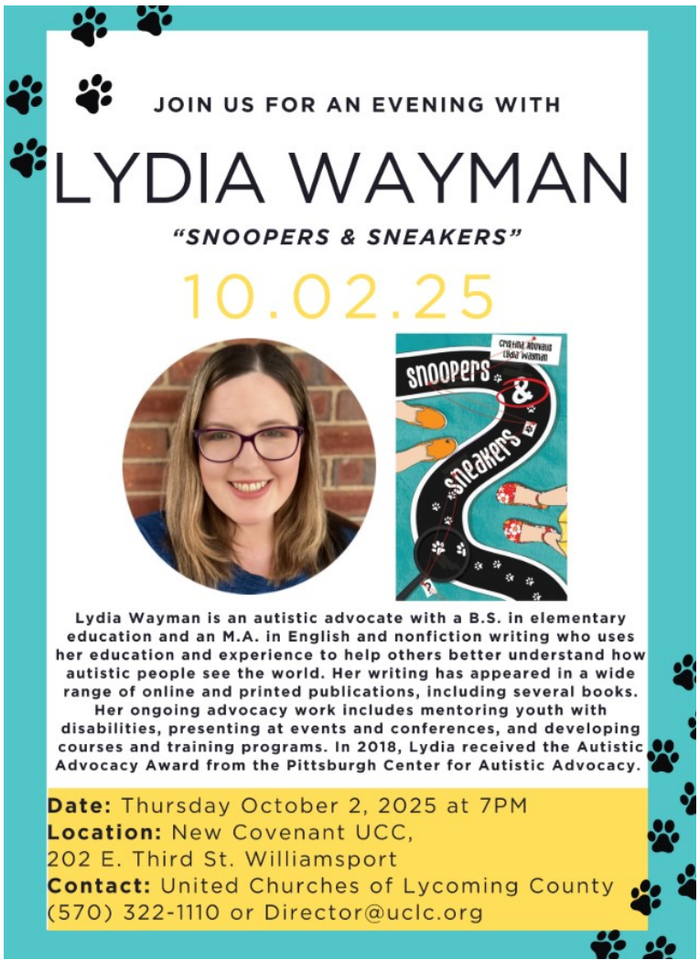
This group is designed to help, and encourage people, after the death of a loved one. At Grief Share, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. We welcome you to join us. Feel free to share this with others. The classes will be on Wednesday evenings beginning August 27th, from 6:00-8:00pm, Enter Faith Church from Brushy Ridge road and take the hallway to the left. You can register via the link [or paper copy] provided at the Sign-Up Center in Faith Café, or through the church office 570-368-2459. Leader Contact: Danielle Harris 570-447-5104 danielle4975@hotmail.com

Transform 2025: August 4-8

We believe that community is better when people help each other out and work towards safer, more beautiful neighborhoods. During the week of TRANSFORM, volunteers are sent out in teams to a local homeowner's property or a local nonprofit, where they will serve alongside other community members to serve people who could use a helping hand. We do home repair and light carpentry, yard work, painting, and other similar work.

Each day you volunteer, we will be meeting for a provided breakfast at Stryker Hall in the Christian Life Center (CLC), located at 601 Market St, from 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM. At 8:00 AM, we depart to our job sites where we work until 4:00 PM each day, or until the work is done.

Thank you for volunteering your time and energy to serve others! **Contact: Ben Conrad, Director of Connections Feel free to reach out with any questions: bconrad@firstchurch.cc**



Concert

There will be a concert by the Redeemed Gospel Quartet on Sunday, September 14th at 2:00 PM at St. Paul-Calvary UMC, 1427 Memorial Ave, Williamsport. A love offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served in the first floor lounge area after the concert. All are invited. Invite your friends and family.

The announcements are being provided as a service of United Churches of Lycoming County and are not sponsored by the organization unless otherwise stated.

SERMON SERIES

August

This summer, we'll experience a variety of scriptures and topics as Pastors Marion and Larry bring us their Summer Playlist. Rather than a multi-week series covering the months of July and August, each sermon will stand on its own. That way, if you have to miss one for summer travel, you'll be ready to pick up again the next Sunday you're with us!

Dear Faith UMC,
Thank you for helping to pay for church camp! I really appreciate it. I learned about the fruits of the Spirit.
Thank you, Hannah Taylor

Dear Faith Church,
Your donation to Sojourner Truth Ministries of $300.00 will help a lot of people to be fed in our community. Thank you!
In Jesus name, Marybeth Croll

Faith United Methodist Church

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-3:30 pm (Closed for lunch from 12:30-1:00 pm) and Friday-Closed
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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FAITH CHURCH
700 Fairview Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754
570-368-2459 | www.FaithUM.net

Life Line

AUGUST 2025

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Williamsport, PA
Permit No. 212