

LIFE LINE

DECEMBER 2017 Newsletter of Faith UMC

FAITH STORIES

from the month of November



JOURNEY: NEXT STEPS CELEBRATION EVENT - NOVEMBER 19, 2017 "Greater Things Are Yet to Come"



Pastor's Pen

Luke 1: 76b-79

You will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."



Jake Waybright
Lead Pastor
jwaybright@faithum.net
570-368-2459

The seasons seem to pass by so quickly. Thanksgiving is past and we are in the midst of the frantic run towards Christmas and New Year's. There are gifts to buy, parties to attend, decorations to hang, and cards to send. We all know that in this hectic season it is a yearly struggle to let our attention focus on Jesus' birth, on the incarnation of the Light of the world in a barn, in the arms of a poor teenage mother. It may even leave us wondering 'Who Needs Christmas?' We will be exploring the heart of the gift of Christmas in worship throughout December and I encourage you to consider what you might stop doing or start doing this year to help you focus on the light that brings hope.

The season leading up to Christmas is a good time to remember that 'We become that to which we pay attention'. If we pay attention only to the clamor of our consumer world we will be filled with the sense of emptiness that advertisers need to drive sales and consumption. If we focus on the light of the world who comes to offer us salvation we may find ourselves becoming more full of grace and peace. Who do you want to become? How will you pay attention in this season leading up to Christmas? What will you pay attention to? The gifts that God offers are reflected in this prayer you might consider praying daily through December from Howard Thurman.

- O Holy God,
open unto me
light for my darkness,
courage for my fear,
hope for my despair.
- O loving God,
open unto me
wisdom for my confusion,
forgiveness for my sins,
love for my hate.
- O God of peace,
open unto me
peace for my turmoil,
joy for my sorrow,
strength for my weakness.
- O generous God,
open my heart
to receive all your gifts.

This month I hope you join us each week in worship so that we might pay attention together to the light that shines and brings hope and peace. May we find more joy, more peace, more love, and more hope as we focus our attention on the light. – Pastor Jake

JOURNEY next STEPS

Thank you to everyone who has prayed and been part of this exciting time as a church. In December we will finish up our Next Steps capital campaign, to raise the funds to finish our dream of more room for more people to experience the life-changing love of Jesus. Here is what we have ahead in December.

Receiving 3-year Commitments

We continue to receive commitments for our Next Steps Campaign. **Beginning Wednesday, November 29, volunteers will be making follow-up phone calls** to households who have not yet responded to answer questions and encourage everyone to let us know where you have felt led as you have prayed "Lord, what do You want to do through me?" **Our goal is to hear from every household of regular attenders before our announcement weekend of December 16/17.** It's not too late to submit a Commitment Card. Just mail it to the office, place it in the offering or go online to www.faithum.net and click the Journey button.



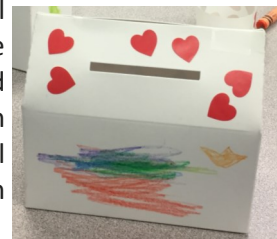
After seeking God through prayer, I/we will give to the JOURNEY: NEXT STEPS campaign of Faith United Methodist Church
Total three-year commitment \$ _____
\$ _____ per week for xxx months, or...
\$ _____ per year for xxx years
or as follows _____
 Please have someone contact me about leaving a legacy gift or a non-monetary gift.

"Lord, what do You want to do through me?"

Your Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ Date: ____/____/____
This Commitment to the Lord and Faith Church has been made by _____

First Fruits Offering: December 9/10

Everyone is invited to make our first gift towards our commitment through a **First Fruit Offering on the weekend of December 9/10.** Those who have not been able to make a 3 year commitment by this time may want to make a special gift towards the campaign. This offering is patterned after the Israelites (Leviticus 2:9-12, 14) who brought the first fruit of the harvest to the temple as an expression of gratitude to God. Worship will include a designated time for people to bring their gifts to God and include the money that the children have been collecting. This may well be the largest offering Faith Church has ever received!



Announcement Weekend: December 16/17

On December 16/17 we will make the big announcement in worship of the total amount committed **AND** the total of our First Fruits Offering! We know it is hard to wait that long, but this will allow us time to receive responses from everyone in our church! We can't wait to celebrate together!

Faith Church Leadership Team

- Jake Waybright, Lead Pastor.....jwaybright@faithum.net
- Rusty Wolfinger, Associate Pastor.....rwolfinger@faithum.net
- Diane Dunlap, Office Administrator.....office@faithum.net
- Marion Handley, Director of Children's Ministriesmhandley@faithum.net
- Jared Hetherington, Dir. of Student Ministriesjhetherington@faithum.net
- Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
- Tony Sharp, Director of Worship.....tsharp@faithum.net
- Julie Vogel, Business Manager.....jvogel@faithum.net

Faith Church Council

- Ben Meckbach - Chairperson
- Keith Atherholt
- David Dawes
- George Hinston
- Ed Pry



Order Your Poinsettias

Order your poinsettia plant to place in the church for Christmas. Plants may be purchased for \$8.00 each and may be placed in Memory of or in Honor of. Plants must be paid for at the time of ordering. **Hurry, the deadline for orders is the weekend of December 16/17.**

Name _____ Phone # _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

of plants _____ X \$8.00 each = _____

Please make checks payable to Faith UMC with poinsettia on the memo line.

DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:15a-Friday Fun 9:15a-MTO 7p-Piano Recital	2 9a-PK Dress Rehearsal 5:30p-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection
3 8:30a-Trad. Worship 9:45a-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection 9:45a-Adult SS 11a-Cong. Care Mtg. 11:15a-Bell Choir 3p-PK Musical 4p-Church Dinner 6:30p-FSM 9:12	4 6p-Girl Scouts 6:30p-Merge	5 10a-Leadership Team Mtg. 3p-Worship Design Team Mtg. 6p-Sr. Box Packing 7p-Cub/Boy Scouts	6 3:30p-Ch. Bell Choir 4p-Praise Kids 6:30-8pm-FSM 6:8	7 5:30p-Voces of Faith 6p-Sun. Praise Team 6p-Moms Connect Group 6:30p-Book Club 7:30p-Sat. Praise Team	8 9:15a-Friday Fun 9:15a-MTO 6p-PK Movie Night	9 JNS First Fruits Offering 5:30p-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection
10 JNS First Fruits Offering 8:30a-Trad. Worship 9:45a-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection 9:45a-Adult SS 11a-Church Conference 11:15a-Bell Choir 3p-WB Chorale Concert 4p-FOG 6:30p-FSM 9:12	11 6p-Bostley's Program 6p-Girl Scouts 6:30p-Merge	12 10a-Leadership Team Mtg 7p-Cub/Boy Scouts	13 Newsletter Deadline in 1 week 3:30p-Ch. Bell Choir 4p-Praise Kids 6:30-8pm-FSM 6:8	14 5:30p-Voces of Faith 6p-Sun. Praise Team 6:30p-Church Council 7p-WB Christian Wrtrs 7:30p-Sat. Praise Team	15 9:15a-Friday Fun 9:15a-MTO	16 JNS Announcement Wknd 5:30p-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection
17 JNS Announcement Wknd 8:30a-Trad. Worship 9:45a-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection 9:45a-Adult SS 11a-KC Teacher Mtg. 11:15a-Bell Choir 4p-FOG 7p-Blue Christmas Service	18 6p-Girl Scouts 6:30p-Merge	19 10a-Leadership Team Mtg. 7p-Cub/Boy Scouts	20 Noon-Newsletter Deadline 6p-Preschool Program 6:30p-FSM 6:8 Party	21 5:30p-Voces of Faith 6p-Sun. Praise Team 7:30p-Sat. Praise Team	22 9:15a-Friday Fun 9:15a-MTO	23 NO Worship Service
24 Christmas Eve 9a-Acoustic Cont. w/ communion 3p-Traditional Service w/ carols & lessons 5p-Traditional Family Service 7p-Contemporary Service	25 Christmas CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 Christmas CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 Christmas CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 5:30p-Voces of Faith 6p-Sun. Praise Team 7:30p-Sat. Praise Team	29 9:15a-Friday Fun	30 5:30p-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection
31 New Year's Eve 8:30a-Trad. Worship 9:45a-Cont. Worship w/Kid Connection 9:45a-Adult SS						

Praise Kids-Children's Choir for ages 4-Grade 5
FOG-Faces of Grace-Youth Choir for Grades 6-12
Voces of Faith-Adult Choir
Bell Choir-for Grades 6-Adult
FSM 6:8-for students in Grades 6-8
FSM 9:12-for students in Grades 9-12

Kid Connection (KC)-classes from birth through Grade 5
Merge-Open Community Group for Adults-Childcare provided
Sr. Box Packing-1st Tuesday of the month, pack food for Seniors
MTO-Mothers Time Out-childcare (birth-age 4) for attenders
Friday Fun-help with Kid Connection readiness/office projects

Moms Connect Group-Adult Women
Book Club (Forgotten Populations)-Open
JNS - JOURNEY: Next Steps Capital Campaign
Children's Bell Choir - grades 3-5
WB (West Branch) Christian Writers Group

For more information on any of the above groups or anything on the calendar, please call the church office at 570-368-2459. These activities were planned at the time of this publication, but are subject to change.

UPCOMING WORSHIP



Blue Christmas Service: Hope Revealed

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in, "I am feeling blue." Christmas can be a painful time for those spending Christmas without a loved one or experiencing other types of loss, illness, or transition. In light of this reality, the Montoursville area pastors offer the Blue Christmas service, Hope Revealed. Join with others in seeking God's presence for those who mourn and struggle during this time on **Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 pm at Faith Church**. All are welcome to attend and to allow God's light to shine into the darkness.

Christmas Eve Special Offering

This year our entire Christmas Eve offering (beyond our weekly tithes and offerings) will support two outreach ministries. As we often do during the Christmas season, we will support both a local and an international ministry. This year we will be supporting the United Churches of Lycoming County's Food Pantry and Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico rebuilding efforts. Because Christmas Eve falls on a regular giving Sunday, we will have special envelopes in the Christmas Eve bulletin so that you can designate your gift to this special offering.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us Sunday, December 24 for one of our four Christmas Eve services:

- 9:00 am Acoustic Contemporary Service with Communion
- 3:00 pm Traditional Service with Carols and Lessons
- 5:00 pm Traditional Family Candlelight Service
- 7:00 pm Contemporary Candlelight Service

* Nursery Care Available at all Services

"This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We will not have a Saturday night service, and all the services on Sunday will be Christmas Eve Services with candle lighting. Choose a time that works for you and invite a friend!"

2018 Offering Envelopes

The 2018 boxes of assigned offering envelopes will be available in Fellowship Hall in December. Please check your bulletin for dates and stop by and pick yours up before or after worship. Questions? Contact the church office at 570-368-2459.

West Branch Chorale

Christmas Concert-Faith UMC-Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:00 pm.

Church Office Christmas Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed Monday-Wednesday, December 25-27.

Church Conference in December

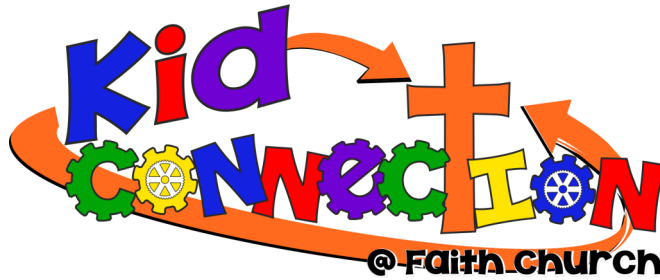
In the United Methodist Church, a church conference is an annual meeting, and ours will be held this year on **Sunday, December 10 after the 9:45 am worship service**. This annual business and vision meeting for the congregation completes important business for the church, including setting the pastors' salary packages, electing officers for the coming year and other yearly tasks. While membership is required to vote on the congregational business, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions about the church conference process, contact Church Council Chair, Ben Meckbach at benmeck@yahoo.com or Pastor Jake at jwaybright@faithum.net.

Join Us!

- Voices of Faith (Adult Choir) meets Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 pm in Room 10 for Christmas music
- New Bell Ringers wanted after the holidays in Jan. 2018
- Faces of Grace (Youth Choir) meets every Sunday from 4-5:00 pm



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



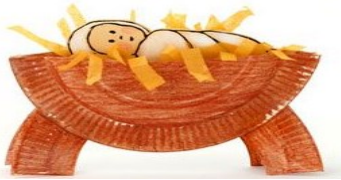
Marion Handley
Director of Children's
Ministries
mhandley@faithum.net
570-368-2459

Kid Connection Classes

Saturdays at 5:30 pm
Nursery: 0-3: Room 21
PK-Grade 5: Room 25

Sundays at 9:45 am

Nursery: 0-2: Room 21
PreK4-K: Room 24
Grades 2/3: Room 25
2s & 3s: Room 22
Grade 1: Room 26
Grades 4/5: Room 23



Orange Spotlight

During December, our kids will hear the good news of great joy that God gave us Jesus! Children will hear about God's promise of a Savior and how God became a human in the person of Jesus Christ born as a gift for all people to bring us hope. Our God is so generous that because he loved us he gave His one and only son for each one of us. Elementary kids and preschoolers will discuss generosity and explore what was so amazing about the gift of Jesus and why it is so important that we also give generously to others. We look forward to celebrating Christmas with your family!

Kid Connection Sunday Serving Schedule for December 2017-January 2018

- Team 1: Dottie Mathers, Betsy &/or Dave Bjorkman, Jessie Williams, Lori Parke
 - Team 2: Valerie Mosteller, Darci Kirby, Elise Meckbach, Ryan Tira, Quinn Burkey, Kevin Handley
 - Team 3: Stef Frelin, Danielle and/or Matt Harris, Emily &/or Adam Tate, Denise Plankenhorn, Julie Stokes
 - Team 4: Rebecca Huffman, Kevin Handley, Kim Rakestraw, Susan Ravert, Dave Rinker, Keith & Sharon Atherholt
 - Team 5: Tessa Little, Emily Miller, Kevin Handley, Jenna LoCricchio, Brenda Laudenslager
 - Team 6: Sarah Keiser, Tina Remsnyder, Jessie Metzger, Crystal Miller, Jane Heintzelman, Susan Waybright
 - Team 7: Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Cherie Wurster, Lindsay Davis, Brian Cozzi, EvieLyn Perry
 - Team 8: Sheryl Snyder, Lauren Caputo, Mitzi Herron, Jessica Wertz, Rick Gray, Kevin Handley, Kaitlin Eck
- 12/3 Team 1 12/10 Team 2 12/17 Team 3 12/24 Christmas Eve (Nursery Only) 12/31 Team 4
1/7 Team 5 1/14 Team 6 1/21 Team 7 1/28 Team 8

JOURNEY: Next Steps Coin Banks

Coin banks have gone home with the kids from Kid Connection! Each child was able to decorate his/her own box. Children attending Kid Connection are learning about stewardship and generosity and praying for the local community and the vision behind our building project. They have the opportunity to earn money to contribute to our capital campaign by doing chores at home, having a bake or yard sale, making and selling simple crafts, or suggesting their own creative ideas. **Please return the banks on or before the weekend of December 2-3.**



Praise Kids Dates

- * Saturday, Dec. 2 - 9:00 am-Noon - Dress Rehearsal
- * Sunday, Dec. 3 - 3:00 pm - Musical
- * Friday, Dec. 8 - 6-8:00 pm-Movie Night & Christmas Party
- * Sunday, Dec. 24 - Arrive at 6:45 pm to sing at 7:00 pm Service
- * No PK on Dec. 20, 27- Start back on Jan. 3, 2018
- * Watch for information about signing up for Praise Kids (ages 4 - Grade 5) in January



THE PRAISE KIDS

OF FAITH CHURCH

WILL PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS MUSICAL ON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

3:00 PM

FOLLOWED BY DINNER IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Meat, beverages, and paper products
are provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Praise Kids singing at the Celebration Event.

STUDENT MINISTRIES



Jared Hetherington
Director of Student Ministries
jhetherington@faithum.net
570-368-2459



Grades 9-12 - Whether you're just starting High School life or if you're an upper classman, join us on Sundays from 6:30-8:30pm as we walk through life and serve and grow together.



Grades 6-8 - Need a place to relax and get away from the stress of Middle School? Join us on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm as we discover who God is and who He created us to be.

SIX : EIGHT

12/6	SIX:8
12/13	SIX:8
12/20	XMAS PARTY
12/27	NO SIX:8
1/3/18	NO SIX:8

NINE : TWELVE

12/3	NINE:12
12/10	XMAS PARTY
12/17	NO NINE:12
12/24	NO NINE:12
12/31	NO NINE:12

**CONFIRMATION 2018
BEGINS JANUARY 7TH
STUDENTS IN GRADES 7TH + UP
CONTACT JARED HETHERINGTON
BY DEC. 20TH TO REGISTER**

confirm

GROW



Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group Life/Assimilation
dottenmiller@faithum.net
Text-570-244-7002
570-368-2459

The Forgotten Populations Book Club

Our November and December meetings will be combined when we meet at 6:30 pm on December 7 to discuss *Be Safe, I Love You* by Cara Hoffman, the story of a female veteran returning home haunted by service trauma. Please contact Mary Broussard at broussm@lycoming.edu if you would like to participate or have any questions.

Moms Connect Group

Please join us for a special Christmas Mom's Connect meeting at 6:00 pm on December 7 in Faith Café. We will be sharing our family's holiday traditions and how we keep the focus on Christ during the Christmas season. Please come with 4 dozen cookies to share in a cookie exchange. We will connect, share, and enjoy cookies together that evening. RSVP through our Moms Connect of Faith Church Facebook page or call the church office at 570-368-2459.

Beginning Soon in 2018!

- * **An existing Community Group** will be doing the Max Lucado **five week video study entitled-*Anxious for Nothing***. The study focuses on Philippians 4:4-8. There is a peace "that transcends all understanding" that will help you reframe the way you look at your fears. This mixed group meets **Wednesday's at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Rick and Letty Gray. Cost for the participants guide is \$6.50. Call Letty at 570-935-0365 for more information.
- * **Community Group Beginning January 17!** This mixed group will begin 1x per month for a study of the word and prayer. Noon to 1:00 pm at 57 East 4th Street, Williamsport. Law office 1st floor. Bring your lunch or pre-order delivery! Connect with Scott Williams at 570-337-1439 for details.
- * **Community Group Beginning in the New Year for 18-26 life-stage!** Stay tuned!
- * **Six Week Beyond Boundaries Class Beginning in February/March.** Life is a lot about relationships isn't it? How do you know you're ready to trust again when that trust has been broken ... and what does it take to be ready? Painful relationships violate our trust, causing us to close our hearts. But to experience the freedom and love God designed us for, we eventually have to take another risk. You can move past relational pain to trust again.

This curriculum will help you:

- Reinstatement of closeness appropriately with someone who broke your trust
- Discern when true change has occurred
- Re-establish appropriate connections in strained relationships
- Create a safe environment that helps you trust
- Restore former relationships to a healthy dynamic
- Learn to engage and be vulnerable in a new relationship as well

Interested? Register with Deb. Resource cost will be \$7.00. Homework completion outside of class-time is required.

You can register for any of these groups by signing up in the Narthex/Lobby at the registration table, or go to www.fithum.net. Thank you!



Merry Christmas

SERVE AND GO

Go, Go, Go in 2017

Here are the "GO" events that we currently have scheduled for 2017. We'll need **ALL OF GOD'S FAITH CHURCH SERVANTS** if these events are going to make an impact for Christ in our community and beyond.

1. Oasis of Hope Angel Tree: December
2. Christmas Eve Offering: United Churches of Lycoming County Food Pantry and Hurricane Maria: Puerto Rico Support



Pastor Rusty Wolfinger
Associate Pastor
rwolfinger@faithum.net

Oasis of Hope Angel Tree

Oasis of Hope is a ministry that serves girls (ages 12-18) who have been victims of the sex-trafficking industry. Often times when girls enter the Oasis facility they only have the clothes that they are wearing. One of the first things the Oasis of Hope staff do is to take the girls shopping for clothing and personal hygiene items. It is our hope that Faith Church might supply them with enough gift cards to help each girl they welcome in 2018. On the weekends of December 2/3 and 9/10 there will be a Christmas tree with angels on it in Faith Café. Each angel will be for a \$25 gift card from Target or Old Navy. Just follow the instructions and return the cards by the weekend of December 16/17.



Central PA Food Bank 2018 PACKING Dates

Faith Church is committed to helping pack senior citizen and veteran food boxes the first Tuesday of each month. Now is the time to sign up your small group or to organize a group for the packing dates in 2018. Here are the dates: January 3 (Foundations Class), February 6 (OPEN), March 6 (OPEN), April 3 (OPEN), May 1 (OPEN), June 5 (OPEN), July 3 (NO PACKING), August 7 (OPEN), September 4 (OPEN), October 2 (OPEN), November 6 (OPEN), December 4 (OPEN). Contact Pastor Rusty to sign up your group for a future packing date.

Christmas Eve Service Opportunities!

SO many GREAT servants are needed to make the experience for all of our guests an excellent one!! Wont YOU plan to sign up today? You will see sign-up sheets in the lobby area beginning December 2/3 to serve at one of the four worship experiences! You may also fill out and hand in the sheet below. Please note - we also need two co-leads for each service at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please connect with Deb at dottenmiller@faithum.net or 570-368-2459. It will be such a great time of JOY! Plan to serve however God leads you!

Christmas Eve Service Opportunities - Sunday, December 24, 2017

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10

In order to make our Christmas Eve worship experiences meaningful for all, especially the many guests we anticipate, we need many folks willing to serve throughout the season. Anyone is welcome to serve, even if you've never served before. Below are specific needs. Please check your availability and include this sheet as part of your offering, scan and email to the church office, put it in the mail or call the church office with your selection.

<u>9:00 am service</u>	___ Greeter/Usher*	___ Facilities	___ Van Driver
<u>3:00 pm service</u>	___ Greeter/Usher*	___ Facilities	___ Scripture Reader
<u>5:00 pm service</u>	___ Greeter/Usher*		___ Van Driver
<u>7:00 pm service</u>	___ Greeter/Usher*	___ NURSERY HELPER	___ Van Driver

(*Greeters/Ushers: This role includes candle lighting, receiving offering, recording attendance, and possibly greeting inside and/or outside.

Name _____ Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Serving Thank You for the Year . . .

Friends, I just want to take a moment to say thank you to each and every one of you who are in some way involved in the ministries of group life and assimilation, hospitality, and fellowship. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for the joy of serving alongside you. I'm thankful that I get to do life with you! Looking forward to 2018 and what God plans to do next! *Deb*



Team Leaders Needed!
 We are looking for leaders for the Saturday evening and also Sunday 9:45 Hospitality team. Commitment would be for one year, with training provided! Please connect with Deb at dottenmiller@faithum.net for additional details.

Faith United Methodist Church
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm
 Phone #: 570-368-2459 Email: office@faithum.net
 Web: www.faithum.net Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithmontoursville

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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DECEMBER 2017

Life Line

FAITH CHURCH
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