



FAITH CHURCH
CONNECT.GROW.SERVE.GO.

LIFE LINE

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UMC
FAITH STORIES FROM OCTOBER/NOVEMBER



TRUNK OR TREAT - THE FIRST EVENT HELD IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY CENTER-OVER 500 KIDS!



In Kid Connection We Learned That It Takes Cooperation to Get Out of a Human Knot!





PASTOR'S PEN - FINDING THE WONDER AGAIN

Luke 2:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Do you remember the magic of the Christmas story when you were a child? The unexpected visitation of angels, the birth of a child, the wonder of beasts and poor shepherds and wealthy majestic middle eastern foreigners all gathered in awe to see the holy child. As a kid, I remember that feeling of being drawn into the story and being caught up in wonder and amazement with the other visitors to this child in whom the hopes of all the years were found.

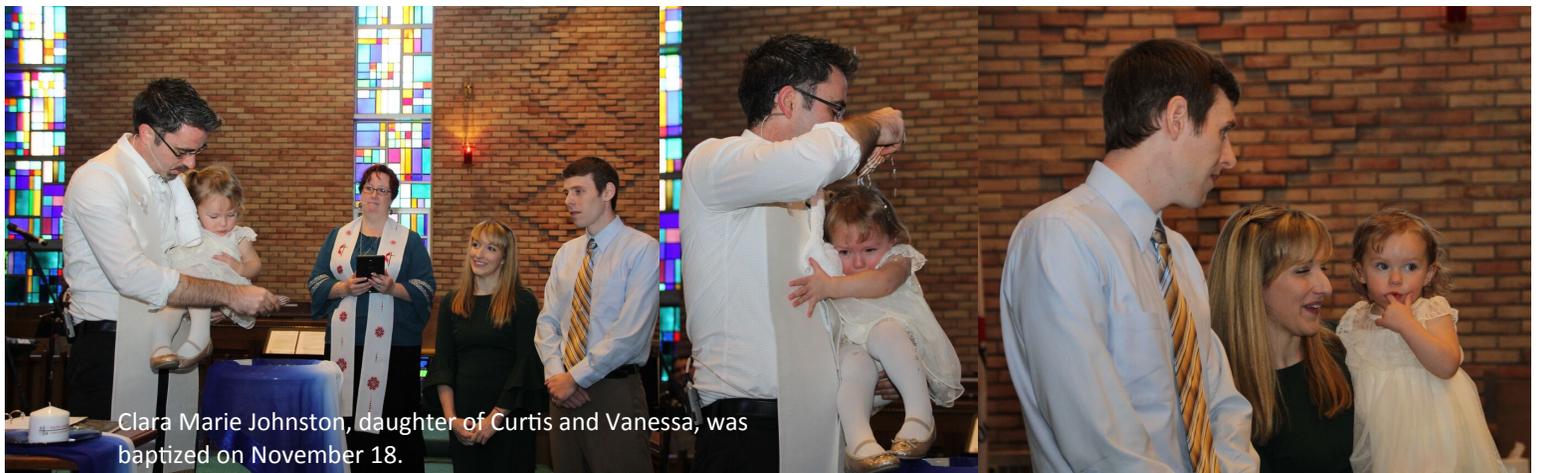
Somewhere along the way, as we grow up, we can lose that sense of wonder. The story becomes familiar. The amazement at the mystery of it all grows dull. Slowly our attention shifts from the babe in the manger to family and friends and lights and shopping – none of which are bad – except that they can become the center of a season meant to draw us to our Savior.

What would it look like to come once again to the edge of the straw-filled manger with the simple wonder and awe of a child? This year in the weeks leading up to Christmas we are going to pray that God would open our eyes to see the story again with fresh eyes. Each week we will consider one of the characters and part of the journey they took.

We will travel the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We will watch as a simple girl and an ordinary man prepare for the most extraordinary moment of history. We will gather at a stable in Bethlehem to hear the first cries of a newborn baby that would change the world, and who is still changing lives today.

This will be an incredible worship series to invite a friend who could use an extra dose of wonder in their lives, or whose faith has grown cold. Invite a friend and join us as we rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. You won't regret it! Experience Wonder!

Yours on the Journey,
Pastor Jake



Clara Marie Johnston, daughter of Curtis and Vanessa, was baptized on November 18.

UNITED METHODIST CONNECTION - A WAY FORWARD

A BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL CONVERSATION ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY

On Monday, January 7 and Tuesday, January 15 from 6-8:30 pm the church council will have roundtable discussions for folks in our congregation to have biblical and theological conversations about human sexuality. These will be an opportunity to explore biblical perspectives and listen to the perspectives of others in our congregation.

These gatherings are part of a series of opportunities we have held in the last year to discuss topics related to an upcoming meeting of our denomination. In February 2019 representatives of the global United Methodist Church will be meeting to discuss proposals to address differing biblical convictions across the denomination about views on human sexuality and current denominational restrictions related to marriage and ordination for gay and lesbian persons.

We do not know what the results of that meeting will be. It is possible that nothing changes. If there are changes, all of the current proposals for change allow for a high degree of decision-making for local churches and pastors about what happens at the local church level. Whatever the result, we believe that God's work at Faith Church will continue, and our conversations allow us to move forward together as a congregation. We offer the roundtables as a way for us to have healthy conversations with each other and deepen our own understanding of the Biblical convictions that are part of the conversation.

The best source to find more information about the upcoming meeting is United Methodist News Services at www.umnews.org. Search for articles on General Conference 2019 and the Commission on a Way Forward. If you have questions, you can be in contact with Ben Meckbach at ben.toryleather@comcast.net, Church Council Chair, or Pastor Jake at jwaybright@faithum.net.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

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. Do you know of someone who has experienced a recent loss? Extend an invitation to a family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker to attend the Blue Christmas service with you. Join with others in seeking God's presence for those who mourn and struggle during this time. All are welcome to attend and to allow God's light to shine into the darkness.

Hope Revealed - Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Bethany Lutheran Church, 369 Broad St., Montoursville



Pastor Jane O'Borski
Associate Pastor of
Care and Worship
joborski@faithum.net
570-368-2459



CARING FOR A LOVED ONE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Coping with the holidays can be difficult even under the best circumstances. Trying to cope while you are caring for a loved one can make things even harder. Although you cannot change your current situation, you can change the way you approach the holiday season. Bring prepared for the holidays is easier when you know how you wish to spend the time and can arrange it that way. Choose how involved you want to be and make your wishes known to others. When you do take time for yourself, try to make yourself feel as relaxed as possible. Here are some tips for being prepared:

- Decide in advance what you want to do this year.
- When planning, think about the traditions which are important to you. Ask yourself how important these traditions are to you right now and how much time and energy you have to do them. Decide on how much, if any, you can handle, and modify your traditions accordingly.
- If shopping is too difficult, try gift certificates, send flowers, order on-line, or skip gift giving this year. Do something completely different, if that seems helpful. Pass up writing cards, baking, trimming the tree, etc.
- If making some of these decisions is difficult to do alone, ask a trusted friend or family member to talk through the options with you.
- When making plans, remember to include some time for yourself.

Doing this will help you enormously to give the very best possible care to your loved one this holiday season.

HELP US BRIGHTEN THE SEASON FOR OUR FAITH CHURCH LIMITED ACTIVITY MEMBERS (LAMs)

In the weeks leading up to the Christmas season, Christmas cards share an expression of goodwill. Regardless of the design, size, or handwriting inside, receiving Christmas cards can brighten your day, help you feel loved, and remind you that someone is thinking of you. For many of our Limited Activity Members at Faith Church, Christmas cards may be few and far between.

This year, we invite you to share the light of Christ with our LAMs. As you are sending your Christmas cards, send an extra or two or three or more by including our LAMs on your mailing list. Copies of names and addresses are available in the Narthex/Lobby. If you don't usually send Christmas cards, maybe this is an opportunity to revive an old practice or begin a new tradition.

As you sign your cards, share with our LAMs that you are a Faith Church member/attender to remind them of the love and light of Jesus Christ that shines through their community of faith.



STUDENT MINISTRIES

FSM 9:12 EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

SUNDAY 12/2 - We will be heading to the Hofstrom's at 187 English Hill Rd, Cogan Station for the night from 4:00-7:00 pm. Transportation will be provided, and will leave the church at 3:30 pm and return at 7:30 pm. We will have hamburgers and hot dogs, activity options will be indoor and outdoor games, campfire, and a movie showing of *I Can Only Imagine*. Bring a friend! Please RSVP and let us know if you need transportation. Text or call Hillary at 570-368-2459.

SUNDAY 12/9 - Open Gym at 6:00! FSM 6:30-8:30, dinner, games, large and small groups!

SUNDAY 12/16 - 6:30-8:30 pm Christmas Party! Bring a friend! Wear your best Ugly Christmas Sweater and bring a re-gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. We will have snacks, games, and a lot of fun! Parents, can you provide a snack or dish to share? If so, please text or call Hillary at 570-368-2459.

STUDENT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR SEARCH

Faith UMC is accepting applicants for our Student Ministries Director position. We are looking for a passionate leader who has a contagious faith, an ability to disciple others, connect with students, lead and build teams, and develop leaders around them. The Student Ministries Director is a full-time position. For a full job description and to apply, please send a cover letter, resume and references to the church office at office@faithum.net.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



KID CONNECTION CLASSES **Sundays at 9:45 am**
 Nursery-Room 19/20 Grade 1-Room 13
 2's & 3's-Room 18 Grade 2-Room 11
 PreK-Room 17 Grade 3-Room 12
 Kindergarten-Room 15 Grades 4/5-Room 14

Saturdays at 5:30 pm
 Nursery: 0-3-Room 19 PK3-Grade 5-Large Group Room 21

All classes are located in the Children's Wing on the Fairview Drive side of the church.

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

KID CONNECTION - ORANGE SPOTLIGHT (THE YELLOW OF CHURCH AND THE RED OF HOME COMBINE TO MAKE ORANGE.)
 During December, we spend an entire month looking at different aspects of the Christmas story with kids of all ages! Our preschoolers hear the exciting news that Mary is going to have a baby and then celebrate Jesus' birthday and wrap it all up with a visit from some wise men. Our elementary kids will hear about Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others all journeying to Bethlehem for the birth of Christ but as they do they will be reminded over and over of the WHY behind Jesus' arrival. The elementary life app for December is Compassion which the curriculum defines as caring enough to do something about someone else's need. God saw that we needed rescue from sin because we were unable to escape from sin and its effects on our own and so He sent Jesus to be the Savior we needed. We now know that Jesus is the greatest gift because He came to live among us and chose to die to save us in order to meet our greatest need which was to be free from sin and able to be in full relationship with God. We will celebrate with Mary, Joseph, and the wise men because we know that Jesus chose to show us the true meaning of love by showing compassion to us all.

KID CONNECTION SUNDAY SERVING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

- Team 1:** Dottie Mathers, Betsy &/or Dave Bjorkman, Sandrina Womer, Lori Parke, Erica Wurster
- Team 2:** Valerie Mosteller, Darci Kirby, Elise Meckbach, Ryan Tira, Kevin Handley, Carrie Knapp
- 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, Jessie Guisewhite
- Team 5:** Tessa Little, Kevin Handley, Jenna LoCricchio, Brenda Laudenslager, Kristi Michael, **Jessie Williams**
- Team 6:** Sarah Keiser, Jessie Metzger, Crystal Miller, Jane Heintzelman, Susan Waybright
- Team 7:** Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Cherie Wurster, Lindsay Davis, Brian Cozzi, EvieLyn Perry
- Team 8:** Rick Gray, Kevin Handley, Kaitlin Eck, Melissa Foster, Shawn Coles, **Brigitte Wright**

Dec. 2-Team 4	Dec. 9-Team 5	Dec. 16-Team 6	Dec. 23-Team 7
Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Services-Separate Sign-up for Nursery		Dec. 30-Team 8	
Jan. 6-Team 1	Jan. 13-Team 2	Jan. 20-Team 3	Jan. 27-Team 4

Nursery Servants

The nursery is looking for some loving servants. Help is needed on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am, along with Christmas Eve and other special events. Contact Shannon Perrotta at sperrotta@faithum.net for more information.

KID CONNECTION AND COMMUNION

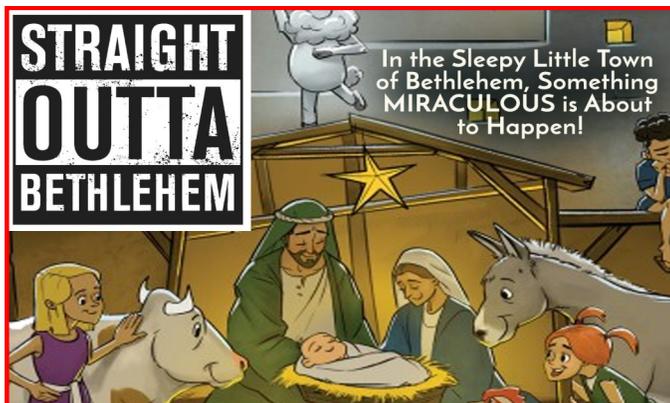
Holy Communion is a Christian practice that unites us to Christ and with other believers. Communion is sometimes called a holy mystery. We are excited to discuss this mystery of faith with our 4th & 5th grade Kid Connection attenders. Over a period of three weekends November 25-December 9 we have and will offer teaching about Communion in our Sunday 4th-5th Grade class. These brief introductory lessons will make up a few minutes of the regular class time and be offered in addition to the normal curriculum materials. As always, please speak to Marion Handley if you do not wish your child to receive communion or if you have any questions about our communion practices at Faith Church. The next celebration of communion at Faith Church is scheduled for December 9.



The Kindergarten students enjoyed their first time in the Large Group Room on Sunday, November 25.



Can you tell which letter they are?



PRAISE KIDS CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

- Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- Dinner following in Fellowship Hall - bring a dish to share - chicken provided
- Please sign-up for the dinner on your Connect Card or call the church office at 570-368-2459

GROW



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

MOMS DID YOU KNOW?

There is a Community Group just for Moms at Faith Church that meets monthly during the school year, where you can connect with other moms for support, encouragement, laughter, and grow closer to Christ! This lovely group of moms meets once a month, various days of the week, and would love for you to join them! Please contact Betsy Bjorkman at 570-368-2459 or ask to join the Facebook page 'Moms Connect of Faith Church'.

MOMS CONNECT GROUP

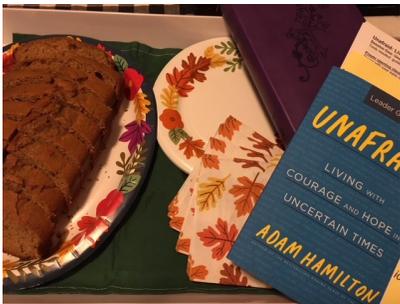
- * Next Gathering - Tuesday, December 11
- * 6:00 pm in Large Group Room 21
- * Topic - Keeping Christ and your family at the center of Christmas
- * Small cookie exchange
- * Please contact Betsy Bjorkman at 570-368-2459, or ask to join the Facebook page 'Moms Connect of Faith Church'

A NOTE FROM DEBO - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY GROUP LIFE AND ASSIMILATION

Throughout this year there have been experiences of:

- 21 Ongoing Community Groups, with 196 participants.
- 7 Short Term Community Groups and classes, with 54 participants
- Over 69+ Guest families joined us for one of the three worship experiences!

Looking back over the past year of Community Group life and Assimilation, I am amazed and humbled how God continues to use Faith Church as a vessel for life change!!



As I look forward into the new year I am excited and anticipating great things God will do in and through Community Group life and Assimilation!

In the entire month of February, anyone seeking a group experience or wanting to test drive a group for the first time will have a chance to join me for a 4 week Community Group church-wide experience as we dig deeper still into each week's sermon. The series is entitled *Get Their Name: Growing Your Church by Building Relationships*.

We will offer a Large 'small' Group space for people who either currently don't have a group, or are thinking of hosting a group and want a place to start. If a single or a couple is thinking about hosting a group for the series, they could invite some friends who aren't currently in group life and join us in this larger group setting. If someone wants to attend and plug into a group, they are also most welcome.

We will offer 2 sessions, on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00 pm and Wednesday nights, time TBA. Multiple 'table hosts' will be needed, who would facilitate conversation at their table(s) and also invite people who are not currently involved in group life into their group for the series.

If you are currently seeking a group, or want to try out a group for a test drive, this is your opportunity so mark your calendars!! On Sunday and Wednesday evenings, there will be a Large 'small' Group Gathering space reserved on campus just for you, so you can join me in digging deeper into this series. We will have large group video streaming, and smaller group round table discussion. And snacks . . . a great gathering is always better with snacks!

Dates and times to mark on your calendar: choose either Sunday or Wednesday.

February 3, 10, 17, 24 from 4:30-6:00 pm in Large Group Room 21

February 6, 13, 20, 27 - TBA

I am so glad we get to do this thing called life together!

Peace and Joy fill your holiday to overflowing,

Deb Ottenmiller



STARTING POINT

Faith Church has so much great stuff going on that it can be hard when you are new here to know where to get started in finding your place. If this is where you find yourself, **Starting Point** is a perfect next step for you. Pastor Jake along with Jim and Jessica Carpenter, co-leaders, lead this gathering after weekend worship. Starting Point will meet **Saturday, December 8 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 am** at Faith Church in Room 10. Please sign-up by marking the Next Step on your Connect Card during worship or call the church office at 570-368-2459. Childcare through age 5 available with pre-registration by contacting Shannon Perrotta at sperrotta@faithum.net.

SERVE AND GO



Pastor Beth Jones
Associate Pastor of
Serve and Go
bjones@faithum.net
570-368-2459

THANKSGIVING BASKET THANK YOU

A very special thank you to all who donated food items, gift cards, and helped pack and deliver Thanksgiving baskets to families of the Montoursville Area Schools and a few local families. Baskets went out to 34 families and approximately 170 people. Everyone went above and beyond - great job Faith Church!! *Julie Vogel, Thanksgiving Basket Coordinator*



FAMILY PROMISE THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with Family Promise this month! It is through your generous donation of time that we can provide a safe, warm place for families needing a place to stay. Mark your calendars – our next Family Promise host week will be March 10-17, 2019.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVING

Stop by the tables in the Narthex/Lobby and sign up for: 3:00 pm, 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, or 9:00 pm to serve on the Hospitality team on Christmas Eve!!

2018 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each year here at Faith Church we seek to make a deep impact on an important ministry initiated through our Christmas offering. This year we wanted to continue to focus on an important part of our vision to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry. Faith church has opportunity to fulfill this vision here in Montoursville and beyond, and with this year's Christmas offering we seek to continue to touch people through hunger relief.

For 2018, our Christmas Eve offering will go to support two hunger initiatives:

- 1) Through your generosity, Faith UMC can become a sponsoring church of OUTREACH Inc. We will partner with this organization to bring a food packing event right here to our church where we will be able to pack thousands of nutritious meals that will reach those who suffer daily of food insecurity right here in our area. Volunteers work together in an assembly line to create meals from bulk ingredients. As a team, you will create meal bags that include 6 servings of nutritious protein-enriched meals. The meals will be distributed by food banks in your own community.
- 2) In partnership with First United Methodist Church, Muncy, and their covenant relationship with Weaver United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, West Africa, we will supply funds to begin a food program in an elementary school sponsored by this partner church in Bonthe, Sierra Leone. Our funds would help to create a much-needed food program to feed the school children of this church-sponsored school.

We are so excited to connect with these amazing hunger-related initiatives both here and abroad. We ask you to prayerfully consider your Christmas offering as we seek to bring world-wide hunger relief.

Wise
Men



Still
Seek
Him

CENTRAL PA FOOD BANK 2019 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 your small group up or to organize a group for the packing dates in 2018. Here are the dates: January 1 (NO PACKING), February 5 (OPEN), March 5 (OPEN), April 2 (OPEN), May 7 (OPEN), June 4 (OPEN), July 2 (OPEN), August 6 (OPEN), September 3 (OPEN), October 1 (OPEN), November 5 (OPEN), December 3 (OPEN). Contact Pastor Beth to sign your group up for a future packing date.

SERVANT CELEBRATION - SAVE THE DATE

There are literally hundreds of people who give of themselves in some way as a servant here at Faith church. From dusting the sanctuary to packing food to teaching Sunday school...we want to celebrate your ministry among us.

We are asking all those who are in some sort of servant role here at the church to save the date of Sunday, March 17 at 7:00 pm for a "Servant Celebration" where we will enjoy fun, food, and fellowship as well as a time of recognition and gratitude for all that is accomplished in the name of Jesus, week to week through this church. We will also be looking ahead as we lift up the vision of the church and dream about where God may be leading us as we seek to serve and continue to give of God's love in new ways.

Keep an eye out for bulletin announcements or the News and Notes email registration information. We look forward to seeing you there!

HARVEST OF HOPE FOOD BANK



Jerry Cartwright and Bill Druschel of the Harvest of Home Board gratefully accept a \$15,000 check from Montoursville American Legion Post 104 representatives. L to R: Jerry Cartwright-Harvest of Hope Board Member, Doug Rupert-Am. Legion Board Member, Tom Heap-Am. Legion Financial Officer, Andy Atwell-Am. Legion Board Member, Bill Druschel-Harvest of Hope Finance Chairperson. Many area families will benefit from our local veterans' generous donation to the Fresh Express and School Backpack programs of Faith Church.



We celebrate our new Community Partner Jersey Shore State Bank, who donated \$10,000 to the Harvest of Hope Food Bank! From Left to right, Sharon Atherholt, Pastor Jake, Garrett Sanner Regional President, Jane Zimmerer, Sue Harvey (Branch Manager Montoursville), Karen Young, President.



Pastor Dave Trostle and his wife, Soonseeah, dropping off 400 donated items from the Farragut and Fairfield UM Churches. Thanks to all our church partners who supply food for the backpack program on a monthly basis!



Livi Frey, daughter of Britany Frey, raised \$150 from her lemonade stand this summer and donated the proceeds to Harvest of Hope! Way to go Livi!!! (She is the girl on the right.)

Backpack Program Thank You

We want to thank all of our donors who allowed us to increase the number of students served by our backpack ministry by 20 and anticipate further increases in the new year, which would mean many more students in the Montoursville school district will be receiving needed weekend food each month!



FAITH CHURCH STAFF

Jake Waybright, Lead Pastor.....jwaybright@faithum.net
 Beth Jones, Associate Pastor of Serve and Go.....bjones@faithum.net
 Jane O'Borski, Associate Pastor of Care and Worship.....joborski@faithum.net
 Diane Dunlap, Office Administrator.....office@faithum.net
 Marion Handley, Director of Children's Ministriesmhandley@faithum.net
 Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faithum.net
 Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanistdndlindner@epix.net
 Jenna LoCricchio, Nursery Assistant.....jlocricchio@faithum.net
 Kristen Lowe, Director of Worship Media.....klowe@faithum.net
 David Miller, Facilities Managerdmiller@faithum.net
 Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
 Shannon Perrotta, Nursery/Childcare Coordinator.....sperrotta@faithum.net
 Lauren Reeder, Worship Leader.....lreeder@faithum.net
 Julie Vogel, Business Manager.....jvogel@faithum.net

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

Ben Meckbach - Chairperson
 Lisa Epright - Recorder
 Keith Atherholt
 Jim Carpenter
 David Dawes
 George Hinston
 Ed Pry
 Paula Robinson
 Christina Wright

CONNECT

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

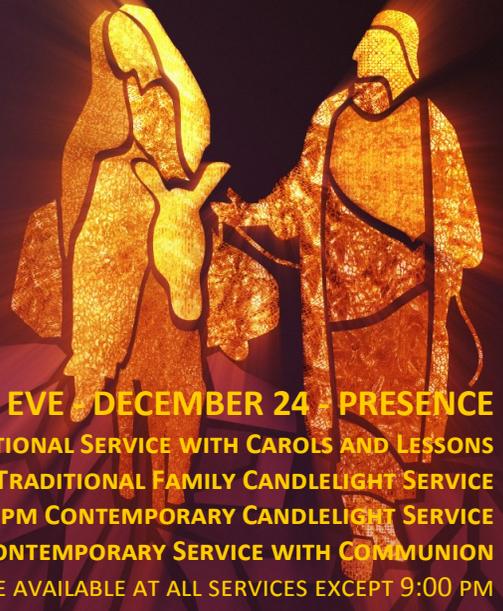
DECEMBER 1/2 - MARY OF NAZARETH

DECEMBER 15/16 - ELIZABETH IN JUDEA

DECEMBER 8/9 - JOSEPH OF BETHLEHEM

DECEMBER 22/23 - FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM

THE ROAD TO Bethlehem



CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 24 - PRESENCE

- 3:00 PM TRADITIONAL SERVICE WITH CAROLS AND LESSONS
 - 4:30 PM TRADITIONAL FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 - 7:00 PM CONTEMPORARY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 - 9:00 PM ACOUSTIC CONTEMPORARY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION
- * NURSERY CARE AVAILABLE AT ALL SERVICES EXCEPT 9:00 PM

Church Office Christmas Holiday Hours

The church office will close Monday, December 24 at noon and will re-open on Thursday, December 27. Merry Christmas to all!

2019 Offering Envelopes

The 2019 boxes of assigned offering envelopes are now available in Fellowship Hall. Please stop by and pick yours up before or after worship.

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

Life Line

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



DECEMBER 2018

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