

# LIFE LINE

MARCH 2018 Newsletter of Faith UMC

# FAITH STORIES

from the month of February



## NEW MEMBERS



Jamie Burns



Kate Carey



Gary Nyman



Joan Nyman



Jason Perry



EvieLyn Perry



Lillian McCulloch was Baptized when her mother, Jamie Burns, joined the church.



Some members of the team that went on a mission trip to Puerto Rico shared their stories. L to R - Eddie Rodriguez-Lopez, Maigrette Polanco-Albino and Christian Calehuff.



Faces of Grace (Youth Choir) sang at Saturday night worship. L to R - Megan Lowe, Kayla LeFever, Riley Nelson, Alexa Tira, Giana Lewis, Zoe Wise, Joey Watkins, Simon Ramsey.



Members of Staff went to the Central PA Food Bank and packed 400 boxes for Senior Citizens. L to R: Dave Miller, Julie Vogel, Marion Handley, Diane Dunlap, Jake Waybright, Rusty Wolfinger, Tony Sharp, Lisa Konkle, Jared Hetherington.



**PASTOR’S PEN**

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19a, NIV)

There are some seasons in life and ministry where God simply seems to be doing something new and unexpected. This was part of the realization of the disciples on Easter morning. If Jesus was raised from the dead, then God was up to something incredible and new in the world. There was a period of transition for the disciples as they slowly got their bearings. Eventually, this ‘new thing’ would usher the early disciples of Jesus to a fresh movement of God that exceeded their expectations.

We are in a season at Faith Church in which God is doing a new thing. Consider all that is happening in March. This month we are moving through transitions in our staff leadership, opening our new Children’s Wing, beginning renovations in the old Children’s Wing that will allow us to open a Food Bank and finish staff offices, and holding a Church Conference to approve moving ahead with parts of our Phase 2 construction. We do all of this while preparing to celebrate Easter as we remember our story and God’s story together in worship. As God does new things among us, like the disciples it may take us a while to get our bearings, but I am confident that God is up to something incredible and is preparing us for a fresh movement of God that will exceed all of our expectations.



**Jake Waybright**  
Lead Pastor  
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570-368-2459

**CHILDREN’S WING OPENING!!!**

Construction in the new Children’s Wing is nearing completion and we are expecting to gain occupancy in the first week of March. We have set the move dates for the Preschool and our weekend Kids Connection. The first day of Preschool classes in the new wing will be Wednesday March 14. Move-in weekend for Kids Connection will be March 17/18. See the Children’s page for more details about how you can help us with the move and Open House days for families to check out the new space. We also just confirmed that our Bishop, Jeremiah Park will be with us in May to preach and to consecrate the new wing!

**SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE TO APPROVE PLAN FOR PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION**

We will have a Church Conference on Monday, March 19 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary to approve the beginning of some pieces of phase 2 construction. Because of your generosity in the JOURNEY: Next Steps campaign we will have the ability to begin parts of the work on our multipurpose gym in 2018. The Church Council has proposed a plan that would allow us to move forward this year with the funds available. Come out to informational sessions after worship on Saturday, March 10 at 6:45 pm and Sunday, March 11 at 11:00 am. There you can ask questions and get updates on the progress towards our vision!

**STAFF LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS**

At the end of February and beginning of March we celebrated the ministry of Rusty Wolfinger as Associate Pastor and Tony Sharp as Worship Director as they move to new seasons of ministry (Pastor Rusty to Las Vegas and Tony Sharp to Tennessee). Joe Tokay will be stepping in as Interim Worship Leader beginning Sunday, March 11 and will lead us through the worship leader transition. We are working with our District Superintendent, Beth Jones, and Bishop Jeremiah Park on the appointment of our next Associate Pastor. Stay tuned for more updates and keep praying that we will see clearly the people God is calling to lead Faith Church in the next season of ministry.

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

Plan now to experience the full story and the full power of Easter by participating in our Holy Week services. Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 pm will be our Maundy Thursday service. We will share in Communion as we remember the last meal Jesus had with His disciples and His last words to them. Friday, March 30 at 7:00 pm we will hear the passion story and have time to reflect on the depth of love displayed on the cross on Good Friday. Experiencing the full drama of Holy Week will help you to experience the power of Easter!

**UNITED METHODIST CONNECTION**

**MARCH 10/11 SPECIAL OFFERING FOR UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR)**

UMCOR Weekend is right around the corner. On this weekend, United Methodist Churches around the world take a special offering to support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR provides immediate assistance in the wake of disasters and participates in ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. This annual offering completely funds the ongoing operations of UMCOR so that when a crisis happens, 100 percent of giving for that disaster goes to those in need. Read about how your giving changes lives in the U.S. and around the world at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).

**FAITH CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

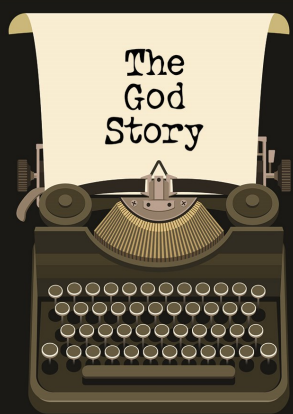
- Jake Waybright, Lead Pastor.....jwaybright@faithum.net
- Diane Dunlap, Office Administrator.....office@faithum.net
- Marion Handley, Director of Children’s Ministries .....mhandley@faithum.net
- Jared Hetherington, Dir. of Student Ministries .....jhetherington@faithum.net
- Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
- Joe Tokay, Interim Worship Leader.....joetokay@gmail.com
- 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



## SERMON SERIES



## GOD'S STORY AND OUR STORY

FEBRUARY 24/25	INTRODUCTION
MARCH 3/4	RIISING ACTION
MARCH 10/11	THE INCITING INCIDENT
MARCH 17/18	SOUNDTRACK
MARCH 24/25	WAITING FOR RESOLUTION
MAR 31/APRIL 1	TWIST ENDING (EASTER)



Just like the leaves  
on each shamrock I see,  
there are three parts  
to the Holy Trinity.  
First is God the Father,  
then Jesus, His only Son,  
and the Holy Spirit  
together as One.



To honor  
**Tony and Rebecca Sharp**  
and their children  
**Chip, Stephens, and Danner,**  
for their years of service to  
**Faith Church,**  
you are cordially invited to attend an

**Open House in Faith Café**  
**Sunday, March 4**  
**11:00 am**

*Light refreshments provided*



## THANK YOU FROM PASTOR RUSTY AND KELLIE

Kellie and I would like to thank Pastor Jake, the Church Council, and the staff and congregation of Faith United Methodist Church for the outpouring of love and encouragement that you have extended to us throughout the years and especially the past couple of weeks. God has continually poured out his blessings upon us throughout our time at Faith Church and we have never felt more loved than we have the past couple of weeks. Know that our hearts and prayers will always be with God's people at Faith Church! In God's service with ALL of you, *Pastor Rusty and Kellie*

Set your clocks ahead one hour  
before bed on March 10.



## SEEKING ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Faith UMC is seeking a part-time associate pastor to lead the congregational care and go teams as part of the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ who Connect, Grow, Serve, and Go. We are looking for someone who loves to work on a team, has a gift for equipping others to serve, and has a heart for people. For a job description and/or more information please contact Diane Dunlap in the church office at [office@faithumc.net](mailto:office@faithumc.net) or 570-368-2459.



Faith Preschool has enrolled in the Giant Rewards A+ program. Did you know this is an easy way we can earn money for our preschool? If you shop at Giant, you can link your bonus card to our preschool and a percentage of your purchase will help support our school. All you need to do is go to [www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus](http://www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus) and type in your last name, your bonus card number and our school code **40470** and you will be enrolled. Giant will take care of the rest! Thank you for your continued support and please share this with family and friends!



## FAITH PRESCHOOL 2018-2019 REGISTRATION

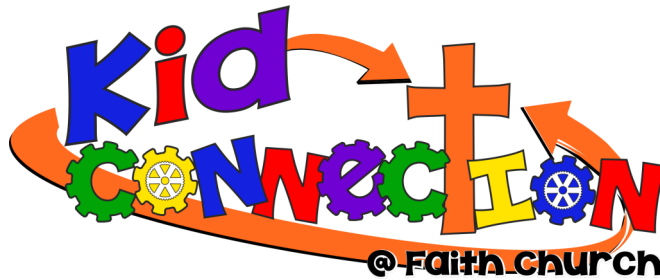
Open Enrollment is March 7, 2018 from 7:00-10:00 am! Currently enrolled Preschool families register in February and any new families will register in March. Copies of all forms will be available online and in the church office. Children must be age 3 and potty-trained by September 1, 2018 to participate in the 3 year old program. Children must be age 4 by September 1, 2018 to participate in the 4 year old program. Please call if you have any questions regarding fees or eligibility. (If paying in cash, please bring correct change and we cannot accept \$100 bills.)



## EASTER PLANTS

Orders for Easter plants will begin the weekend of March 10/11 and order forms will be in the bulletin. Flowers can be placed on the Altar in honor of or in memory of friends or loved ones. There is a choice of tulips or mums at \$8.00 each. **Payment is due with the order.** Please make checks payable to Faith UMC with flowers on the memo line. Deadline is March 25.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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

## KID CONNECTION CLASSES

**Sundays at 9:45 am**  
Nursery: 0-2: Room 21  
PreK4-K: Room 24  
Grades 2/3: Room 25

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

2s & 3s: Room 22  
Grade 1: Room 26  
Grades 4/5: Room 23



## CHILDREN'S WING OPENING!

### "MOVE IN" WEEKEND FOR KID CONNECTION

I am excited to announce that our "Move In" Weekend, our first weekend of Kid Connection in the new wing, is planned for March 17/18. I am amazed at what God has done through this congregation to get us to this place! As we move into our new space, we appreciate your flexibility and understanding. On "Move In" Weekend, there will be some renovations still ongoing and we will be gradually introducing our full security and check in systems with the expectation that by Fall 2018 we will be fully up and running.

### INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE MOVE?

During Praise Kids on March 7 and 14 from 4:00-5:00 pm, please consider helping to move items from our current Faith Preschool and Kid Connection rooms over to the new wing. This is a great opportunity to serve and you get a sneak peek at the new rooms!

### JOIN US FOR OUR CHILDREN'S WING OPEN HOUSE

We welcome you to join us Wednesday, March 14 from 5:00-6:00 pm or Saturday, March 17 from 8:30-10:00 am for Open House. Come walk through the new Children's Wing, find your child's new classroom, and pray over the rooms as we prepare for "Move In" Weekend in Kid Connection!



## KID CONNECTION SUNDAY SERVING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH-APRIL 2018

For more information, to join a serving team or if you've forgotten which team you're on, please contact Marion.)

March 4-Team 5	March 11-Team 6	March 18-Team #7
March 25-Team 8	April 1-Team 1	April 8-Team 2
April 15-Team 3	April 22-Team 4	April 29-Team 5

## 2018 SUMMER CAMPS/RETREATS - LISTED ONLINE

The Susquehanna Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries provides opportunities for authentic relationships with Jesus, experienced in community, and in the beauty of God's creation. To register your child(ren) and to see a list of all the opportunities check out [www.susumcamps.org](http://www.susumcamps.org)! To inquire about what scholarships may be available through Faith UMC, please contact Marion.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018-SUNDAY-THURSDAY, JUNE 24-28

Interested in serving on the planning team? Interested in serving during VBS week with music, drama, crafts, snack, or leading a group of kids? Please join us! Be on the lookout for additional information!

## ORANGE SPOTLIGHT

During March, our Kid Connection attenders will continue to explore the wonder of who God is and all that He has done for us. Preschoolers will remember that **Jesus wants to be my friend forever** and His offer of friendship extends to everyone everywhere! They will hear true stories from the Bible about people who chose to follow Jesus and to encourage others to follow Him as well. Meanwhile, our elementary age students will be learning about Peace. Elementary kids will discuss biblical examples of peacemakers and be reminded that Jesus died and rose again in order to make peace between us and God our Father. Peace is almost always costly. **Peace means proving you care more about each other than about winning an argument.** Our kids will look to Abraham, Abigail, and others in the Bible who chose peace. When we are focused on peace we will choose to honor the people around us whether we agree with them or not even if it costs us our pride or seems unfair. Jesus died for us not because we deserved it, but because He loved us enough to suffer on our behalf in order to reconcile us to Himself. Last month we learned that kindness is showing people they are valuable by how we treat them and our study of peace will also rely on the core belief that all people are created in God's image and valuable in His sight.

## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Easter Egg Hunt will take place Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 am, so please save this date! If you'd like to join in on the fun, please contact Marion Handley. We will need servants to assist with prep, set-up, clean-up, and during the event. Donations of plastic eggs, individually wrapped candies, small bags of treats such as pretzels and animal crackers, and granola bars are greatly appreciated! Collection bins will be in the Narthex/Lobby throughout March.





# STUDENT MINISTRIES



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.

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



3/7

SIX8

3/14

SIX8

3/21

SIX8

3/28

SIX8

3/2-4

WEEKEND AWAY

3/4

NO NINE12

3/11

NINE12

3/18

NINE12

3/25

NINE12

## 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 and Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life/Assimilation, lead this gathering after weekend worship for you to get an overview of what makes this place hum with life and some of the ways you might find your place. The informal conversation allows you to find out more about the church, ask questions, and make a personal connection. Starting Point is being offered Saturday, March 10 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, March 11 at 11:00 am at Faith Church in Room 10. Please join us! Registration is now available online at [www.faithum.net](http://www.faithum.net).

### NEED CHILDCARE FOR THESE CLASSES?

Please contact Shannon Perrotta at [sperrotta@faithum.net](mailto:sperrotta@faithum.net).

## ASSIMILATION FOLLOW-UP TEAM

Opportunities are available for YOU to be an active partner in the Assimilation Follow-up Team!! This team connects with attendees and guests when they take first steps and next steps, so that they can continue to grow into a thriving disciple of Jesus Christ. Specific training is provided. Team members must be regular attendees at Faith. Most interactions are via phone, or in person. Time commitment: based upon your availability. Connect with Deb for details!



Deb Ottenmiller  
Dir. of Group Life/Assimilation  
[dottenmiller@faithum.net](mailto:dottenmiller@faithum.net)  
Text-570-244-7002  
570-368-2459

## GROW



### MOMS CONNECT

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 15 at 6:30 pm in Room 10 at Faith. The topic this month is discipline for all ages. Contact Betsy Bjorkman at 814-933-8056 for details.

### NEW ELIJAH STUDY - LIVING SECURELY IN AN INSECURE WORLD

This eight week study will meet beginning March 7 at 6:30 pm at the Gray home. Cost is \$6.50. Contact Letty at 570-220-7674.

## THE FORGOTTEN POPULATIONS BOOK CLUB

The Forgotten Populations Book Club will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 29, when we will discuss *Breathing Room* by Marsha Hayles, the story of a young woman sent to an asylum with a fear-inducing infectious disease. The book is \$6. Please contact Mary Broussard at [broussm@lycoming.edu](mailto:broussm@lycoming.edu) if you would like to participate or have any questions.

## FYI

Beyond Boundaries Class is Cancelled for March/April.



## COMMUNITY GROUP LIFE - GET CONNECTED!

Friends, getting connected into Community Group Life can be as easy as 1—2— 3! Here is just one way to do that and if you need some help getting started, just let me know! ~Deb

- 1. Find People:** Identify three or more people in your circle of friends and acquaintances and ask them if they want to study the Bible together with you.
- 2. Meet Together:** Contact the people you have identified and ask them to join you for an informal breakfast, lunch, dinner or get-together. Don't be shy, they already like you! Talk about how it might look in your lives to meet on a regular basis (start out at once or twice a month) to experience life change OR how it might look for the next four-six weeks to gather for a short term test drive.
- 3. Commit to One Another:** At the end of your first gathering, set a date to begin.

SERVE AND GO

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: March 6 (Croll group), April 3 (United Churches), May 1 (Gray group), June 5 (Bair group), July 3 (OPEN), August 7 (OPEN), September 4 (Cartwright group), October 2 (OPEN), November 6 (OPEN), December 4 (Montoursville basketball-Mike Mussina). Contact the church office to organize or to sign up your group for one of the remaining open months.

2018 EASTER OFFERING

At Easter, Faith Church celebrates by impacting lives through a special offering above and beyond our normal gifts. As we remember the sacrificial love of Christ on the cross and the life-giving promise of the resurrection, we give sacrificially so that others might experience abundant life. This year's offering will focus on serving people in our community in two ways:

- 1. **Samaritan Fund at Faith Church:** Because of your generosity, Faith Church has always been able to help people out who come to us in crisis. Sometimes it is help to avoid eviction, or a down payment on a new apartment for a family moving out of homelessness, and many other small needs. After helping many families, our Samaritan Fund needs to be replenished so that we can continue to share the love of Jesus with those in need in our congregation and in our community.
- 2. **Seed Money for Faith Church Food Distribution Site:** This will provide start-up costs for our new partnership with Central PA Food Bank. This includes items like renovation and equipment.

Your gifts may be placed in the offering using the envelopes in each weekend's bulletins (make checks payable to Faith UMC with Easter Offering on the Memo line) beginning March 17/18 or use our online giving site at [www.faithum.net](http://www.faithum.net). Thank you for the privilege of serving and giving alongside you as we celebrate the greatest gift of all – Jesus Himself.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteers in Mission trip to Oak Hill, West Virginia will be October 7-13, 2018. Sign-ups and details will happen in early June. If you have any questions, speak with Jim and Dorothy Thomas or John McKissick.



FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEKS FOR 2018

Our first Family Promise host week is in the books. Thank you to those who served! Please mark your calendars for our remaining host weeks: April 22-29, August 5-12, and December 2-9. If you have any questions, please contact Marybeth Croll at [children777@comcast.net](mailto:children777@comcast.net).



Faith United Methodist Church

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Phone #: 570-368-2459

Email: [office@faithum.net](mailto:office@faithum.net)

Web: [www.faithum.net](http://www.faithum.net) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/faithmontoursville](https://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

MARCH 2018



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