



# LIFE LINE



## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UMC

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

### THE VIEW FROM HERE

#### The View From Here



Larry L. Leland  
Lead Pastor  
lleland@faithum.net

The old adage says, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." March seems to mark a season of change as we move (hopefully sooner rather than later) from Winter towards Spring. Our lives are filled with seasons of change – some we hope for and look forward to, some we don't expect and throw us off balance, and some we fear, not certain what they may lead to. But in every season of change – the one constant to which we can anchor our lives is the loving presence of God, guiding us each step of the way.

As we walk through the season of Lent, toward Easter, take the opportunity to draw closer to God in those parts of life that are giving you joy and the parts that are harder. Spend time in creation, seeing the renewing power of God. Spend time in scripture, reading again the story of God's amazing love. Spend time with friends and family, renewing and strengthening relationships. Spend time in prayer, listening as well as talking. As the March winds blow, hold on to the One who is holding on to you.

In Christ,  
PL

#### MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR



Join us for Pizza with the Pastor on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:15 am in Large Group Room 21. Whether you're new to Faith Church or have been connecting with us for some time and desire to know what we're about, we hope you will join us! You can Register with the church office at 570-368-2459.

#### SOUP & SCRIPTURE

Join sisters and brothers from the Montoursville Cluster for Soup and Scripture on Thursdays during Lent. We begin at noon with a light soup lunch, followed by a brief devotion led by a church leader from the community (location changes each week based on the following schedule).



- March 7, 2024 Farragut UMC
- March 14, 2024 Faith UMC Montoursville
- March 21, 2024 Wallis Run UMC

#### 2024 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- March 28<sup>th</sup> -Maundy Thursday Traditional Service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm
- March 29<sup>th</sup> -Good Friday Service of Tenebrae in the FCC at 7:00 pm
- March 31<sup>st</sup> -Easter Sunrise Service in the bell tower parking area at 6:30 am  
-followed by breakfast in Faith Café
- March 31<sup>st</sup> -Traditional Easter Service in the sanctuary at 8:15 am
- March 31<sup>st</sup> -Contemporary Easter Service in the FCC at 9:15 pm  
**Nursery available at 8:15 & 9:45 service-No Kid Connection**



#### 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
- Marion Handley, Director of Age-Level Ministries & Cong. Care .....mhandley@faithum.net
- Matthew Harris, Facilities Manager .....facilities@faithum.net
- Beth Jones, Director of Harvest of Hope.....harvestofhope@faithum.net
- Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faithum.net
- Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanist .....dndlindner@epix.net
- Kristen Lowe, Tech Director .....klowe@faithum.net
- Maureen McBride, Finance Secretary.....finance@faithum.net
- Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life & Assimilation.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
- Jessica Neiman, Director of Children's Ministries.....jneiman@faithum.net
- Mason Neiman, Director of Worship & Creative Arts.....mneiman@faithum.net
- Jody Robinson, Business Manager.....Finances - treasurer@faithum.net
- .....Office- office@faithum.net

#### FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

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

# FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES

FSM 6:8 - GRADES 6-8 - SUNDAYS FROM 4:00-6:00 PM  
FSM 9:12 - GRADES 9-12 - SUNDAYS FROM 5:30-7:30 PM

Hello Faith Church,

February has just flown by and I cannot believe it is March, a month that will bring a ton of activities for the students to get involved with. Before we get into all the cool things going on this month, I would like to do a February recap.

We started the month by making Valentine's Day cards for the residents at Wolf Run Senior Living Community. "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14) was certainly experienced as we used our hands and talents in making the cards to connect with them. This is going to be a routine community service project for FSM, so if you know of a loved one who may enjoy receiving a card now and then, please send me their contact information. We will make a connection with them.

We also finished up The New Play List lesson series. Middle school students learned about mindset and how they can renew the scripts that play in their minds. The new series we will be getting into is called "This Is Real Love" in which students will learn about what Jesus said and did to show us real love. Our high school group is still working through the letter to the Romans. This is continuing to be a challenging study as we apply what Apostle Paul wrote to the Church of Rome and how we should live it out today. Please pray for our students and leaders as we journey into these new lessons.

Now to the cool stuff in March: Winter Jam is here and, if you haven't had your 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders sign up, please do so as the bus seats are filling up fast. Youth don't have to be a Faith Church member or part of our youth group to attend. We plan on worshipping to some cool Christian musicians. This trip has always been an awesome experience for all who travel with us. If you are interested, please check out the FSM bulletin board for more information. Another fun thing you will find on the FSM bulletin board is our invite to Unite In Christ, which is a youth retreat at Wesley Forest. We will be joining First Church's youth group for three days of biblical lessons surrounding the Body of Christ. This is something the kids have been asking to do and I am happy to finally have a retreat for them. We would love to see more students joining us in uniting with Christ, so if you know of someone who may be interested, please let them know about this trip.

If you have any questions or interest in Faith Student Ministries, please reach out to me as I would love to talk to about it with you. We are always welcoming new students and leaders in this ministry.



Christian Calehuff  
FSM Team Leader  
fsm@faithum.net

3/03 -FSM lesson night

3/09 – Winter Jam

3/10 – Team Leader Meeting & FSM lesson night

3/15-3/17 Wesley Forest Youth Retreat

3/17 - TBD

3/24 – FSM Group community service for Easter Jam & community project

3/31 – Easter No FSM

FIRST CHURCH AND FAITH CHURCH  
INVITE YOU TO  
*Unite in Christ*  
SPRING  
YOUTH RETREAT  
FOR GRADES 6-12  
WESLEY FOREST  
March 15-17, 2024  
For details and to register:  
SCAN ME



Faith Church and First Church invite all 6-12th Graders to:  
**WINTER JAM**  
CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT  
BRYCE JORDAN CENTER  
STATE COLLEGE, PA  
TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FROM FAITH CHURCH  
SATURDAY,  
MARCH 9, 2024  
DEPARTING AT 3PM  
COST: \$15  
COLLECTED AT THE DOOR  
DETAILS:  
Arrive at Faith Church at 2:30 pm for a 3:00 pm departure. We will depart Bryce Jordan Center at 11:00 pm for 12:00 am arrival back at Faith.  
Limited seating available so get your registration completed as soon as possible!  
Donations are welcome to help with transportation costs.

## SUMMER CAMPS 2024

Registration is open for our 2024 UMC Summer Camps and Retreats! 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 or teen 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 Handley.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Jessica Neiman  
Dir. of Children's  
Ministries  
jneiman@faithum.net

## ORANGE SPOTLIGHT

Orange Spotlight: Kid Connection uses Orange Curriculum to partner with churches and families in creating community around a timeless message that mobilizes the next generation to love God and serve others.

**Preschool:** Jesus wants everyone on His team! Jesus wants everyone everywhere to follow Him (Matthew 9: 9-12 & Like 5:1-11) and be His friend forever. No matter what we can or can't do, what we have done (John 13:3-17), what we look like, or where we live (John 4:1-30), Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend...forever! And that kind of Good News (Matthew 26:28-10) makes us all want to say, "GO TEAM!"

**K-5th Grade:** CONNECTED! Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart (Romans 12:18). Even though people chose to break their relationship with God (Genesis 13:5-18), God made a way for relationship through Jesus (Matthew 21:1-11). And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others is a priority for us too (1 Samuel 25:1-35). That's why we're taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world (Luke 24:1-12, 36-49).

You are invited to Faith Church's Second Annual Easter Jam Event happening on Palm Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> directly after the 9:45 service. There will be a Kid Connection Art Exhibit, lunch, potting bench, and Egg Hunt! All are welcome to come celebrate the Great love of God through Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection!



Check out Facebook Faith Church Kid Connection for weekly videos for families during the Lenten Season, resources, announcements, and scheduling!

## KID CONNECTION SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Kid Connection is in desperate need of 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class Teachers! If 4 adults would commit to teaching every other Sunday, our student ministry would flourish! Do you have a child in this age group? Would you consider planting seeds? Please reach out to Jessica Neiman.

## KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2024-APRIL 2024

**Team 1:** Jenn Larson, Linda Lloyd, Lauren Reeder, Vanessa Johnston

**Team 2:** Ryan Tira, Amy Tucker, Kim Rakestraw, Stephanie Matlack

**Team 3:** Danielle or Matt Harris, Carrie Knapp, Cherie Wurster, Jamie Burns & Lilly

**Team 4:** Lisa Good, Tiffany Feigles, Taylor Stark, Kim Winters, Linda Richards

**Team 5:** Rachel/Chris Knipe, Tessa Little, Jenna LoCricchio, Erica Blake

**Team 6:** Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael, Brittany Ring

**Team 7:** Robyn Smelko, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach, Amber Bowes

**Team 8:** Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Pamela/Riley/Cameron Nelson, Rebecca McDaniel

3/03 Team 3  
3/10 Team 4  
3/17 Team 5  
3/24 Team 6  
3/31 Easter! No  
Kid Connection

## FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE MARCH 2024

3/03 Erica Yoder, Nicole Duarte

3/10 Katie Farley, Dottie Mathers

3/17 Joni Perchinski, Kelly Howell

3/24 Erica Yoder, Michelle Eckert

3/31 Erica Blake, Hillary Hofstrom

4/07 Team 7  
4/14 Team 8  
4/21 Team 1  
4/28 Team 2

Look for Spring Nursery Schedule Coming Soon!

## UPWARD DEVOTIONS

We are over halfway through the Upward Season! Thank you to all who have served to support this ministry that offers a fun filled experience of both basketball and faith conversation for 240 kids in our community. There are still three more Saturdays to show your support by cheering on the players or signing up to volunteer. If you've already been to a game, then you know that at every game we pause to talk about faith during halftime. We call these faithful pauses halftime devotions.

They are 3-5 minute devotionals shared in the gym by church staff and volunteers who profess lives changed by relationship with Christ. You don't need to be a practiced public speaker or even a sports fan in order to serve in this area. You can share from your testimony or adapt provided materials. Sign up using the QR code or contact Marion Handley at mhandley@faithum.net with questions.



## FAITH PRESCHOOL 2024-2025 REGISTRATION

Faith Preschool registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be online this year! It is scheduled for Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm. Visit the Preschool tab on the church website [www.faitum.net](http://www.faitum.net). There will be a link directing you to our online registration form. Children who are 3 by September 1, 2024 and fully potty trained are eligible for our 3 year old program and children who are 4 by September 1, 2024 and fully potty trained are eligible for our 4 year old program. Please share this information with anyone that has preschool aged children! You can also find out more information about our preschool program by visiting the website listed above. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please email the preschool director, Heather Ramsey, at [hramsey@faitum.net](mailto:hramsey@faitum.net).

## Faith Preschool Online Registration

700 Fairview Drive, Montoursville, PA  
Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00pm

Call 570-368-2491 for more information or visit the preschool tab at [www.faitum.net](http://www.faitum.net)

Need internet connection?  
Come to the parking lot at  
Faith Church. WiFi will be  
available on March 7<sup>th</sup>

This QR code will take you directly to  
the online registration form!  
There is also a link at [www.faitum.net](http://www.faitum.net)  
under the preschool tab.



2024-2025  
Registration is  
online only

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



**Marion Handley**  
Dir. of Age-Level  
Ministries and  
Congregational Care  
mhandley@faithum.net

Sometimes congregational care takes the shape of remembering together, through prayer and service, that God is good and His love is forever.

One of the incredible mysteries we embrace as people of faith is that the God of the universe knows us each by name and loves us with an everlasting, unfailing love. He already knows our every need but still invites us to pray. In the words of Thabiti Anyabwile, a pastor in Washington, DC, “But real prayer is an expression of love...Because in prayer we’re communing with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. We’re praying to the Father in the name of the Son through the Spirit. And in the act of prayer, we’re meant to enjoy them and to know them.” He also wrote, “Even when we can’t trace God’s hand, as the saying goes, we can trust his heart because we know God is good, and we’re grateful for his goodness.” Each one of us can draw close to God through prayer. In addition, as a community of faith we can help care for those around us by walking alongside those whose trust in His goodness is shaken by difficult circumstances. We are called to encourage one another and, as much as possible, to help one another see the God given good, beauty, truth, and light through the threatening darkness.

I am constantly encouraged as I hear about folks quietly and consistently caring for friends, neighbors, and folks within our congregation without fanfare simply because it is within their ability to help. In addition to the informal support we regularly offer one another, Faith Church has a congregational care team made up of church staff and incredible volunteers that exists to meet the needs of the congregation. Our Congregational Care Team serves by praying with and for you and those you love, mailing cards to folks recovering from illness or grieving losses, visiting with people in hospitals and nursing homes, delivering meals through Casserole Ministry, bringing home communion to our homebound members and more. Interested in serving our congregation as a member of the Congregational Care Team? We welcome new additions to the team! Contact mhandley@faithum.net or call the church office for more information.

## OUTREACH

### ***EASTER OFFERING 2024!***

Once again this year, we are excited to be generous with a world God dearly loves through our annual Easter offering. Here at Faith Church, we customarily split the offering, with half going toward local partners or projects, and the other half going to bless works beyond our local community. The local portion of our Easter offering this year will go towards renovation and repair of our playground. Our playground was built around twelve years ago via Easter offering funds as a means of blessing our community—and it has done that! We have all seen young families enjoying a safe place for their children to play. However, given its age, our playground is in need of some repairs and general freshen-up. This is a simple and tangible way to bless our community.

The second half of our Easter offering will go to support Appalachia Service Project. As you may know, we are partnering with ASP this July to help make homes in rural Appalachia warmer, safer, and drier. The second portion of the offering will go to cover sponsorships, transportation, building materials, and to support ASP’s work more broadly in the region. By God’s grace, may our generosity result in part of God’s good kingdom tangibly coming to earth!



**Mason Neiman**  
Director of Worship &  
Creative Arts  
mneiman@faithum.net

### ***STILL TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN ASP TRIP***



As you’ve probably heard, Faith Church is partnering with Appalachian Service Project (ASP) this summer (July 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>), and we’re busy getting the ball rolling! Starting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a series of informational meetings throughout the next few months as we hammer out logistics for the trip.

Just finding out and feeling late to the party? No worries—there’s still time to join! And whether you’re handy or not, if you’ve graduated 6<sup>th</sup> grade and, if you are an adult, have your national criminal background check, you are welcome to participate! This is a great opportunity to love our neighbors and enjoy Christian fellowship along the way! Reach out to Mason Neiman at mneiman@faithum.net.

### ***HABITAT TO RESUME BUILDING***

The Habitat hiatus has halted! On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Faith Church members and friends will be back in action at the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build site on Scott St. in Williamsport. The Faith Build is a home built with the labor, lumber, and love provided by area churches and faith communities. It is always a wonderful time of fellowship while contributing to neighbors in need. So whether you know a lick about building or not, consider yourself invited!

And if building is not your thing, but food is, you can always help provide lunches for the crew. If that interests you, free to reach out to Becky Stabley at (570) 368-1714 as she is kindly spearheading keeping everyone fed and watered.

Also, if you’d like to join the fun, but can’t in April, Faith Church has committed to volunteering the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month until the house is complete.

If you have any questions, email Mason Neiman at mneiman@faithum.net. Feel free to sign up on their website <https://www.lycominghabitat.org/> (and while you’re there, check out the good-looking work crew on their home page!).



## GROW/SERVE



Deb Ottenmiller  
Dir. of Group Life  
and Assimilation

### **MEMBERSHIP CLASS COMING IN MARCH!**

This one-day Membership Class experience will be Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00-6:00 pm in Room 10. We will explore together what membership looks like for a follower of Christ. Light refreshments will be available.

There are workbooks for each participant that we provide for you (a short and easy pre-read), with a little homework to do prior to our meeting. Workbooks are available at the Sign-Up Center in the Cafe area on Sundays, or through the church office during the week.

Please Register with the church office at 570-368-2459, or at any time by indicating on your Connect Card.

### **QUICK SHOTS: FAST ANSWERS TO HARD QUESTIONS**

Come join us every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, beginning March 12<sup>th</sup> in the Faith Student Ministry Room, as we tackle some of the questions that are hard to answer. Is there really evidence that God exists? Who created God? Did the resurrection really occur? Would a loving God send people to Hell? We will delve into these and many more every Tuesday for about 8 weeks. Each lesson is "stand alone"; so come to one or all. We welcome you into our gathering of men and women, both single and married. Hope to see you. For more information you can contact Larry Eckert, 412-996-5070.



### **COMMUNITY GROUPS MEETING AT AREA BUSINESSES, HOMES, AND ONLINE**

Are you seeking to join a group that is ongoing? Try one of these for a fit today!

Contact Keith Atherholt at 570-447-5292 if interested in the following groups:

Men's Tuesday Group meets 3:00-4:00 pm weekly via Zoom. Current study: Proverbs.

Men's Wednesday Group meets 6:00-7:00 am weekly in person, Picture Rocks area. Current study John in WordGo.

Contact Susie Gehr at 570-570-447-3353 if interested in the following group:

Women's Java Script Group meets Thursdays 6:30-7:30 am weekly at Wegmans. Current study: Isaiah.

### **FAITH WOMEN'S RETREAT: MARCH 2024**



Are you looking to rest, recharge, and laugh with fellow ladies of our church? If so, we invite you to join us at Wesley Forest for an overnight retreat on March 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. We will meet together Friday evening for a time of worship, games, and treats. On Saturday, we'll have breakfast together and enjoy a morning hearing the stories from some fellow women of Faith. Games, crafts, and more will be available for your choosing. Or, if you simply want to sit and chat with other women, that is wonderful too! Lunch will be provided and then we will head home in the early afternoon on Saturday.

If you are anything like us, it is hard to carve out space in the calendar to connect with others without feeling the pressure to rush off to the next thing; please consider making time for this overnight women's retreat, 7:00 pm Friday- 1:00 pm Saturday. The cost for retreat is \$35 and includes lodging for Friday night and two meals Saturday. Contact Rachel Knipe at [rmknipe@gmail.com](mailto:rmknipe@gmail.com).

### **WOMEN'S GATHERING**

The next Women's Gathering will be on March 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 am in Faith Café. All are welcome!

Please join us! While you're at it, plan to join us on the third Wednesday of every month.

Leaders: Michelle Eckert 724-309-5742 and Deb Rowles 570-337-1149.



### **FELLOWSHIP TEAM SERVING OPPORTUNITY**



Fellowship = Koinonia. The Greek word for 'holding something in common'.

What one facet of Fellowship looks like at Faith Church = an awesome time around the services to connect with those we know, and meet/ welcome guests over coffee.

This cannot happen without the faithful team who come in early to make coffee, serve snacks during and after worship, and stay to clean up afterward.

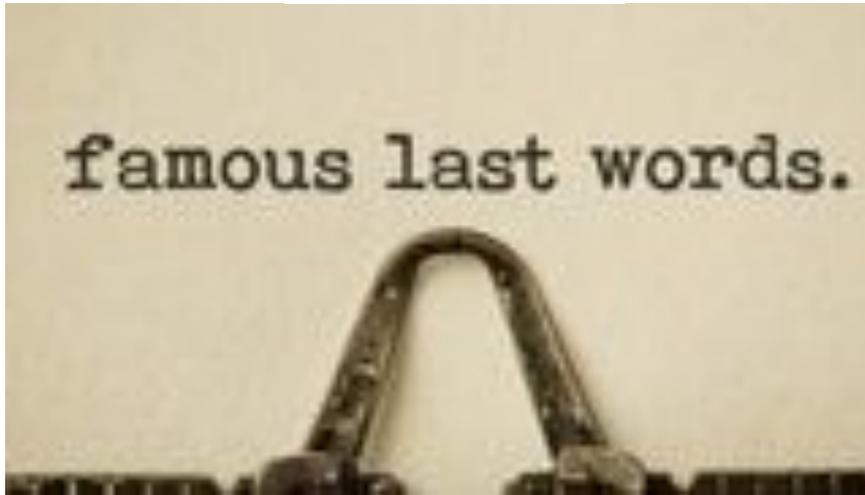
What is needed = YOU. Our Fellowship Team is missing vital people to serve on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. How do you sign up? Via the QR Code on the walls of Serving Opportunities, or Lisa Vrabc 570-419-8579.

### **YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY GROUP**

Faith Church Young Adults (FCYA) community group is coming soon! Details are still to be determined, but if you are a single young adult in the 18-30ish range, this group is intended as a space for you to find connection with God through His Word and with peers. Contact Marion Handley for information [mhandley@faithum.net](mailto:mhandley@faithum.net) or 570-478-0013 (talk or text).



NEW SERMON SERIES



Sermon Series on the Famous Last Words of Jesus

- March 03 - Why Have You Forsaken Me?
- March 10 - I Thirst
- March 17 - It Is Finished
- March 24 - Into Your Hands I Commend...
- March 31- Easter Sunrise

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

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

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

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

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

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MARCH 2024

Life Line

