



LIFE LINE

MAY 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

LOOK WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL!



Pizza with the Pastor



Habitat for Humanity Build Day



Praise Kids present "Danny & The Shacks"



FSM Skating Party at Trout Pond

THE VIEW FROM HERE



Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
lleland@faithum.net

The View From Here

In worship on April 21, I had the privilege of sharing with you the wonderful news that, as of July 1st, Marion Handley will be officially appointed to Faith Church as our Associate Pastor. Over the last several years, we have had the privilege of walking with Marion as our Director of Children’s Ministries and, more recently, as our Director of Congregational Care and Age-Level Ministries. Throughout this time, Marion has prayed through, talked through and walked through answering a call to pastoral ministry. That call has been affirmed by Church Council and the whole congregation at last year’s Charge Conference. It was also affirmed by our District Committee on Ministry, as they certified Marion as a candidate and paved the way for her to attend licensing school, which she completed the 2nd weekend of April.

While much of Marion’s role will continue in the areas of leading Faith Church’s Congregational Care Team and our work with children, youth and adults in becoming deeply devoted disciples, this new credentialing and role will also allow her to celebrate the sacraments with us, preach more regularly, and help provide leadership to our overarching mission as a congregation.

This church has a history of helping people hear and respond to God’s call in ways that have blessed individuals, us as a congregation, and the larger Church. We celebrate this moment for Marion, her family and Faith Church.

From a statement Marion shared at her meeting with our Conference Superintendents and Church Council, she said, “To those we have known for many years, we are thankful for your friendship and excited to see where God will lead us together in this next season. To those we have only recently met or have yet to meet, we look forward to this opportunity to know you and to be in ministry together and would like to introduce ourselves.”

In July, when Pastor Marion’s appointment becomes official, we will take the opportunity to celebrate in a special way. In the meantime, continue to pray for Marion, her family, and the ongoing ministry of Faith Church – as we seek to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus who are living into God’s kingdom.

In Christ,
Pastor Larry

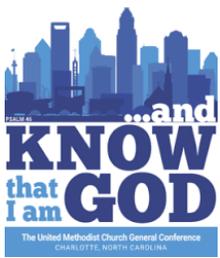
PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS 2024

On Sunday, May 19, the Church celebrates Pentecost Sunday – the remembrance of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first followers of Jesus and the “birthday” of the church. Here at Faith Church, our celebration will include baptism, confirmation and reception of new members. If you are interested in receiving the sacrament of baptism for yourself or a child, please contact Pastor Larry to arrange a conversation about that.



In addition, we encourage everyone to wear orange, yellow or red on Pentecost Sunday, as we remember that the Holy Spirit came upon those first disciples like tongues of fire!

After worship, join us for some special refreshments and take the time to welcome and celebrate with the newest members of our Faith Church family!



QUARTERLY CONVO

Pastor Larry and the Church Council invite you to our next Quarterly Conversation, held after each service on Sunday, May 26th. At this brief gathering, we will share some kingdom glimpses, updates from the first third of the year and opportunities to pray as we look ahead to the next season. In addition, Pastor Larry will share updates from the recent General Conference. After each service, we’ll gather in the back of the sanctuary.

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. Caremhandley@faithum.net
Matthew Harris, Facilities Managerfacilities@faithum.net
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Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faithum.net
Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanistdndlindner@epix.net
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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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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

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.

What's Happening in Kid Connection in May?

Preschool: This month is all about introducing preschoolers to God – the One who loves them with a love that lasts forever. When it comes to preschoolers and what they know about God, there are a few faith skills we want to make sure they have in their little red wagon. We want every child to know that they can hear from God, pray to God, talk about God to others, and live for God. We hope they will pull these faith skills around, wherever they go, for the rest of their lives. Then they can go with confidence because they have the faith skills needed for whatever comes their way.

K-4th Grade: Commitment is part of God's nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God's commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what, and God continues to invite us to live life with the Trinity! We then, reflect God's character when we make a plan and stick to it. This month, kids will discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus, as God continues to pursue us, we can pursue God! Join us in praying for our children-- that they hunger and thirst for God's righteousness, grow a desire to learn more about God through God's word, and ask questions that grow their faith as they discover a personal relationship with God, and share that love and friendship with others.

5th Grade: Our 5th graders are transitioning out of Kid Connection and now are joining the larger congregation during the beginning of the worship service! In the classroom on Sunday mornings, 5th grade students are diving deep into hands on Bible study with the help of The Bible Project. This is fueling discussions to help deepen and grow their relationship with the Trinity, one another, and encouraging their vital and unique role in contributing to the Kingdom of God now and for eternity!

KID CONNECTION SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Kid Connection is in desperate need for 4th grade Teachers! IF 2 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 MAY-JUNE 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

5/05 Team 3

5/12 Team 4

5/19 Team 5

5/26 Team 6

6/02 Team 7

6/09 Team 8

6/16 Team 1

6/23 Team 2

6/30 VBS Celebration

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE MAY-JUNE 2024

May 05: Ben Clark, Katie Farley

May 12: Erica Yoder, Erin Heap

May 19: Kelly Howell, Sub Needed

May 26: Hillary Hofstrom, Kitty Hofer

June 02: Ben Clark, Nicole Duarte

June 09: Katie Farley, Dottie Mathers

June 16: Sub Needed, Kelly Howell

June 23: Erica Yoder, Michelle Eckert

June 30: VBS Celebration-No Nursery

VBS 2024: START THE PARTY: CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS JUNE 23RD -27TH

We don't think it's just okay to have fun, We think it should be a priority. Why? Because people who follow Jesus have a lot to celebrate. Jesus gives us some amazing reasons to party. Friendship, belonging, forgiveness, life, purpose. That's why we believe the Gospel of Jesus is the ultimate good news. Our focus MEMORY VERSE: Acts: 2:28, Nlrv "You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."

We need CREW Leaders for each age group! Sign up as soon as possible and mark your calendars for VBS Training for Leaders on Sunday, June 9th or Saturday, June 15th. We need you to make it happen!

Registration is OPEN!



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



Christian Calehuff
FSM Team Leader
fsm@faithum.net

Hello Faith Church,

I am so grateful for this opportunity in ministry. Our team of leaders have been so good this season at FSM, and we have been blessed in so many ways. As our ministry is growing, we are encouraging students and adults to become more involved with Faith Student Ministry. Some of you may be asking how to do this? It's actually as easy as taking a small step and talking with one of our current leaders. We would love to hear from you and are always welcoming new folks to our Faith family.

Our middle schoolers will soon have a new group of students that will be eligible to attend FSM. Yes, these soon to be 6th graders need your encouragement. I am always amazed at the conversation we are having with these youngsters. Like, as we finish our current study series, One Step, where we are learning about how God's heart is for justice and how we can be making steps to expand His kingdom. Our next series, Every Day, is about growing in faith through four faith skills. We are having conversation around what is real to middle schoolers and how to biblically live these situations out. I feel these talks are so vital for our youth and the next generation of Christian leaders.

Our high school group continues to read the book of Romans, where we are having deeper talks about our Christian life. Our leadership team is very diverse in age and therefore we can explain and create conversations on how to study and live out our faith. It also creates a place of reflection, and I am so amazed with our student's biblical knowledge within these talks. Our fellowship time together is so wonderful too! It is just amazing how God is at work.

This summer we will have more to offer our students. We are creating more times to be together in study and fellowship and also offering opportunities to serve within our community. FSM wants to maintain our unity and continue to build momentum. Look for our summer schedule and encourage our youth to be part of FSM. This offer is not just for the youth of our church, it is for the adults of all ages in the church too! It is just great to be part of this ministry and it's my hope that we will be having some new folks join us.

May
Schedule

May 05 –Lesson
May 12 - No FSM
May 19 - Lesson
May 26 - No FSM



OUTREACH



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

May is Foster Care Awareness Month. To celebrate, Dwell Orphan Care is hosting their Hope Chest collection! Twice a year, Dwell partners with churches and groups to provide items to support kiddos and families in adoptive and foster care situations—and Faith Church is excited to participate. During the month of May, Faith Church is tasked with collecting flashlights for kids. When you're shopping this month, throw one or nine in your cart and drop it in the bins at each church entrance to love children in need and the families who support them. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mason Neiman at mneiman@faithum.net.



WE'RE COLLECTING

New flashlights for
children

FOR DWELL'S HOPE
CHEST FOSTER CLOSET

in honor of
Foster Care Awareness
Month this May!

Learn more about Dwell at
WWW.DWELLORPHANCARE.ORG or
contact Emily@dwellorphan.org.

MISSION CENTRAL COLLECTION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE



In mission with United Methodists around the Susquehanna Conference, we are collecting items to be used for Care Kits which will be assembled during this year's Annual Conference, to be distributed through Mission Central.

Please drop donations of NEW nail clippers, metal nail files or combs off in the baskets in the narthex any time before May 29th.



FAMILY PROMISE WEEK MAY 5TH -11TH



This May we have the opportunity to bless area families experiencing homelessness through our partner Family Promise. During the week of May 5-11, we will bless struggling families by providing meals. During this window, individuals, families, and small groups can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code. If you have any questions or want more information, check your bulletin or feel free to reach out to Darci Kirby at darcikirby619@gmail.com.



GROW/SERVE



Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group
Life
and Assimilation
dottenmiller@
faithum.net

MEMBERSHIP CLASS COMING IN MAY!

This one-day Membership Class experience will be Sunday, May 5th 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 at the Sign-Up Center, with the church office at 570-368-2459, or at any time by indicating on your Connect Card. Direct any questions to Deb Ottenmiller at dottenmiller@faithum.net.

WOMEN'S GATHERING MAY 15TH

The next Women's Gathering will be on May 15th beginning at 10:00 am in Faith Café. All are welcome! Please join us! Leaders: Michelle Eckert 724-309-5742 and Deb Rowles 570-337-1149.



Dudes and Foods July 20th

Are you a dude? Do you like food? Well do we have a combo for you! On Saturday, July 20th from 8:00-9:30 am, all men are welcome to the church for a hearty breakfast with the guys—and to support one another as we are able. There will be no tomahawk or axe-throwing this time but stay tuned!



If you dig it, there will be opportunities to check out or join other men's groups as well. We hope to see you there! (beards optional) Please register at the Sign-Up Center so we know how much to make. Event Sponsored by Faith Church Group Life. Questions? Contact Deb @ dottenmiller@faithum.net.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY: IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY

Ladies, I [Deb Ottenmiller, Group Life Director] plan to journey through Lysa Terkeurst's book "It's Not Supposed To Be This Way", over the summer. If you have interest in joining me, please let me know by the end of May. How would that look?



A. You would need to pick up the book which you can find on Amazon or other online sources. Pre-read the assigned number of chapters and discussion questions before each session we meet. As you read, write down any thoughts or questions you want to share in discussion. I will provide you a journal when you sign up.

B. We would meet at Faith Church to discuss multiple chapters each month. The meeting dates are June 17th [Chapters 1-4], July 15th [Chapters 5-8], August 19th [Chapters 9-11]. Two session times are available each of those days, either 10:00 am-11:30 am, or 3:00 pm-4:30 pm. Both times will be the same content. I am also considering a 7:00 pm Zoom option each of those days if I have enough participants.

C. Sign Up at the Sign-Up Center with your contact information, and the timeframe that works best for you. You can switch between the times, but I would like an idea of participants, so choose one for now. Any questions? Contact me at dottenmiller@faithum.net or through the church office at 570-368-2459.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



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

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

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

Just as the early church met immediate needs around them day by day, our daily lives are filled with opportunities to care. I continually pray God will give each of us the eyes to see the needs of others and compassion and wisdom to meet those needs. Some days we'll meet the need by throwing a party and some days by quietly holding a hand. We'll celebrate births, weddings, graduations, job transitions, new skills gained, those first unassisted steps across a room after a debilitating fall, and other moments that makes us smile. We'll also walk together through physical injuries, deep losses, mental health struggles, divorces and more. As we journey we will have so many opportunities to support one another.

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? Contact mhandley@faithum.net or call the church office for more information.

Blessings,
Marion Handley

NEW SERMON SERIES



May 19—Pentecost and Confirmation
Celebrating Confirmation, New Members
and Baptisms



New Series Beginning May 26th

May 26 - Jesus is a Good Reason to Party
June 02 - Everyone is Invited to the Party
June 09 - Celebrate the Good News
June 16 - Jesus is the Life of the Party
June 23 - You Can Be a Party Starter
June 30- VBS Celebration: One Combined Service at 10:00 am

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! To inquire about what scholarships may be available through Faith UMC, please contact Marion Handley.



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/faithmontourville

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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May 2024

Life Line

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