



LIFE LINE



NOVEMBER 2023 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 OCTOBER!

Kids Having Fun in Kid Connection



Quite a crew turned up for the Fresh Express Volunteer gathering!



Women's Group studying *The Women of the Bible Speak*. Don't they look like a fun group?

New Members



Jane Fogel



William Giles



Tara Gundrum



Crystal Hood

FAITH CHURCH STAFF

Larry L. Leland, Lead Pastor.....lleland@faithum.net
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 Jody Robinson, Business Manager.....Finances - treasurer@faithum.net
Office - office@faithum.net

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

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

THE VIEW FROM HERE



Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
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In March of 2020, as the world shut down due to the COVID pandemic, I began a practice of beginning each day with praise and ending each day with gratitude. In a chaotic season where the three people in our household were trying to attend sixth grade, teach fourth grade, and oversee 75 pastors and 115 churches – all while preparing to move to Montoursville and begin our ministry here, I knew that my own struggles with anxiety and depression were going to be heightened.

I knew that, with so much uncertainty and so much beyond my control, one thing I could do was to choose to find something to praise God for and something to thank God for each day. It was a spiritual practice or discipline for me that I hoped would shape my heart toward joy and hope, rather than fear and despair. And so I posted my praise and my gratitude on Facebook (because I'm such a social media influencer!). Some days it was easy to find fodder for the thankful posts. Other days, the thing for which I was most thankful was that the day was over.

Now, three and a half years later, I'm still engaging the practice. The pandemic has passed. It's usually much easier to find things to be grateful for at the end of each day. There are still rough days (and weeks, and maybe even a month or two), but the intentional practices of finding a point of praise and a place of thanksgiving each day helps even them out.

In November, we tend to focus a great deal on thanksgiving. I'm OK with that – my favorite meal is the full Thanksgiving spread we share with our families each year, especially the stuffing! I want to encourage each of us, though, to develop a daily practice of gratitude. This isn't about ignoring the hard things in life (I voice those quite a bit myself), or putting on a happy face (I often display resting grump face myself). It's about seeking out those glimpses of God's goodness both on those days when it seems too many to count, and on those days when it takes you fifteen minutes to think of one.

How will you develop the discipline of gratitude this month, and beyond?

In Christ,
PL

P.S. Have I told you lately how thankful I am for the gift of being your pastor? It's often messy, sometimes hard, but always good!



ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday, November 5, Faith Church will celebrate All Saints Day. We will take an opportunity to give thanks for ALL those who have gone before us in the faith over the past year from our congregation. Please join us for this very special time of remembering *Theodora Harner, Jeanette Kester, Esther Taylor, Katie Bigelow, Della Wacker, Charles Follmer, George Button, Donald Painton, James Hofer, Betty Unger, Evelyn Neiderer, and Carl and Donna Ney.*

DECK THE HALLS

- **What:** A Church-Wide gathering to spruce up and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We'll provide some snacks, festive music, and a lot of fun tasks to accomplish together.
- **When:** Sunday, November 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Who:** Everyone is invited, from the youngest among us to the oldest.
- **Where:** All over. We'll decorate the sanctuary, FCC, and Faith Café. We'll also do some cleaning and clearing in our Children's Wing, Student Ministries Room and wherever we can.
- **Why:** Advent is a season of preparation. Coming together to deck the halls can set our spirits on that journey toward Christmas, and the joy of receiving Christ anew. It is also a great reminder that, during the month of December, we have more guests come through Faith Church than any other time throughout the year. And just like at home, when we are welcoming guests, we spruce the place up to be as inviting as possible.

Sign up on your Connect Card in November or reach out to Pastor Larry at lleland@faithum.net if you have any questions!

TIME CHANGE - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION MEETING

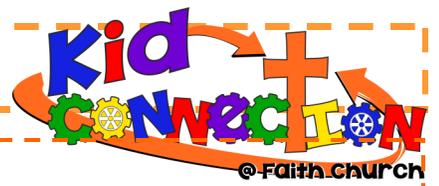
Confirmation, an experience including classes, mentoring and exploring faith, is right around the corner for students who are in 7th grade and up. We will be starting classes in January, but we will be having an orientation meeting for students and parents on December 3 at 11:00 am - location TBD. If you plan on being a part of Confirmation or are interested and want to learn more about the process, please email Pastor Larry at lleland@faithum.net to RSVP for the orientation meeting.

STAFF OPENING FOR FACILITIES MANAGER

As I shared last month, Dave Miller will be leaving as our Facilities Manager by the end of the year. Church Council is now receiving applications for the person who will step into that role for this new season. For a job description, and to submit your application for this position, please e-mail Pastor Larry at lleland@faithum.net.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Jessica Neiman
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ORANGE SPOTLIGHT

November in Kid Connection we are talking about GRATITUDE! Gratitude sometimes feels like a lost art. Yet gratitude is an idea close to God's heart. Think about all of the Bible stories where people gave thanks to God. The Israelites celebrated God with feasts and festivals. The writers of the Psalms wrote songs of praise to thank God for being faithful. Throughout this month, we hope kids will learn to be grateful for everything God has done: for the world God made, for the promises God has kept, and for the new life God offers the world through Jesus. When we remember all of these things, we can always be thankful.

KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

Team 1: Jenn Larson, Linda Lloyd, Lauren Reeder, Vanessa Johnston	11/05	Team 3
Team 2: Ryan Tira, Amy Tucker, Kim Rakestraw, Stephanie Matlack	11/12	Team 4
Team 3: Danielle or Matt Harris, Carrie Knapp, Cherie Wurster, Jamie Burns & Lilly	11/19	Team 5
Team 4: Lisa Good, Tiffany Feigles, Taylor Stark, Kim Winters	11/26	Team 6
Team 5: Rachel/Chris Knipe, Tessa Little, Jenna LoCricchio, Erica Blake	12/03	Team 7
Team 6: Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael, Brittany Ring	12/10	Team 8
Team 7: Crystal Miller, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach	12/17	Team 1
Team 8: Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Pamela/Riley/Cameron Nelson, Rebecca McDaniel	12/24	TBD
	12/31	TBD

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

11/05-Katie Farley, Dottie Mathers 11/12-Kitty Hofer, Ben Clark 11/19-Joni Perchinski, Erica Blake 11/26 - Erica Yoder

KID CONNECTION SERVING OPPORTUNITY

We rely on your participation in the serving rotation to provide safe and fun environments for our kids in their Christian spiritual formation! If your child is attending Nursery or Kid Connection and you are not currently a member of the serving rotation, please consider signing up to serve. In addition, if your child recently graduated out of Kid Connection into FSM please consider whether you might be willing to continue serving periodically either on your own or with your middle schooler assisting. We LOVE when our teens step into serving! Please contact Jessica with questions.

Thanksgiving

WORD SEARCH



The 2024 Upward Basketball Season is around the corner. **Player registration is open now through November 6**, or when the league is full. To register a player, follow this link: <https://registration.upward.org/UPW85307>

As Northway Community Church has decided to focus their energies in different directions this coming year, Faith Church will now be the sole host for this season. In hopes of welcoming 250 students and their families for the season this year, we will need coaches, referees, timekeepers, concession stand workers and other volunteers to make this happen. Barb Leland will be graciously serving as our League Director, so any questions can be directed to her e-mail at blleland31@gmail.com.

If you are interested in serving this season, scan the QR code and fill out the form. Choose coach if you want to be a coach or assistant coach. Choose referee if you want to help in any other way and we can then change it in the system. Then, under notes, simply type the role you'd like to volunteer for.



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!

What a month we just had, so much to be thankful for and celebrate. Our ministry finished the three-week series on comparison and how that can steal everything. We learned that God does not compare us to others, and we should celebrate rather than comparing ourselves.

We started a new series on navigating the bible. In this, we will be exploring and studying what the bible is, how we should use it, and what it means for our life. Our hope is making disciples of Jesus Christ, and this is just one part of making His Kingdom come.

This past month we had a gathering at Snyder's Corn Maze and had almost 40 kids participate in that community group activity. It was so nice to see all the student running around, laughing and having a good time.

In the month of November, we will be starting a series on Jesus and His Good News. We also will be having some free time to just have some fun together and help with some needs around the Church.

It is always nice to reflect each month on what FSM is, does and will be doing.

It is because of all the support we receive from the church, we can have a ministry that includes our youth. I want to say thank you ALL for your donations of your time, talents and treasures, it is so appreciated!



Christian Calehuff
FSM Team Leader
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November 5
Lesson Night

November 12
Lesson Night

November 19
Lesson Night
New Series

Combined
Fellowship Time
Open Gym & Movie

November 26
NO FSM

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERIES

FOR ALL PEOPLE

A 3-week series about the good news of Christmas

- God Is with Us
- Jesus Is for All People
- You're Invited



HIGH SCHOOL SERIES

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

A 3-week series about Jesus becoming flesh and walking among us.

- Let It Glow
- God Is with Us
- Go See for Yourself



CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Marion Handley
Dir. of Age-Level Ministries
and Cong. Care
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CONGREGATIONAL CARE INVITATION

Our calling as Christians is to care for those around us, serving as an overflow of our love for our Lord. As we look around, we'll see many opportunities for serving within our congregation and in our larger community. We may even find, as we look around, that there is need in our own lives. Whether you are a lifetime attender of many decades or visiting us as you look for a church to call home, I invite you to share your needs with our team. 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. It is our joy and privilege to walk with you through your celebrations, challenges, and transitions. Confidential prayer is always available. I encourage you to let us know how we can help. The simplest way to share your need with us is using the Connect Card in your weekly bulletin, but you may also call the church office or email.

Interested in serving our congregation as a member of the Congregational Care Team? We welcome new additions to the team! The next team meeting is December 17 following the 9:45 worship service. Contact Marion or call the church office for more information.



GROW/SERVE



Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group Life
and Assimilation
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Join us for Pizza with the Pastor on Sunday, November 5 at 11:15 am in Large Group Room 21 (Children's Wing). 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! Please take a moment to register today at <https://faithumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1932836>

BAPTISM ON NOVEMBER 12

Interested in baptism for yourself or your children? Please contact the church office at office@faithum.net or 570-368-2459 to set up a time to meet with Pastor Larry prior to the 12th.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

PEW SISTERS. Real women. Real lives. Real faith stories. Every woman in the pew has a story of God's faithfulness. We share the same faith, eat at the same table and inherit the same paradise. Join us on Wednesday, November 15 at 10:00 am in Faith Café and every third Wednesday of the month going forward.

FAITH LADIES RETREAT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A few months ago, Kristin Lowe and I were sitting in my car, chatting about how we were longing for some deeper connections with others at church. Sundays are sometimes a hard time to establish new connections; with busy schedules and what life might throw at us in a given week, adding in the time needed for more genuine and authentic relationships can be hard. And while we do see familiar faces and smiles on Sundays, there are many women we would love to get to know without the constraints of time before and after services. Do you ever feel this way?

We got to thinking: Why not carve out some intentional time for us to be together, play games, eat food, and worship in pjs or sweatpants?! Consider joining us for what we hope and pray will be the first of many Faith women's retreats. We have reserved Wesley Forest Camp and Retreat Center for March 22-23, 2024. We will join together Friday night after dinner and then head back home on Saturday after lunch. Women of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to attend. More information will be coming your way in the months ahead, but for now, save the date! Reach out to Kristin Lowe or Rachel Knipe for additional details, or if you have ideas for the retreat.

OUTREACH



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FAITH BUILD

On November 11, Faith Church members and friends will once again be swinging hammers at the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build site on Scott St. in Williamsport. The Faith Build is a home built with labor, lumber, and love provided by area churches and faith communities. So whether you know a lick about construction or not, you are

invited to join a time of joyful service together.

And if building's not your thing, but food is, well do we have an opportunity for you! Becky Stabley is kindly coordinating providing lunches for our volunteers, so if you're game to provide some sustenance, feel free to reach out to her at (570) 368-1714. The more the merrier! This project is an extended opportunity to put our faith into action and love our neighbors well, enjoying wonderful fellowship at the same time. If you have any questions, email Mason.



Mason Neiman
Director of Worship &
Creative Arts
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DWELL ORPHAN CARE HOPE CHEST COLLECTION

November is National Adoption 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/foster care situations. Throughout the month of November, Faith Church is tasked with collecting *scent-free Face Wash*. When you're shopping this month, throw an extra one in your cart and drop it in a bin at a church entrance to love area children in need and the families who support them. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mason.

WE'RE COLLECTING

New Face Wash
(scent free please)

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

This month, we will be collecting food and monetary donations to pack Thanksgiving Baskets for neighbors in need. Food donations can be dropped off in the Narthex/Lobby through Thursday, November 16. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office throughout the month.

Extra hands are needed to pack and deliver the baskets on Sunday, November 19. We will begin packing right after the 9:45 worship service and will begin delivery shortly thereafter. Please sign-up to help pack and deliver via the Connect Card in Sunday bulletins. This is a great opportunity to love our neighbors well!

ITEMS NEEDED: **Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans, Canned Cranberry Sauce, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Boxed Stuffing Mix, Boxed Hot Chocolate, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Boxed Cake or Brownie Mixes & Frosting, and \$20-25-Weis Gift Cards to purchase Turkeys and Dessert Pies.**



NEW SERMON SERIES

A CHURCHWIDE STUDY STARTING NOV 5TH

PAPER WALLS

There's a fine line between a reason and an excuse.
It's time to abandon the excuses.

November 05 - *Because*

Hebrews 12:1-2

Whether fueled by fear, insecurity, or a past event, many of us construct a paper wall of excuses that holds us back.

November 12 - *Not Buying It*

Matthew 25:14-30

It's true that God loves you just the way you are, but he loves you too much to leave you that way.

November 19 - *Free to See*

John 8:12, 31-34, 36, 59

If you won't admit you're wrong, you'll be wrong your entire life.

November 26 - *The Way Through*

2 Corinthians 5:11-20

Five steps to punching through your paper walls. Identify them. Interrogate them. Re-label them.

Ask, "What do I lose if I continue to excuse?"

Tell somebody.

SHEEP STUFF



PRAISE KIDS CHRISTMAS MUSICAL-SHEEP STUFF

- Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 pm in the Faith Community Center - All are welcome!
- Dinner following in Faith Café - bring a dish to share - chicken and tableware provided
- Please sign-up for the dinner on your Connect Card, beginning soon!

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)

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EMAIL: office@faithum.net

WEB: www.faihum.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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