

© LIFE LINE



OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UMC FAITH STORIES FROM SEPTEMBER

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS





There were 10 Baptisms at Faith weekend of September 15/16!



PASTOR'S PEN

This has been an amazing year. So far this year we have baptized more people than in 2018. (It was awesome in September to see 10 people come for baptism in one weekend.) We have helped more children to experience the love of Jesus as our Kid Connection has grown by almost 10% and our Vacation Bible School grew by 25%. We have had more people make first time professions of faith as adults (20 so far) than we did last year.

I love talking with people about how their lives are being changed as they take their next steps in becoming a deeply devoted disciple of Jesus. God is at work in powerful ways and sometimes we just need to celebrate. In that vein, I've been thinking a lot about where we were a year ago and where we are today. It's amazing to consider.



Jake Waybright **Lead Pastor** iwavbright@faithum.net 570-368-2459



Blessings of Faith Community Center on Sunday, September 23, 2018.

A Year Ago:

- Only the foundations and steel girders were in place for the Children's Wing and Community Center (gym and worship center)
- We were creating a mosaic of our logo as we celebrated that each of us had a part in the mission of our church and we were Better
 - We were starting the JOURNEY: Next Steps Capital Campaign, unsure of what would happen.
 - We were dreaming about a space that could be a launchpad to fight hunger in our community.

Today:

- We have more space to invite more people to follow Jesus.
- Our children have a welcoming new kids environment to experience the love of Jesus and the number of children in Kid Connection has grown by about 10%.
- We had a successful Capital Campaign, with 1.2 million dollars pledged.
- Our students are using their new Student Ministries room and the Community Center for sports and activities and we have blessed it in worship for all the people who will be touched in it.
- Our music ministry has a dedicated choir room and our staff have dedicated offices.
- Our Harvest of Hope Food Bank is open for business and the first backpack food to 60 Montoursville School students went out to the schools.
- We have 40 additional parking spaces to make room for new people!



First Backpack Program packing event was on September 20, 2018.

A Year from Now:

- We will be completing the stage and equipment in our community center to have more space for more people in our contemporary worship services. (Work to begin summer 2019)
- We will have completed a sanctuary refresh.
- We will have shared our food and built relationships with hundreds of our neighbors who we did not know before.
- We will have more and more stories of the people who are choosing to follow Jesus and the children who are blessed in his name.
- We will continue to see God work things more than we can dream or imagine as we are a living mosaic of God's love in Jesus Christ and as we help people get a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Grateful to be on this journey with you, Jake Waybright



Is This Chuck?

Our Facilities Manager, David Miller, has been diligently setting traps to catch Chuck, our church chipmunk. Why are we asking if this is Chuck? Well, this is the fifth chipmunk Dave has caught! We aren't sure if it's Mr. Chuck, Mrs. Chuck, their son or daughter, or maybe even it's a niece or nephew. We just don't know.

Please be assured that whoever it is, he/she has been safely relocated to the outskirts of town, as were all the others that were caught.

How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24 (NIV)

UNITED METHODIST CONNECTION

NEW METHODIST CHURCH FORMALLY LAUNCHED IN CAMBODIA



By Elliott Wright*

The Methodist Church of Cambodia officially came into being in early September at a conference in Phnom Penh. It has 140 congregations, 11 districts, 132 clergypersons, 3,171 full members and average Sunday worship attendance of 6,828.

"This new church is the culmination of many years of collaborative work among five mission agencies, their missionaries and the work of indigenous leaders," said Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster (retired), the United Methodist bishop assigned to the Cambodia Mission. He represented the denomination at the September 4-7 conference.

The Rev. Lun Sophy, a pastor of two churches at Siem Reap, a city near the ancient temples at Angkor Wat, was elected president of the new church, officially and originally in Methodist parlance called a "provisional annual conference," but expected to be autonomous or self-governing.

"We celebrate the movement of God's spirit in Cambodia," Goodpaster said in an interview after his return from Southeast Asia. "We also celebrate mission partnership. Collaboration is the way to do mission in the 21st century."

Late in the previous century, five mission agencies began to discuss the value of combining their separate outreach efforts in Cambodia, a country then still recovering from oppression and tyranny of the Khmer Rouge. The five are United Methodist Global Ministries, the Korean Methodist Church, the Methodist Church in Singapore, the World Federation of Chinese Methodist Churches and Connexio, the mission agency of United Methodists in France and Switzerland.

"Inauguration of the Methodist Church in Cambodia is an important event in our mission history, coming just at the start of our celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of what is now the General Board of Global Ministries," said Thomas Kemper, chief executive of the United Methodist agency.

The five produced a Cambodian hymnal together in 2001. Two years later, under the rubric of "mission initiative," they began collaborating in evangelism and church growth, missionary placements and leadership development, with strong emphasis on preparation of indigenous leaders, pastors and laity. They announced their intention to work toward one autonomous Cambodian Methodist Church.

Evangelism and new church development are high priorities. Plans are underway to extend the Methodist Church into the five (out of 25) Cambodian provinces where it is not currently present. The first Methodist church in Mondulkiri province, population 60,811, is now being built.

While the new church is Cambodian led, the five original sponsoring agencies will continue to supply some support and missionary personnel, according to Kemper. Global Ministries at present has seven missionaries in the country engaged in a range of ministries, including rural economic development.

Formal inauguration took place in a service of worship in Methodist tradition and with indigenous music, the usual practice in Cambodian Sunday services. Bishop Chong Chin Chung of Singapore presided at the service recognizing the provisional annual conference.

*Elliott Wright is a communications consultant to Global Ministries. The Rev. Myungim Kim, Asia area liaison of Global Ministries, contributed to this article.

DISASTER IN THE US

When responding to a disaster in the United States, such as Hurricanes Florence and Helene and TS Isaac, UMCOR provides the following: financial assistance, expertise and networking. 100% of money sent to UMCOR goes to disaster relief. If you would like to help, please make your check payable to Faith UMC with US Disaster Response, written on the memo line. You can also give online at www.faithum.net/give. Thank you.

FAITH CHURCH STAFF

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

Ben Meckbach - Chairperson Lisa Epright - Recorder

-isa Eprigne Necoraei

Keith Atherholt

Jim Carpenter

David Dawes

George Hinston

Ed Pry

Paula Robinson

Christina Wright

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



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



"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God...
since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:7a&11

WHAT IS CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care is a ministry of Faith Church that provides support, encouragement, and assistance to persons who are a part of our church family. Here at Faith Church, we accomplish Congregational Care from a team approach. It is an essential ministry that involves the pastors, staff, and lay persons in the church.

Requests for Care and Prayer

If you have a specific request for care or prayer, there are several ways to share the information.

- Connect Card during worship, indicate care/prayer request on a connect card
- On-Line Request Form go to: www.faithum.net/care
- Call the Church Office at 570-368-2459

Prayer Request

Prayer requests are shared with our Prayer Team just as they are received. Our Prayer Team prays over requests as a part of their personal prayer time.

Surgery or Hospitalization

Are you or a loved one hospitalized or scheduled for surgery? Our Congregational Care team is available to pray with you and/or your family before surgery or during

hospitalization. Please share your name, date, time, and hospital where you will be having your surgery through one of the methods listed above.

After Hours Emergency

If you are experiencing an emergency after office hours, please call 570-980-1529. The Pastor on call will return your call as soon as possible.

How do I become a part of the Prayer Team?

Prayer requests are shared with members of our Prayer Team via email. Members of the Prayer Team are asked to covenant to the following:

- Connect with God through corporate and private worship.
- Demonstrate a heart for prayer
- Pray over the request when it is received
- Hold the information in confidence include the request in your personal prayer time and do not offer information received in a prayer request to another person

If you feel God may be calling you to be a part of our Prayer Team ministry, please contact Pastor Jane.

CONNECT

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New Member Classes are being offered Saturday, October 13 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, October 14 at 11:00 am at Faith Church in Room 10. We'll explore Connect, Grow, Serve, Go, the mission and vision of Faith Church. Join us on the journey of Faith! You must have completed Starting Point before attending this class. To register, please contact Deb at dottenmiller@faithum.net. Childcare is provided for birthage 5 with pre-registration. Please contact Shannon Perrotta at sperrotta@faithum.net.

MOTHERS' TIME OUT

Mothers' Time Out is up and running! Join us on Fridays from 9:15 am-Noon. We lovingly welcome children from infant through age 4. We ask that you bring a "sippy" cup for your child with his/her name on it and also, to clearly label your child's diaper bag for us. We also ask that the children do not bring toys from home, as they may get lost. A snack will be provided. This ministry is for families of Faith Church and there is no charge. We look forward to seeing you on Fridays.

MTO Grammies



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES





KID CONNECTION CLASSES Sundays at 9:45 am

Nursery-Room 19/20
2's & 3's-Room 18
PreK-Room 17
Kindergarten-Room 15
Grade 1-Room 13
Grade 2-Room 11
Grade 3-Room 12
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.) I am grateful for the privilege of participating in the presentation of Bibles to our 3rd grade students during worship services September 29/30. The annual Bible presentation is a source of joy to many in the church. As we celebrate the students, we reflect on the amazing gift we have been given of living in a time and place where we have access to God's words. The Bible is the living Word of God and we hold it in our hands! Each week I have the unique privilege of watching our Kid Connection teachers sharing the Bible with children. Kid Connection leaders are faithfully introducing children to the wonder, might, and love of our God who has created us, redeemed us, and continues to guide us daily.

During October, our preschoolers hear stories of God's care for His people and learn that we do not need to worry or be afraid because "God's got it!" Meanwhile, our elementary age students will learn about Contentment. They begin with lessons about the apostle Paul who wrote while imprisoned that he had learned the secret to being content in all situations - place full trust in God and keep serving Him as your top priority! Elementary students will also hear about some Old Testament folks who forgot to be thankful and were constantly wanting more even though God had already given them what they needed. We hope your child's trust in God will grow as they hear from His word this month!

KID CONNECTION SUNDAY SERVING SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2018

Team 1: Dottie Mathers, Betsy &/or Dave Bjorkman, Sandrina Womer, Lori Parke, Erica Wurster

<u>Team 2</u>: Valerie Mosteller, Darci Kirby, Elise Meckbach, Ryan Tira, Kevin Handley, Carrie Knapp

<u>Team 3</u>: 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

<u>Team 5</u>: Tessa Little, Emily Miller, Kevin Handley, Jenna LoCricchio, Brenda Laudenslager, Kristi Michael

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

<u>Team 8</u>: Rick Gray, Kevin Handley, Kaitlin Eck, Melissa Foster, Shawn Coles

Oct. 7-Team 4 Oct. 14-Team 5 Nov. 4-Team 8 Nov. 11-Team 1

Oct. 21-Team 6

Nov. 18-Team 2

THANK YOU KID CONNECTION TEACHERS!

In addition to the many individuals who rotate through our classrooms as helpers, we are blessed to have several wonderful folks serving weekly or bi-weekly as teachers and small group leaders. Thank you to the following individuals who serve as Kid Connection teachers here at Faith Church: Marlene Brown, Theresa Burkholder, Lauren Caputo, Kate Carey, Jessi Carpenter, Marybeth Croll, Diane Dunlap, Kevin Handley, Hillary Hofstrom, Patty Kline, Meghan Maeulen, Kate Meckbach, Lori Shaw, and Mandi Westphal.

CHILDREN'S WING SECURITY DOOR

As a part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and security of the children on our campus, the double doors leading to the children's wing will be locked during the 9:45 worship service from 10-10:40 AM weekly beginning in October. The doors will remain open during main drop off and pick up times. Parents can still gain access to check on children during the service time, but will need to buzz in. Please contact Marion Handley if you have any questions.

FAITH PRESCHOOL

FUNDRAISER

Do you want a break from making dinner and cleaning up afterwards? We have the perfect answer! Plan to eat dinner at the Montoursville Wendy's on Tuesday, October 23 anytime between 5:00-8:00 pm. Faith Preschool will get 10% of the proceeds from their sales on this day. We hope to see you at Wendy's!

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT:

There are a few spots remaining in our 4 year old afternoon preschool class for 2018-2019. If interested, please contact the church office at 570-368-2459.

KID CONNECTION VOLUNTEERS

Friends, we rely on your participation in the serving rotation to provide safe and fun environments for our kids! 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 has 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!

Oct. 28-Team 7

Nov. 25-Team 3

JOHN BOWER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Sign-ups for coaches for the John Bower Basketball League are ongoing. If you are interested in coaching, please contact Andrea Lucas as soon as possible. Sign-ups for players are ongoing and will continue until October 21. Students who regularly attend Faith Church from Kindergarten - Grade 6 are eligible to play. There is a \$5 fee per player due at time of registration. Also, if your child needs a team shirt the cost is \$10 due when you register. Additional details will be available soon. If you need more information, e-mail Andrea Lucas at het_atc@yahoo.com.



STUDENT MINISTRIES



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



Grades 6-8 - Need a place to relax and get away from the stress of Middle School? Join us on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm as we discover who God is and who He created us to be. KICK-OFF IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5!



Grades 9-12 - Whether you're just starting High School life or if you're an upper classman, join us on Sundays from 6:30-8:30 pm as we walk through life and serve and grow together. KICK-OFF IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9!





GROW

COMMUNITY GROUP LIFE

If Group life is something you would like to explore, I would love to help you begin to find those connections! Contact me, Deb Ottenmiller, at the information below my picture. Here are 3 groups that are currently available:

- 1. Moms Connect Group the next meeting will be Thursday, October 25 at 6:00 pm in Large **Group Room 21.** The topic will be *Keeping Secrets*. All moms are encouraged and welcome to attend, and childcare will be provided. Connect with Betsy Bjorkman at 570-368-2459 for additional details. Hope to see you there!
- 2. Men's Group the group meets each Saturday morning at Mel's Diner in Montoursville at 7:00 am. Bible study on Growing Older and Wiser. Connect with Rick Wurster at 570-368-2459 for additional details!
- 3. Men's Group this group meets at Faith Church each Wednesday morning in Room 10 at 6:00 am. Scripture study is currently on the book of Acts. Connect with Christian Calehuff at 570-368-2459. They have room for additional guys to join them!!



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



OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH - TO SEND A CARD:

Pastor Jake Waybright - 156 Brushy Ridge Road

Montoursville, PA 17754

Pastor Beth Jones -

8968 State Rte. 87 Montoursville, PA 17754

510 1/2 Chestnut St.

Pastor Jane O'Borski -

Sunbury, PA 17801



THANK YOU

The Bardo/Perchinski families would like to thank all those who sent food, visited and prayed for Clara Perchinski and her family during her recent surgery and recovery. All were greatly appreciated.



SERVE AND GO



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

WORLD COMMUNION WEEKEND - OCT. 6/7

World Communion Weekend is celebrated in tandem with churches all over the world. Together, we partake of communion. The World Communion offering funds graduate racialethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the US. Donations also provide for undergraduate US Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs. If making a donation, please make your check payable to Faith UMC with WC Offering on the memo line or give online at www.faithum.net/giving. Thank you for your generosity.



SO NO ONE IN OUR COMMUNITY WILL GO TO BED HUNGRY...

There are a variety of ministries here at Faith Church that address our calling to elevate food scarcity in our community. It often helps to take a step back and clarify these ministries as well as the process through which you can support these efforts:

THE UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY

is one of Faith Church's Serve and Go Ministries. The pantry located inside the Castellano Center at 320 Park Ave. Williamsport provides a three day supply of food for a complete breakfast, lunch, and dinner for each household in need of assistance. Households can qualify for this help once every thirty days. Each month an average of 162 families/375 people are serve. The support Faith Church has shown for the United Churches Food Pantry in the past has been a wonderful blessing by enabling the pantry to help those who are food insecure due to medical bills, rising prices, job loss, health issues, or those who unemployment benefits have been exhausted.

Please continue to support this ministry by placing your non-perishable food products in the green containers on either end of the Narthex. Please remember to check the expiration dates as we cannot distribute out of date items.



HARVEST OF HOPE

The Harvest of Hope Food Bank is the HUB for 2 ongoing monthly ministries. The first is the **Fresh Express Distribution** site where families can come right to the Food Bank here at the church and choose from healthy food for the month.

The second is the **Backpack Program** for students in the Montoursville area school district. Along with our community partner churches and organizations each month we pack and deliver food so that 60 students will have weekend food for the month.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

Each November, Faith church collects food, assembles Thanksgiving baskets and delivers them to families through the McCall Middle School. We will have a separate collection bin at the church clearly marked for the Thanksgiving baskets and will be collecting food throughout the entire month of November. Details regarding specific food items needed will be listed in the November Newsletter.

MORE ABOUT HARVEST OF HOPE

Our Harvest of Hope Ministry is underway! While we celebrate the food packing and distribution for our first month of the backpack program to local schools, we are looking ahead and anticipating the months to come with that program as well as the inaugural Fresh Express Food Distribution on November 8 as we welcome families in need of extra food to come and select needed items from our Harvest of Hope food Bank. This wonderful work is in need of ongoing support and willing hands.

We will need approximately 15 people from Faith church each month to assist with the packing of food for the backpack program. This will take place the third Thursday of every month at 6:30-8:00 pm. Sign-ups for each month are on the bulletin board located outside the Harvest of Hope Food Bank in the hallway on the Brushy Ridge Road side of the building.

We will also need approximately 30 people each month to assist with the Fresh Express food distribution which will take place on the second Thursday of each month from 3-6:00 pm. We will be needing people to help with sign-in and sorting food, unloading the truck from the Central PA Food Bank, hospitality, clean-up, reception of neighbors and people who would be willing to help load bags into the cars of neighbors who have come for food. Again, if you are interested the sign-ups are located on the bulletin board outside of the Harvest of Hope Food Bank.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

There are people in our community who, for various reasons find it very difficult to enter church doors. We recognize Jesus' call to not remain within our walls but rather to GO and meet people right where they are with the love of Christ. Fresh Expressions is a movement that began in England where the church has seen rapid decline for decades and where they recognized that people were still hungry for God. Simply stated, A Fresh Expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of those who are not yet part of any church. A Fresh Expression can form anywhere - a restaurant, a yoga studio, in the woods, on a bike or running trail, in a coffee shop . . . anywhere people gather where an organic expression of Christ's love can emerge for those who don't have a relationship with Jesus. The best part of this movement is the way ordinary church people are stepping up and recognizing that there are places within their own lives that have the potential to be a Fresh Expression.

Faith Church would like to support this emerging idea as we step out into our community in new ways with the Word of Christ. If you would like to hear more about the Fresh Expressions movement, we invite you to a gathering on Sunday, November 4 beginning at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm with a light lunch. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office or Pastor Beth Jones at bjones@faithum.net.

MORE SERVE AND GO

TRUNK OR TREAT

This year's Trunk or Treat will be held here on the campus of Faith Church on Wednesday, October 31 from 6-8:00 pm. We will be opening the doors to the church so that families from the community may come in and experience God's warmth and love through our hospitality. We will also be looking for people to bring their vehicles to park and decorate and then be ready to hand out treats to the kids. If you would like to have your vehicle included in the trunk or treat or if you are interested in helping with hospitality, please contact the church office at 570-368-2459.

Hunger Hero Winners

On Tuesday, September 18, Faith Church was recognized with a Hunger Hero Award in recognition of our partnership with Central PA Food Bank! It was a great way to celebrate all that God has done through us and anticipate all that is yet to happen as we open our Harvest of Hope Food Bank. You can see the award on display in the new food bank.

Faith Church has been committed to fighting hunger for several years here in the greater Williamsport area. They started by packing and donating meals that amounted to nearly 10 pallets of food annually to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Then about 3 years ago, Faith Church expressed an interest in volunteering in the warehouse on a monthly basis. They began



Hunger Hero winners of the group volunteer award at the North Central PA Food Bank's annual Hunger Action Breakfast were members of Faith UMC Montoursville. L to R: Sharon Atherholt, Eric Orndorff, Director of Agency and Program Services, Pastor Jake Waybright, Jane Zimmerer, and Joe Arthur, Executive Director of the Food Bank.

sending a different "small group" (Bible study) each month. This had a multiplier effect on the number of participants from their congregation. These groups participate in a variety of volunteer activities to include packing senior meal boxes. In addition, The Cub Scout unit that the church charters, leads the annual Scouting for Food drive in Montoursville. This drive ranks among the largest food drives received by the Williamsport Healthy Food Hub and routinely yields between 2,500 and 3,000 lbs. of food which is donated directly to the food bank and used for packing MilitaryShare boxes.

Faith Church has recently completed an expansion of their church facility. To continue on their faith journey in the fight against hunger, this expansion has included converting two former classrooms into a Food Bank to meet the needs of their neighbors surrounding Montoursville. It is my pleasure to present Faith United Methodist the 2018 Volunteer Group Hunger Hero Award.

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.

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