FAITH CHURCH
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LIFE LINE

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UMC

OUR MISSION: MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

Thank you so much for coming to the Flower Workshop at Faith Church! It was such a joy to share flowers, encourage one another, laugh together, and create beautiful arrangements. We are truly blessed by each other's company and by our church for giving us the space to gather and fellowship. You all made the night extra special with your kindness and creativity! - Sarah Young

Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
lleland@faithum.net
570-368-2459

The View From Here

Fall has always been my favorite season for a hundred reasons: 1) I was that kid who loved school, so I was always ready to go back. 2) Sweatah Weathah 3) My birthday's in October. 4) Football.

Now that I'm in my fifties, it's still my favorite for those same reasons. This September, Barb will be back in the classroom with her 4th graders in Lewisburg. Henry will be in his senior year of high school, and taking dual enrollment college classes. And I'll be starting a continuing education journey as I pursue certification as a coach with other pastors. And I can't wait for my birthday, the Brrr months and Friday Night Lights!

But I also love Fall in the life of the church. Choirs who have taken the summer break start rehearsing and sharing their gifts in worship. New seasons of children's and student ministries begin on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Small groups come back together, or launch anew. The hallways are once again filled with the sounds of preschoolers throughout the day, and the sounds of Scouts, Praise Kids, FSM and even grown-ups in the evening.

I know it's an incredibly busy time for many of our families – with school, extra-curriculars, work and so much more. But here's what I'd like to offer as an invitation to every person who calls Faith Church home.

Use this Fall season as an opportunity to launch a new thing in your faith. Take one of these steps, or pray about another God may be speaking to your heart.

- Download the YouVersion app on your phone and engage scripture in a new way.
- Commit to attend worship every Sunday.
- Find one area in the life of the church to serve at least once a month.
- Invite a friend to come to worship with you.
- Pray over what you're thankful for with your spouse and/or your family at the end of the day.
- Encourage your child to participate in Kid Connection or Praise Kids, and your middle/high school student to join Faith Student Ministries.
- Join a short-term study or ongoing community group, or invite a few friends to meet once a week to pray for each other and maybe read something together.

Any of your pastors or staff here at Faith Church would be happy to talk with you more about what a next step might be for you – don't hesitate to reach out!

Every faithful step toward God helps us become those fully devoted followers of Jesus who are living into God's kingdom together.

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As we enter the Fall in worship, here are some opportunities for you to consider:

8:15 Worship Opportunities

At our 8:15 worship service, there are always opportunities to help more fully connect with God and each other.

- Pray for our pastors, organist, choir and tech team as they plan and lead us each week.
- Be part of the welcome that folks receive by serving as a greeter, helping make and set up coffee on a Sunday and wear a name tag on the first Sunday of each month.
- Serve by ushering (collecting the offering), reading scripture or serving communion.
- If you see someone you don't yet know, introduce yourself!
- Sing with the choir. Play with the bells. If you play another instrument or sing, offer that gift as special music.

9:45 Worship Team Opportunities

- Pray for our pastors, praise team and tech team as they plan and lead us each week.
- Pray regularly for God to bring the right person to lead us in this area.
- Talk about the position of Worship Director to folks in your area of influence who may be interested in part-time or full-time work with the church.
- If you play an instrument (particularly but not limited to guitar, keyboard or drums), reach out to Pastor Larry about the possibility of serving with our praise team.
- If you sing, do the same!
- Be part of the welcome that folks receive by serving as a greeter, helping make and set up coffee and fellowship on a Sunday and wear a name tag on the first Sunday of each month.
- Offer your thanks and encouragement to Kristen Lowe, our Worship Tech Director, who has stepped up and helped provide additional leadership in this season.
- If you are interested in serving as part of the Tech Team, running sound, lights, video cameras or computers, reach out to Kristen.
- Offer your thanks and encouragement to our volunteer worship leaders, who sing, plan, play, pray and practice in ways that bless us on Sunday mornings and beyond.

Online Worship Opportunities

Each week, close to fifty folks worship with us online. We'd love to connect more with you and here are some ways to help that happen:

- Greet other worshipers whose names you see online. Introduce yourself and let us know how many in your family are joining you.
- On the first Sunday of each month, prepare to receive communion by gathering a piece of bread and perhaps some grape juice if you have it at home.
- Pray for the technology to work – from computers to cameras to live streaming equipment and computer networks. And pray for and encourage the folks who serve on the Tech Team to offer this opportunity to worship.
- If you'd be willing to serve as an online host once a month, reach out to Pastor Larry and he'll give you some possibilities for how that could look.
- When you worship online, fill out the connect card and open the bulletin – to see if there are other ways beyond Sunday mornings that God is calling you to connect.

No matter when or where you worship, come prepared to connect with God and connect with folks around you. Sing, clap, greet, read scripture, participate, pray, listen, welcome, tear down chairs, type in the chat box, serve communion, smile, make coffee, drink coffee – knowing that all of it blesses God, others and you!

GROW/SERVE

What Happens Next:

A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age

Are we living in the end times? What does that mean for us?
These questions can feel overwhelming, but God wants us to be prepared, not scared; informed, not intimidated.

Join Larry Eckert (Max Lucado via video teaching) for a six-week series that explores what the Bible says about the end times—including the rapture, the tribulation, and the hope of eternity with Christ. Max reminds us that the end of our story is all about hope—and all about Jesus.

- **Tuesdays, beginning September 2**
- **6:30–8:00 PM**
- **FSM Room, Bushy Ridge**

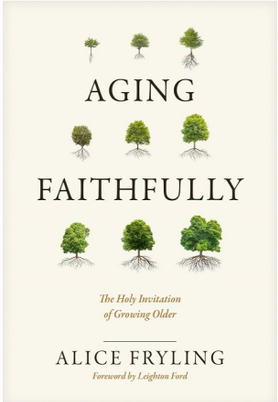
This study is open to men and women, single or married.
For more information, please contact: Larry Eckert at 412-996-5070.

Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group Life
and Assimilation
dottenmiller@faithum.net
570-368-2459

Moms In Prayer International Moms in Prayer International is a global movement of women who gather to pray for children, grandchildren, and schools worldwide. Our mission is to impact children and schools for Christ by covering them in prayer. This is a weekly meetings on Wednesday's beginning **September 3rd at 4:00 – 5:00pm at Faith Church, in Room 12.** All moms and grandmas are welcome to join!

- Each week, moms come together to:
- Pray for children and their teachers
- Support one another through encouragement and Scripture
- See God work in lives, schools, and communities

You are invited to be part of this powerful ministry here at Faith!
For more details, please contact Michelle Eckert at 724-309-5742



New Monday Night Women's Bible Study with Brenda Schmick

Aging Faithfully: The Holy Invitation of Growing Older

Leader: Brenda Schmick (570-971-3689)
When: Mondays, Sept. 15 – Oct. 6, 6:30–8:00 PM
Where: Faith Church, Room 14

Aging brings many changes—loss of stamina, shifts in independence, and transitions in roles and careers. Yet within these changes lies a holy invitation: to encounter God's love in deeper and more life-giving ways. Whether you're approaching, in the midst of, or well into your senior years, this 4-week study will encourage you to release old ways of thinking and embrace the new wor God is doing in you.

Prep: Please purchase *Aging Faithfully* and read Chapter 1 before the first session.
Come ready to be encouraged, challenged, and transformed!

Young Adults Group At Faith Church

Jesus fed 5,000 with fish & bread…We're starting smaller—with pizza. Pizza Night, Thursday, Sept 18 at 6:30 PM Room 10, Faith Church

What to expect:
Free pizza (yes, really)
New friends and real community
A Bible study as a possible next step

If you're 18–36 and love Jesus (and carbs), this night is for you! Come hungry. Leave connected.
R.S.V.P by texting: Olivia at 717-437-1467 or Jason at 570-651-5969.

Monday Night Men Small Group

Guys coming together to have dinner, prayer, then football. Hosted at area homes at 7pm, beginning early September. For more information, please contact Jim Anthony at 570-651-0240.

Faith Women's Monthly Gathering Starts Wednesday, Sept. 17

We're now offering **two meeting times** to better fit your schedule:
10:00 AM *or* **6:00 PM** (Same day, same content—just more flexibility!) We'll be exploring what it means to live a "chocolate life," enjoying God's sweet grace, using the book *Living a Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma (author of last year's study, *Beautiful Feet*).

Come connect, grow, and be encouraged—morning or evening, whichever works best for you!
Coordinators:

- *10:00 AM:* Michelle Eckert – 724-309-5742 and Deb Rowles – 570-337-1149
- *6:00 PM:* Deb Ottenmiller – 570-244-7002

Location: Faith Church, 700 Fairview Drive, 17754

Evening Edition Women's Gathering Begins at 6:00 PM

We're starting something new and would love a few women to help us get it going.
No experience required—just a willing heart.

Opportunities to serve include:

- Hosting
- Leading a devotional
- Organizing snacks
- Helping with fun & fellowship

Please contact Deb Ottenmiller at 570-244-7002 f you'd like to join help!

Membership Class

September 21, 1–5pm
Curious about what it really means to jump in with both feet and be an active thriving member of Faith Church? Join us for our one-day Membership Class — a relaxed, interactive afternoon where we'll discover together what membership is all about.

Before class day, be sure to:

- Register by signing up at the Sign-Up Center in the cafe, calling the church office at 570-368-2459, or by marking your Connect Card.
- Grab your workbook from the Sign-Up Center in Faith Café
- Read ahead (and jot down your thoughts in the end-of-chapter questions)
- Fill out the info sheet inside the front cover

When: Sunday, Sept. 21 | 1–5pm
Where: Room 10 – enter through the Fairview Wing side of the building.

Questions? Reach out to our friendly Class Coordinator Deb Ottenmiller dottenmiller@faithum.net

Moms Meetup

This past month, our back parking lot at Faith Church became more than a place for cars—it became a space for moms and kids to connect, laugh, and feel encouraged. Kids had room to play, while moms enjoyed coffee, conversation, and the gift of community. No agenda, no checklist—just a safe and welcoming place to slow down together. I'm so thankful for the prayers and helping hands that made it possible. And I can't wait to see what God will spark from these moments!

Thinking about making Moms Meetup a regular daytime or evening gathering? If you'd like to join me in shaping it, let's team up! Contact: **Deb Ottenmiller at 570-244-7002**

Seeking Director of Worship and Creative Arts

Faith Church currently has a staff opening we are looking to fill. If you are interested in applying, please see the website https://www.faithum.net/careers-at-faith-church for full job descriptions. Cover letters and resumes can be submitted to lleland@faithum.net.

Director of Worship – full-time (may consider part-time depending on applicant)

Pray for God to raise up the right person for this important role in the ongoing ministry of Faith Church. And please show your gratitude to the volunteer leaders and teams who are serving us so faithfully in this interim time.

Can't Make Small Group… Try Our Tuesday Zoom Small Group!

ZOOM Small Group (Men & Women, any life stage)

- Meets weekly on Tuesdays, 3–4 PM
- Join from your PC, Mac, smartphone, or tablet via the Zoom app
- A meeting link will be emailed to you

Need help with Zoom? Call the church office (570-368-2459) or Keith Atherholt (570-447-5292)

Men's Small Group

- Meets weekly on Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 AM
- In person at *Lewis Lumber, Hughesville*
- A mix of local churches join together
- Currently studying Ephesians with J.D. Greear (video series)
- Coffee provided!

For more information, please contact Keith Atherholt at 570-447-5292

Marion Handley
Assistant Pastor
mhandley@faithum.net

Help Us Support Recent Graduates!

Congregational Care Team has an ongoing prayer and card ministry supporting our young adults who have recently completed high school or college and have entered the military, workforce, or are pursuing advanced degrees. Interested in serving? Have an address of a recent graduate to provide? Please contact Pastor Marion mhandley@faithum.net.

New Mixed Group Bible Study with Tracey Mulcahy

This is a 10-session Bible study that takes us through the life of Peter—a disciple whose story is both inspiring and deeply relatable. His journey shows us that following Jesus wholeheartedly is possible, even with human flaws and failures. Each lesson includes teaching notes, study tips, and reflection questions—so all you need is:

- The study guide (about $11, purchase online)
- Your Bible
- An open heart

Together, we'll explore Peter's life, learn what discipleship looks like, and hear Jesus' call to "feed my sheep."

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, beginning October 8
Faith Church, Room 14 (friends from Bethel Church are invited too!)
ZOOM option available for those unable to attend in person

Prep: Read 1 & 2 Peter ahead of time
Come and be refreshed by the ministry of one of Jesus' most fascinating disciples. Let Peter's journey inspire your own!
Leader: Tracey Mulcahy *tmulcahy@susumc.org*

Family Progressive Dinner:

Around the World, Near and Far

Friday, October 24 at **5:00 PM** (**Faith Church)**

Ready to "travel the world" without packing a bag or waiting in airport lines? Join us for a progressive dinner featuring flavors from near and far—while celebrating what God is doing both locally and globally!

What's Cooking?

1. **Appetizer/Salad** – African-inspired flavors that'll make your taste buds dance! Plus, hear more about what's happening at *I-tec*.
2. **Main Course** – Italian comfort food (pasta, pizza, and more).
3. **Dessert** – Classic American apple pie and a quick look at what's happening at *HOH/Backpack* and *Fresh Express*.

How to Join the Fun

1. **Bring a Dish** – Sign up by **October 10** to bring:
   Appetizer/Salad or Dessert (feeds 8–10)
   Main Course (feeds 4–6) *We'll provide ideas and guidelines—bonus points for creativity!*

2. **Show Up Hungry** – Planning to attend? Sign up by **October 17** so we can save you a seat (and plenty of food!). Come for the food, stay for the laughs, and maybe even make a new friend or two. We promise—it'll be a dinner to remember!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Kid Connection @ Faith Church

Julia Edler - Director
Gail Rollman - Assistant Director
Email: children@faithum.net
570-368-2459

Help Needed In Children's Ministry!

Do you have a heart for kids and a passion for sharing God's love? Our Children's Ministry is growing, and we need volunteers to help nurture the next generation of believers! Whether you enjoy storytelling, singing, crafting, or simply being a steady, loving presence—there's a place for you on our team. Opportunities are available during both Sunday services.

No prior experience is needed—just a willing spirit! Training and support will be provided. Interested? Please contact Julia at children@faithum.net or 570-494-7848

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you might serve!

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
Julia Edler, Director of Children's Ministries.....children@faithum.net
Marion Handley, Associate Pastor.....mhandley@faithum.net
Matthew Harris, Facilities Manager .....facilities@faithum.net
Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faithum.net
Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanist .....dvlindner@gmail.com
Kristen Lowe, Tech Director .....klowe@faithum.net
Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life/Assimilation.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
Megan Perkinson, Director of Harvest of Hope.....harvestofhope@faithum.net
Jody Robinson, Business Manager.....treasurer@faithum.net
Gail Rollman, Assistant Director of Children's Ministries.....children@faithum.net
Sarah Young, Office Administrator.....office@faithum.net

Faith Church Council

Rachel Knipe - Chairperson
Ben Clark - Vice Chairperson
Susan Marshall - Secretary
Larry Eckert - Lay Leader
Scott Konkle
Sheila Lomax
Dan Mathers
Lori Parke

FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES

Christian Calehuff
FSM Team Leader
fsm@faithum.net
Text - 570-916-1429

FSM For Grades 6-12 - Sundays from 4:30-6:30 pm

Six - Eight

Need a place to relax & get away from the stress of middle school? Join us on Sundays from 4:00-6:00pm as we have fun & discover who God is & who He created us to be.

Nine - Twelve

Whether you're just starting High School life or if you're an upperclassman, we invite you to join us on Sundays from 5:30 -7:30pm as we share and grow together.

Sept. 7th 4:30 - 6:30
Season Kickoff - Wear your favorite jersey or uniform!
Sept. 14th 4:30 - 6:30
Mini Golf Tournament at Hoopla's, Muncy
Sept. 19th & 20th
Montoursville Fall Festival (fundraising activity)
Sept. 21st 4:30 - 6:30
w/ short parents meeting in Faith Café

Sunday, September 7th!

Friends are welcome!

Parents Stay Connected

To ensure you receive timely updates and information, we recommend checking the FSM Facebook page regularly. Facebook is the platform where leaders share information, news, and updates, so checking it frequently will help parents and students stay informed! ***Band App Coming Soon!**

Love To Cook or Bake?

FSM is looking for individuals and small groups to help provide meals for our youth during Sunday night FSM gatherings.

You can:

- Sign up to provide the entire meal
- Or contribute just part of the meal

Simply scan the QR code to access our Sign Up Genius and see where you can plug in! Questions? Please contact Barb Leland at *blleland31@gmail.com*

Join The Team!

Every day, middle school and high school students are being bombarded with messages—through ads, social media, and endless streams of content. Some of those messages are loud, but not always life-giving. Imagine if, in the middle of all that noise, they also had someone consistently speaking truth, encouragement, and God's love into their lives.

That's where YOU come in! As a Small Group Leader (SGL), you get the chance to walk alongside students, listen to their stories, cheer them on, and point them toward a meaningful relationship with God and others. It's not about having all the answers—it's about showing up, being present, and speaking life into a generation that desperately needs it. **This is your invitation to make a difference!**

THANK YOU …..

Dear Faith Church,
We just wanted to thank you for the playground that you have open for the community. We were passing through with our grandchildren and were looking for a park to have a picnic and saw your place. We stopped and had our picnic, and the grandchildren loved the large, deep sandbox. Thank you for making your playground available to the public. May God bless you as you proclaim His word and reach out to others unknowingly. - Ken and Marion Hurst

A big thank-you to Lee Winter for supplying the hot dogs for our outdoor service—they were such a hit and made the day even more enjoyable! And a special thanks to Dave & Chris Meckbach for opening their home and hosting the Praise Kids pool party. Your hospitality and care for our kids made it a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and joy! We are so grateful for the many ways our church family blesses one another. - Lisa Konkle

Pastor Larry,
Thank you for your hospitality in allowing Sojourner Truth Ministry to hold our recent W.H.I.N.E. Dessert and Design at Faith UMC. It was a perfect place for our event, which was a good success.
May our Lord continue to bless you and your ministries . - Carrie, volunteer

September Sermon Series

Join us, starting September 14, for a sermon series called Made for More. In five weeks through Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we will proclaim the truth that we were made for more by talking about our God-given purpose, identity in Christ, connection with one another and capacity to live radically different lives through faith in Jesus, rather than simply "getting by."

Faith United Methodist Church

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-3:30 pm (Closed for lunch from 12:30-1:00 pm) and Friday-Closed
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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FAITH CHURCH
700 Fairview Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754
570-368-2459 | www.FaithUM.net

Life Line

September 2025

Non-Profit Org.
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