



LIFE LINE



APRIL 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 MARCH!



Welcome new members: Amber Bowes, Jeff Hunter, Becky McDaniel, Rocky Miller, and Suzanna Miller



FSM Retreat with fuse Youth from First Church Wmpt



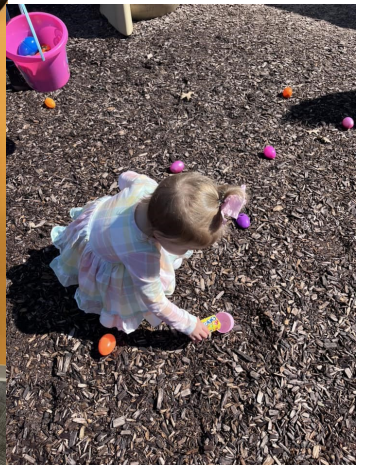
Women's Retreat



Winter Jam



Easter Jam!!!



THE VIEW FROM HERE

The View From Here



Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
lleland@faithum.net

As I write this, it is the first official day of Spring here in the northern hemisphere. And it is snowing. Two weeks ago, I wore shorts and had the doors and windows wide open. Today, I can't get warm, even with the little electric fireplace in my office. Welcome to March in PA, someone has said. If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes and it could be totally different.

In some ways, things in our life and world seem to be changing at a pace that we can't even begin to wrap our heads around. We pack away the sweaters, and we're hit with snow squalls. We wear wool socks, and we think our feet are going to melt. It's hard to live in the middle of change. And I'm not just talking about the weather. Our world, from AI to political discord, from financial realities to growing kids and aging parents, can have us shaking our heads and wrestling with what to hold onto and what to let go. When things change so fast, to what can we anchor this life of ours?

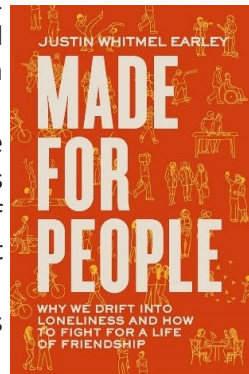
I'm in a season where I feel more deeply than ever a need to anchor deep in my relationship with God and in my relationship with others. And I don't think I'm alone. In the next few months, we're going to be spending a lot of time helping each other in both of those areas. We want to offer opportunities for spiritual practices that help us grow deeper in our love for God. And we're going to be walking through a series that will hopefully give us some practical help in deepening our relationships with others – particularly in the area of friendship.

In April, worship and a short-term study will circle around the ideas from a book that's impacted me greatly, "Made for People" by Justin Whitmel Early. From the back cover of that book, "Loneliness has become a cultural epidemic, affecting the health and happiness of millions. Busyness, fear of vulnerability, and past pain often stop us from developing the deep friendships we long for. But it's not supposed to be this way. You were made for people."

Looking at examples from scripture, popular culture and our everyday lives, we hope to help all of us grow in the art and habits that lead to a life of friendship – with God and with others.

Hope you'll join us – and bring someone along!

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GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020/4

The 2020 General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024. It will be held in Charlotte, NC from April 23 – May 3.

Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which could attract as many as 7,500 people. Some 862 delegates, elected from around the world, will gather to set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other important business. Meeting every four years, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. The United Methodist Book of Discipline, updated every four years, incorporates changes made by General Conference.



If you wish to learn more about General Conference and stay informed about this year's gathering, visit <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>. There, you will be able to read potential legislation and eventually live stream the events of the meeting.

On Sunday, May 26, we will hold our next Quarterly Convo, following each worship service, at which time Pastor Larry will give a summary, not only of the first part of our year here at Faith Church, but a wrap up of General Conference as well.



PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR-APRIL 14TH

Join us for Pizza with the Pastor on Sunday, April 14th 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! Register with the church office at 570-368-2459, the Sign-Up Center, or at any time by indicating on your connect card.

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
- Beth Jones, Director of Harvest of Hope.....harvestofhope@faithum.net
- Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faithum.net
- Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanistdndlindner@epix.net
- Kristen Lowe, Tech Directorklowe@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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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

START THE PARTY

VBS 2024 is quickly approaching. Do you want to get Involved in this fun and impactful outreach? Our next Planning Meeting is April 7th directly after the 9:45 service in Room 12 (Jessica's Office). We need you to make it happen!

VBS 2024: START THE PARTY: CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS

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, NIV "You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."



KID CONNECTION SERVING OPPORTUNITY

We are still in need of 4th and 5th Grade Teachers! Beginning in April, our 5th grade class will be joining the contemporary worship service together with their class and teacher as they begin to transition out of Kid Connection and begin to be a part of the larger congregation. 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 APRIL-MAY 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

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

- 5/05 Team 3
- 5/12 Team 4
- 5/19 Team 5
- 5/26 Team 6

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE APRIL - MAY 2024

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| April 07: Kelly Howell, Michelle Eckert | May 05: Ben Clark, Katie Farley |
| April 14: Nicole Duarte, Sub Needed | May 12: Erica Yoder, Erin Heap |
| April 21: Joni Perchinski, Dottie Mathers | May 19: Kelly Howell, Joni Perchinski |
| April 28: Hillary Hofstrom, Kitty Hofer | May 26: Hillary Hofstrom, Kitty Hofer |

FAITH PRESCHOOL 2024-2025 REGISTRATION

Faith Preschool still has room in the afternoon 4 year old class for the 2024-2025 school year. Children who will be 4 by September 1, 2024 and fully potty trained are eligible. Please share this information with anyone you know who has an eligible child! If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please email the preschool director, Heather Ramsey, at hramsey@faithum.net.

Faith Preschool Online Registration

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

Call 570-368-2451 for more information or visit the preschool tab at www.faitsum.net



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 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 glad to have this opportunity to let everyone know what Faith Student Ministries (FSM) has been doing.

March was definitely a time for the students and volunteers in this ministry to see God at work. From kids laughing and praising God in song, to friendship building, and learning more about our faith in Jesus.

The month started out with a group of students and adults attending "Winter Jam," a Christian concert at the Bryce Joydan Center. I am amazed at how we all connected with praises to our Lord. Our group consisted of ages 40+, to middle schoolers and grandparents. We joined with First Church's youth group "fuse" and were part of approximately 10,000 worshipers of God. To be part of this community in Christ, is simply incredible and we had a wonderful time.

The following week, we "United With Christ" at Wesley Forest Camp, where we had another combined youth gathering with "fuse". The weekend spent at camp involved learning about the body of Christ and our spiritual gifts to be used. The students led worship, read scripture and reflected on how to live, by honoring and glorifying God in this world. These moments were very special, and the Spirit of God was so visible. As a result of this awesome time together, we are planning our next retreat and look forward to offering this to our church's youth.

The last weekend of the month was spent writing to some of our congregation who are home-bound, or those who may enjoy a reminder that God loves His children. We ended the night by walking through and exploring the days before our Savior rose from the grave.

I am so grateful for our leadership in FSM. We simply could not offer all of this to the students without our volunteers' time and effort. Their love for young people shows and I am truly blessed to be surrounded by these brothers and sisters in Christ.



OUTREACH



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

As you've probably heard by now, we're joining Appalachia Service Project for a mission trip this summer! We are busy raising funds for sponsorships and food for the trip. If you'd like to help us in those efforts, one easy way you can do so is by being hungry! Here's how it works: On April 7th, head to Hoss's in Williamsport and eat to your heart's content anytime between 11:00 am and 8:30 pm. And upon checkout, hand the waiter your "Cash Cow Card" (found at the Sign Up Center between services) or simply give them the code: 130396. With that code, our group will receive 20% of the associated sales that day! Steak and lobster tail for everybody! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Marybeth Croll. You can call her at (570) 337-5381, or email at children777@comcast.net.



HABITAT TO RESUME BUILDING

The Habitat hiatus has halted! On Saturday, April 13th, 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, feel 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 2nd 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
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.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE MOM'S GROUP ENDING

The Exploring The Bible Together Mom's Group will have its final meeting for this school year on April 4th at 10:30 am. Children are welcome and we hope you'll join us! If you are interested in forming a group over the summer or for the fall, please reach out to Deb Ottenmiller at dottenmiller@faithum.net.

WOMEN'S APRIL 17TH GATHERING

The next Women's Gathering will be on April 17th 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.



DUDES AND FOODS COMING SOON!

A new group is forming soon. Look for Dudes and Foods coming July 20th. You don't want to miss this! Stay Tuned!



FELLOWSHIP TEAM SERVING OPPORTUNITY



Faith Church Fellowship cannot happen without the faithful team who come in early to make coffee for both 8:15 and 9:45 worship services, serve snacks before and after 9:45 worship, and stay to clean up afterward. What is needed = YOU. Our Fellowship Team is missing vital people to serve on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of each month. How do you sign up? Via the QR Code on the walls of Serving Opportunities, or by calling Lisa Vrabec at 570-419-8579.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



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

The Faith Church Congregational Care Team will meet in Room 10 on April 21st following the 9:45 worship service. Our Congregational Care Team has the privilege to serve by supporting our church family through celebrations, health challenges, times of grief and other transitions. Current team members will meet for an hour of prayer, care updates, and training. Prospective new members are welcome to join us for the first 15 minutes of our time together to learn more about the team. Contact Marion Handley, mhandley@faithum.net or call the church office for more information.

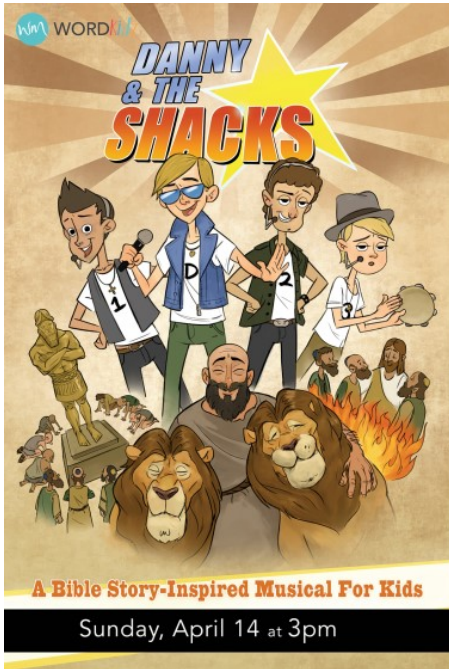


NEW SERMON SERIES

Sermon Series: Made for People



April 07 - You Were Made for People
April 14 - Vulnerability and Honesty
April 21 - Covenant and Forgiveness
April 28 - Invitation and Geography
May 05 - Time and Communication
May 12 - Memory and Worship



Make plans now to come support the Praise Kids as they share the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den in "Danny & The Shacks." This musical performance will be on April 14th beginning at 3:00 pm. All are welcome!

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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