



LIFE LINE



FEBRUARY 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 JANUARY!



Check It Out!



FIRST CHURCH AND FAITH CHURCH

INVITE YOU TO

Write in Christ
**SPRING
YOUTH RETREAT**

FOR GRADES 6-12



WESLEY FOREST

March 15-17, 2024

for details and to register:



Faith Preschool Online Registration

700 Fairview Drive, Montoursville, PA

Thursday, March 7th, beginning at 6:00pm

Call 570-368-2459 for more information or visit the preschool tab at www.faithum.net

Need internet connection?
Come to the parking lot at
Faith Church. Wifi will be
available on March 7th.

This QR code will take you directly to
the online registration form!
There is also a link at www.faithum.net
under the preschool tab.



2024-2025
Registration is
online only



FAITH PRESCHOOL 2024-2025 REGISTRATION

Faith Preschool registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be online this year! It is scheduled for Thursday, March 7th beginning at 6:00 pm. Visit the Preschool tab on the church website www.faithum.net. There will be a link directing you to our online registration form. Children who are 3 by September 1, 2024 and fully potty trained are eligible for our 3 year old program and children who are 4 by September 1, 2024 and fully potty trained are eligible for our 4 year old program. Please share this information with anyone that has preschool aged children! You can also find out more information about our preschool program by visiting the website listed above. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please email the preschool director, Heather Ramsey, at hramsey@faithum.net.

THE VIEW FROM HERE



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



The View From Here

The only thing good about February 2 is that one of our nephews celebrates his birthday that day. I gave up on the groundhog a long time ago. Inevitably two weeks after the little vermin predicts that spring is around the corner, we are hit with the worst snowstorm of the winter. Whether Phil sees his shadow or not (how can he not with all the TV cameras around?), spring will come. But winter is still here. As I write this, the snow and ice are only now beginning to melt, yet just outside my window, I can hear the songs of the birds that will soon be building their nest outside my office. Remnants of winter, signs of spring.

I thank God we live in a place where the changing seasons speak to me so powerfully. For Christians in this part of the world, the movement through Lent toward Easter is paralleled by the movement from the darkness and cold of winter to the light and warmth of Spring.

Lent is a season of preparation in which we are called to put off the ways of winter – cold, darkness, death – and put on the ways of Christ – warmth, light and new life. It is a season in which we are called to look inside our hearts, and have God do the same.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Psalm 139:23-24

That is our prayer during Lent. Lord, is there anything in me that would prevent me from experiencing the new life Easter can bring? What needs to die in me in order that Christ may live in me? What rocks do I have to remove, what soil must I till in order that the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ may grow in me? When we take the Lenten journey and do the Lenten work, we, too, can hear the voice of Spring in our lives.

*See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves is heard in our land.*

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Looking for signs of Spring in me and you,
PL

Ash Wednesday Worship – Feb. 14 at 7:00 pm

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The English word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of “Spring.” Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name.

Come and experience a time of intimate worship, prayer, and confession as we return to God. A service for all ages will be held on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Lenten Sermon Series



Words matter. And last words sometimes point to the final message a dying person wants to share with those around them. Across the four gospels, seven phrases uttered by Jesus can give us one more glimpse into who Jesus was. They show how his humanity, love, grace and relationships were all mingled together in those last torturous hours.

Join us, beginning on Sunday, February 18th for this six-week message series on Famous Last Words.

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
570-412-4349

ORANGE SPOTLIGHT

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.

Preschool: Jesus is our BEST Teacher, teaching us important things—the MOST important things—for our whole life! And He loves everyone! During February, our preschoolers will learn how Jesus is our friend and loves EVERYONE even



when we do something wrong. Stories like The Man with Leprosy (Matthew 8:1-3), Jesus and the Children (Luke 18:15-16), and so much more!

K-5th Grade: God showed kindness by sending Jesus for us—God meets us right where we are. Because of God's love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them. Jesus modeled kindness and invites us to do the same. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Over the month of February, Kid Connection will discover in scripture how Jesus shows us how to be kind (Matthew 8:1-4, Matthew 19 13-15, Matthew 9:10-13), stories from the Old Testament (Ruth & Naomi), and through Jesus' parables! Let's Gear up for an Adventure in Kindness!

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 jneiman@faithum.net with questions.

For weekly encouragement and up to date information and scheduling check out Facebook Faith Church Kid Connection!

KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2024-MARCH 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, 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

2/04 Team 7
2/11 Team 8
2/18 Team 1
2/25 Team 2

3/03 Team 3
3/10 Team 4
3/17 Team 5
3/24 Team 6
3/31 Easter

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2024-MARCH 2024

2/04 Ben Clark, Katie Farley

2/11 Erica Yoder, Erin Heap

2/18 Kelly Howell, Joni Perchinski

2/25 Hillary Hofstrom, Kitty Hofer

3/03 Ben Clark, Nicole Duarte

3/10 Katie Farley, Dottie Mathers

3/17 Joni Perchinski, Kelly Howell

3/24 Erica Yoder, Michelle Eckert

3/31 Erica Blake, Hillary Hofstrom

OUTREACH

ASP TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING



As you've probably heard by now, Faith Church is partnering with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) on the week of July 7th-13th to bless our neighbors in (most likely) West Virginia by providing critical repairs to make homes warmer, safer, and drier. If you are interested at all, there will be a short information-sharing meeting on February 18th directly after the 9:45 service in Room 21. If you have even the least bit of interest for yourself or others, you are invited to come check it out. By coming, you aren't committing to anything. We just want to get the word out and gauge interest. Whether you are handy or not, if you've graduated 6th grade and have a clear national criminal background check, you are welcome to participate! This is a great opportunity to



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

love our neighbors and enjoy Christian fellowship along the way! If you are interested, feel free to reach out to Mason Neiman after service or at mneiman@faithum.net.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



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

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15
"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed." Psalm 34:18

"All great problems call for great love. " - Karl A. Menninger

I remember when I was growing my mom carried a lot of bags. She is a knitter, avid reader, and always prepared for every foreseeable contingency and so she would nearly always carry a large purse stuffed to the brim and one or two bags filled with yarn and knitting needles. I remember two bags in particular from my childhood. The first I remember because I had made it for her by embellishing a canvas bag using fabric markers to draw an elaborate treasure map complete with quicksand and other challenges. I remember because she loved me enough to carry it proudly even though I have no skill in drawing. The second bag I remember because a Bible verse was printed across the front. She had received it from a women's retreat. Her bag daily reminded me "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" which is found in Romans 12:15. This verse reminds us of our call to be in community, to care about what is happening in the lives of people around us, and to let ourselves celebrate when appropriate and mourn when faced with loss.

Our calling as Christians is to care for those around us, serving as an overflow of our love for our Lord. Our daily lives are filled with opportunities to care. In this season, I pray God will give each of us the eyes to see the needs of others around us and compassion and wisdom to meet those needs. Some days we will not need to look very far, but every day we'll need to prepare our hearts by asking for the ability to truly see the people around us. Some days we'll meet the need by throwing a party and some days by quietly holding a hand. We will all experience pain in some form whether due to physical injury, illness, loss of a loved one, a mental health struggle, a divorce or other unexpected challenge. I hope we will all also have things to celebrate whether it is the joy of seeing sunshine interrupting the dark gray days of winter, the birth of a child, a wedding, a graduation, a new job, a little one riding a bike without training wheels for the first time or some other moment that makes us smile. As we journey together we will have so many opportunities to support one another and to grow in our faith by offering one another encouragement even if at times the most encouraging thing we can do is acknowledge the pain and weep together.

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. It is our privilege to walk alongside you through your celebrations, challenges, and transitions. Our mission truly is to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Interested in serving our congregation as a member of the Congregational Care Team? We welcome new additions to the team! Contact mhandley@faithum.net or call the church office for more information.

Blessings,
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

Hello Faith Church!

We have lots of exciting things to do in the next few months! FSM will continue to unite in Christ and build disciples for the transformation of the world as we worship, fellowship, and learn more about our awesome God.

Please look at our calendar and bulletin board for more information on our Valentines party, Winter Jam worship trip and retreat at Wesley Forest.

Our middle schoolers will complete the series on The New Play List where we found help with dealing with negative thoughts that can consume our mind. They will be starting a new lesson on Grief at the end of the month. Our high school group will continue to navigate through the book of Roman's.

This has been a challenging book for our students. Our small group is having hard talks about what our faith is about.



Christian Calehuff
FSM Team Leader
fsm@faithum.net

Feb 4 -FSM Valentines Party
Feb 11 -FSM
Feb 18 -**No** FSM
Feb 25 -Middle school new series begins: *Let's talk*

March 9 -Winter Jam
March 15-17 -Wesley Forest Youth Retreat (See poster on the first page of newsletter)

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.



GROW/SERVE



Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group Life
and Assimilation

MEMBERSHIP CLASS COMING IN MARCH!

This one-day Membership Class experience will be Sunday, March 17th 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 with the church office at 570-368-2459, or at any time by indicating on your Connect Card.

QUICK SHOTS: FAST ANSWERS TO HARD QUESTIONS

Come join us every Tuesday at 6:30pm, beginning 3/12 in the Faith Student Ministry Room, as we tackle some of the questions that are hard to answer. Is there really evidence that God exists? Who created God? Did the resurrection really occur? Would a loving God send people to Hell? We will delve into these and many more every Tuesday for about 8 weeks. Each lesson is "stand alone"; so come to one or all. We welcome you into our gathering of men and women, both single and married. Hope to see you. For more information you can contact Larry Eckert, 412-996-5070.

GROUPS CURRENTLY MEETING AT FAITH CHURCH

Mixed Sunday School

This group meets for discussion on Sundays at 9:45 am in Room 10. This month's topic is Colossians: Christ Above All. Leaders: Ron Gearhart 570-220-3272 or Jerry Easley 570-419-5345.

Wednesday Men's Group

This group of men meets on Wednesday mornings at 6:00 am in the Faith Student Ministry Room. They are currently studying Philippians and invite you to join them! Leaders: Lou Palazzo 570-419-9678 or Ben Turi 301-310-3942.

Emerge

Emerge Group is exploring a study of the Gospel of Mark. They would love for you to join them! Meetings are each Wednesday at 6:30 pm in Room 10 at Faith Church. Connect with Tara Crebs for details 570-971-3018.

Exploring the Bible Together Small Group for Moms of Young Children

Join us the first Thursday of each month from 10:30-11:30 am in Room 11 and experience conversation and prayer with other parents. This group is an opportunity to connect and to grow as we explore God's Word together and discuss ways to share Bible truths with our children. You are welcome to drop in whenever you are able. Children are welcome! Please contact Marion Handley at mhandley@faithum.net with questions or to express interest.

INTERESTED IN A NEWLY FORMING DISCUSSION GROUP?

We will begin February 26th at 10:00 am, meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday in Faith's Student Ministry Room [located on the Brushy Ridge wing]. We will explore the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament. Why don't you plan to join us – all are welcome no matter where you are [or have yet to begin] on your growth journey! We are in this together to grow and learn. Email Deb dottenmiller@faithum.net for details or call the church office at 570-368-2459. You can also sign up at the Sign-Up Center located in Faith Café.



FAITH WOMEN'S RETREAT: MARCH 2024 (UPDATED INFORMATION)



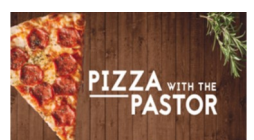
Are you looking to rest, recharge, and laugh with fellow ladies of our church? If so, we invite you to join us at Wesley Forest for an overnight retreat on March 22-23, 2024. This will be a wonderful time to relax and fellowship. The estimated retreat cost is **\$35.00** per person.

There will be informational meetings after each of the worship services on February 11th. The meeting after the 8:15 service will be in Faith Café. The meeting after the 9:45 service will be in Room 21. All women are welcome to attend one of these meetings,

even if you did not previously express an interest. In these meetings, you will learn everything you need to know to prepare for the retreat. You can add your name to the list of women interested in participating in the retreat by completing the interest form found at the link in the QR code or by emailing Rachel Knipe at rmknipe@gmail.com.



MARCH 3RD PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR



Join us for Pizza with the Pastor on Sunday, March 3rd 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! You can Register with the church office at 570-368-2459, or at any time by indicating on your Connect Card.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

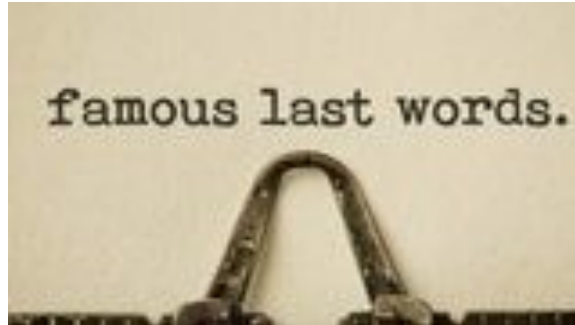
The next Women's Gathering will be on February 21st beginning at 10:00 am in Faith Café. All are welcome! Please join us! While you're at it, plan to join us on the third Wednesday of every month.



NEW SERMON SERIES



February 11 - This is Us: Faith Church in a Nutshell



New Sermon Series on the Famous Last Words of Jesus

February 18 - Today You'll Be With Me...

February 25 - Woman, Behold

March 3 - Why Have You Forsaken Me?

March 10 - I Thirst

March 17 - It Is Finished

March 24 - Into Your Hands I Commend...

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Williamsport, PA
Permit No. 212

FEBRUARY 2024

Life Line

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