



LIFE LINE



JULY 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

VBS 2023 - READY, SET, MOVE!



THE VIEW FROM HERE

I know we're not supposed to have favorites, but I do. Philippians is one of my favorite books in the whole Bible, and I'm excited that we are spending 4 weeks in July diving into this book together in worship. I hope that you'll take advantage of the simple reading plan that will be available both in bulletins and online to read through this amazing letter from Paul. Join us in worship in person starting July 9, or online if you are travelling, as many of us will be doing this summer.

I love how the letter begins, as Paul offers grace and peace to his sisters and brothers, along with this prayer:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6

You may know that your pastor is incredibly mushy, but that prayer has special significance for me as I write this. July 1 marks a milestone for me in ministry, as I will begin my 30th year in vocational ministry.

July 1994, Dover Bethany United Methodist Church near York took a chance on a seminary student, and hired me to serve as their Youth Director, overseeing a junior high and a senior high school group. In some ways, the rest is history.

But it's also a milestone, because on July 1, I begin my 10th year in ministry with you at Faith Church. The bishop and the church took a chance on me when I was first appointed here in 2010 with no large church experience, a two-year-old, and a lot more hair. In that first six years, God was faithful as we launched a 3rd service, grew in almost every area of ministry, and made plans for a facility expansion that would help us connect, grow, serve and go in new ways. Then, in 2020, the bishop took a chance on appointing me here again – something that almost never happens in the United Methodist Church. In the last 3 years, God has been faithful as we navigated COVID, launched worship in the FCC, and seen ministries continue to adapt and change in order to be faithful in this day – building on the faithful ministry and vision that you and Pastor Jake followed in completing construction, establishing Harvest of Hope and seeking to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus who make God's kingdom real.

As I start Year 30, and as we begin Year 10 together, I go back to Philippians 1:9-11,

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

May it be so. PL



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



COMBINED OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC

On Sunday, July 23, everyone is invited to gather here at Faith Church for a combined outdoor worship service, followed by a good, old-fashioned church picnic. We will meet at 10:00 am for a casual time of worship together on the Brushy Ridge Road side of the church property. Following worship, we will share in a picnic together. Everyone is asked to either park in the Fairview Drive parking lots, or across the street at McCall Middle School, if necessary. The church will provide hot dogs, condiments, paper products and drinks. Families and individuals are asked to bring lawn chairs or blankets for worship, and a dessert or side dish for the picnic lunch. Simple games and Bouncy Houses provided. There is no need to pre-register – just show up that Sunday morning for a time of worship, community and delicious food!

QUARTERLY CONVO

Pastor Larry and the Church Council invite you to our next Quarterly Conversation, held after each service on Sunday, July 16. At this brief gathering – 20 minutes at most – we will share some kingdom glimpses, updates from the first half of the year and opportunities to pray as we look ahead to the next season. In addition, we will share follow up information from the April 30 Congregational Gathering with regard to your questions around the denominational situation in the United Methodist Church and how Faith Church will continue to seek to be faithful to God's call. If you aren't able to join us on the 16th, opportunities to catch up on the information shared will be available for all.

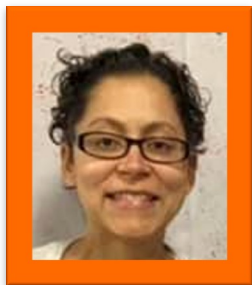
FAITH CHURCH STAFF

Larry L. Leland, Lead Pastor.....lleland@faithum.net
 Jim Anthony, Facilities Assistant.....jim_anthonysr@comcast.net
 Christian Calehuff, FSM Team Leader.....fsm@faithum.net
 Diane Dunlap, Office Administrator.....office@faithum.net
 Marion Handley, Director of Children's Ministriesmhandley@faithum.net
 Beth Jones, Director of Harvest of Hope.....harvestofhope@faithum.net
 Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faithum.net
 Kaila Clancy, Nursery Caregiver.....kailaclancy5@gmail.com
 Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanistdndlindner@epix.net
 Kristen Lowe, Tech Directorklowe@faithum.net
 Maureen McBride, Finance Secretary.....finance@faithum.net
 David Miller, Facilities Managerdmiller@faithum.net
 Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life & Assimilation.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
 Mason Neiman, Director of Worship & Creative Arts.....mneiman@faithum.net
 Jody Robinson, Treasurer.....treasurer@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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



KID CONNECTION - ORANGE SPOTLIGHT

During June and July our preschool and elementary Kid Connection lessons are linked to our Vacation Bible School lessons and theme. We will learn about Paul and his letters to the early church as we discover what it looks like to follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere our whole life long! We can't wait to spend this summer exploring FAITH and what it looks like for us to be confident in God's proven faithfulness. Thank you for sharing your kids with us as we learn together!

Marion Handley
Dir. of Children's Ministries
mhandley@faithum.net
570-368-2459

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

7/02 - Kelly Howell 7/09 - Hillary Hofstrom
7/16 - Michelle Eckert, Joni Perchinski 7/23 - No Nursery Care 7/30 - Erica Yoder, Erica Blake

KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR JUNE-JULY 2023

- Team 1:** Betsy &/or Dave Bjorkman, Jenn Larson, Linda Lloyd
- Team 2:** Ryan Tira, Amy Tucker, Kim Rakestraw
- Team 3:** Danielle or Matt Harris, Carrie Knapp, Cherie Wurster, Jamie Burns & Lilly
- Team 4:** Susan Ravert, Lisa Good, Tiffany Feigles, Kim Winters
- Team 5:** Rachel/Chris Knipe, Tessa Little, Sandrina Womer, Jenna LoCricchio
- Team 6:** Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael
- Team 7:** Crystal Miller, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach
- Team 8:** Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Pamela/Riley/Cameron Nelson

7/02 Team 3
7/09 Team 4
7/16 Team 5
7/23 Outdoor Worship/Picnic
No Nursery or KC
7/30 Team 6

8/06 Team 7
8/13 Team 8
8/20 Team 1
8/27 Team 2

KID CONNECTION SERVING DURING HOLIDAY SEASONS

Thank you to all who serve in Kid Connection so that all of our kids have a safe and nurturing environment in which to hear God's Word! Kid Connection does operate throughout the summer in order to welcome guests and remain faithful in sharing the good news of Jesus with our youngest attendees. As we continue through the summer travel season, please be proactive in swapping serving dates early if you expect to be traveling on your scheduled serving date. We pray you have safe and restful vacations! Recognizing that summer is also a time when people pause to consider what commitments they'll be making during the upcoming school year, please let me know if God is calling you to begin serving, try out serving in a different ministry area, or perhaps even step into a teaching role in Kid Connection. We hope you will remain a part of the serving team this summer and beyond!

KID CONNECTION TEACHER RECRUITMENT

We are seeking individuals who love kids and love Jesus who are prepared to serve biweekly in our Sunday morning Kid Connection to teach our children using our provided curriculum. Please contact Marion Handley for additional details.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Thank you to all who served during Vacation Bible School, came to prepare materials and decorate ahead of VBS week, donated supplies, and supported us with your prayers! We had an amazing week of VBS with Ready, Set, Go learning what it means to follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere! If you provided any bikes, scooters, skateboards or other things that move for the set design you can claim those items by contacting Marion Handley so that they can be returned to your family.



THE 2023 SUMMER CAMPS AND RETREATS ARE NOW LISTED ONLINE!

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(ren) 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 at mhandley@faithum.net.



PRAISE KIDS POOL PARTY

This year's party is being hosted by The Conklin family at 15 Cedarwood Lane, Montoursville on Monday, July 31 from 6-8:00 pm. Rain date is Tuesday, August 1. All families are invited. Please RSVP to Lisa Konkle.



MUSIC CAMP COMING SOON!

- Monday - Wednesday, August 7-9
- For kids in grades K-5
- 6-8:00 pm each evening
- Get ready for music, scripture and fun!
- Please RSVP to Lisa Konkle at 570-259-8957

FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES

FSM

SUMMER

schedule



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

- ⇒ Friday, July 28 at 9:00 am - FSM 9:12 Bible Study and Breakfast - Griggs
- ⇒ Saturday, July 29 - Combined Hangout - 5:30-9:00 pm - Eckert's (1815 Lower Manor Rd. Wmspt.)
- ⇒ August TBD - FSM 9:12 Bible Study and Breakfast - Griggs
- ⇒ Saturday, Aug. 26 - Combined Hangout - Pool Party - Time TBD - Home of Mandi Westphal (2107 Mahaffey Lane, Wmspt.)



FSM Leaders

Marion Handley, Danielle Harris, Sheila Karschner, Mandi Westphal, Kyra Anthony, Barbara Leland, Matt Harris, Elise Meckbach, Pastor Larry Leland.



Confirmation 2023

L to R: Ethan Bragunier, Noah Clayton, Brent Crawford, Sophie Feigles, Hailey Wool, Madison Perry, Reagan Tucker
 2nd Row: Oliver Duarte, Elijah Eck, Hudson Meckbach, Evelyn Michael, Evelyn Meckbach
 3rd Row: Pastor Larry Leland, Kyra Anthony, Mandi Westphal, Marion Handley.

OUR AMAZING 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Matthew Conklin
 Montoursville High School
 Son of Jeff & Kristine Conklin, Matthew will be attending Penn State University Park, pursuing a degree in business.



Ashlynn Loe
 Montoursville High School
 Daughter of Scott & Robin Metzger, Ashlynn will be attending Penn State (York Campus), playing basketball and majoring in Sports Management.



Megan Lowe
 Loyalsock High School
 Daughter of Gary & Kristen Lowe, Megan will be attending Bloomsburg University majoring in Early Childhood Education and minoring in Dance.



Emily Rakestraw
 Montoursville High School
 Valedictorian
 Daughter of David & Kimberly Rakestraw, Emily will be attending Lycoming College, majoring in Biology to become a pathologist.



Rhoan Stark
 Muncy JR/SR High School
 Son of Taylor Stark and Michael Stark, Rhoan will enter the Air Force as an Aviation Mechanic.

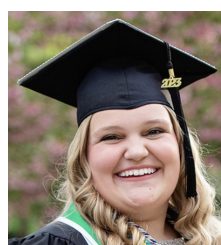


Savannah Watts
 Montoursville High School
 Daughter of Alexa Kremser, Savannah will be attending Northampton Community College.

OUR AMAZING 2023 COLLEGE GRADUATES



Kyra Anthony
 Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
 Daughter of Jim & Robin Anthony, Kyra graduated with a Master in Arts in Youth Ministry. Kyra plans to work for Rich Port while discovering what comes next in the ministry world.



Cassandra Conklin
 Millersville University
 Cum Laude
 Daughter of Jeff & Kristine Conklin, Cassandra earned a B.A. in Psychology with a double minor in Sociology and Criminology. She will work with Walt Disney World in September.



Maddison Probst
 Bloomsburg University
 Daughter of Peggy Probst, Maddison graduated with a BSN. She works at Geisinger in the ER.



Devon Robinson
 University of Scranton
 Son of Mike & Paula Robinson, Devon graduated with a BS in Biochemistry and a BS in Neuroscience. He is employed at Eurofins as an Associate Scientist.



Zoe Wise
 Lock Haven University
 Daughter of Erica & Krista Wise, Zoe graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration. She is employed at the Zeigler College of Business as Administrative Support.

GROW/SERVE



Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group Life
and Assimilation
570-368-2459



BEGINNING JULY 6 - IGNITING HOPE

This Women's Bible Study will meet at 1815 Lower Manor Rd. Williamsport each Thursday morning in July from 10-11:30 am, lead by Michelle Eckert (RSVP to 724-309-5742 or silvermichelle@gmail.com). Study: Developing a Godly Perspective in an Uncertain World. Who do you trust? Truth or Feelings? Come when you can - one session or ALL - no homework.



GRIEFSHARE COMING SOON!

Faith Church is offering a GriefShare course beginning August 23 through November 15 each Wednesday evening from 6-8:00 pm in the Student Ministries Room. The course is built around a series of 13 weekly group sessions. Each session will include a video seminar, group discussion, and journal reflection. A \$20 registration fee will include a participant workbook. For registration/contact information, please scan the QR code or go to:
<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/166909>



WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us at 10:30 am Wednesdays at Faith Church for a 40 Day Sugar Fast. Myself and two others have been on this journey for 30 days. All success I turn back to Praise as I finish the first round. I have felt God's nudge to abide in Him more when it comes to self control and sugars. Join us and find joy in growing your relationship with Jesus. (Book can be purchased on Amazon used or new at Hobby Lobby.) Contact Crystal Miller for details! 570-916-7050.

Combined Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic - Sunday, July 23 at 10:00 am

What a fun blessing this day will be! Many hands are needed to make each facet of the day happen. Whether you've ever served before at Faith, or have been thinking about serving in some way, here is your opportunity! *Please sign up on your Connect Card or at the Guest Hub over the next few weeks!*

20+ Positions must be filled: Saturday Set-Up (Tents/Tables), Sunday Set-Up (Picnic and Bounce Houses) and Sunday Tear Down (Every Area).

You can also contact the church office at office@faithum.net or 570-368-2459 with your commitment.

FAITH CHURCH FOLLOW-UP TEAM SEEKING ADDITIONAL TEAM PARTNERS

Info and Intro Meeting Planned for July 30

Did you know that the Follow-Up Team at Faith Church works very hard to connect with all of our guests, as well as people who make new decisions and take steps in their faith journey? Were you even aware that there was a Follow-Up Team working behind the scenes?

The Faith Church Follow-Up Team's main goal is to connect with guests and congregants outside the Sunday worship experience. Some Team Members contact new guests with a text or call. Others on Team connect with people who make decisions that we can then offer tools to support them in. Yet another facet of The Team connects with those who want to take a new to them or next step in their seeking to know Christ in a deeper way.

We want people to come away from these conversations knowing that we care that they chose Faith Church as their destination on a given Sunday, and also that they are not alone in their growth journey.

If any of the above description stirs your heart and makes you want to hear more, now is the time to join us for this informal intro and info meeting coming Sunday, July 30 at 11:15 am in the Student Ministries Room on the BRRW. This meeting is for all people who call Faith Church their home church. Please take a moment and let us know you plan to participate, whether on the Connect Card or signing up at the Guest Hub in Faith Café. We cannot do this without you, you know.

HARVEST OF HOPE

BACKPACK BOOST

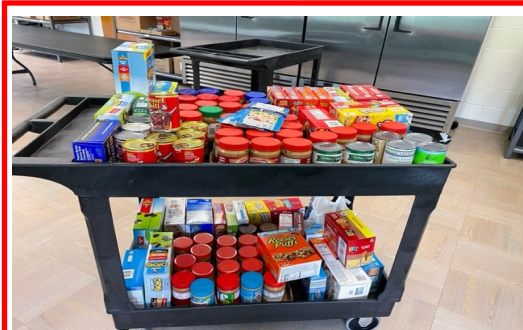
For the month of July, Faith Church will be doing a special collection of food for our Backpack Program. Every month throughout the school year you help provide supplemental food for our Montoursville students who need a bit of help to get through the weekends. Here in the summer months, we have a bit of a break from packing food each month for school students, but our shelves are bare, and we need a boost for the new school year, which will be here before we know it! So . . . here is a list of our most needed food items. If you would be willing to pick up a few of these items and bring them to the church, we would be most grateful! The wooden collection bins will be in the hallway between the sanctuary and the FCC to collect food on Sundays, or anytime you want to bring it in during our regular office hours. THANK YOU in advance for your continued support of this vital program!

Most Needed:

- Oatmeal (boxes of individual packets)
- Boxed cereal (individual 1.5-2 oz.)
- Peanut butter (16 oz. jars only)
- Canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)
- Canned Soup (12 oz.)
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, green beans, baked beans, peas, etc. 15 oz.)



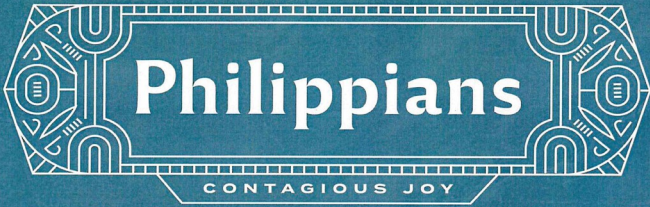
Beth Jones
Director of Harvest of Hope
harvestofhope@faithum.net
570-578-2311



The Harvest of Hope food ministry would like to thank all of the 2023 VBS families who donated food for our school Backpack Program! Thank you for helping us to replenish our shelves for the next school year.

WORSHIP AND OUTREACH

JULY SERMON SERIES



July 09 - *I Always Pray with Joy* - Philippians 1:3-11
July 16 - *Make My Joy Complete* - Philippians 2:1-22
July 23 - *Press On* - Philippians 3:4-14
July 30 - *Fearless Focus* - Philippians 4:4-9



Mason Neiman
Director of Worship &
Creative Arts
mneiman@faithum.net
570-368-2459

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On June 12th, Habitat for Humanity finally broke ground on the Faith Build, a house built with labor and resources from local faith communities. In fact, our own Christian Calehuff provided the equipment as the mayor plunged the excavator bucket into the soil (see pictures above). Once the dirt work and slab floor are complete, we will be able to roll up our sleeves and swing some hammers—currently anticipated around the 3rd week in July.

If you would like to participate, whether on-site or providing meals for crews, and have not filled out a volunteer application form, please contact Mason Neiman so he can tally up our crew and be in touch with you as details firm up. Also, if you'd be interested in serving as the volunteer coordinator for the Faith Build project, feel free to reach out as that position is vacant and help would be appreciated! You can also scan the QR code here to help Habitat's site supervisor know what you are comfortable contributing. We look forward to this opportunity to join Jesus in loving our neighbors well.



TRANSFORM

Faith Church is excited to participate in TRANSFORM again this year. TRANSFORM provides an opportunity for area churches and organizations to work together the week of July 31-August 4 to do projects for area folks in need. All skills and ages can participate. Also, if you or someone you know needs help with home repairs/maintenance, you are invited to register as well. To give the organizers lead time in planning logistics, please register via their website, using this link: <https://firstchurch.cc/transform/>. This is a great opportunity to work together to bless our neighbors.

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

Life Line

JULY 2023



700 Fairview Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754
570-368-2459 | www.faithum.net

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