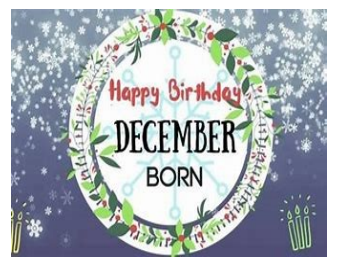




LIFE LINE

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

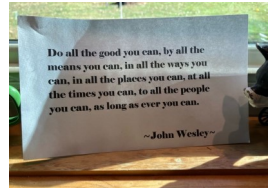


OUR MISSION: MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD
OUR VISION: DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, LIVING INTO GOD'S KINGDOM

RULES OF LIFE WORKSHOP



CHICAGO 6 - EXPONENTIAL 2024



FSM RETREAT - FALL 2024



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Just a sample of the generosity from Faith Church.



DECK THE HALLS - 2024

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2025 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the narthex. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive them or if you give online but received envelopes, please contact the office at office@faithum.net, ask for Jody.



THE VIEW FROM HERE

“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”



Isaiah 9:6

Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
lleland@faithum.net

There are those who are sticklers about not singing Christmas carols until we get to Christmas Eve. While I don't count myself among them, I understand the concern. All too often, we focus our Advent season (or in the calendar of most of the world, December) on decorating our homes, wrapping presents, and preparing for holiday travel. Not to mention the school concerts, work functions and family gatherings on top of additional church activity. We rush toward Christmas without ever slowing down enough to experience Advent.

Advent comes from two Latin words, “coming toward,” or “coming near.” Our hope is that, this season will give us enough opportunity to pause and experience the coming near of the kingdom in Jesus, who is our Prince of Peace. In our world, and even in our own communities, families and lives – we long for peace. Peace that is not just an absence of war, but the presence of God's healing and wholeness. And one of the names that the prophet Isaiah said we would know Jesus to be is the Prince of Peace.

I hope you'll join me in a journey of slowing down this season and finding, or being found by Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace – who alone can bring peace that is unending, with God, with each other, and within.

Longing for Peace Together,
PL

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For Christmas Eve this year, we will gather in four opportunities for worship over the course of the day. As we conclude our Advent focus on the Prince of Peace, we will come together to worship the One of whom we sing, “Sleep in heavenly peace.” We invite you to consider how and when you and your loved ones will worship. We also invite you to pray about serving at an additional worship service this year, as we welcome more guests on Christmas Eve than any other day of the year.

3:00 p.m. – Family-Focused Service of Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary
Music featuring Praise Kids and Kids Bells

5:00 p.m. – Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary
Music featuring Bell Choir, Voices of Faith

7:00 p.m. – Contemporary Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in FCC
Music featuring Praise Team

9:00 p.m. – Quiet Contemporary Candlelight Communion Service in the Sanctuary
Music featuring Praise Team



A NEW RELATIONSHIP FOR THE NEW YEAR

As was shared in worship in November, Faith Church will be connected with Bethel UMC Montoursville as of January 1, 2025 in a new relationship called a two-point charge. What that means is, starting in the new year, Pastors Larry and Marion will both be appointed to continue serving Faith Church as we have been, but will also be serving the congregation at Bethel UMC on the corner of Spruce and Montour Streets.

Logistically, this will mean some minor adjustments to each of our pastors' time usage and scheduling, as we begin to shepherd the 35+ folks who call Bethel Church home. On Sundays, whoever preaches for worship here at Faith will leave after our 9:45 to lead worship at 11:00 a.m. at Bethel. In addition, Pastor Marion will help provide congregational care, and Pastor Larry will provide administrative support. While there may be opportunities in the future for shared ministries – for instance, studies that include folks from both congregations – for the most part, neither congregation will see much different in the way that their churches function.

We trust God to continue to bless and to make fruitful the gifts that our pastors and our congregations bring – all for the glory of Jesus!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation, an experience including classes, mentoring and exploring faith, is right around the corner for students who are in 7th grade and up. We will be starting classes on Sundays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in January, but we will be having an orientation meeting for students and parents on December 8 at 11:15 am in Faith Café. If you plan on being a part of Confirmation or are interested and want to learn more about the process, please email Pastor Larry (lleland@faithum.net) or Pastor Marion (mhandley@faithum.net) to RSVP for the orientation meeting.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Julia Edler, Director
Gail Rollman, Asst. Director of
Children's
Ministries
children@faithum.net

If you have a child who would like to have some fun while learning about God - come join us in Kid Connection, for Bible stories, videos, games, and music.

Ages: Nursery - 2 years old
Pre K - 5 years old



Kid Connection in December will be filled with the wonder of Christmas. We will be focusing on God giving us the best gift in Jesus. All our kids probably have started thinking of their Christmas gift lists with the latest and greatest toys, tech and clothes. One gift they may not add to their list, but they will always want is the gift of time with their parents. Every child at Kid Connection will receive a paper advent calendar with scriptures for each day. This December, give your child the gift of spending time in God's presence with them while reading God's Word.

Kid Connection Serving Team

December 1: Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael

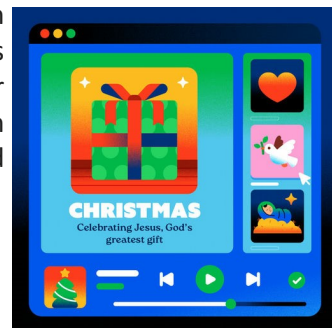
December 8: Robyn Smelko, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach

December 15: Andrea Lucas, Pamela Nelson, Rebecca McDaniel, Amber Bowes

December 22: Lauren Reeder, Vanessa Johnston, Kelly Howell, Brittany Ring

Volunteers Needed:

We are in search of people who have their clearances who would be willing to serve in the nursery for infants to 3-year-olds during the 3 pm, 5 pm, and 7 pm Christmas Eve services. Please email Julia and Gail at children@faithum.net if you would like to help!



ADVENT PRAYERS

"My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me".

"Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas".



YOU'RE INVITED

Praise Kids Musical at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 15th followed by a Christmas dinner with family & friends. Chicken, paper products & beverage are provided. Please bring a dish to pass, hot/cold or a dessert. Indicate on your connect card how many will be attending.



UPWARD BASKETBALL 2025

The new season is just around the corner! Are you interested in being a part of this wonderful outreach to our community? Upward Sports was founded in 1995 out of a desire for the church to meet the needs of families in the community. We, at Faith Church, have been involved with this program since 2021. By focusing on the sports experience and the whole person, a church can help participants grow mentally, athletically, spiritually, and socially. The sports experience you will find provided by a local church helps participants learn a sport and learn for life by understanding God's plan for their life. If you are interested in volunteering, there are many different ways to get involved: coach, assistant coach, referee, scorekeeping, concessions, halftime devotions, set up/tear down, and prayer team. Please scan the QR code and choose how you would like to help this ministry.



Questions - contact Barb Leland at faithumcupward@gmail.com.

OUTREACH



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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Advent has arrived and we again are made aware of the lavish generosity of God in Christ. In that spirit we are pleased to reflect that same generosity through our annual Christmas offering. Each year, we donate the entirety of our Christmas offering to ministry partners at home and abroad, doing good work in Jesus' name. As is our wont, we will be splitting the offering into two wonderful directions.

The first half of the offering will go to support trusted ongoing mission partners. These include the World Service Fund, KinderCamp, Sojourner Truth Ministries, West End Christian Community Center, United Churches Food Pantry, and Family Promise. These organizations are making a real difference in our community and beyond, and we are pleased to partner with them in their good work. So keep that good work in your prayers and let's be generous toward them as we seek to love the world he so loves so dearly.

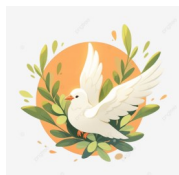
The second half of our offering is something of a special opportunity. In the last few years, the need for investment in marriages has become increasingly apparent. We all have a vested interest in being a part of God's restorative work in marriages both inside and outside Faith Church, and we want to support them in tangible ways. That said, the second half of our offering will support couples from Faith Church who choose to attend Weekend to Remember, a 3-day-long marriage getaway to strengthen couples' relationships at all stages of their life together. Our God-sized goal would be to offer an all-expenses paid trip for interested couples, as well as providing free childcare during the getaway. Our hope is that this is just the beginning of a beautiful new work of God among us in our families and community which will impact lives for years to come.



"Thank you that Christmas is a time of hope. Thank you that you sent Jesus at Christmas to give us the hope that the world can be a better place".



CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM MEETING DECEMBER 15TH



The Faith Church Congregational Care Team will meet in Room 10 on December 15th following the 9:45 am 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. Contact Pastor Marion Handley, mhandley@faithum.net or call the church office for more information.

VOICES OF FAITH CHOIR

You are invited to join Voices of Faith on Thursday evenings to learn and sing Christmas music over the holiday season and sing with us during the 8:15 service and 5:00 Christmas Eve service during the month of December. We'd love to have you!!!



Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed food, gift cards and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. And thank you to everyone who helped pack and deliver them.



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, Associate Pastor.....mhandley@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 Accompanistdvlindner@gmail.com
 Kristen Lowe, Tech Directorklowe@faithum.net
 Maureen McBride, Financial Secretaryfinance@faithum.net
 Chris Nau, Secretary/Communications Coord.....office@faithum.net
 Julia Edler, Director & Gail Rollman, Assist. Director of Children's Ministries.....jneiman@faithum.net
 Mason Neiman, Director of Worship & Creative Arts.....mneiman@faithum.net
 Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life/Assimilation.....dottenmiller@faithum.net
 Jody Robinson, Business Manager.....treasurer@faithum.net

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

Jim Carpenter - Chairperson
 Lisa Vrabc - Recorder
 Ben Clark
 Rachel Knipe
 Scott Konkle
 Chip Lamade
 Sheila Lomax
 Susan Marshall
 Paul Zimmerer

FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES - FSM



Christian
Calehuff
FSM Team
Leader
fsm@faithum.n

Hello Faith Church,
What an awesome Fall we have just experienced. The Fall Retreat was a complete success!

Our group of youngsters embraced in the church wide study of Practicing the Way. We had a group of speakers deliver a message that engaged the youth and help prepared us to be a mimickers of Jesus. Apprenticing, Being with Jesus, Become like Jesus and Doing as Jesus were the basis of our sessions. A special thanks goes out to Larry & Michelle Eckert, Rachel Knipe, and Marion Handley for coming out and presenting these messages.

We experienced a ton of growth with our leaders too, it was not just for our youth. This was such an answer to my prayers. As we connected with each other, we worshiped God, had multigeneration fellowship, studied & prayed together and of course fun games. Elise Meckbach, Amber Bowes, Shelia Karschner, Melissa Foster, Matt Harris and Josh Konkle are very special leaders who give of themselves to make this ministry possible. We are so grateful for the Schmouder & Harris families for their generosity and hospitality, letting us use their cabins along the Loyalsock Creek. We also were blessed to have a group leaders spend the weekend in this ministry serving God and expanding His Kingdom.

Over this two-night event, God blessed us with a spectacular weekend in His creation. Lots of warm weather days filled with sunshine and cold stary nights for us to stare up into the heavens. Lisa Konkle, Barb Leland, Danielle Harris and Marybeth Croll prepared meals for us to enjoy while on stay.

My hope is that these types of retreats continue. Growing our church youth and leaders in discipleship of Jesus Christ. May His will be experienced in FSM by building the next generation of disciples!



*No FSM
Sunday...
December 29th
January 20th*



Sunday - December 8th
4:30-6:30 pm
FSM Team Leader:
Christian Calehuff
fsm@faithum.net

GROW/SERVE



Deb Ottenmiller
Dir. of Group Life
and
Assimilation
dottenmiller@
faithum.net

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Faith Church, Christmas Eve Sign-ups to Serve are now in full swing! Whether you love to care for babies, greet people or open doors to welcome our guests and congregants, we have a place for you to serve! Plan to bless others by your service this Christmas – sign up early! No experience required; all are welcome to sign-up. You can sign up 3 ways: Insert in bulletin on December 8 & 15, at the Sign-Up Center, or on Sign-up Genius @ <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0845AAAF23A7FC1-52863628-2024>



WOMEN'S GATHERING

Taking place December 11th at 10:00 am in the Faith Cafe on campus. Plan to come for a festive morning! We will be taking our discussions from the Women of Faith series "Living Above Worry and Stress". All women are invited to join us for one hour the third Wednesday [normally, note December date change] of each month. Please bring your Bible if you have one. Thank you and if you have any questions, please contact Michelle @ 724-309-5742 or Deb @ 570-337-1149.

WOMEN'S GROUP – I WANT TO TRUST YOU, BUT I DON'T - BY LYSA TERKEURST

Moving forward amid trust issues, dealing with physical, emotional and spiritual arenas where trust can be broken. Finding healing through God's help. Be honest, haven't we all experienced broken trust in our lives? Are you seeking, or know that you need healing in these ways, but aren't sure where to begin? Maybe this group is for you to explore. 1x per month, 2nd Monday of the month. Faith Campus [location staff office suite Brushy Ridge] 12:00-1:00 pm, beginning December 9th. Join Study by texting or calling Deb Ottenmiller at 570-244-7002. Note: that if 6 additional women indicate they would be in for a 1x a month 2nd Monday 6:15pm group, that could happen as well.



YOUNG ADULT GROUP - FELLOWSHIP & STUDY



Where: Room 12
When: Thursdays @ 7 pm
What: Book of Luke - learning about the life & death of Jesus.
Contact: Olivia @ 717-437-1467 or Jason @ 570--651-5969
for more information.

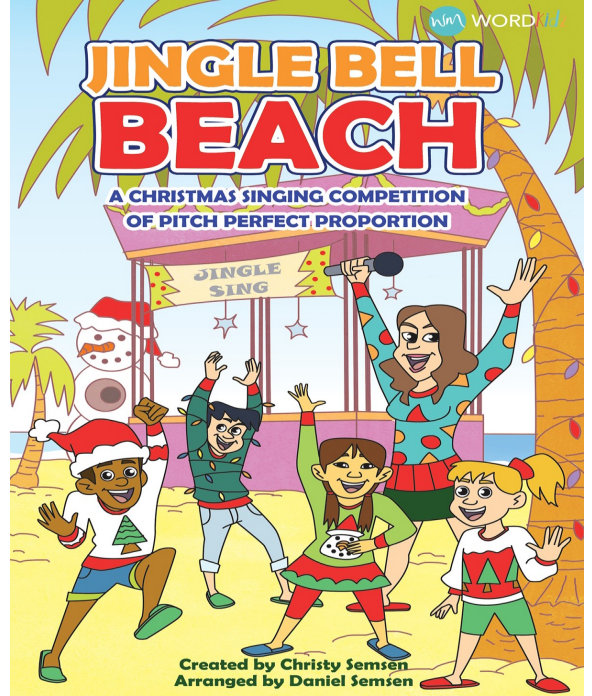


NEW SERMON SERIES



THE PRINCE OF PEACE DECEMBER 1-22, 2024

- December 1st - Unending Peace
- December 8th - Peace With God
- December 15th - Peace With Each Other
- December 22nd - Peace Within
- December 29th - Covenant Renewal Service



The next 13 week class of GriefShare will begin January 22nd. This group is designed to help and encourage people after the death of a loved one. At GriefShare, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. We welcome you to join us. Feel free to share this with others.

The classes will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm, in the FSM Room in the Brushy Ridge wing of Faith Church. You can register and get more information by using the QR code or link provided at the Sign-Up Center in Faith Café.

<http://Faith%20United%20Methodist%20Church%20GriefShare%20-%20GriefShare>

Sunday - December 15th - 3 pm

Faith United Methodist Church

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-3:30 pm and Friday-CLOSED

PHONE #: 570-368-2459 EMAIL: office@faithum.net

WEB: www.faihum.net FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/faithmontourville

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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December 2024

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