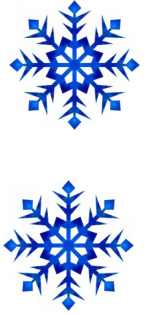


## January 2025 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UMC

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 DECEMBER!



**FSM CHRISTMAS PARTY**



**PRAISE KIDS "JINGLE BELL BEACH"**



Proud parents Chris and Karly Shaffer welcomed a son on December 6, 2024

**Charlie David Shaffer**  
Congratulations!



**YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

**SCHMICK MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP**



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**



**UPWARD COACH MEETING**



What a great month December 2024 was - now onto January 2025!







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

### THE VIEW FROM HERE

At Faith Church, we are led by two primary teams. One of those teams are our staff and ministry leaders, part-time, full-time and volunteer, who focus on day-to-day ministries and equipping us all for the work to which God calls us.

The second team is our Church Council, whose work focuses in three areas: Personnel (serving as our Staff-Parish Relations Team), Finances and Facilities. The Council works with the Lead Pastor and other staff to set policies, cast vision and provide supervision and support.

At the end of 2024, we said goodbye to three faithful Council members who have completed their tenure in leadership. Jim Carpenter has served on Council for 7 years, the last four as our Chair. Lisa Vrabec has served on Council for 7 years, all of those as our Secretary. Chip Lamade has served as our Lay Leader and Council Member for the last 3 years. We are incredibly grateful for their leadership.

**In 2025, the following folks will serve us as our Church Council:**  
Rachel Knipe – Council Chairperson - Ben Clark – Council Vice Chairperson  
Susan Marshall – Council Secretary - Larry Eckert – Lay Leader  
Scott Konkle - Dan Mathers - Lori Parke - Paul Zimmerer

Please pray for them as they continue to lead us forward in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, so that we can become deeply devoted followers of Jesus who are living into God’s kingdom!

### A NEW RELATIONSHIP FOR A 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!



### THANK YOU FROM THE LELAND FAMILY

Just wanted to offer our thanks for the love and generosity you show us as a family throughout the year, but especially around Christmas. Your cards, gifts and care are always bright spots in a busy season, but never more so than they have been this year. We are grateful for this community of faith and the opportunity that we have to walk through faith and life with you. May God richly bless you all!

*"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*



#### 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 .....dylindner@gmail.com  
Kristen Lowe, Tech Director .....klowe@faithum.net  
Chris Nau, Secretary/Communications Coord.....office@faithum.net  
Mason Neiman, Director of Worship & Creative Arts.....mneiman@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

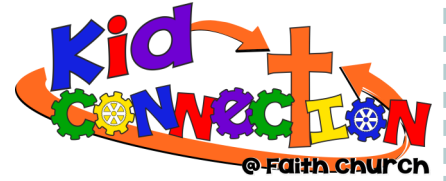
#### FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

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

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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



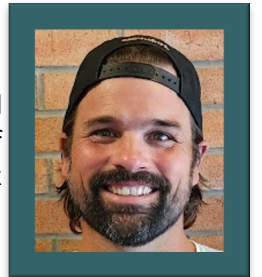
Parents and Guardians- Thank you for sharing your children with us each Sunday! In January the kids will be learning to Trust God in every season. We will talk about when something gets us down, that we can rely on God to help us get back up. Then we can face any season of life with resilience. If you would like daily devotions to do with your child(ren) at home that go with our weekly lessons, send an email to Julia at children@faithum.net

When you are coming up with your New Years Resolutions, you might want to make one to volunteer at Kid Connection. We have options for everyone. Want to be a lead teacher and serve every third Sunday? We've got that! Plus, lead teachers only have to teach for the 15-20 minutes when we split into grade level groups. Want to serve in the infant and toddler nursery once a month? We've got that! Want to serve every 7th Sunday to help support the lead teachers by being an extra hand? We've got that! If you are interested in learning more, please email, call or text Julia at children@faithum.net or 570-494-7848.

## FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES - FSM

Hello Faith Church!

Oh, what a surprise I had when I realized how little time we had in the month of December. We started out at FSM with a Christmas party and in a blink of an eye we were lighting our fourth candle of Advent. When we made the plans it felt like there was going to be enough time to gracefully walk through December, but add in all the other events and it was a full month.



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

Our party was a blast! We had around 50 students and adult leaders attend. This was such an answer to prayer. To watch the leaders, serve our church with planning and preparing this awesome event. To have everyone connecting through fellowship, game, and food was a blessing. We started the evening with lighting the first candle of Advent in our sanctuary. This space is such a beautiful place to be with God with the stain glass windows letting the last glimpses of daylight in. Such a quiet time to grow and reflect in a moment of scripture and prayer. We had a student start with reading scripture, then a leader read a reflective narrative prayer and then we all prayed The Lord's Prayer together. To be part of this was a gift from God. Watching our youth and the leaders grow in their comfortability by discipling and being discipled is what our ministry is striving for.

As the month progressed, we were on the go and went to serve at two centers. We made joyful noise by singing Christmas songs to our elders, bringing the love of God into two spaces where we felt our talents could serve. It was not easy to pull off due to a snowstorm and busy schedules, but we made the effort to prioritize this Christmas gift to our surrounding community.

Faith Student Ministry is a beautiful place to connect, grow, serve and go, whether you are a student or a leader. Thank you, Faith Church, for your support in making this all happen. Without your contributions of time, talents and treasures, we could not have a ministry working like this. It is an honor to serve here; being part of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

### FSM

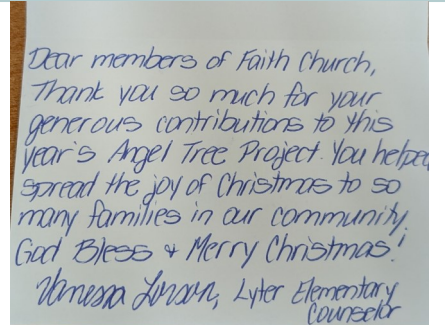
FSM is in need of providers for their Sunday evening meals. Approximately 25-35 students and volunteers eat at 6:00 pm. If you or your small group would like to provide a meal, please scan the QR code to go to the Sign Up Genius and choose a date that works for you.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Angel Tree gifts! We were able to collect 72 gifts for students at Lyter and Loyalsock Valley elementary schools. What a joy it was to partner with these schools to help ensure that our families have gifts under the tree. Many thanks—Beth!!



**ANGEL TREE  
THANK YOU!**





## FAITH PRESCHOOL

Faith Preschool students held their annual service project during the month of November. They collected hygiene items for the House of Hope. Between all three classes, they collected 159 items! This project helped create lots of thoughtful and meaningful conversations about thinking and caring for others with our preschool students! Heather Ramsey



## GROW/SERVE



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

A BIG thank you from Deb for everyone who served on the Christmas Eve Hospitality team, to make our guest and congregant experience an exceptional memorable one!

**THANK  
YOU**



### **WOMEN'S STUDY – I WANT TO TRUST YOU, BUT I DON'T, BOOK BY LYSA TERKEURST**

Ladies I am beginning a 1x a month study January 13th, if any of my women friends wishes to join me. Feel free to invite a friend to join you! 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, the 2nd Monday of the month. Faith Campus [location staff office suite Brushy Ridge] noon-1:00pm or 6:15-7:15pm, beginning January 13th. Grab the book [available on amazon or other places] and pre-read through chapter 1 (including intro). Take notes on what speaks to you or you have questions on. Join the study by texting 570-244-7002 to Deb Bird Ottenmiller.

### **WOMEN'S MONTHLY GATHERING!**

Beginning in January the Women's Gathering will begin a new study called *Beautiful Feet*, a study by Deb Burma. We will look at God's grace in Christ who walks along side of us. Please plan to join us on January 15th at 10 am. For 2025 we will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month through May in the Faith Cafe. Any questions please call Michelle Eckert at 724-309-5742 or Deb Rowles at 570-337-1149.

### **GRIEFSHARE**

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 Faith United Methodist Church GriefShare.

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

### **YOUNG ADULT GROUP - FELLOWSHIP & STUDY**

Where: Room 12

When: Thursdays @ 7 pm \*NEW YEAR Begins January 2nd!\*

What: Book of Luke - learning about the life & death of Jesus.

Contact: Olivia @ 717-437-1467 or Jason @ 570--651-5969 for more information.



# OUTREACH



The Habitat for Humanity Faith build project is coming to a close! As you read this, finishing touches are being put on the house, and the new homeowners will take the keys in February! It's a day we have all been waiting for over the last year! To celebrate, Habitat is holding an open house-style dedication on February 6th at noon. Anyone from the Faith Church community is invited to attend. We have joyfully invested time, talent and treasure to love our neighbors in this tangible way, and being present at this dedication is an opportunity for us to share our joy with Habitat and the new homeowners. So stay tuned for more details as they come. In the meantime, if you have any questions, email Mason Neiman at [mneiman@faithum.net](mailto:mneiman@faithum.net).



Mason Neiman  
 Director of Worship &  
 Creative Arts  
[mneiman@faithum.net](mailto:mneiman@faithum.net)  
 570-368-2459

## UPWARD

Are you interested in helping out with Upward Basketball? There are 3 different ways you can help - concession stand, scorekeeping, and refereeing. Please scan the appropriate QR code to access the Sign Up Genius to choose the date and time you are available to help. If you need help, please contact Barb Leland at [faithumcupward@gmail.com](mailto:faithumcupward@gmail.com).

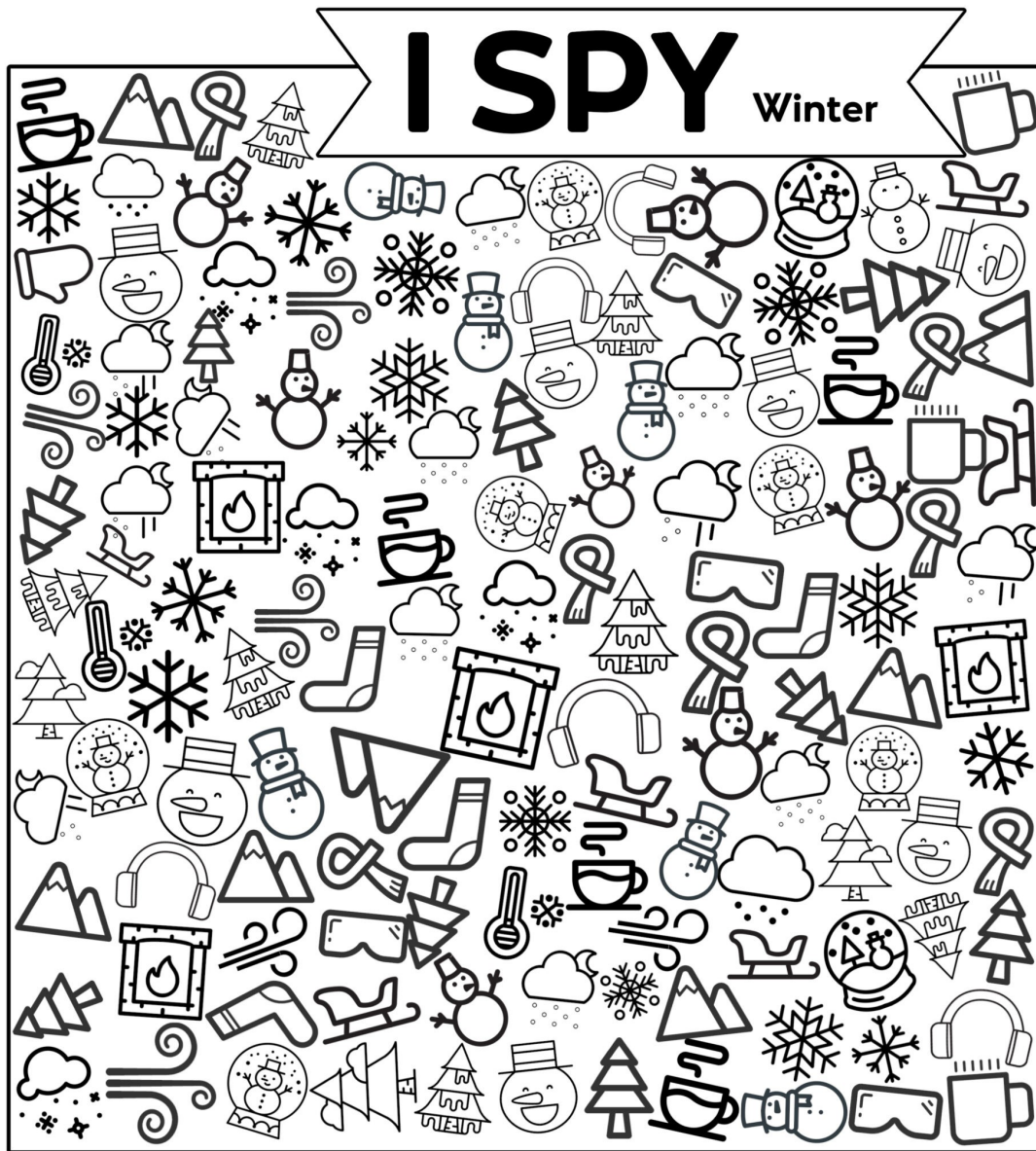
Upward Concession Stand



Upward Scorekeeping



Upward Referee



- |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |
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NEW SERMON SERIES

# THE PROTAGONIST

GOD AND HIS GREAT STORY

-A new series starting Jan 5th

January 5th - Creation  
January 12th - The Fall and Flood  
January 19th - Exodus  
January 26th - Covenant



### 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.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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JANUARY 2025

# Life Line

