



LIFE LINE



MAY 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

THE VIEW FROM HERE



Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
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I don’t know about you, but Lent/Holy Week and Easter felt different this year, in a good way. I was speaking today with a pastoral friend, and we both said that it felt like we emerged – finally – on the other side of the last several years of COVID-weirdness. But the services didn’t go back to anything – it just felt new.

It was the connection I experienced with so many of you as we walked through Lent and the fantastic devotional thoughts you were willing to share as part of our publication. It was the power of being with other churches in the community each Thursday for a simple lunch of soup and scripture. It was wrapping up a study that both our staff and our council had been working through on the “one anothers” we find in scripture. It was seeing so many helpers and so many kids’ families enjoy the story and the fun at Easter Jam. It was the power of sharing around tables on Maundy Thursday and seeing the sanctuary as it grew darker as the story of Christ’s passion was read by all of us. It was coming together, starting before the sun rose, to celebrate the truth that Jesus is alive, and the promise of resurrection that is ours because of that.

That’s when it struck me. We’re experiencing resurrection together. There has been death and loss that many of us have experienced over the last several years. As a church, we have experienced the loss of faithful saints who have run their race and now rest from their labor. We have walked with families through painful transitions, as marriages ended, or relationships have been broken. We have said goodbye to old ways of doing things, and realized that some practices, some people, some of us aren’t coming back again.

But though Jesus looked different in the garden following his resurrection – as Mary thought he was the hired hand – he was still alive nonetheless. And we, all of us, and we as the church, are different because of the last several years. But we’re alive. And Jesus is showing up all over the place. As we continue to study God’s Word together. As we continue to serve our neighbors together. As we have joyful conversations and hard conversations together. As we step out into a brand new day of ministry together.

So I just wanted to say thank you. Thank you for taking this journey with me. Thank you for the privilege I have of being your pastor – in all of it. Thank you for seeking after Jesus, and for trying to live like Jesus, day by day. I love being your pastor, and I thank God every day for the gift of life as we continue to become new.

In Christ,
PL

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please be in prayer for Annual Conference which takes place May 17-20 at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport. Those attending from Faith Church are Pastor Larry, Pastor Beth, Jim Carpenter, Ryan Tira, Marion Handley, Ben Meckbach, and Lauren Reeder.

Hospitality Hosts are needed throughout this event. If interested in helping, please contact Sue Barnes at suebarnes118@gmail.com.

PENTECOST/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - MAY 28



We will be celebrating Pentecost and Confirmation on May 28. This will also be a Family Worship Sunday with nursery available, but no Kid Connection.

Our Confirmation students will be confirmed in worship at both the 8:15 and 9:45 services. All are welcome to attend and support these young people on their faith journey!

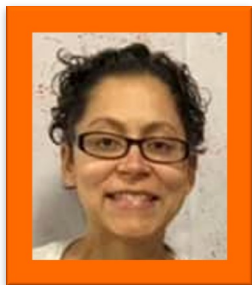
FAITH CHURCH STAFF

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Mason Neiman, Director of Worship & Creative Arts.....mneiman@faithum.net
Jody Robinson, Treasurer.....treasurer@faithum.net

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

Jim Carpenter - Chairperson
Lisa Vrabcac - Recorder
Ben Clark
Hillary Hofstrom
Scott Konkle
Chip Lamade
Sheila Lomax
Susan Marshall
Paul Zimmerer

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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

KID CONNECTION - ORANGE SPOTLIGHT

During May we will be continuing to learn about Jesus and the early church and what it looks like to live out faith in our daily lives! Preschoolers will learn that we can help others because God made us to help! They will learn about the Good Samaritan, 4 incredible friends who brought a sick man to Jesus, and many others who helped out of their love for God and others. Meanwhile, our elementary age groups will be talking about what it means to have confidence because we believe that God is with us. They will hear about the Great Commission, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the spread of the good news about Jesus as people courageously shared the gospel with people they met. Thank you for sharing your kids with us as we learn together!

KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR MAY-JUNE 2023

Team 1: Betsy &/or Dave Bjorkman, Jenn Larson, Linda Lloyd	5/07	Team 4
Team 2: Ryan Tira, Amy Tucker, Kim Rakestraw, Julia/Lydia Edler	5/14	Team 5
Team 3: Danielle or Matt Harris, Carrie Knapp, Cherie Wurster, Jamie Burns & Lilly	5/21	Team 6
Team 4: Susan Ravert, Lisa Good, Tiffany Feigles, Taylor Stark, Kim Winters	5/28	Nursery Only - No Kid Connection Pentecost & Confirmation
Team 5: Rachel/Chris Knipe, Tessa Little, Sandrina Womer, Jenna LoCricchio	6/04	Team 7
Team 6: Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael	6/11	Team 8
Team 7: Crystal Miller, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach	6/18	Team 1
Team 8: Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Pamela/Riley/Cameron Nelson	6/25	Team 2

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

5/07 - Nicole Duarte, Kitty Hofer 5/14 - Kelly Howell, Larry Leland 5/21 - Joni Perchinski 5/28 - Erin Heap



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Join us for Ready, Set, Move! Sunday, June 18-Thursday, June 22 evenings from 6-8:30 pm. VBS 2023 is all about following Jesus here, there, and everywhere.

- **Register:** VBS registration opens April 2! Registration is online only, please register your child or yourself as a volunteer at <https://faithumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1670745>.
- **Serve:** We need teens and adults to sign up to serve so that we can welcome about 200 kids to our campus for VBS in June. You can sign up as a crew leader, games helper, craft helper, and more by contacting Jackie Bragunier at jackiebvbs@gmail.com.
- **Give:** We rely on donations of food and other items every year for VBS. This year we are requesting donations of empty toilet paper rolls and individually packaged snack items. Suggested snack donations include goldfish, pretzels, Oreos, popcorn, etc. We are able to use a wide variety of items, but please choose options that do not contain nuts. The collection table is in the Narthex/Lobby.
- **Borrow:** In addition, we need to borrow "things that move" for decorations that fit our VBS theme for this summer. Please bring in bikes, scooters, roller blades, etc. which are clearly labeled with your name so that we can return them after VBS. Kids will not be riding on these items and we expect to return them in the condition that we receive them.

Stay tuned for additional information regarding summer 2023!

ATTENTION ALL VBS CREW LEADERS!

Thank you to all who have signed up to serve as Crew Leaders. All Crew Leaders will need to join us for **ONE** of our trainings which are being offered Sundays, May 21 and June 4 at 11:15 am in Large Group Room 21 for our adults and on May 21 at 5:30 pm for our teen helpers. Contact Jackie Bragunier at jackiebvbs@gmail.com with questions or to RSVP.

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.



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
Text - 570-916-1429



ATTENTION

GRADUATES

Faith church would like to honor all of its graduates on June 4. Submit your name, a recent photo of yourself, and your plans for Fall to the church office by May 21.



Mother's Day is May 14.

HELLO FAITH CHURCH!

We are approaching summer vacation and there is reason to celebrate. April has been a full month for us with lots of youth opportunities.

At Easter Jam our youth kept up with the cleanup, worked the bounce house and made light work of moving it out of the FCC. We also had some students helping at the Rummage Sale lending helping hands with clean up and handling extra items. We had a Friends and Family community bowling night at Koas that had an amazing turnout. Initially I must admit, I felt a little overwhelmed when over 65 people showed up. Things worked out great with additional lanes opening providing lots of friendly competition. Our parents seemed to enjoy their conversations and our leaders enjoyed the time with the youth. Everyone had a wonderful night and that is just what we were hoping.

This June we will have a party celebrating a great year within this ministry. We truly experienced God's working hands in so many areas of FSM. From compelling youth testimonies to opportunities that were answers to our prayers.

I want to thank all my FSM friends that made our time together so rewarding. We also want to thank Faith Church for supporting our youth program. Without all this support we would not be making disciples of Jesus Christ. It is because of you our youths will be transforming the world starting out right here in our community.

FSM FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT



GROW/SERVE



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

GOOD TO BE BACK!

It's so good to be back and I look forward to getting stronger and more active as the days go by. Debo

MAY 7 IS NAME TAG SUNDAY

We are hoping to grow relationship and build a culture of "we". So getting to know one another's names is a really good step! You are invited to grab a name tag on the first Sunday of each month. Let's get to know one another a little better!

WOMEN'S GATHERING

The last Women's Gathering of the season will meet Wednesday, May 10 from 10-11:00 am in Faith Café. We will be learning about the Fruit of the Spirit - goodness. We will meet again beginning in September. Questions? Call the church office at 570-368-2459.

FAITH FLOWER TEAM

If you enjoy planting and taking care of flower beds, please consider being a part of the 2023 Faith Flower Team. We will be planting sometime in May (TBD), and members are asked to take turns watering and weeding the beds on a rotating basis throughout the summer. Contact Dave Miller at 570-368-2459 or dmiller@faithum.net for more information.

HARVEST OF HOPE

Harvest of Hope supplies supplemental weekend food for students in the Montoursville School District who are food insecure. We are almost at the end of the school year and our Backpack Program food supplies are depleted! We need your help with just a few food items to help us finish out the last few weeks of the year. *We are in need of: Knorr Pasta Sides, Peanut Butter (16 oz. only), and Soup ((12 oz. only).* Food can be placed in the wooden bins inside each church entrance.

WORSHIP AND OUTREACH

DWELL SPRING DRIVE

May is foster care awareness month! And we at Faith have the opportunity to participate with Dwell Orphan Care's twice-a-year collection to stock up their Hope Chest Foster Closet. During these drives, each partner church is responsible to collect one item. This May, Faith Church is signed up to collect **new bath crayons and bath paint**. While doing your shopping this month, feel free to pick them up and then bring items to Faith throughout the month. This is an easy, practical way to bless kiddos in need and the families that support them.



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

EASTER OFFERING TOTAL

We at Faith Church were blessed to donate our Easter offering to two partners being Jesus' hands and feet, both locally and globally. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to give \$23,444.00 to bless the world God loves!

One half will go to our global partner UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) which is on the ground and providing relief with folks responding to the devastation left by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

The other \$11, 722.00 will go to Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport which provides meals, support, and belonging for folks experiencing homelessness, joblessness, or other distress right here in our back yard. Our offering will support their ongoing work and provide necessities for those who cannot afford them.

A special thank you to those who gave generously to love and care for our neighbors both at home and abroad.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S FAITH BUILD

As warm weather approaches, so does the opportunity to help pitch in on Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build--a home built for a qualified applicant by the local faith community. Pending closing and permits, groundbreaking is scheduled to take place in the first week of June. Once that happens, we will keep you up to date as things progress as to when we will be able to swing some hammers. In the meantime, those interested in volunteering on the Faith Build will need to fill out the volunteer registration form prior to volunteering. You can find those printed in Faith Café or download them from the Greater Lycoming



Habitat website (Completed forms can be given to Mason Neiman). Once construction is underway, there will be opportunities to both to help with construction and to provide lunch for the construction crew. We look forward to putting our faith into action and blessing our neighbors in the coming year in this tangible way. For those interested in volunteering for Habitat For Humanity's Faith Build project, you'll need to fill out some forms before you get to the job site. You can find those forms [HERE](https://www.lycominghabitat.org/take-action):
<https://www.lycominghabitat.org/take-action>.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



- May 07 - *We Are Quick to Listen* - James 1:19
- May 14 - *We Are Slow to Speak* - James 1:19
- May 21 - *We Are Slow to Become Angry* - James 1:19
- May 28 - *We Are the Church, Together* - Acts 2:1-21



PRAISE KIDS SPRING MUSICAL

The 2023 Praise Kids Spring Musical - PRAYSTATION - is coming to Faith Church on Saturday, May 20 at 6:00 pm in the FCC. PRAYSTATION is a video game musical about The Lord's Prayer. Plan to attend now. You won't want to miss this singing and dancing extravaganza by our kids!

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

MAY 2023



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