



LIFE LINE



OCTOBER 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
lleland@faithum.net
570-368-2459

While October is traditionally Pastor Appreciation Month, here at Faith Church, we are blessed to have a staff of pastors and laypersons who faithfully and effectively lead us in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the month of October, we invite you to take one or more of the opportunities below to bless the amazing women and men who live out their unique vocations by serving on Faith Church's staff.

- Drop a staff member a card or note, specifically thanking them for their work, and sharing how they have helped you become a more deeply devoted follower of Jesus.
- Take the opportunity to have coffee or lunch with someone on staff, and ask them how you can pray for them.
- In lieu of an individual gift, consider making a contribution to our **Staff Appreciation Offering**. These gifts, above and beyond our regular tithes and offerings, will be received throughout October, and used to bless the members of Faith Church's staff in November.

As always, pray. Here is something I found that's guiding my prayers this season.

God, I praise you for the dedicated church staff you have given Faith Church. They are godly men and women who deeply desire to lead people as deeply devoted followers of Jesus. I realize their work is time-consuming and taxing on them and their families.

Lord, I ask for your grace and wisdom to be upon each staff member as they navigate the demands of ministry and their personal lives. Help them find a healthy balance between their roles, responsibilities, and time spent with loved ones. Grant them the discernment to prioritize their relationships and nurture their own well-being. And empower each person who calls Faith Church home to fulfill our role in the body of Christ, so that the work of our staff would be multiplied for the sake of your kingdom.

Thank you, Lord, for the dedication and sacrifice of our church staff. Bless their personal and family lives abundantly, and may their relationships reflect your love and grace. May their homes be places of refuge and joy, and may their families testify to your faithfulness.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Finally, stay tuned on our social media for staff member highlights throughout the month.

Blessed to be part of this team,
PL



QUARTERLY CONVERSATIONS



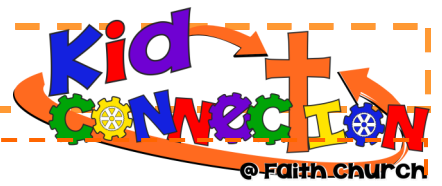
QUARTERLY CONVERSATION

Pastor Larry and the Church Council invite you to our next Quarterly Conversation, held after each service on Sunday, October 22. 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. After the 8:15 service, we will gather back in the sanctuary, and after 9:45, we will gather in Room 10, across from the church office.

CHURCH CONFERENCE 2023 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 2:00 PM

In the United Methodist Church, a church conference is an annual meeting, and ours will be held this year on Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 pm in the FCC (Faith Community Center). This annual business and vision meeting for the congregation completes important business for the church, including setting the pastor's salary package, electing officers for the coming year and other yearly tasks. But this is about more than just voting on a few business items. It is about setting the tone for ministry for the coming year and getting a glimpse of the vision that God has for 2024. While membership is required to vote on the congregational business, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Jessica Neiman
Dir. of Children's Ministries
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ORANGE SPOTLIGHT



This October our preschoolers will begin learning that God can help us be brave through the stories of Rahab, David, Daniel, Queen Esther, and Moses' older sister -Miriam. Being God-Brave will only grow throughout our lives! Meanwhile, our elementary age group will be learning about the virtue, integrity. In Luke 6:43-45, Jesus said, "A good tree doesn't bear bad fruit. And a bad tree doesn't bear good fruit." Jesus was saying that what's on the inside matters most and influences who you are on the outside. The best way to live a life of integrity is to stay connected to Jesus. Throughout the month we will look to Daniel and his friends. Even when captured by the Babylonians, they showed integrity by staying true to their faith.

KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

Team 1: Jenn Larson, Linda Lloyd, Lauren Reeder, Vanessa Johnston	10/1	Team 7
Team 2: Ryan Tira, Amy Tucker, Kim Rakestraw, Stephanie Matlack	10/8	Team 8
Team 3: Danielle or Matt Harris, Carrie Knapp, Cherie Wurster, Jamie Burns & Lilly	10/15	Team 1
Team 4: Lisa Good, Tiffany Feigles, Taylor Stark, Kim Winters	10/22	Team 2
Team 5: Rachel/Chris Knipe, Tessa Little, Jenna LoCricchio, Erica Blake	10/29	No KC/FX Sunday
Team 6: Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael	11/05	Team 3
Team 7: Crystal Miller, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach	11/12	Team 4
Team 8: Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Pamela/Riley/Cameron Nelson	11/19	Team 5
	11/26	Team 6

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

10/01 - Kelly Howell 10/08 - Erica Blake 10/15 - Joni Perchinski 10/22 - Nicole Duarte 10/29 - No Nursery

FX WORSHIP SERVICE - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

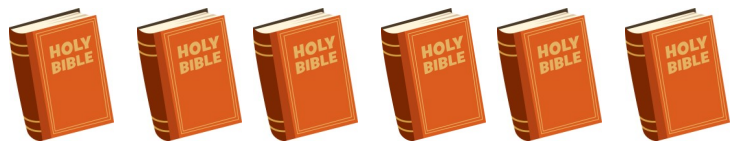
Sunday morning October 29 during the 9:45 service, it will be our Family Experience (FX) Worship Service! All the children will be a part of the worship service. This is a special time to gather all together to worship, learn, and have our children lead in segments of the service. Come be a part of FX Worship Service!

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 Jessica with questions.

BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY FOR 3RD GRADERS

We are excited to present your third grader with a Bible! This year the Bibles will be presented on Sunday, October 29 during the 8:15 service and the FX worship service at 9:45. ALL children receiving Bibles must attend a meeting with a parent or "sponsor" who will come forward with them during the presentation. The meeting dates are Sunday, October 1 and Sunday, October 8 following the 9:45 worship service in Large Group Room 21 at 11:15ish. Parents of 3rd graders will receive additional information, but please contact Jessica Neiman with any questions or concerns.



Faith Preschool is having a great start to the school year! We have been busy learning how to be a preschooler as well as a good friend. In the photo, you can see some of the friendship bracelets we made. It was a great way to practice our sharing skills!



Join us this winter for
Upward 2024!
Details coming soon.

FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES



October 8
No FSM

October 15
Comparison Series
How God Sees Us

October 22
Open Lesson or
Snyder's Corn Maze

October 29
Community Service
Devotions by Kyra
Anthony and Bella Grube
Music with Mason
Pen Paling with Mrs. Tira
(students sending letters
to the elderly)

HELLO FAITH CHURCH,

It is so good to be back into the swing of things. FSM has begun and we are having a great turnout.

In the month of September, we welcomed the new 6th graders to our group and had some new faces to FSM with both students and servant volunteers. It is so nice to see these new people coming into our ministry.

We started the month talking about the value of small groups and how important they are within our Christian Community. Later in September, we went into our study series about comparison and how God does not compare us to others. We need to celebrate rather than compare and how important it is to choose and see ourselves the way God does.

We also had some of the high school students help with the middle school groups. This is so special for us here at FSM, seeing the students wanting to contribute back into this ministry.

In October we will be finishing our series on Comparison. We will also be doing our community service with "Pen Paling with Mrs. Tira" where students will be writing to some of the community's elderly in nursing homes. We will be worshipping too with "Music with Mason". FSM will be back to the corn maze at Snyder's. This community activity has always been a great place for newcomers and also to have some awesome fellowship.

We are looking forward to having more students and servants join us at FSM, so if you know of anyone interested, please have them contact me.



Christian Calehuff
FSM Team Leader
fsm@faithum.net
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CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Marion Handley
Dir. of Age-Level Ministries
and Cong. Care
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570-368-2459



Dear Friends,

Whether you are a lifetime attender of many decades or visiting us as you look for a church to call home, I invite you to share your needs with our team. 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 joy and privilege to walk with you through your celebrations, challenges, and transitions. Confidential prayer is always available. I encourage you to let us know how we can help. The simplest way to share your need with us is using the Connect Card in your weekly bulletin, but you may also call the church office or send an email.

Interested in serving our congregation as a member of the Congregational Care Team? We welcome new additions to the team! The next team meeting is October 15 following the 9:45 worship service. Contact Marion or call the church office for more information.

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

BELLS OF FAITH

Bells for youth/adults meet on Sundays in the Sanctuary 11-12:00, and ring at the 8:15 service once a month and special holidays. If you are a Bell Ringer already we hope to see you, and if you're interested in learning how to ring come listen to us on a Sunday and join us Ding a Lings!



Lisa Konkle
Choral Coordinator/Organist
lkonkle@faithum.net
570-259-8957

MUSIC GROUPS - YOU CAN STILL JOIN!

- Praise Kids (Children's Choir for Grades K-5) - meets from 4-5:00 pm in Large Group Room 21 - Children's Wing.
- Kids Bells (Bells for Grades 3-5) - meets at 3:45 pm in Large Group Room 21 beginning 10/4.
- Voices of Faith (HS Teens/Adult Choir) meets from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Music Room.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Praise Kids will perform Sheep Stuff, a Christmas musical on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 pm. You won't want to miss this singing and dancing musical extravaganza!



GROW/SERVE



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



Join us for Pizza with the Pastor on Sunday, November 5 at 11:15 am in Large Group Room 21 (Children's Wing).

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!

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

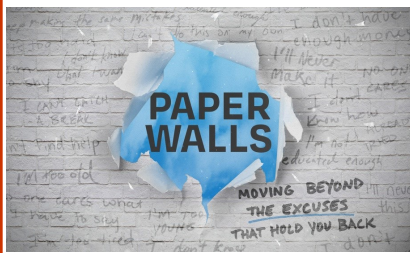
Please take a moment to register today!

<https://faithumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1932836>



WOMEN'S GATHERING

PEW SISTERS. Real women. Real lives. Real faith stories. Every woman in the pew has a story of God's faithfulness. We share the same faith, eat at the same table and inherit the same paradise. Join us on Wednesday, October 19 at 10:00 am in Faith Café and every third Wednesday of the month going forward.



PAPER WALLS - CHURCH-WIDE 4 WEEK SERIES - NOVEMBER 5-26

Church, what holds us back from living a God-glorifying life? Andy Stanley said, "Excuses get passed off as reasons, and excuses easily become, in the real world, 'because,' because all of us have some 'because' that we habitually hide behind when certain things come up." Starting the week of October 26th, we are encouraging

the entire congregation to begin exploring this in a Small Group setting, for the series *Paper Walls: Moving Beyond Excuses That Hold Us Back*. Check your Sunday bulletin to find out how.

SERVING TEAMS FOR HOSPITALITY AND FELLOWSHIP

Your Hospitality and Fellowship Teams would love to have you join them for a season of serving! We have opportunities available on 8:15 and 9:45 Teams. Hospitality to greet and take collections, and Fellowship by making coffee and serving snacks. Please contact Deb or the church office.

OUTREACH



TRUNK OR TREAT

Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat, which will take place October 31st in the C. E. McCall Middle School parking lot from 6-8:00 pm.

You are invited to bring a trunk-full of candy to hand out to trick-or-treaters in this fun outreach to the community.

We will even have a prize for the best-

decorated trunk! We will be joined by the Key Club, and Faith Student Ministries will be there providing hot chocolate and helping park cars.

If you can't make it but would like to help, then candy is the way to go! During the month of October, please place all the candy you can scrounge in the boxes at each church entrance to help Faith Church engage our community in a positive way. If you'd like to join the fun, follow the QR Code or contact Mason.



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

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

This month, we will be collecting food and monetary donations to pack Thanksgiving Baskets for neighbors in need. Food donations can be dropped off in Faith Café in late October through Thursday, November 16. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office throughout the month.

Extra hands are needed to pack and deliver the baskets on Sunday, November 19. We will begin packing right after the 9:45 worship service and will begin delivery shortly thereafter. Signups for helping packing and delivery via Connect Card will begin in late October. This is a great opportunity to love our neighbors well!

ITEMS NEEDED: Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans, Canned Cranberry Sauce, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Boxed Stuffing Mix, Boxed Hot Chocolate, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Boxed Cake or Brownie Mixes & Frosting, and \$20-25-Weis Gift Cards to purchase Turkeys and Dessert Pies.



STAFFING NEWS

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL would like to share some upcoming staff transitions over the next several months.

DIANE DUNLAP, who has served so faithfully as our Office Administrator for 11+ years, will be retiring after November 3. Diane has not only been a gift to every staff and leader here at Faith Church for her support, patience and joy. She has been the face of Faith Church to countless preschool kids, guests and outside groups coming to the facility. And she has welcomed us all with genuine love. Diane’s presence will be missed on a daily basis in the office, but you will continue to see her in worship, Kid Connection, VBS and even in the office from time to time helping out. But she will also be spending lots of time with her husband, Scot, and her kids and grandkids.

Please join us after each worship service on October 29 for a celebration of Diane’s ministry among us. We will have coffee and cake, and we invite you to take time over the next several weeks to give Diane a hug and your thanks for her faithful service to Christ and Faith Church.

JODY ROBINSON, who currently serves as our Treasurer, will be moving into the full-time role of Business Manager, which will bring together the positions of Treasurer and Office Administrator.

Jody is married to Rev. Rick Robinson, pastor of First UMC, Muncy, and is mother to two grown daughters and a son who is a freshman in college. She also serves the church in Muncy, enjoys Bible study, the beauty of creation and time with her family and friends.

Jody has brought over the last several years diligent and detailed administration, vision for ways we can move forward in stewardship, and lots of laughter to the office. She will continue to do so in this new role, and we invite you to take the opportunity to greet her in the office when you get a chance!

DAVID MILLER has served Faith Church for over 8 years as our Facilities Manager. At the end of 2023, Dave will be leaving us to pursue a new position as he and his wife, Crystal, are entering into their next phases in life and journeying together.

Dave has quietly and faithfully been present and working behind the scenes at Faith Church – during the renovation and expansion projects of the last several years, navigating through COVID and beyond, and managing a much larger facility than when he first began. We look forward to Dave’s continued presence as part of our Faith Church family and will have opportunity later in the year to say our thanks to him.

We wanted to share this with the congregation now, as Council will begin the process of advertising and interviewing for a new Facilities Manager who will hopefully be able to work with Dave for a brief time to provide a smooth transition.

As always, pray for Pastor Larry, Church Council, and all of our staff as we walk through these transitions. We have come to know in the life of the church, just as in any organization, that staff changes happen. We are incredibly fortunate to have a team that loves one another and works together well, and will trust that God will continue that work as we move forward together.

HARVEST OF HOPE



FRESH EXPRESS VOLUNTEERS GATHERING COMING SOON

Join us Tuesday evening, October 17 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Large Group Room 21 (please enter using the Children's Wing entrance). We ask that anyone who has (or would like to) volunteer for Fresh Express to plan on attending. Our purpose for gathering is to renew our training and receive new and needed information. We will also look ahead to 2024 as we refresh our Fresh Express hospitality and food distribution process, always asking - how can we continue to improve what we do? How can we expand our ongoing vision to build relationships with the community as we ensure that no one goes to bed hungry? Please register your attendance by emailing Beth at harvestofhope@faithum.net.

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
 Kaila Clancy, Nursery Caregiver.....kailaclancy5@gmail.com
 Diane Dunlap, Office Administrator.....office@faithum.net
 Marion Handley, Director of Age-Level Ministries & Cong. Caremhandley@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
 David Miller, Facilities Managerdmiller@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.....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

NEW SERMON SERIES

OCTOBER 08

ACT JUSTLY

MICAH 6:6-8, ISAIAH 1:17

OCTOBER 15

LOVE MERCY

MICAH 6:6-8, LUKE 6:36



OCTOBER 22

WALK HUMBLY

MICAH 6:6-8, PROVERBS 15:33

OCTOBER 29

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

DANIEL 3

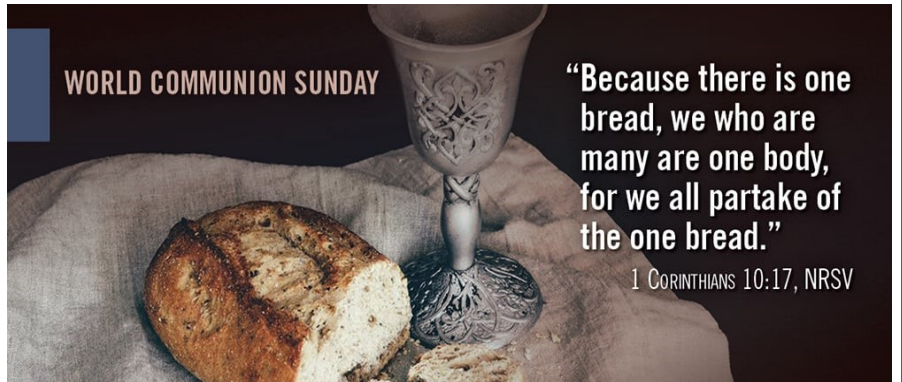
THE MICAH PROJECT

DO JUSTICE . LOVE MERCY . WALK HUMBLY

What if we were known as a people in our world who do justice, love mercy and walk humbly?

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 1, in worship, we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion as part of World Communion Sunday. There will also be a special giving envelope available in the bulletin. The World Communion offering funds support racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the US. Please be in prayer for this special day.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”

1 CORINTHIANS 10:17, NRSV

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

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OCTOBER 2023

Life Line

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