



**FAITH
CHURCH**

LIFE LINE



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UMC

**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**

IT WAS HOT IN AUGUST - BUT STILL HAD A BLESSED TIME!



**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS - DURING COMBINED SERVICE
SUNDAY - AUGUST 18TH**



**SUMMER 2024
FSM GROUP**



THE VIEW FROM HERE



Larry L. Leland
Lead Pastor
lleland@faithum.net



In talking with folks in a variety of settings, when they find out I am a pastor, they will often say something like, “I have a question.” What follows often gives voice to something they value, they hope, or they don’t understand. Some I’ve heard are:

“If God made everything, who made God?”

“What happens when the cancer comes back?”

“What is going on in the world?”

When we invited you to share your thoughts on sermon series that may be meaningful, many of you shared your responses in the form of a question.

“Why does God allow suffering?”

“How does a married couple navigate when there are differences in spiritual matters, politics and money?”

“How do you approach someone who has lost their faith?”

As we met for this year’s Worship Design Team Retreat, the staff and members of the church who prayed through this process felt strongly that God was calling us to lay some foundation – not just over a series or two, but over the next several years – that will help us all grow in our answering of what we understand to be the four most important questions.

“Who is God?”

“Who am I?”

“What is the gospel?”

“Who are we?”

These questions guide how we understand and, we think, formulate answers for many of the other big questions that life throws at us. While we will look at how scripture answers these questions in a variety of ways over the next two years, we will start this journey with a series we’re calling Big Questions starting September 8. I hope that you’ll not only commit to being here those four Sundays, but that you’ll invite someone who may be wrestling with some of their own questions to join us.

In Christ,

PL

Church Council Nominations

Our Church Council, made up of 9 members elected for up to two consecutive three-year terms exists to ensure the vision of helping people connect in worship, grow in community groups, serve the body of Christ and go into the world to make disciples of Jesus. The Church Council at Faith Church focuses their work in three areas (Staffing, Facilities and Finance) including:

Approve the Annual Budget.

Approve the hiring of any member of the Leadership Team.

Annually review the Lead Pastor in conjunction with the District Superintendent.

Approve all land acquisitions, facility construction and significant legal obligations.

When a special need exists, the Council can create a task force consisting of a sub-group of the board and/or other church members. This would include the election of new members to the Church Council.

Actively pursue learning opportunities as it relates to large church structure and development. This could include books, conferences and other learning tools.

Folks that serve on the Church Council should possess the following character traits:

Compassion (love for Jesus, his people, and his mission).

Competency (skills consistent with human resources, operations and stewardship).

Creativity (ability to look at the total of God’s resources and bring the best into the church).



Leadership matters, especially as we navigate these days in the life of the Church. The Nominations Committee will be prayerful discerning two people to serve on the Church Council, beginning in 2025. Please prayerfully consider whether this is a calling God may be placing on you. If you are interested in being considered for nomination please e-mail Pastor Larry ASAP. Pastor Larry and the Nominations Committee will meet with potential nominees in September, before presenting nominees to this year’s Charge Conference, on Sunday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.



2024 Church Conference

In the United Methodist Church, a church conference is an annual meeting, and ours will be held this year on Sunday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. here at Faith Church, as part of the Montoursville Cluster. 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 2025. While membership is required to vote on the congregational business, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Rev.

Daniel Wilt, currently our Williamsport District Superintendent, will be on hand to lead us, along with our sisters and brothers from charges in the Montoursville Cluster.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Jessica Neiman
Dir. of Children's
Ministries
jneiman@faithum.net

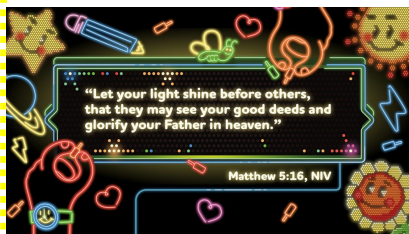
We are kicking off the school year with an invitation to you! Would you like to join Kid Connection in worshipping on Sunday mornings with the youngest of us? Please reach out to Jessica, jneiman@faithum.net, if you are interested in being added to the Serving Team Rotation or Teacher rotation for the upcoming school year!

KID CONNECTION SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

- Team 1: Lauren Reeder, Vanessa Johnston, Kelly Howell
 - Team 2: Ryan Tira, Amy Tucker, Kim Rakestraw, Stephanie Matlack
 - Team 3: Danielle or Matt Harris, Cherie Wurster, Jamie Burns (& Lilly)
 - Team 4: Lisa Good, Tiffany Feigles, Kim Winters, Linda Richards
 - Team 5: Rachel and Chris Knipe, Jenna LoCricchio, Ericka Blake
 - Team 6: Brenda Clouser, Chelsea Howe, EvieLynn Perry, Kristi Michael, Brittany Ring
 - Team 7: Robyn Smelko, Brigitte Wright, Chelsea Burkholder, Chris Meckbach, Amber Bowes
 - Team 8: Andrea Lucas, Julie Vogel, Pamela Nelson, Rebecca McDaniel
- September 1st:** Team 2 **September 8th:** Team 3 **September 15th:** Team 4 **September 22nd:** Team 5
September 29th: FX Worship Experience No Regular Kid Connection. Nursery Available.

FAITH CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2024

- September 1st** - Michelle Eckert, Sarah Young **September 8th** - Erin Heap, Katie Farley
- September 15th** - Joni Perchinski, Erica Yoder **September 22nd** - Lisa Vrabec, Kitty Hoffer
- September 29th** - Jen and Kaytlin Larson, Hillary Hofstrom



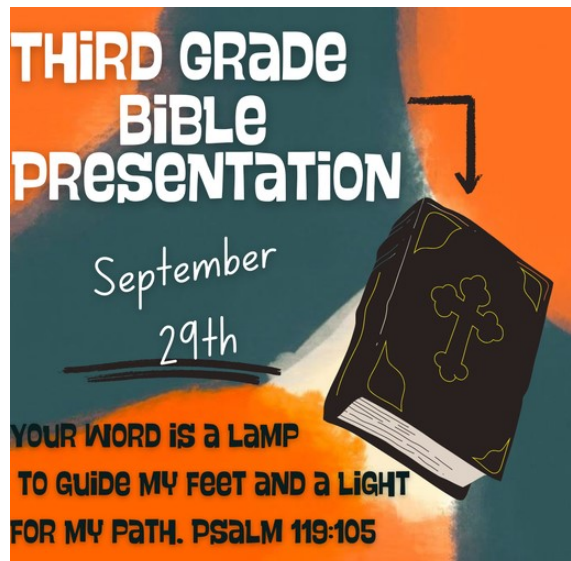
Kid Connection: During the 9:45 service, Infant through 5th grade join in the mission of the church making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world where all are invited to become an apprentice to Jesus with age appropriate, hands-on learning.

Nursery (Birth through 2 years) During the 9:45 service children will be encouraged to play, and build friendships with others! After the worship set Diane Dunlap will present a short Bible story and an invitation to a coloring page related to the story.

Preschool: (3-5 year old class) This month, we're talking about THE light that God sent into the world to shine bright for all the world to see. And THIS light has a name. His name is Jesus! Each time we choose to love like Jesus, we become a bright light. Just like each LiteBrite peg lights up to make a picture, each and every act of love is a bright light that makes a beautiful picture for the world to see Jesus.

K-4th Grade: The foundation of our Christian spiritual formation is asking these questions, "Who is God"? In September, Kid Connection will be learning how God is compassionate! As we learn to know God through Jesus, we too can reflect God's light showing compassion to others and we can LIVE BRIGHT!

5th Grade: Our 5th graders join their class for the opening worship in the front two rows closest to the Kids Wing in the Faith Community Center (FCC)! 5th graders then attend class where teachers cultivate a safe space to read the Bible, ask questions, play games, and pray and support one another. The month of September, 5th graders will begin taking a look at the Sermon on the Mount through the use of the Bible Project resources, they will be taking a new look at the world and Jesus' invitation to make his story our story!



BIBLE PRESENTATION WEEKEND FOR 3RD GRADERS

We are excited to present your third grader with a Bible! Bibles will be presented on Sunday September 29th during the FX worship service. Children receiving Bibles should plan to attend a meeting with a parent or sponsor who will come forward with them during the presentation. The meeting dates are Sunday September 8th and September 22nd following the 9:45 worship service meeting in room 12 at 11:15. Parents of 3rd graders should have received additional information in the mail. Please contact Jessica Neiman jneiman@faithum.net or 570-412-4349 with any questions or concerns.

OUTREACH



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

We've got great news about the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build project: a lucky applicant has been matched with the house! That means the work we have been, are, and will be doing is about to have a very real face—the face of someone whose life is about to change and we had a part to play! As for the status of the project itself, the house is mostly finished, with trim and painting left to do. So for those of you who said, “I can't do construction, but call me when it's time to paint,” well this is your time! If you'd like to join in on the finishing touches, feel free to reach out, and we'd be glad to get you on-board.

We're currently scheduled to volunteer on Saturday, September 14th, but given the dwindling timeline on the house, that could possibly change. So if you're interested at all as we wrap up this project, don't hesitate to check out the sign-up table in Faith Café, email Mason Neiman at mneiman@faihum.net, or sign up at <https://lycominghabitat.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Calendar/5289>



FAITH CHURCH STAFF

Larry L. Leland, Lead Pastor.....lleland@faihum.net
 Jim Anthony, Preschool Custodian.....jim_anthonysr@comcast.net
 Christian Calehuff, FSM Team Leader.....fsm@faihum.net
 Diane Dunlap, Office Assistant.....diane.dunlap@hotmail.com
 Marion Handley, Director of Age-Level Ministries & Cong. Care.....mhandley@faihum.net
 Matthew Harris, Facilities Managerfacilities@faihum.net
 Beth Jones, Director of Harvest of Hope.....harvestofhope@faihum.net
 Lisa Konkle, Choral Coordinator/Organist.....lkonkle@faihum.net
 Deb Lindner, Voices of Faith Accompanistdvlindner@gmail.com
 Kristen Lowe, Tech Directorklowe@faihum.net
 Maureen McBride, Financial Secretaryfinance@faihum.net
 Chris Nau, Secretary/Communications Coord.....office@faihum.net
 Jessica Neiman, Director of Children's Ministries.....jneiman@faihum.net
 Mason Neiman, Director of Worship & Creative Arts.....mneiman@faihum.net
 Deb Ottenmiller, Director of Group Life/Assimilation.....dottenmiller@faihum.net
 Jody Robinson, Business Manager.....treasurer@faihum.net

FAITH CHURCH COUNCIL

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



CONGREGATIONAL CARE & AGE LEVEL MINISTRIES



Marion Handley
Associate
Pastor
Mhandley
@faithum.net

What is congregational care?

Congregational care is...

...anyone who considers Faith Church home caring for another person who is already connected to the church!

...the meal you drop off for a friend who had surgery, delivered a baby, or just had a rotten day.

...the snowy sidewalk you shoveled just because you saw it needed to be done for your neighbor who is also your brother in Christ.

...visiting a friend in the hospital and praying together for healing.

...sending a card in the mail to brighten someone's day.

...calling someone who is grieving a recent loss.

...babysitting for free so that a parent can go to an important doctor's appointment.

...visiting with someone living with dementia so that their caregiver can have some respite.

...members of the Congregational Care Team gathering to pray for our homebound folks and wrapping packages for them for Christmas. If you would like to join the Congregational Care Team or if you have an unmet need that you would like to share, please contact Pastor Marion at mhandley@faithum.net.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY @ FAITH CHURCH

The Faith Church Congregational Care Team and some of our ongoing small groups support recent graduates, college students, and other young adults by sending cards and care packages during the year. Whether your family member is a college Freshman, Senior, serving in the armed forces, or pursuing a different call we want to continue to support them on their journey. Interested in receiving



FAITH STUDENT MINISTRIES

***FSM change in time: The middle school and high school students will have a combined meeting time beginning September 8, 2024
The new time is 4:30 - 6:30 pm.***

Hello Faith Church!

What a summer we have just had at FSM. There have been so many ways we connected with our youth over the summer. First, we started serving with our hands and feet as we helped with VBS. We ended the summer by helping with a local mission, Transform, which was run by our friends at First Church of Williamsport.

We also spent time with First Church's youth group, Fuse, as we connected this summer at pool gatherings. These times with Fuse are called "Unite" as we continue to set examples of how the body of Christ can be united and represented by different parts, in this case our youth groups.

By meeting every other Sunday for "Growing Together", this was a time where 6th through 12th graders came together for a game, dinner and devotion. These nights were found to be a bonding time with a diverse age group participating together in fellowship and reflection of God's word.

Prayer & Play was another option for kids of any age to come in and use the church for some indoor and outdoor game activities. We had an open gym every other Wednesday morning where we connected with games, snacks and group prayer.

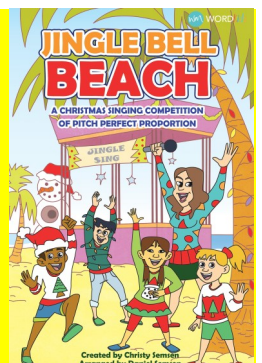
To end the summer FSM season, we had planned a pool party but unfortunately the weather changed that idea. Our leaders rallied and we hosted a cornhole tournament and cup cake decorating contest. It ended up being a fun time for all of us.

As we begin our new season of FSM, we will meet new faces in our youth group welcoming the new 6th graders and will also have new parents and new leaders. This is a special time for us at FSM and I am so excited to see what God has in store for us in our ministry. Please pray for and encourage our community's youth to come in and see what we are about. You can find more information regarding upcoming lessons & events on our bulletin board located in the Brushy Ridge Rd. hallway of the church.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who participated in any way to make FSM a success - Christian.



September 8th in Room 10 from 11:15-12:15 Praise Kids all other kids K-5 and their families can join Ms. Lisa to watch a presentation of the Christmas musical we will be presenting this December titled "Jingle Bell Beach"



A LETTER FROM MARYBETH

Dear Church Family,

My name is Marybeth Croll. I teach 3rd grade Kid Connection and attend the 9:45 service. I have a husband who's a physician, Scott, and a daughter, Abby, who's a Vet Tech in Pittsburgh. My mother, Jane, lives with us. I volunteer at Divine Hospital and Sojourner Truth Ministries House of Hope. I love getting together for coffee talk with my girlfriends and doing crafts.

I'm reaching out to you all because I have Stage 4 renal failure and am currently on the transplant list. I am looking for a living donor kidney between 18-75 years of age in good health. My doctors want me on the transplant list because, without a kidney, I may need dialysis. I have been in stage 4 renal failure for several years, but recently my kidney numbers have declined.

I'm very independent and would like to stay that way, so I'm turning to you for support and to spread the word to find a living donor, so I can receive a life-saving transplant. I would truly appreciate it if you shared my story with others.

Anyone interested in being evaluated as a donor candidate or want more information can go online to LivingDonorRed.UPMC.com.

Thank you for your support and keep me in your thoughts and prayers.

Marybeth Croll

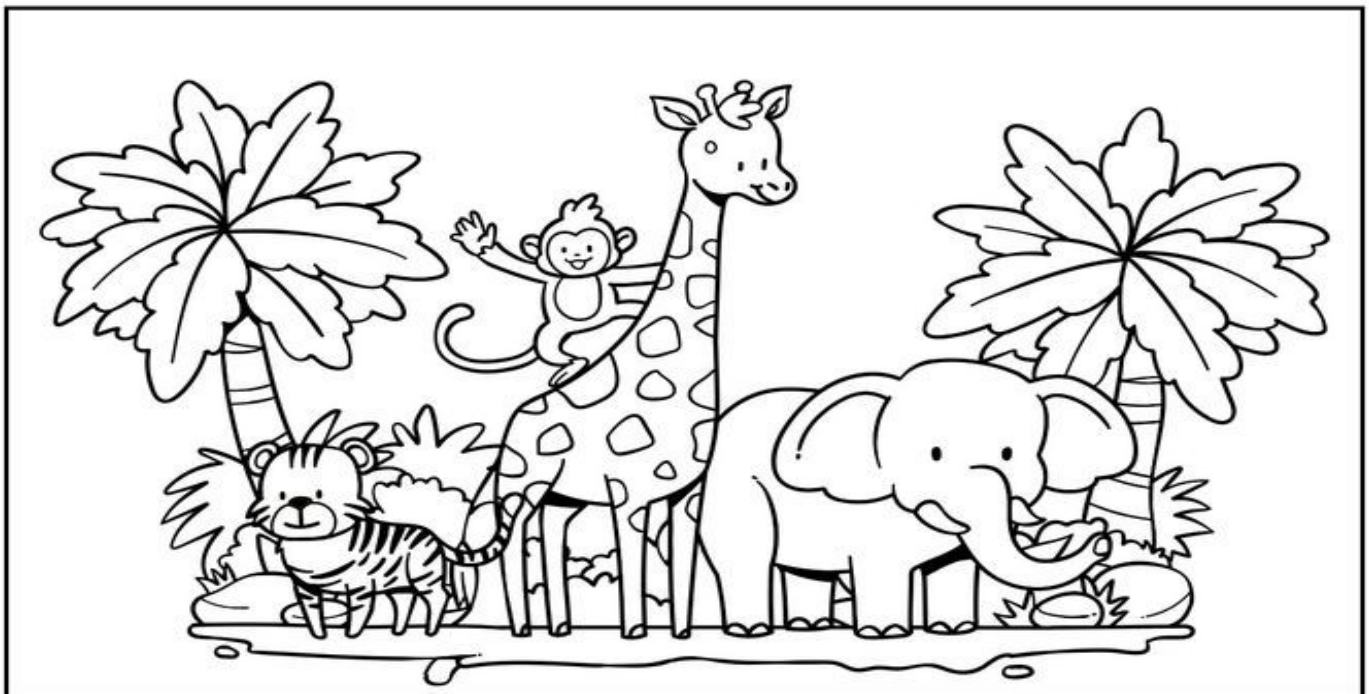


Name _____

Date _____

Spot The Difference!

Find and circle 8 differences in the pictures below.



GROW/SERVE



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

THERE IS A GROUP FOR EVERYONE! U TOO

We are heading into a new season of Group Life at Faith Church and there is a group waiting for you! New and renewing groups will be ramping up beginning in September, so start thinking about how that will look in your life this fall. If you would like to begin a new group with a few friends, we can help you get started.

Coming Soon:

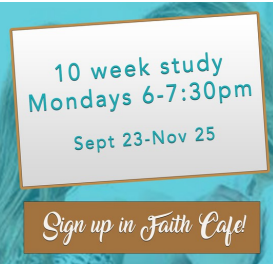
1. Group Leader Training for new Leader/ Host, Monday, September 16th 6:30-7:30 pm. or Sunday September 29th 8:45-9:45 am and 11:00 am-12:00 pm. Attend any of the three times offered. Trainings will be in the Staff Area in the Brushy Ridge Road wing. Registration is required and can be completed at the Sign-Up Center. There will be a Special Leader/Host Bonus at Training!
2. Beginning October 6th, groups will be hosting the coming 4-week Church-Wide Series 'Practicing the Way'. You can connect to one for a short term, as a first or next step! Or participate in the Training and lead/host one yourself! I would love to help you! Contact Deb at dottenmiller@faithum.net or 570-244-7002.

Practicing the Way

Be with Jesus
Become like him
Do as he did

John Mark Comer

New York Times bestselling author of
The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry



DATE NIGHT

Save the Date!
Friday - November 8th
Details Soon...



MONDAY NIGHT MEN

Guys coming together to have dinner, prayer, then football.
Hosting at area homes @7pm, beginning early September.
Contact Jim Anthony 570-651-0240



Are you a dude?
Do you like food?

Well do we have a combo for you!...On Saturday, September 21st from 8-9:30am, all men are welcome to the church for a hearty breakfast with the guys—and support one another as we are able. We will eat good food, hear from some of our guys and the group life director, and then.....tomahawk throwing!

If you dig it, there will be opportunities to check out or join other men's groups as well. We hope to see you there! (beards optional) Oh and did we tell you – this

event is free for you! Register at Sign-Up Center by September 15th so we know you are coming!

Event Sponsored by Faith Church Group Life Questions? Contact Deb @ dottenmiller@faithum.net

PRACTICING THE WAY GROUP

Open Sign-Ups! September 22nd .

Check out the opportunities on September 22nd for you to join a 4-week Church-Wide Series Group! Multiple Groups ,on-campus, off-campus and online options! Plan to experience the series together and they would love for you to join them. Group Information and Sign-ups will be in the Faith Café area around both worship services. Stop by and talk with one of our leaders or sign up to join!



SEPTEMBER 8TH PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

Join us for Pizza with the Pastor on Sunday, September 8th 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!

You can Register with the church office @ 570-368-2459, or at any time by indicating on your connect card.

Membership Class Coming in September! This 1-day Membership Class experience will be Sunday September 22nd 2-6pm in Room 10 [Fairview wing]. We will explore together what membership looks like for a follower of Christ. Light refreshments will be available.

There are workbooks for each participant that we provide for you (a short and easy pre-read), with a little homework to do prior to our meeting. Workbooks are available at the Sign-Up Center in the Cafe area on Sunday's, or through the church office during the week. Please Register with the church office @570-368-2459, or at any time by indicating on your connect card.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND
2-6pm-Room 10

NEW SERMON SERIES

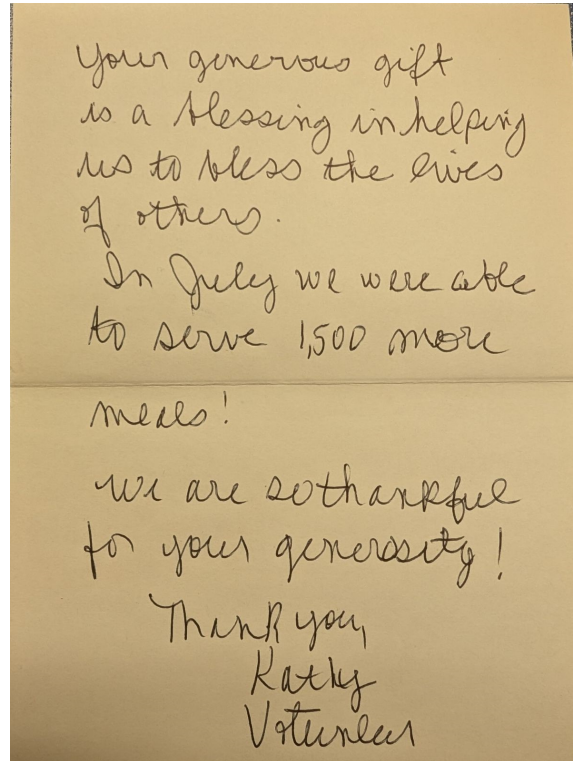
NEW SERIES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8TH



- Sept. 8: Big Questions: Who Is God?
- Sept. 15: Big Questions: Who Am I?
- Sept. 22: Big Questions: What Is the Gospel?
- Sept. 29: Big Questions: Who Are We?



A thank you note from
Sojourner Truth Ministries



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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Life Line

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