

PRAYER REQUESTS:

OUR CONCERNS:

Wisdom & safety for government officials globally
President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris
Veterans and Service Members
Civilians, leaders, and soldiers in war torn regions
For peace & wisdom in areas of conflict
Police officers and their families
Folks harmed in interactions with police
All first responders & medical staff
For an end to violence in all forms
Victims & families involved in violent crime,
sexual abuse, racism, and harassment
Abusers and their families
Healing & peace for divisions caused by race,
class, gender, sexuality, politics & fears
All affected by natural disasters
Stewardship of our environment & climate
Eradication of deadly diseases—incl. COVID-19
Refugees & huddled masses yearning to be free
Security and immigration reform
People who are hungry and unhoused
Prisoners, Prison Leadership & Judges
Cash Bail and Prison Reform
Schools, education and foster care reform
Members of AA, NA, & AlAnon and their families
All struggling with addictions, finances, etc.
Those suffering from mental health illnesses
All those caring for sick loved ones
Those grieving the loss of loved ones
Bishop Schol, DS Freymoyer & EPAUMC Staff
Laity and Clergy of the UMC
The UMC and General Conference Delegates, new
Bishops, God's will regarding human sexuality
& evangelism to new disciples of Jesus
Rev. Dorcas, her eyes & ministries in Sierra Leone
Udobo School in Durban, South Africa
Campus Ministries
Dottie Sheaffer – healing for back & eyes
Eileen Williams – muscles
Bradley McGowan – ALS
Linda Philbin – motor neuropathy
Rosemary (Marilyn Jones' sister) – healing
Michelle Rathvon Mitterer – healing from strokes
Chuck Flory – ALS
Alan Price – Buni's father's health
Annette McClarigan – health, sons & family
Jean Neideigh – healing (MS)
Gene Onest – health issues

Those with cancer: Cyndi Campbell, Dean Grove,
Mark Reitzel, Kerry Link and her father-in-law,
Joe, John Rathvon, Duane Lehman, Lori, Barb
Royer, Linda Mutzel, John Serio, Ruthie, Martin
Campbell, Ben Neideigh, and others
Angela, Maria and Becky – to be healthy & thrive
Izabel, Oaklee, Carson, Matthew & their parents
Terry Kofroth – healing
Daryl Hawthorne – healing and upcoming surgery
Kuzmenko family – health and transitions
Ukrainian people and their nation
Don Campbell – health
Bernice Wilkison – health
Margie Urban – health
Noah Boughter and family
Bryan Nelson
Heather Lindsey
Theo Wenger – healing for kidneys
Jake Ruhl – hip pain
Jo Ann Steinmetz – healing
Megan and Josh—Jackie Black's grandkids
Mark Norman –recovery from shoulder surgery
Shirley Gehr – healing
Roberta Stone – healing and balance
Donald Stone – healing
Nicole Wise
Denise Herr (Steph Edward's mom) - healing
Victoria Fritsch – healing after surgery
Holly Lee – healing
The Jackson Family
Jay Byerly – healing
Glessner Family on loss of infant son
Jenita Beth Perkowski – testing and healing
Kay Newcomer – healing & peace
Robyn Meckley – healing
Sandy Patschke – healing after eye surgery
Harmony Chiccarine and family for strength, peace,
& healing for battle against Leukemia
Fred Kohler – heart attack and bypass surgery
Marilyn Jones and family on Carl's passing
All those healing from COVID and other viruses

OUR PRAISES:

Bible2School Program for 2nd-4th graders
God's presence through illness, struggle & loss

*Please submit prayer requests (& updates) by note
or email to the office: faithumc@hotmail.com*

Give You a Sign

AN ADVENT SONG OF ASCENTS WORSHIP SERIES

Welcome

*Faith United Methodist Church
1290 Fruitville Pike, Lititz, PA 17543
717-560-0321*

www.FaithUMC.us & also on Facebook

The Rev. Jason Perkowski jbperkowski@gmail.com Phone: 717-333-9238

Faith United Methodist Church



December 18, 2022 at 10:30 AM – 4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME: We gather in this Advent Season to remember the Alpha & Omega—God who has always been and always will be. The Creator, Son and Holy Spirit have worked together throughout time to create, bless, and redeem the universe. We prepare ourselves for the second coming of Jesus to gather His people home. You are welcome in this sacred space no matter who you are; from where you have come; what experiences, struggles or gifts you bring; or the questions, doubts & beliefs you carry. We are so glad you are here – and pray you find what you came looking for!

Please sign in using the red Pew Pads. Prayer Request Cards from the pads can be placed in the basket on the altar. If worshipping online, please 'sign in' and add prayer requests by commenting on the video.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Michelle Bame & Pastor Jason**

A TIME FOR CENTERING & PRAYER **Pastor Jason**

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE **The Kennedy Family**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Pastor Jason & God's People**

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church (*especially...*), that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind (*especially...*); that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday (*especially...*) and anniversaries (*especially...*); that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Rick Morley, on his A Garden Path blog. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/prayer-of-intercession-advent-4.html>.

***HYMN** *Once in Royal David's City* **UMH #250**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Isaiah 7:10-16** **Buni Harbison**

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

***HYMN** *Great is Thy Faithfulness* **UMH #140**

CHILDREN'S TIME **Pastor Jason**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19** **Buni Harbison**

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

OUR OFFERINGS OF PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* **UMH #95**

***Offertory Prayer**

***HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory* **UMH #577**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Romans 1:1-7** **Buni Harbison**

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER **UMH #895**

***HYMN** *People, Look East* **UMH #202**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Matthew 1:18-25** **Buni Harbison**

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Give You a Sign* **Pastor Jason**

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

***HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* **UMH #89**

*** You are invited to stand**

Director of Worship: Shannon Edwards **AV Tech:** Dennis Meck, Sr.

Pastor: The Rev. Jason Perkowski **Ministers:** The People of God

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ALSO BROADCAST on Facebook & our website.

OFFICE COMMUNICATION: Hours vary. Contact the Office via 717-560-0321 or faithumc@hotmail.com, (messages checked weekdays). Contact Pastor Jason via 717-333-9238 or jbperkowsky@gmail.com. He is with family from Friday at Noon thru Saturday and may not respond to non-emergencies then.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 7:00 PM at Long Memorial UMC. “The light shines in the darkness” ~ John 1:5. For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past but are now changed or gone. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so around this time, we offer a quiet, meditative worship service that allows time and space for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts to celebrate anew the coming of Christ. You are invited to join us for a time of special music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, healing prayer, and communion. Pastors Andrea and Jason will share in guiding this service and you are invited.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at Faith UMC at 7pm on Dec. 24th (or 5pm at Oregon Community UMC if that better suits your schedule). Families will worship together in this service of carols and a retelling of the Christmas story. We will also share in Communion.

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE at Faith UMC at 10:30am on Dec. 25th (or 9am at Oregon Community UMC if that better suits your schedule). Join us for a simple hymn sing and celebration of the birth of Christ.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES DURING ADVENT: Prayerfully consider if you would like to help with any of these projects. *We do not expect you to donate to each one.* Please participate as your heart and capacity leads you.

- **UN-DECORATE FOR ADVENT!!** A challenge for extraordinary generosity - a recipe for Christian action. Items needed by LUMINA are printed on an "ornament" on our *Undecorate Tree*. Remove the ornament and donate those items to LUMINA. The tree and collection box are in the entryway. What a wonderful opportunity to help our neighbors in Lancaster City by decorating our little corner of the world with a dash of generosity and a splash of kindness. Items should be returned to church by Christmas Eve.
- **UDOBO PRE-SCHOOL:** We support the Udobo School in Durban, South Africa at Christmas. Visit <http://UdoboSchool.com> for details. Your gift will help provide food, educational supplies and teaching staff. If you are interested in helping you can send a check made out to *Faith UMC* with "Udobo School" in the memo or donate online to that fund at www.faithumc.us. All gifts in the special Faith UMC Christmas offering envelopes or marked for Udobo School will go directly to the school. Unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will also go the school.
- **CHRIST HOME FOR KIDS & BLACKFEET UMC PARISH:** Oregon Community UMC will be sending a financial contribution to these two ministries as they do each Christmas. If you are interested in helping you can send a check made out to *Oregon Community UMC* with the specific ministry marked in the memo line. You can mail it to Oregon Community, 1214 Creek Rd., Lititz, PA 17543.

OFFERING TITHES TO THE LORD: You can direct gifts to **General Ministry, Debt Reduction / Building Fund**, etc. Mark preferences in the memo. You can mail a check, donate through the website, or give in the plate.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE: Faith UMC continues to do incredible ministry—with Bible Studies and small groups for all ages, GriefShare for those in mourning, Bible2School for students from Reidenbaugh Elementary, outreach events like Breakfast with Santa and Trunk-or-Treat, support for those struggling financially, pastoral care, shepherding and visitations, etc. We are also seeing several new folks becoming active members.

This work does require financial support. As we calculate outstanding costs for local ministry that are due by Dec. 31 and compare that to the current balance in our checking account as of 12/15/22, **we will need to raise an additional \$4,250 by the end of the year to break even. That is a very achievable target.** However, that would mean starting the new year with *no money in the account* and no buffer. Additionally, we are **behind in paying our required 2022 Apportionments to the United Methodist Church by \$12,711.** This includes 1) The World Service Fund which supports the boards, agencies and missional organizations that resource our UMC ministries around the world, 2) The Connectional Ministry Fund which supports our missions, programming, and staff in Eastern Pennsylvania, and 3) The General Church Fund which provides for the operations of the General Conference. So, to **pay all of our local ministry costs and apportionments, we need to raise an additional \$16,961.**

We are confident that we will be able to pay all of our regular bills. Our goal is to also pay as much of our apportionments as possible—rather than carrying that debt into 2023. **However, Church Council has also set a target of having paid our regular bills and having \$15,000 in the checking account to start the new year before we pay those past due 2022 Apportionments to the UMC.** Bills and salary will be paid, but paying apportionments will be delayed until we can start the year able to cover the January 2023 expenses.

Please prayerfully consider if you can make a special end of year gift to help us meet these targets. You can place a gift in the offering plate, mail a check, or donate online at FaithUMC.US under "Online Giving."

LIGHT OF THE WORLD ADVENT STUDY with Rev. Jim Garner. This book study written by Amy-Jill Levine will help participants prepare their hearts for Christmas. She is a New Testament Professor who is Jewish, and writes from this particular historical and Biblical context. **Please order the book in advance** at Cokesbury.com or Amazon in paperback or a digital copy. This will be a Zoom Study on Thursdays at 7 PM (Dec. 22). <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85939667466?pwd=bHkreUNyNTZGVWNicmUwUnNzazhXQT09>

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:00 AM: Everyone is welcome to join this Bible Study led by Michelle Bame on Sunday mornings. *We will meet in the 1st classroom in the Education Wing.* **Resumes Jan 8.**

JUNIOR CHURCH for children age 3 years through 4th grade **during the 10:30AM Worship Service. Please sign your child in before the Worship Service. Each child and parent will be assigned a badge** with a matching number. Children will begin the service in the sanctuary and be dismissed to Junior Church after the Children's Time Message. **After worship, parents must sign children out at their classroom in the Education Wing. Resumes Jan 8.**

YOUTH GROUP, SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM at Faith UMC for 5th-12th graders. Sign up in the hall to be the 2nd adult and/or to provide a meal. Each week there are dinner, games and a lesson. **Youth will go to Gretna Glen Camp from 3:30-7:00 PM on the 3rd Sunday of each month—except December.** Church van will leave from / return to Faith UMC. For more info contact Pastor Jason (717-333-9238). **No session Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet at Faith UMC from 7:30-9:00 PM every other Monday for students in 6th-12th grade. We will have classes, retreats, field trips, etc. led by Pastor Andrea from Long Memorial and Pastor Jason. (Next meetings: Dec. 19 and Jan. 2)

GRIEFSHARE GROUP: Pastor Jason and Tina Miller lead a GriefShare Group to help people find support and process the loss of loved ones. To learn more, please contact Pastor Jason ASAP. This group meets every other Monday from 5-6 PM in the Fellowship Hall at Faith UMC (Dec. 19 and Jan. 2).

CHATTING VIA ZOOM MONDAYS AT 6:30 PM: **No meeting on Dec 26.** Everyone is invited to join us. at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518?pwd=cEVDeDljeThaaWVlYjJlQWmZjTm5oUT09>.

BIBLE STUDY on WEDNESDAYS at 6:30 PM with Mike at Oregon Community UMC. **Resumes Jan 11.**

MORNING BIBLE STUDY – FRIDAYS AT 10AM in Fellowship Hall: We explore the scriptures for this week's sermon. You can prepare at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>. **No session Dec 23 or 30.**

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FAITH UMC WORSHIP TEAM for practices on Wednesdays at 6:30PM. We still need singers and instrumentalists to be a part of leading worship each week.

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS: If you are over 72 and have tax deferred retirement accounts, you could have a portion of your required minimum distribution given as a charitable gift to the church (or other organizations) to avoid paying taxes on those funds. This may benefit you as you finish out 2022 and plan for you tax returns. If you have questions, about different sources of giving to the church, feel free to contact Pastor Jason.

POWER INTERFAITH LANCASTER COUNTY is working on justice issues in our community—including fair funding for public schools, prison and bail reform, positive police & community interactions, a healthier environment, economic justice, etc. **Pastor Jason has been working with POWER Interfaith for over 6 years and would like to see our church officially engage in this work as well as considering starting a local UMC Church and Society Team.** Contact Pastor Jason to learn more or visit <https://powerinterfaith.org>

MEMBERSHIP: If you are interested in learning more about the UMC and our local churches, and are considering becoming a member, we invite you to contact Pastor Jason for info to join in a new membership class to begin soon.

BIBLE2SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in working with Pastor Jason and other volunteers to teach the Bible2School students from Reidenbaugh Elementary School please let Pastor know. We are hosting this religious education program for 2nd and 3rd grade students every Tuesday and Wednesday morning for 45 students.

FREE LENDING LIBRARY of books, puzzles, & DVDs for all ages to borrow is in the 2nd classroom in the Education Wing. There is no sign-in/out procedure. See Buni or Marilyn for info. Donations welcome.

PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE: Perhaps you or someone you know would appreciate the comfort of a prayer shawl or quilt. **Please help yourself to a prayer shawl** from the rack in the hall and sign the attached sheet.

SERVANT SATURDAY: In coordination with our Downtown Ministry program, Faith UMC is encouraging a Servant Saturday for all our worshippers on the 1st Saturday of each month. Our next Servant Saturday is **January 7**. We are asking everyone to make an effort to show God's love to the world around you. We would like everyone to find a way to give of their time, talents and treasures locally or across the world. There is a flyer on the church website that has some suggestions, but we hope you can use your imaginations to find ways to give. Involve everyone in your family to find ways to share the love and giving of Jesus Christ. And who knows, that attitude of servanthood may carry over to all the other days of the week.

DOWNTOWN MINISTRY: We have ministry of providing meals & personal care items for people who are unhoused in Lancaster City on the 1st Saturday of every month. **January 7 we will meet at 2pm and cook a hot meal** at Faith UMC, and then **go downtown to deliver it**. If you'd like to help, please contact Diana Valentine at 717-283-6099. We need people to help cook, prepare donations, deliver food, pray, etc.

COMMUNITY MEAL: People in need may pick up a Grab 'n Go Meal at Zion Lutheran Church in East Petersburg every Monday. Several churches in the area support this ministry. **Faith UMC provides fifty Grab 'n Go Meals quarterly**. If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Carol Kennedy. **The next time we serve a meal will be January 9, 2023.**

IN NEED OF HELP: Contact Pastor Jason, dial **2-1-1** or visit www.211.org to reach the **United Way Call Center** for social services. **The Crisis Intervention Lifeline is (717) 394-2631 or dial 9-8-8.**

LITITZ MEALS ON WHEELS is in need of drivers to deliver pre-cooked meals to clients in the Lititz/Warwick area. Use your own vehicle to deliver from Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 W. Orange Street, Lititz. WE CURRENTLY NEED REGULAR DRIVERS AND SUBSTITUTES ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS Other delivery days are also available Monday thru Friday beginning at 10:15 AM to one of four pre-determined routes. You can volunteer one day a week, or several times a month, or as your schedule permits. For more information, contact: Laurie Hess 717-519-9906 or email: Lahess@rocketmail.com.

WORSHIP LEADERS for Christmas Eve, December 24 are:

WORSHIP MUSIC: Shannon Edwards, Worship Director and the Faith Singers

AUDIO/VISUAL TECH: Dennis Meck, Sr.

GREETERS: Jim & Buni Harbison

USHERS: Jim & Buni Harbison

LITURGIST: Terry Kofroth

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Jason

WORSHIP LEADERS for next Sunday, December 25 are:

WORSHIP MUSIC: Shannon Edwards, Worship Director and the Faith Singers

AUDIO/VISUAL TECH: Dennis Meck, Sr.

GREETERS: Alan Strait & Sydney Dohring

USHERS: Alan Strait & Sydney Dohring

LITURGIST: Linda Lunn

CHILDREN'S TIME: Amy Boughter

JUNIOR CHURCH: Cancelled – Enjoy the service!

YOUTH GROUP: Cancelled – Enjoy time with family!

ONGOING EVENTS:

Sundays

Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM **No session Dec 18, Dec 25 or Jan 1.**

Worship, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary and Facebook Live

Junior Church during 10:30 AM worship **No session Dec 18, Dec 25 or Jan 1.**

Youth Group at Faith, 5-7 PM. **No session Dec 25 or Jan 1.**

1st Sundays

Communion is offered during worship service, 10:30AM

Mondays

GriefShare Group - Every other Monday from 5:00-6:00 PM at Faith UMC

Chatting Club via Zoom, 6:30 PM

Confirmation Class - Every other Monday from 7:30-9:00 PM at Faith UMC

Bible2School, 9:45 to 11:30 AM for Reidenbaugh students in Fellowship Hall

Bible2School, 11:20 AM-1:20 PM for Reidenbaugh students in Fellowship Hall

Worship Team Practice, 6:30 PM

Bible Study at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30-7:30 PM

Wing and a Prayer AA Meeting in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM

Advent Bible Study with Pastor Jim via Zoom, 7:00 PM (Dec 1-22)

Bible Study led by Pastor Jason, 10:00 AM **No session Dec 23 or 30.**

Faith UMC works with IMPACT! Missions – Contact Leon Bame to help.

Servant Saturday & Downtown Food Ministry, 2PM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, Dec 19

GriefShare Group - Every other Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Confirmation Class - Every other Monday from 7:30-9:00 PM at Faith UMC

Wednesday, Dec 21

Longest Night Service at Long Memorial UMC, 7:00 PM

Friday, Dec 23

NO Bible Study led by Pastor Jason at 10:00 AM – resumes on Jan 6

Saturday, Dec 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Oregon Community (5 PM) and at Faith (7 PM)

Sunday, Dec 25

Christmas Service at Oregon Community (9:00 AM) and at Faith (10:30 AM)

Monday, Dec 26

NO Chatting Club via Zoom, 7:00 PM

Monday, Jan 2

GriefShare Group - Every other Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Chatting Club via Zoom, 7:00 PM

Confirmation Class - Every other Monday from 7:30-9:00 PM at Faith UMC

Wednesday, Jan 5

Ladies' Lunch at Oregon Dairy, 11:00 AM – RSVP to Sandy Patschke

Saturday, Jan 7

Servant Saturday/Deliver food & personal items to unhoused folks downtown, 2 PM

Monday, Jan 9

Faith UMC provides Bag-n-Go Lunch at Zion Lutheran Church, 11AM (Prep at 9:30 AM)

THE POINSETTIAS AT THE ALTAR ARE

PRESENTED BY:

Daryl Hawthorne

Allen & Carol Kennedy

Allen & Carol Kennedy

Terry Kofroth

Ronald & Linda Lunn

Gene & Marilyn Onest

Tim & Sandy Patschke

Tim & Sandy Patschke

Diana Valentine

IN MEMORY OF:

George Hawthorne

Jay & Jessie Kennedy

Herbert & Vera Bergman

Barry Kofroth

Their Parents

Allen & Lorraine Patschke

Gene & Ruth Stillwagner

Jackie Valentine

IN HONOR OF:

Her Parents

Matthew, Carrie, Julia, & Alex

Family