

PRAYER REQUESTS:

OUR CONCERNS:

Peace in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine
For peace & wisdom in areas of conflict
Wisdom & safety for government officials globally
President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris
Healthy and gentle campaigns and election process
Veterans and Service Members
Civilians, leaders, and soldiers in war torn regions
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 & disease
Stewardship of our environment & climate
Refugees & huddled masses yearning to be free
Security and immigration reform
People who are hungry and unhoused
Prisoners, Prison Leadership & Judges
Education Funding, 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
Laitly and Clergy of the UMC
The UMC, Conference Delegates and Bishops as
we find our way forward in the Holy Spirit
Udobo School in Durban, South Africa
Campus Ministries
Dottie Sheaffer – healing for back & eyes
Eileen Williams – muscles
Bradley McGowan – ALS
Linda Philbin – motor neuropathy & healing
Rosemary (Marilyn Jones' sister) – healing
Chuck Flory – ALS
Annette McClarigan – health, sons & family
Jean Neideigh – healing (MS)
Angela, Maria and Becky – to be healthy & thrive
Children – to know they are not alone in struggles
Noah Boughter, Sophie and family
Heather Lindsey
Theo Wenger – healing for kidneys

Those with cancer: Cyndi Campbell, Dean Grove,
Mark Reitzel, Kerry Link, Duane Lehman, Lori,
Sophia Serio, Ruthie, Martin Campbell, Ben
Neideigh, Harmony Chiccarine, Grandma
Edwards, Nat, Tina Miller, Carl Derr, Dorcas
Kamanda, Cynthia (from NJ), Jim Royer, Adam
Malik – brain cancer, Carol Bryner (Allen K's
sister) – pancreatic cancer, Joan (Nancy's sister-
in-law) – breast cancer, Benedicta Fair
(Romanita's Aunt)
Jake Ruhl – hip and shoulder pain
Shirley Gehr – healing
The Jackson Family
Robyn Meckley – healing
Linda Weber - healing
Terry & Margie Urban & family – housing & health
Michael Herr (Steph Edward's dad) – medical tests
Rachel Link – for a healthy pregnancy
Dave Fisher – car accident
Sandy Patschke – healing after a fall & back
Principal Rilatt, his family and his recovery
Terry Kofroth – healing and back surgery
Rev. Dorcas – eyes, cancer surgery, & Sierra Leone
Gail's cancer-friend of Sandy
Ruthie & Gary – friends of Amy
Brenda, Dave and Mike Loechner – health
Diana Valentine – peace while awaiting test results
Bob Perkowski – neurosurgery on his back
Ellison (Daryl's granddaughter) inflammation & pain

OUR PRAISES:

Love and support of Faith UMC Family
God's faithful love that is new every morning
God's presence through illness, struggle & loss
New folks joining us for worship and ministries
Beauty of nature & sunshine
Time with friends & family
The Promise of Heaven
That no matter what is going on in the world, we
know that God is in control ultimately!
That God walks with us; even in the shadow of death
Prayers are answered according to God's will &
timing

*Please submit prayer needs, praises, & updates by
note or email to the office: faithumc@hotmail.com*



Welcome

*Faith United Methodist Church
1290 Fruitville Pike, Lititz, PA 17543
717-560-0321 or faithumc@hotmail.com
www.FaithUMC.us & also on Facebook*

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

Faith United Methodist Church



December 17, 2023 at 10:30 AM – 3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy aka Gaudete Sunday

WELCOME: We gather this Advent to remember all the ways that God has been revealed to us, including the Christmas Miracle of Jesus' birth. We prepare ourselves through this season for His Second Coming. 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 glad you are on this journey with us—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 worshiping online, please 'sign in' and add prayer requests by commenting on the video.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michelle Bame & Pastor Jason

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Jason & God's People

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

Beloved, listen. God is calling you. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

.Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY aka GAUDETE

Jim & Buni Harbison,
Ramonita Maldonado & Carter Zerbe

*HYMN

Marching to Zion

UMH #733 v. 1-3

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Terry Urban

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Michelle Bame

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

Special Music

I'll Be Home for Christmas (arr. By David T. Clydesdale)

Pastor Jason
Shannon Edwards

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

*Offertory Prayer

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 126

Terry Urban

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

*HYMN

O Come, O Come (Emmanuel)

MSFPWC #403

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Terry Urban

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

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH #895

*HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

UMH #160 v. 1, 2, 5

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Terry Urban

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

SERMON

Our Fierce Joy

Pastor Jason

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Pastor Jason

*HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH #246

* *You are invited to stand in body or in Spirit*

Pianist: Dolly Bankert **AV Tech:** Dennis Meck, Sr & Keagan Meck

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

OFFICE COMMUNICATION: Hours vary. Carol Kennedy, Office Admin, checks messages in the office on weekdays. Pastor Jason is with family from Noon Friday until Sunday & may not respond to non-emergencies then.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: January 7, 14 & 28 at Noon. If you are interested in learning more about the UMC and our local churches, and are considering becoming a member, contact Pastor Jason to **join this class.**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:00 AM led by Michelle Bame meets in the 1st classroom in the Education Wing.

JUNIOR CHURCH for 3-year-olds - 4th grade during the 10:30AM Worship Service. Please sign your child in before the service & get a numbered badge. Children are dismissed to Jr. Church after the Children's Message. After worship, pick up kids in the Education Wing, 3rd classroom on the right. **No session Dec 24 or 31**

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM at Faith UMC for 5th-12th graders. Sign up to be the 2nd adult and/or to provide a meal. Each week there are dinner, games and a lesson. For more info contact Pastor Jason (717-333-9238). **No Gretna Glen trips until January 21 (3:30-7PM). No session Dec 24 or 31.**

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT: On Feb. 2-4 the Youth will go to Gretna Glen for the Winter Blast Youth Retreat. Please sign up by the Youth Bulletin Board. Permission Slips are needed. Cost is \$120, but \$60 will be covered from Youth Fundraisers. **\$30 is due when you sign up and \$30 is due by January 15, 2024.**

YOUNG ADULTS WINTER RETREAT: On Feb. 23-25 the Young Adults (HS Grad-30 years old) will go to Gretna Glen for the Winter Blast Youth Retreat. Please sign up by the Youth Bulletin Board. Permission Slips are needed. Cost is \$120, but scholarships are available from the camp. **Register directly through the camp. Info is available at: <https://gretnaglen.org/event/18460122-2024-02-23-young-adult-retreat/>**

GRIEFSHARE GROUP to help people find support and process the loss of loved ones meets every other Monday from 5-6 PM at Faith UMC. **Next Meetings: December 18 & January 8.**

CHATTING VIA ZOOM on Mondays at 6:30 PM: This member-led, discussion group meets online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518?pwd=cEVDeDljeThaaWVlYjJlQWmZjTm5oUT09.>

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30PM.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 10AM in Faith UMC Fellowship Hall.

THE CHURCH & SOCIETY TEAM engages in improving our community by standing up against injustice. **Next meeting: Jan 17 at 5:30 PM (3rd Thursdays).** To learn more, contact Renee Norman. **[Roadmap For Justice: POWER](#) Interfaith Convention in Harrisburg on Feb 19.** To be a part of the team working on **Bail Reform & Representation for persons accused of crimes**, join the Zoom Session at Noon every Wednesday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82483314676?pwd=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOelVlVXQwUk5LR2VFQTO9>

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.**

SUB SALE: We have certificates from S. Clyde Weaver for \$7.00. Pick up delicious made-to-order sandwiches available on a sub roll, bread or wrap at any of their locations. **They are so convenient when you need a quick meal during this busy holiday season and make great stocking stuffers.** See Carol.

FAITH UMC T-SHIRTS FOR SALE: Cotton blend, Faith logo on left chest, no pockets, no names. Prices=\$18-\$22 by size. Sign up in hall. Contact Diana at 717-283-6099 for info. **Deadline is Dec. 18. Pay Diana by Jan. 8.**

25 PRAYS OF CHRISTMAS: Join us for 25 days of prayers. There is one prayer a day starting Dec 1. The prayer list is available on our website, by using [this link](#) or picking up a paper copy in the hall.

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD TO HOMEBOUND PEOPLE: There are small bags pinned on the bulletin board. Each has a set of address labels for Faith's homebound people. Please take one and send them a Christmas card.

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.

- **TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER:** We will be collecting cleaning products of all types for the families living at the TLC in Downtown Lancaster. Look for the basket next to the tree in the hall.
- **MISSION TREE:** Please decorate the tree across from the office with scarves, hats, and gloves for refugees supported by Church World Services. For many of these people, it is their first experience with a winter like ours and they are in need of winter gear.
- **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 & teaching staff. Checks can be 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 Faith UMC Christmas offering envelopes, those marked for Udobo School, as well as all unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will go directly to the school.
- **CHRIST HOME FOR KIDS & BLACKFEET UMC PARISH:** If you are interested in making a donation 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 or put it in the offering plate Christmas Eve.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – Thur, Dec. 21 at 7PM at Long Memorial UMC. For many, Christmas is a bittersweet season with long nights in which we remember persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but are now changed or gone. We offer a meditative worship service that allows time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts to celebrate the coming of Christ. You are invited to join us for this service of music, word and communion.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE at Faith UMC at 10:30am on Dec. 24th (or **9am at Oregon Community UMC** if that better suits your schedule).

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at Faith UMC at 7pm on Dec. 24th. This is a joint service with members of Oregon Community UMC. Families will worship together in this service of carols and a retelling of the Christmas story. We will also share in Communion.

LONG MEMORIAL FREE GROCERIES for those in need every week through their Friday Night Food Ministry at 6pm. You can drive up and receive groceries to help support you through the week. *Volunteers needed.*

COMMUNITY AID will donate \$.13 to Faith UMC for every pound of clothing, shoes, electronic, toys, & household goods (excluding furniture) donated at 31 Rohrerstown Road Mon–Sat, 9am – 6 pm. **Tell staff to credit Non-profit partner # 10221 - Faith UMC.** Write or tape partner number on bags/boxes.

LUMINA KIDS NIGHT needs volunteers for Monday evenings on January 8, 22, & 29. They need 3-4 adults to play with the kids and provide a light supper for 15 students. To volunteer or get more info, contact Pastor Jason, Diana Valentine or Correen Russo 717-808-8633.

MEDICINE BOTTLE COLLECTION: *Please remove labels & residue.* A basket is under the table in the hall.

THANK YOU for your faithful giving toward our ministries! We celebrate all that God has accomplished this year with NEW MEMBERS, INCREASING ATTENDANCE, ONGOING MINISTRY TO ALL AGES, FELLOWSHIP & FUN! **As we head into 2024 it looks to be a year of new opportunities and growth.**



FINANCIAL NEEDS: We started 2023 with a projected \$56,000 deficit plus a debt from 2022. We are down to the last \$10,560 to raise to pay our final bills including our December mortgage payment on the Education Wing.

Gifts can be directed to **General Ministry and/or the Debt Reduction / Building Fund.** Mark preferences in the memo line & envelope. You can set up recurring gifts through your own financial institution or at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z37Q/home>. There is a link at [FaithUMC.us](#) or via the **QR Code.** You can also **mail or place an offering in the plate.** Special gifts from IRAs, stocks, etc. can also be received. See the office for info.

ONGOING EVENTS:

Sundays

Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM **No session Dec 24 or 31**
Worship, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary and Facebook Live
Junior Church during 10:30 AM worship **No session Dec 24 or 31**
Youth Group at Faith, 5-7 PM (Gretna Glen on Jan. 21) **No session Dec 24 or 31**

1st Sundays

Communion offered during worship service, followed by refreshments

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

Bible2School in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM **No session Dec 19 or 26**
Nar-Anon - Every other Tuesday, 7:00-9:00 PM at Faith UMC

Wednesdays

Bible2School in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM **No session Dec 20 or 27**
Worship Team Practice, 6:30 PM

Thursdays

Bible Study at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30PM

Fridays

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

1st & 3rd Saturdays

Bible Study led by Pastor Jason, 10:00 AM **No session Dec 29**

1st Saturdays

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, Dec 18

Deadline for t-shirt orders
GriefShare Group - Every other Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM
Chatting Club via Zoom, 6:30 PM

Thursday, Dec 21

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

Sunday, Dec 24

Worship Service at Oregon Community UMC, 9:00 AM
Worship Service at Faith UMC, 10:30 AM (also on Facebook & our website)

Saturday, Dec 30

Joint Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion at Faith UMC, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, Jan 3

Urban & Elsbernd wedding & reception, 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Thursday, Jan 4

Ladies Lunch at Oregon Dairy – RSVP to Sandy Patschke
SPRC meeting, 6:00 PM

WORSHIP LEADERS

for next Sunday, Dec 24 (AM)

GREETERS: Lisa Baker & Marilyn Jones

USHERS: Lisa Baker & Allen Kennedy

LITURGIST: Daryl Hawthorne

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Jason

NO JUNIOR CHURCH: Enjoy the service!

CANDLE LIGHTING – Bob & Sherri Rodgers

for next Sunday, Dec 24 (PM)

GREETERS: Tim & Sandy Patschke

USHERS: Tim Patschke & Allen Kennedy

LITURGIST: Buni Harbison

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Jason

NO YOUTH GROUP: Enjoy the service!

CANDLE LIGHTING – Carol & Allen Kennedy