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 after a fall

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

Mary Ann Unangst – transition home after minor stroke

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,

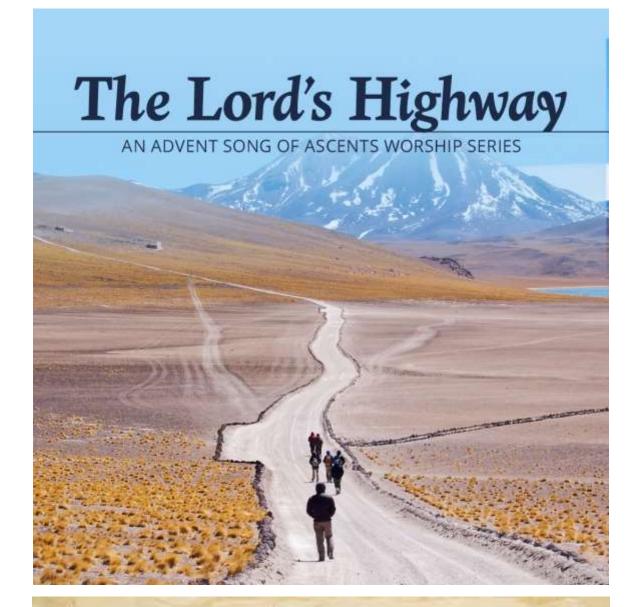
& healing for battle against Leukemia Fred Kohler – heart attack and bypass surgery

Marilyn Jones and family on Carl's passing

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



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 11, 2022 at 10:30 AM – 3rd Sunday of Advent

ELCOME: 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 worshiping 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 THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Caprino Family

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Jason & God's People

Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!

The glory of God shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!

Sing aloud, waste places of Jerusalem! Sing to the God who gives courage and strength.

Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!

You who are unsure of what you believe, or whether you believe at all: listen!

You who are weighed down by thoughts of failure, or feelings of grief: listen!

You whose hearts are heavy, whose problems seem insurmountable: listen!

Soon God's salvation will come; God's deliverance will be revealed.

For a woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel: God with us

Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!

https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/advent-prayer-maranatha-come-lord-jesus.html

*HYMN Rejoice, the Lord Is King

UMH #715

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

Rhonda Leese

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

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

UMH #33-39

*HYMN Blest Be the Tie That Binds

UMH #557

CHILDREN'S TIME

Michelle Bame

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rhonda Leese

James 5:7-10
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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Luke 1:46-55 Rhonda Leese

UMH #218 v. 1, 3, 4

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

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

*HYMN Emmanuel UMH #204

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 11:2-11 Rhonda Leese

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

SERMON The Lord's Highway Pastor Jason

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

*HYMN O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing UMH #57 v. 1-4

* 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 jbperkowski@gmail.com. He is with family from Friday at Noon thru Saturday and may not respond to non-emergencies then.

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 12/6/22, we will need to raise an additional \$8,100 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 \$20,811.

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."

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP: We welcome Diane Black, Richard & Margaret Burley, and Shannon & Stephanie Edwards into membership. **Please join us after the service for a reception and celebration in the Fellowship Hall** to greet and get to know our new members better.

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.

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. 15 & 22). https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85939667466?pwd=bHkreUNyNTZGVWNicmUwUnNzazhXQT09

THE LANCASTER AARP CHORUS PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT FAITH UMC on Friday, December 16th at 2:00 PM. They will be performing both sacred and secular holiday music. This concert is open to the public with admissions being a free-will offering. Please call ahead to reserve a seat (717-560-0321). Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: This is a joint effort between Long Memorial, Faith, and OCUMC. This musical worship service will be shared on Sunday, December 18 at Faith UMC (9AM) and Long Memorial UMC (11AM).

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.

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.

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: Everyone is invited to join us. at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518?pwd=cEVDeDljeThaaWVIYjlQWmZjTm5oUT09.

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

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

TOWN HALL ON PRISON DESIGN: The Peace & Justice Committee of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster (328 W Orange St, Lancaster, PA 17603) invites the public to an informative forum 5 to 6:30PM on Wednesday, Dec. 14, called Don't Overbuild: A Townhall on Right-Sizing the New Jail. Experts will discuss best practices in bail and other criminal justice procedures that could assure that the new Lancaster County jail is fiscally responsible and no bigger than necessary. Lancaster County plans to spend \$150 million on the new jail, making it the largest county-financed construction project ever. Presenters will include Michelle Batt of Lancaster Bail Fund and the Rev. Jason Perkowski of POWER Interfaith and the UMC, and The Rev. Kent Kroehler of Have A Heart and the UMC. County and Prison Design Board leadership have been invited to attend and participate, however, none have accepted our invitation, yet. Attendees will be able to ask the panelists questions.

The townhall is timely because CGL, the county's project consultant, is presenting a draft needs assessment at the Dec. 15 prison board meeting at the Lancaster County Government Building, 150 N Queen St, Lancaster, PA 17603 at 9:15AM. The needs assessment will be the basis for decisions about the size and design of the jail. The county plans to hire an architect this winter, and groundbreaking is slated for spring 2024.

"Lancaster County citizens have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with public officials in designing a right-sized jail based on actual public safety needs and to urge adoption of best practices that divert people from pretrial incarceration and recidivism," Perkowski said. "It is a moral truth across most faith traditions that we must take seriously our responsibility to love and care for our neighbors, including the poor who are in jail before trial simply because they cannot afford bail."

THE SENIOR MEN'S LUNCH on December 15th at 11:30 a.m. will be held at Two Cousins, 4207 Oregon Pike, Brownstown. Those planning to attend must let Mike Bitner (717-330-8201 or bitnerm2001 @outlook,com) know by December 12th so we can give an accurate count for our reservations.

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 the 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.

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.

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.

WORSHIP LEADERS for next Sunday, December 18 are:

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

AUDIO/VISUAL TECH: Dennis Meck, Sr. GREETERS: Lisa Baker & Carol Kennedy USHERS: Lisa Baker & Tim Patschke

LITURGIST: Cantata

CHILDREN'S TIME: Cantata JUNIOR CHURCH: Cantata

YOUTH GROUP: Pastor Jason & Rene Norman

ONGOING EVENTS:

Sundays Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM (Advent Study Dec 11)

Children's Advent Study, 9:00 AM (Dec 11)

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 **Tuesdays** Bible 2 School, 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 Wednesdays

Worship Team Practice, 6:30 PM

Cantata Rehearsal, 7:45-8:45 PM alternating between Long Memorial & Faith UMC

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

Thursdays 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)

Fridays Bible Study led by Pastor Jason, 10:00 AM No session Dec 23 or 30. 1st & 3rd Saturdays Faith UMC works with IMPACT! Missions – Contact Leon Bame to help.

1st Saturdays Servant Saturday & Downtown Food Ministry, 2PM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Dec 11 Reception for new members, 11:45 AM

Wednesday, Dec 14 Don't Overbuild: Right-Sizing the New Jail, 5-6:30 PM at Community Mennonite

Wednesday, Dec 14 Cantata Rehearsal, 7:45-8:45 PM at Faith UMC

Thursday, Dec 15 Senior Men's Lunch at Two Cousins in Brownstown, 11:30 AM – RSVP to Mike Bitner

Cantata Rehearsal, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at Long Memorial Thursday, Dec 15

Friday, Dec 16 Concert at Faith UMC presented by Lancaster AARP Chorus, 2:00 PM Sunday, Dec 18 Christmas Cantata at Faith (9:00 AM) and Long Memorial (11:00 AM)

Monday, Dec 19 GriefShare Group - Every other Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Monday, Dec 19 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

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)

THE POINSETTIAS AT THE ALTAR ARE

IN HONOR OF: PRESENTED BY: IN MEMORY OF: George Hawthorne Daryl Hawthorne Her Parents

Jay & Jessie Kennedy Allen & Carol Kennedy Allen & Carol Kennedy Herbert & Vera Bergman

Barry Kofroth Terry Kofroth

Ronald & Linda Lunn Their Parents

Gene & Marilyn Onest

Tim & Sandy Patschke Allen & Lorraine Patschke Gene & Ruth Stillwagner Tim & Sandy Patschke

Diana Valentine Jackie Valentine

Matthew, Carrie, Julia, & Alex

Family