

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
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
Bob Perkowski – neurosurgery on his back & healing
of shoulder
Perkowski family on the death of Robert T.
Perkowski (Pastor Jason's grandfather)
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
Dolly's gifts as our pianist
Diana Valentine – good test results from doctor
Faithful givers and God's providence

*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



December 24, 2023 at 10:30 AM – 4th Sunday of Advent: Love

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 worshipping online, please 'sign in' and add prayer requests by commenting on the video.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Rodgers & Pastor Jason

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Jason & God's People

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

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

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH #218 v. 1, 2, 4

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Bob and Sherri Rodgers

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Daryl Hawthorne

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

*HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH #203 v. 1, 2, 4

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Jason

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

Daryl Hawthorne

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

*HYMN

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

UMH #480 v. 1-3

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Daryl Hawthorne

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

*HYMN

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

UMH #198

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

Pastor Jason

Special Music

Mary, Did You Know?

Bob Rodgers & Dolly Bankert

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

*Offertory Prayer

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

UMH #895

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55

Daryl Hawthorne

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

SERMON

Love that Transforms Us

Pastor Jason

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Pastor Jason

*HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH #240

** 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 & 21 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 meets in the 1st classroom in the Ed. Wing. *No sessions Dec 24 or 31*

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. *We will have Jr. Church on the holidays.*

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM at Faith UMC for 5th-12th graders. Each week there are dinner, games and a lesson. Sign up to be the 2nd adult and/or to provide a meal. For more info contact Pastor Jason. **The next Gretna Glen trip is January 21 (3:30-7PM). No sessions 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. 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: January 8 & 22 (No session January 1)**

CHATTING on Mondays at 6:30 PM: No session 12/25 or 1/1. This member-led, discussion group meets online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518?pwd=cEVDeDljeThaaWVlYjIjQWmZjTm5oUT09.>

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30PM. No Session Dec. 27 or Jan 3.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 10AM in Faith UMC Fellowship Hall. No Session Dec. 29.

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=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOelVlVXQWUk5LR2VFOT09>

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.

SEND A 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 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. **THESE ITEMS ARE DUE 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 & 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 half the 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. Half the unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will go directly to these ministries.

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. There will be refreshments after the service in Fellowship Hall.

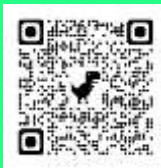
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS from the staff at Faith UMC. We are overwhelmed at your generosity and blessed to serve with you in ministry to our community. Thank you for these gifts as well as your love and your prayers.

THANK YOU for your faithful giving toward our ministries through your time, talents, prayers, presence and financial gifts! We celebrate all that God has accomplished through you this year. We are grateful for new friends who have joined the church, the many guests welcomed during dozens of events, the ongoing discipleship through Bible Study and faithful ministry, and all the fun we have had together!

We can't wait to see what God does in 2024!

FINANCIAL NEEDS: We started 2023 with a projected \$56,000 deficit between income and expenses plus a debt from the 2022 conference apportionments. **As of Dec. 16, we had paid off the 2022 debt** and were down to the last \$10,560 needed in offerings to pay our final bills, mortgage and payroll. **In the last week we received the Sunday, Dec 17 Offering of \$7,087, plus several very significant gifts that came in the mail afterwards that will allow us to pay all of our remaining bills and begin 2024 with a very healthy balance in the accounts!** Thank you all for your very generous gifts throughout this year—including the donor who reminded us that "we know there is a God and now there is a Santa Claus!" In the Spirit of Saint Nicholas who gave generously to those in need, we are grateful!

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.



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.

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.

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 – **We are meeting during holidays**
Youth Group at Faith, 5-7 PM (Gretna Glen on Jan. 21) **No session Dec 24 or 31**

1st Sundays

Mondays

Communion offered during worship service, followed by refreshments
GriefShare Group - Every other Monday, 5:00-6:00 PM at Faith UMC. **Next is Jan. 8**
Chatting Club via Zoom, 6:30 PM **No session 12/25 or 1/1**

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 – **No Practice Dec. 27**

Thursdays

Fridays

1st & 3rd Saturdays

1st Saturdays

Bible Study at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30PM **Next Session is Jan. 10**
Wing and a Prayer AA Meeting in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM
Bible Study led by Pastor Jason, 10:00 AM **No session Dec 29**
Faith UMC works with IMPACT! Missions – Contact Leon Bame to help
Servant Saturday

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Saturday, Dec 30

Wednesday, Jan 3

Thursday, Jan 4

Sunday, Jan 7

Monday, Jan 8

Urban & Elsbernd wedding & reception, 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Ladies Lunch at Oregon Dairy – RSVP to Sandy Patschke
SPRC meeting, 6:00 PM

Membership Class, noon (also Jan 14 & 28)

GriefShare Group - Every other Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM
Chatting Club via Zoom, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Jan 10

Thursday, Jan 11

Thursday, Jan 18

District Resource Team meeting, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Finance Team meeting, 6:00 PM

Senior Men's Lunch at Oregon Dairy – RSVP to Allen Kennedy
Church & Society Team meeting, 5:30 PM

Thursday, Jan 25

Monday, Jan 29

Church Council meeting, 6:00 PM

Faith UMC provides Grab 'N Go Meal at Zion Lutheran Church, 9:00 AM prep

WORSHIP LEADERS

For this evening, Dec 24 (PM)

GREETERS: Tim & Sandy Patschke

USHERS: Tim Patschke & Allen Kennedy

LITURGIST: Buni Harbison

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Jason

NO JUNIOR CHURCH: Enjoy the service!

NO YOUTH GROUP: Enjoy the service!

CANDLE LIGHTING – Allen & Carol Kennedy

for next Sunday, Dec 31

GREETERS: Sydney Dohring & Alan Strait

USHERS: Sydney Dohring & Alan Strait

LITURGIST: Michelle Bame

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Jason

JUNIOR CHURCH: Lisa Baker & Carol Kennedy
& Angela Dillon

NO YOUTH GROUP: Happy New Year!