

PRAAYER REQUESTS:

OUR CONCERNS:

Passage of wise county, state and federal budgets and those impacted by the loss of funding
Bishop Moore-KoiKoi, DS Freymoyer & EPA
Staff as they travel in South Korea
Laity and Clergy of the UMC
Unity & love in the church universal & the UMC
Healing & peace for divisions over race, class, gender, sexuality, politics & fears
Wisdom & safety for government officials globally
President Donald Trump and VP JD Vance
Peace in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia and the Middle East
For peace & wisdom in areas of conflict
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
All those affected by violence and hate
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 & Attorneys
Reform for Education Funding, Criminal Justice, and Foster Care Systems
Teachers, Students, Families & Campus ministries
Members of AA, NA, & AlAnon and their families
All struggling with addictions, finances, mental health illnesses, anxiety and stress
All those caring for sick loved ones
Those grieving the loss of loved ones
Members currently in jail or returning home
Udobo School in Durban, South Africa
NarSarah Village and Clinic, Sierra Leone
Mary Shenk for Alzheimer's
Alfredo Vega, Jr – safety while on active duty
Sandy Patschke – health
Diana Allia – heart condition
Melodie Dearolf for healing of back and leg pain
Sebastian for start of rehab

Those with cancer: Cyndi Campbell, Dean Grove, Mark Reitzel, Duane Lehman, Ruthie, Martin Campbell, Dorcas Kamanda (in remission), Adam Malik, Joan (Nancy's sister-in-law), Isaias Maldonado (Ramonita's Uncle), Missy Landis; Marc Barley (Diane's cousin), Heather Williams, Nat (friend of Wikers), Kole; Pat Oglesby (Laura G's sister); Eileen Landis, Janet (friend of Lisa); Bob Black – lung cancer
Mary Ann Unangst for healing and strength
Peace for those dealing with anxiety and stress
Pastor Ian Solodky for knee injury
Joy Lane, sister of Wayne Dearolf for mass detected
Eileen Williams – muscles
Linda Philbin – motor neuropathy & cancer
Rosemary (Marilyn Jones' sister) healing
Terry Kofroth for upcoming test for continued pain
Daryl Hawthorne – knee pain and other health issues
Cheri Henry needs heart surgery; health issues; Chris for knee problems (friends of Melodie)
Mary Hurdle - healing & transitions (friend of Blacks)
Kathy Brandy Berry hand & shoulder pain
Dottie Sheaffer – dementia
Craig & Nancy Hathaway
Peggy Burley regaining strength
Ray Carpenter – recovery from heart surgeries and broken femur
Ruthie Johnson for Health
Beth (Amy's friend) – recovery from back surgery
Garnett K. for health & balance issues
Garnett's daughter Kimberly Ann Wenger
Priscilla Rice – waiting on test results
Kathy, friend of Natalie, who had a stroke
The family of Amy Johnson-Nelson on her passing, including her husband Erik (Lisa Baker's brother)
Janet Charles healing from a fall
Shelda Costella for broken femur

OUR PRAISES:

Bryan Nelson, Peter Nicholson, and Gayle Saunders joining the church last Sunday
The promise of the 2nd coming of Jesus our Christ
All who are healing from various surgeries
All those joining us in worship
Friends and family gatherings during the holidays

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

SIGNS AND FAITHFULNESS



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 21, 2025 at 10:30AM – 4th Sunday of Advent: Love

WELCOME: In this season of Advent we look heavenward for the second coming when Jesus will restore and revive all of creation and we will see God in full glory! May the Holy Spirit transform us in this time of expectation and fill each of us with joy as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus and his return. You are welcome to engage with us and our loving God 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!

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: LOVE

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Light all four candles of the Advent wreath

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions. **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.** Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore. **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter. **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.** Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits. Amen!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025

*HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #220

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

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

Tim Patschke

CHILDREN'S TIME

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

*HYMN

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

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

Tim Patschke

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

*HYMN

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

UMH #895

UMH #215

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

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

SERMON

Signs and Faithfulness

*HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

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

Pianist: Jessica Maldonado **AV Tech:** Dennis Meck, Sr.

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

OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS: Paula Fultz, our Office Administrator, will be in the office and responding to messages Mon-Thur, 10AM-3PM. Pastor Jason will be on duty Sundays and Monday-Thursday (10AM-5PM). His Sabbath is Friday until Sunday morning. Please call ahead to ensure that we are available and not in a meeting.

NURSERY (1 year old - 3 years old) & **JUNIOR CHURCH** (4-years-old - 4th grade) are offered during the 10:30AM Worship Service. Please sign your child in before the service & get a numbered badge. *The Nursery is available at the start of the worship service. Children who are 4 years old-4th grade should stay in the service until after the "Children's Time".* After worship, you will sign your children out in their classrooms in the Education Wing—except on 1st Sundays children will be brought to the Sanctuary as Communion begins.

NEW MEMBERS: Please contact Pastor Jason if you would like more info on becoming a member of Faith UMC

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7PM for 5th-12th graders. Each week there is dinner, games & a lesson. All students are invited. **Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you are willing to provide a meal.** *3rd Sundays are @Gretna Glen EXCEPT DECEMBER. No Meeting on Dec. 21 or 28—Happy Holidays.*

OUR GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP meets **every Monday at 5PM** for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one and could use support and tools for dealing with all of the emotions and struggles that come from grief. **We are currently focusing on "Surviving the Holidays" through Dec. 22 and will then take off Dec. 29 and restart Jan. 5.** Contact Pastor Jason for more info and go here to register: <http://bit.ly/3MeeZax>

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY WITH KATHY "Meet Yourself in the Psalms" 6-7:30PM. This is a Bible Study reading through some of the Psalms to explore how to pray more holistically. Meet in Adult Classroom.

PASTOR'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 10AM on **WEDNESDAYS** in the Faith UMC Adult Classroom. **We are on break Dec. 24 & 31 due to the holidays.**

COLEMAN CHAPEL'S CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE on Dec. 21 at 1980 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543 at 7pm. Families will worship together in this service of carols and a retelling of the Christmas story. Reservations are required. Contact the church at (717) 626-6933 for more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE on Dec. 24 at **Faith UMC at 7pm (or 5pm at Oregon Community UMC if that suits your schedule better)**. 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 in the fellowship hall after the service.

SALEM'S LITTLE FREE PANTRY: Place donations in the box at Faith UMC. Anyone in need can come at any time to get groceries on the porch at Salem Lutheran, 26 Owl Hill Rd, Lititz.

Tim Patschke

Pastor Jason
UMH #95

Tim Patschke

Pastor Jason
TFWS #2173
Pastor Jason

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful donations!! Extra 'Thanks' to all who have returned your 'Estimate of Giving Cards'. Each one returned, gives us a better idea of how much income to expect when covering anticipated expenses. **Church Council has approved the draft 2026 General Fund Budget** with anticipated $\pm \$184,110$ in income and $\pm \$189,212.56$ in expenses which would be a **deficit of \$5,102.56**. We will update next year's budget as we receive 2026 Conference expenses and Estimate of Giving Cards.

Our goal is to finish 2025 with at least the same reserves that we began the year. **We continue to need an average of \$4,200/week in giving towards our General Fund and mortgage** to meet that goal. Donations can be directed to General Ministry and/or the Debt Reduction/Building Fund (mortgage). You can also set up automatic gifts through your own bank, mail checks directly to the church, or at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z37Q/home> via a link at FaithUMC.us or via the QR Code.



UDOBO PRE-SCHOOL: We support the Udobø 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 "Udobø School" in the memo or donate to that fund via www.faithumc.us under Online Giving → Udobø School. All gifts in the Faith UMC Christmas offering envelopes, those marked for Udobø School, as well as all unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will go directly to the school.

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**.

THE CHURCH & SOCIETY TEAM engages in improving our community by standing up against injustice. **Next meeting: January 15 at 5PM (3rd Thursdays)**. Contact Renee Norman for more info. **Join us by Zoom at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82735304374?pwd=eDBSZHRCZVphSnh2TENDZ0xrdG0vQT09**. **THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE & BAIL REFORM TEAM** meets at **Noon** every other Wed. **Next meeting: Jan 7. Join by Zoom at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82483314676?pwd=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOelVIVXQwUk5LR2VFQ09**.

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.

GRAB 'N GO COMMUNITY MEAL for those in need at Zion Lutheran Church in East Petersburg every Monday. Faith UMC provides sixty meals quarterly. **Our next date is January 12**. Contact Carol Kennedy to help. **We are looking for a volunteer or a pair of volunteers to take the lead on this ministry. Please let Carol or Pastor Jason know if you are willing to help prepare and deliver these meals to Zion Lutheran quarterly.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Dec. 21	NO Youth Group (3rd Sundays are @Gretna Glen)(No Youth on Dec. 28) Coleman Chapel's Christmas Candlelight Service, 7PM (see details below)
Monday, Dec. 22	Worship Team Practice, 6:45PM (Moved to Mondays during the holidays)
Wednesday, Dec. 24	No Bible Study Christmas Eve Candlelight service at Oregon Community UMC, 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight service at Faith UMC, 7:00 PM Refreshments following the service
Sunday, Dec. 28	NO Adult Sunday School on Dec. 28 or Jan 4 NO Youth Group (3rd Sundays are @Gretna Glen)
Monday, Dec. 29	Worship Team Practice, 6:45PM (Moved to Mondays during the holidays)
Wednesday, Dec. 31	No Bible Study Threads of Faith 10AM
Saturday, Jan. 3	No Adult Sunday School—ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES AS NORMAL
Sunday, Jan. 4	Fellowship Hall and Classroom in Use 2-10PM for District Clergy Dinner
Friday, Jan. 15	Puzzle Palooza, 10-11:30AM
Saturday, Jan. 24	
Sunday, Feb. 8	Chili Dinner (eat in / take out)

ONGOING EVENTS:

Sundays

Adult Sunday School, 9AM (**No meetings on Dec. 28 or Jan 4**)

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

Junior Church during 10:30AM worship

Youth Group at Faith, 5-7PM (**No Youth on Dec. 21 & 28**)

Communion offered during worship service, followed by refreshments

Nar-Anon, 7:15-8:45PM at Faith UMC

Grief Share, 5PM in Adult Classroom, (**except Dec 29**)

Bible2School, 10:20AM-Noon (**on break until January 6**)

Bible Study on Prayers and Psalms with Kathy, 6PM

Pastor's Bible Study, 10AM at Faith UMC (**on break Dec. 24 & 31**)

Bible2School, 10:20AM-1:20PM (**on break until January 7**)

Worship Team Practice, 6:45PM (**except Dec 24 & 31 - moved to Mon. Dec 22 & 29**)

POWER Criminal Justice Reform Team by Zoom, Noon (**except Dec 24**)

Women's Lunch at Oregon Dairy, 11:30AM

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

Girl Scouts once a month, 5PM-6:30PM

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), 6PM (except Jan 1)

Finance Team, 6PM

Men's Lunch at Oregon Dairy, 11:30AM

Church and Society Team (CST) by Zoom, 5PM

Trustees (on even months) (except Dec 25) // Church Council (on odd months), 6PM

Threads of Faith, 10AM

District Meeting of Al-Anon Leaders, 10-Noon

WORSHIP LEADERS for Christmas Eve at 7PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Michelle Bame

GREETERS: Jim & Buni Harbison, Lisa Baker, Marilyn Jones

USHERS: Jim & Buni Harbison and Allen & Carol Kennedy

LITURGIST: Lisa Baker

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Jason

JUNIOR CHURCH: No Junior Church

NURSERY: No Nursery

WORSHIP LEADERS for December 28

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Michelle Bame

GREETERS: John & Priscilla Rice

USHERS: John & Priscilla Rice

LITURGIST: Buni Harbison

CHILDREN'S TIME: Michelle Bame

JUNIOR CHURCH: Lisa Baker & Carol Kennedy

NURSERY: Marilyn Jones

YOUTH GROUP: **No Youth Group**