

FAITH UNITED NEWS

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Faith United Church
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of Faith United Church, please let Pastor Jim know. A new member's class will begin Jan. 8th from 9:15-9:45am in the pastor's office for 3 weeks.

Faith Circle

Join us on Jan. 12th at 10:00 am for Baking & Baskets

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join us following the worship service for a potluck dinner and our annual congregational meeting.

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Family Fun Night

This month we will meet on Wednesday January 11th from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Fellowship hall. Please join us for a great meal and lots of family fun!

C3 (Crafty Christian Chicks)

Please join us for fun, food, fellowship and some crafts. This month we will be meeting in the fellowship hall on Jan. 12th at 7:00 pm and Jan. 26th at 7:00 pm

Congratulations to our Quilt Raffle Winner, Nancy Sharp!



A total of \$833 dollars was earned through the ticket sales, and Women's Fellowship voted to donate all of the money to the Food Kitchen.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT



JANUARY 11TH
5:30-7:00 PM
MEAL, FELLOWSHIP, CRAFTS,

From The Pastor's Desk

“NO LONGER A SLAVE TO FEAR”

As we conclude this amazing year, let me remind you of how good our God is! At the end of September, our church was close to \$11,000 in the red. For a small church, that can be very scary. As of the end of November, we find ourselves only \$1555 in the red. As a church, we have prayed all year for God to continue to reveal himself to us in various ways and this **is** one of them! I am so looking forward to seeing what He has in store for us in 2017. We know we can go into it not having to be afraid!

We find ourselves living in an age when people are afraid. Not only are they afraid of obvious things like terrorism and natural disasters, but they are afraid of traditions like Christmas. They fight nativity scenes and people saying, “Merry Christmas.” They threaten lawsuits and plan rally’s outside of where our lawmakers meet. But you know what... this kind of thing took place during that first Christmas as well.

Herod was paranoid and afraid of anyone, or anything, that might threaten him and his kingdom. When the magi came and asked where they could find the baby Jesus, Herod was immediately filled with fear and called for a meeting with his leading religious leaders. He wasn’t aware of the prophecies that spoke of a coming “king.” After the magi leave, Herod orders for all newborns to be killed who are under the age of two. He was afraid of Christmas coming!

One component that plays a part in our fear is what we don’t understand. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6: 21 that **“Some of these people have missed the most**

important thing in life...they don’t know God.” We are afraid that if we believe that our faith will turn us into some kind of a religious “Jesus Freak”...or that our fun and freedom will be taken away. But for those of us who believe, we know the opposite to be true that when we become a believer, we have found the true meaning of life. Rick Warren once wrote, *“The bottom line is this: You were made by God and for God. Until you understand that, your life will never make sense. You can try to find life in making money, having fun, or gaining power, but you’ll have a God-shaped hole in your heart. Only God can fill your heart. Until you understand that, your life will not make sense.”* You will live in fear!

The number one worship song for 2016 is a song that we will learn here at Faith very soon called “No Longer Slaves.” The chorus simply says that we don’t have to be afraid because we are a child of God! So take heart! Remember what the angel said to the shepherds, **“Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!”** As children of God we will continue to see God’s hand not only in the life of our church, but in our everyday life as well. Begin handing over to God those things that you fear. Allow God’s love to wash over you and fill you with a peace that surpasses all understanding, and you will find yourself “no longer a slave to fear” as you move into 2017!

Merry Christmas to You All! Be God’s!

Pastor Jim

Pictures of New Construction



Faith Circle

We wanted to let you know the latest news for Faith Circle! If you didn't know, Faith United has joined two of its women's groups to form one extraordinary group called "Faith Circle." Joed wanted to step outside of Faith United Church's walls and into the community. On November 30th, a group of women met at the YWCA to work on a craft with several ladies that reside at the YWCA. (We have some gifted ladies in our church that can produce some priceless crafts!) Several of our Faith Circle ladies watched the children while the Mom's from the YWCA set and made a craft that they could give away as a gift for Christmas. (By the way, the craft was very cute!) The women had a wonderful time. There was amazing fellowship with the ladies. The children made a craft and received Christmas ornaments. I hear there are plans in the future to serve again at the YWCA. It was an amazing night to "serve" and show the "love of Christ" to these ladies and children! When Faith Circle returns to the YWCA we will make several announcements at church so everyone can take part in this awesome ministry! If you have questions, please call Jill Brant.



Calendar of Events

- Jan 1st - New Year's Day
- Jan 1st - No Sunday School. Church Service 10:15
- Jan. 2nd - New Year's Day Observed
- Jan. 3rd - Visitation Committee 11:15 am
- Jan. 8th - New Members Class 9:10-9:45 am
- Jan. 10th - Food Kitchen Team #3 5:00 pm
- Jan. 11th - Family Fun night 5:30-7:00 pm
- Jan. 12th - Faith Circle Baking & Baskets 10:00 am
- Jan. 12th - C3 Night Host Mina 7:00 pm
- Jan. 15th - New Members Class 9:10-9:45 am
- Jan. 17th - Brotherhood 7:00 pm
- Jan. 19th - Leaders Night 7:00 pm
- Jan. 20th - OWLS Luncheon @ LaPeep 11:30 am
- Jan. 22th - New Members Class 9:10-9:45 am
- Jan. 26th - C3 Night 7:00 pm

Communion Assistants

- Jan. 1st - Gina Van Lone

Acolytes

- Jan. 1st - Rawlins Brant & Jordan Hill
- Jan. 8th - Brodie DeSchepper & Josh Oswald
- Jan. 15th - Rawlins Brant & Montana Frakes
- Jan. 22nd - Jordan Hill & Josh Oswald
- Jan. 29th - Brodie DeSchepper & Rawlins Brant

Van Drivers

- Jan. 1st - Roy
- Jan. 8th - Brent
- Jan. 15th - Corey
- Jan. 22nd - Roy
- Jan. 29th - Brent

Financial Report	Current Fund	Building Fund
Nov. 27 th -	\$1,443.00	\$50.00
Dec. 4 th -	\$ 2,957.00	\$155.00
Dec. 11 th -	\$4,259.00	\$205.00
Dec. 18 th -	\$	\$
Totals:	\$8,659.00	\$410.00
\$12,726.00 needed each month to meet current expenses.		

Attendance	Service	Sunday School
Nov. 27 th -	87	27
Dec. 4 th -	71	22
Dec. 11 th -	94	32
Dec. 18 th -	No Service	

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Praises: God's continued presence in the World & never absent; Friendships formed through our relation to God and his Son, Jesus Christ! The season of Advent and Christmas; College students are for the holidays.

Cancer Patients: Rob Gregory; Rita Hughes (friend of Trudy Lewis)-diagnosed Melanoma; co-worker of Janis Arn's 3 yr. old granddaughter-brain cancer; 13 year old Riley Whittington-chronic cancer; Travis Owens (local firefighter) stage 4 liver; Paul Bridenstine (chronic leukemia); Glen Spitzer's friends- Janelle, Ethal, Jack Faulkner, Keith & Frieda Shuell; Mary Lou (friend of mina's); 2 of Donna Wood's friends sons in their 50's have been diagnosed; Angie Hernandez's friend, Doug- possible Leukemia & sleep apnea; Jill Cobb's cousin- Eric Woolley has colon cancer & has 2 young children at home.

Other: Continued prays for Glenn Spitzer – family unity & health & friends; Wilk Catron; Elizabeth Shoenlaub- on Hospice; Donna Brooks- health issues; Donita Sutherland-chronic health issues; Heidi DeSchepper- chronic health issues; Tom Vanlone- infection in calf, at home with home health coming; Penny Johnson- going to PT; Leonard McCall- upper respiratory issues; Mason Trapp- health concerns; Coleman Collins (Linda Trapp's great-nephew)- 12 yr. old- prayers for serious heart problems; Lenard McCall's cousin- Barb Swank; Dianne Venable (Debbie Demuth's sister) dementia, has come back about 90%; Carole McClellan's brother- Gary Battelle & cousins (husband & wife)- suffering from dementia; Pastor John Middleton- Hope church, Cosby, MO- health issues; Vera Johnson; David Hamilton; The family of Linda Trapp.

Traveling Mercies: Everyone traveling during the holidays.

Sympathy: The family of Anna Liechti who passed away at 102.

Finally: prayers for our city, our country and the world; Faith United church- all our people; Safety during construction on new addition to our building: our church staff & their families; attitudes- may we live as Jesus told us- "love one another as I have loved you"; be open to compromise and **DO Something!**

To our Church family,
As Pastor I want to thank you for all the cards & gifts our family has received during this Christmas season. From my family to yours we again say thank you!
Merry Christmas,
Pastor Jim, Julie, Jill, Jenna & Josh

ENCOURAGING VERSE FOR THE MONTH!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9