



WORLD OF FAITH

PandaMania...

Where God is Wild about You!

Ready for a WILD adventure? If so, then Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) at Faith U.M.C is the place for you! At V.B.S children 3 years old to children entering 6th grade will discover how God is wild about them! Children will experience making awesome crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats. Plus, each day there is a Bible Point, Bible story, and Key Verse to help children jump into God’s Word on a level they can understand and apply to their young lives.

Mark your calendar now for V.B.S. Week: **July 18 - July 22, 6:30-8:30 pm.**

If you’d like to volunteer to assist with V.B.S. week, or even 1 night, please attend the meeting for adults and youth helpers (7th-12th grades) on Sunday, May 29 following the 11:00 worship service. If you can’t attend V.B.S. Week but would still like to help, there are many ways you can get involved!

Please contact Tina Birchell at (419)525-6123 or faithchristianed@gmail.com for more info.

Also, please start praying for the families that will attend and that God will use our church to help them discover His incredible love thru this children’s ministry event!

New Church * New Needs New Ministry

On **Sunday, May 29th** the Children’s & Youth Sunday School classes will meet for the last time during the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School hour. The decision for this was based on very low attendance and the “cost” of doing ministry, both financially and the number of leaders needed to meet Child Protection Policy standards.

Our Children’s Ministry during the 11:00 service has certainly grown, being in the new facility. We will continue to offer Bible based learning during Kingdom Kids (K-3 grades) & Hi-Def Kids Club (4-6 grades). STATIC (7-12 grades) has also seen more teens plugging into Faith! Every Wednesday night you can find 20-30

teens bonding in the gym, talking or eating in the Café and discussing scripture in the Youth Room. The Nursery will also still be available during the 11:00 service for children birth - preschool age. It too has experienced the blessing of “growth”, considering most Sundays you will find 10-15 of the very young being cared for.

I’d like to thank those who have provided loving care, sacrificed their time, shared their gifts and talents, attended Child Protection trainings and recognized the importance of sharing Jesus with the younger generation! I believe God would say: Well done good and faithful servants!

With a thankful heart, Tina Birchell

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

When Bishop Hopkins visited our church a couple of weeks ago, I was very intentional about emphasizing certain things about him. I emphasized the most important things: He is a husband. He is a father. He is a grandfather. He is a servant of Christ. He is a humble man. All of these things define his identity and, by the way, he is also a Bishop in the United Methodist Church.

Most of us live pretty busy, fast paced lives. So we divide our lives into compartments: work/school, leisure and entertainment, personal/business, family/relationships, secular and sacred things. It is increasingly difficult to find balance. In an effort to bring as much sanity as possible to these crazy lives, we learn “for both good and bad” to compartmentalize things so that we are only dealing with one or two things at a time.

It is an effective way to gain some balance, but it also diminishes some things that are meant to permeate all areas of our lives - the things that truly define us. Increasingly busy and compartmentalized lifestyles are the greatest challenges to healthy functional families, and vital fruitful Christian discipleship. We can not compartmentalize those things that make us who we are - our faith, our relationships, and our character.

You don't stop being a spouse, a parent, a grandparent, when you engage in activities that are not directly associated with your relationships. To forget what you are and whose you are is to put yourself and those you love at risk. And, you don't stop being a person of faith when you are engaged in ac-

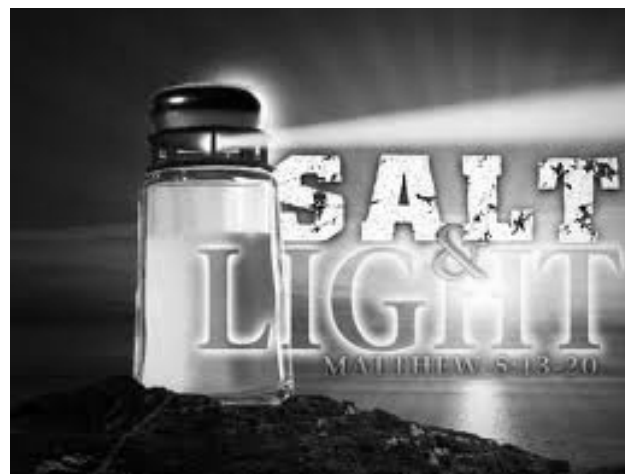
tivities that are usually identified as secular. To forget this is to risk being drawn into things that are fundamentally opposed to what you profess to believe.

Jesus told his disciples "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:14-15, NIV) and, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." (Matthew 5:14-15, NIV)

Jesus was saying that your purpose is tied to your identity, and apart from your identity you will have no purpose, and possibly be good for nothing. After 41 years of discipleship, I'm finally starting to get this right. I am Laura's husband and blessed to be so. I am proudly Guy, John, Rebecca, and Tiffany's father; and Jackie and Deanna's father-in-law. I am thrilled to be Dawson, Madyson, Brady, and Caleb's grandpa. And, most importantly, I am honored to be a servant of Jesus Christ. Whether I am working, playing, learning, or relating to other people, my identity determines my purpose.

The same is true of you. God has placed certain people in your life, has invited you to become a Christian, and has developed your character on purpose and for a purpose. So when you go about your busy life, be sure and maintain your identity. Remember to take your salt shaker and shine your light to be what you are at all times and in all circumstances, thereby fulfilling your purpose.

Blessings, Pastor Mike



STATIC News

“April showers bring May flowers”. Isn’t that how the saying goes? The April we just had should bring a large bounty of flowers for May. When I was thinking about that saying, I couldn’t help but think how the rain was preparing the earth for the vast amounts of growth and beauty it soon would produce. Many times we look at rain as a bad thing, especially when it causes a flood in your basement or our yards. But without rain we would be hopeless.

STATIC has been studying a series by Nooma and Rob Bell. The last one was called “Rain”. Rain in our lives are the trials and tough times we go through and many times we blame God or ask why He has allowed such things to happen to us. Unfortunately rain is a good thing even in this instance, because just like in plant life, “rain” causes preparation for growth.

If we are to be truly honest with ourselves and look back at the things we have gone through, many of us would come to the same conclusion. The “rain” has strengthened us and we would not be where we are in our lives without the “rain” that caused us to grow.

God, unfortunately, becomes our scapegoat and the focus of our frustrations. In reality God does not tempt, but allows the circumstances for growth and perspective. In our human nature we miss the teachable moments of trial because we are blinded by the

pain and frustration. As much as we are irritated by the rain it will certainly rain again, and again and again. Such is life!

Many of us also know the definition of insanity, which is doing the same thing and expecting different results. The question raised is “if we are insane to be frustrated as well as blame others or God then what do we do?” The words of James 1 comes to mind “² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, ^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” “¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;”

I don’t know about you but those words are tough to swallow or even attempt. In STATIC, we came to the conclusion that there is a reason we should find joy rather than pain or frustration. The reason is growth. Rain causes growth and maturity and without it we would all still be babies.

I continue to be excited by the growth I see in our students. STATIC has lots of fun activities to look forward to, like SlopFest, but it is nice to see our students not only coming to have fun, but also growing in their walk with Christ.

Once again I would like to thank all those who pray and support our Youth.

Jared Foos

Acts 29 Is Underway

During the past four weeks, a small group watched video’s preparing for the Acts 29 Bible Study. Dr. Terry Teykl emphasized that we are in the middle of one of the greatest prayer surges in history, and many are seeing amazing results. Jesus said, “Open your eyes and look to the fields! They are ripe for harvest”. (John 4:35) Dr. Teykl goes on to say that many

churches are turning their focus outward, finding creative ways to take Jesus beyond the four walls of their buildings. God has a plan for every community and He wants the best from all of us. Come join us for Sunday School as we pray the scriptures to become the people and the church God has called us to be.

I want to thank everyone who took part in the 3-month Prayer Commitment. It is amazing to see how God works when we call upon Him

If you are interested in learning more about Acts 29 or being a part of the Prayer Ministry please call Pastor Gloria at 419-524-3888.

*Come near to
God & he
will
come
near
to you.*

James 4:8



L I F E T R E E C A F É

“Doing life. Doing good.”

Aaaahhhhh Spring. The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming and Lifetree Café is alive with more thought provoking topics. But before we get to that, I want to share with you an exciting event that took place recently as a result of Lifetree Café.

A non-member came to a Lifetree Café episode that was covering a topic that was of interest to him. He so enjoyed the episode, the people he encountered and the vision of the FUMC, that he has become a regular attendee of our Wednesday evening Lifetree. Through the course of that relationship, he arranged with Pastor Mike to bring some youth that he works with to the Outlet for some basketball, some food at the Outlet Café which he was buying for them, and then he brought them to the episode of Lifetree Café entitled Child Sex Slaves because he wanted to be able to talk

to them about respecting women. That is what Lifetree is all about; opening doors to conversations and relationships, understanding those who are different from us, and taking ourselves and others deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

In May we'll be discussing,

May 1st & 4th, “Do Good Dogs Go To Heaven?”
(Questions about animals and the afterlife)

May 8th & 11th, “Because I Said So!”
(Remembering Mom and How She Shaped You)

May 15th & 18th, “Holy War”
(Religion’s Role in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict)

May 22nd & 25th, “The Witch Next Door”
(What’s the Appeal of Wicca and paganism?)

May 29th & June 1, “7 Continents in 60 Minutes”
(Our wild, weird, wonderful world)

Sunday morning episodes begin at 9:45am sharp and the Wednesday evening episodes begin at 7:00pm sharp. Come one, come all, come just as you are!

Mary Hodgson, Lifetree Coordinator

On behalf of the residents of Applewood Place in Mansfield, they would like to thank Lutheran Social Services and Faith UMC for bringing the Cleveland Food Bank Mobile Pantry to the Outlet. Several residents were able to take advantage of the food distribution and were back by 3:30 p.m. They were very impressed with how organized it was and for the young teens who helped carry groceries to their car. They received high quality food that will help them eat nutritious meals throughout the month. The residents are very grateful!

Did you know that the Mansfield Area YMCA

Purchased the furniture in our children’s Sunday School rooms at a cost of	\$23,000.00
Paid for a portion of the winter’s snow removal	2,440.00
Had the Outlet brochure printed and distributed throughout the area	3,100.00
Paid Faith UMC for part-time custodial services	2,000.00
Purchased children’s meals from the Outlet Café	4,400.00
Paid rent for the use of the classrooms for their Nursery/Pre-school program	8,428.00
Shared 60% of their revenue received for their fitness classes held at Faith	<u>1,410.00</u>

From our opening through March, Faith UMC has received these benefits totaling \$44,778.00



Faith United Methodist Church

General Fund

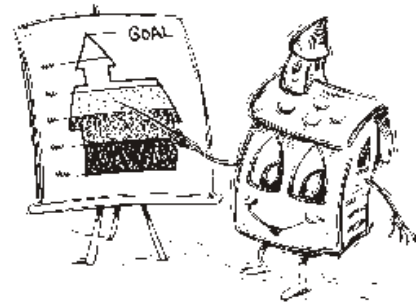
March Report

		Revenue			
			Offerings		11,437.42
			Capital Funds		17,581.00
			YMCA		2,077.14
			Lifetree Café		91.87
			SCRIPT		2,522.82
			Bank Interest		2.51
			Food Pantry		220.00
			Conference Grant		15,000.00
			Total Revenue		48,932.76
		Expenses			
			General Fund		18,465.82
			Building Loan Pay		9,500.37
			Lifetree Café		27.00
			SCRIPT		1,764.81
			Food Pantry		400.00
			Total Expenses		30,158.00
					1st Quarter
Year to Date		Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Beginning Balance		231,443.64	219,477.21	216,628.61	
Revenue		24,855.40	31,938.45	48,932.76	105,726.61
Expenses		36,821.83	34,787.05	30,158.00	101,766.88

Special Notes:

- 1 March Revenue includes a grant payment of \$15,000 from the East Ohio Conference. Without this grant Faith's revenue for the 1st quarter of 2011 would have been \$90,726.61
- 2 The various ministries of the church depend on the offerings taken at the worship services to sustain those activities. First quarter activities anticipated \$45,900 in revenue. Actual revenue totaled \$38,331.12. The \$7,500 shortfall was covered by limiting some of the activities and by utilizing some of the cash reserve.
- 3 Your continued financial support of Faith and its varied activities and ministries is critically important for carrying out the mission of Faith United Methodist Church.

SCRIP Report



April Proceeds: \$156.63
To Date Total: \$20,425.77

Please remember that by using SCRIP gift cards for your every day shopping and gas purchases it helps earn FREE cash for Faith UMC that will be applied to our new building loan. Thanks for using SCRIP!!

Also, if you're a Kroger shopper and you haven't enrolled or re-enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program to designate Faith UMC as your non-profit please do so at www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Let's continue to work together to ease our building loan payments by taking advantage of these programs which earn us FREE money. Thanks so much for your interest and participation.

Marilee Yarger

May Birthdays * Anniversaries * Lection



- 1 Tiffany Esbenshade
- 1 Bernie Rhea
- 4 Marie Hale
- 14 Megan McVicker
- 14 Caitlynn Henry
- 16 Beth Pfeiffer
- 18 Pastor Mike Mack
- 19 Daniel Bright
- 20 Gary Oswalt
- 20 Ron Oswalt
- 21 Eric Boardman
- 24 Logan Campbell
- 27 Jennifer McVicker
- 29 Sharon Boyce

Dayspring Residents

- 1 Marlene Mount
- 11 Pat Bender
- 20 Dean Sterry
- 22 Judy Rapp



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 10 Dan & Renee Davis (22nd)
- 26 Jason & Amy Bright (10th)

May 1

- 780 Psalm 46:1-7 (2nd response)
- Isaiah 43:1-2
- *Matthew 14:22-32

May 8

- 837 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (1st resp)
- 1 Peter 1:17-23
- *Luke 24:13-35

May 15

- 749 Psalm 17
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
- *Matthew 8:23-27

May 22

- 854 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
- *Matthew 10:24-31

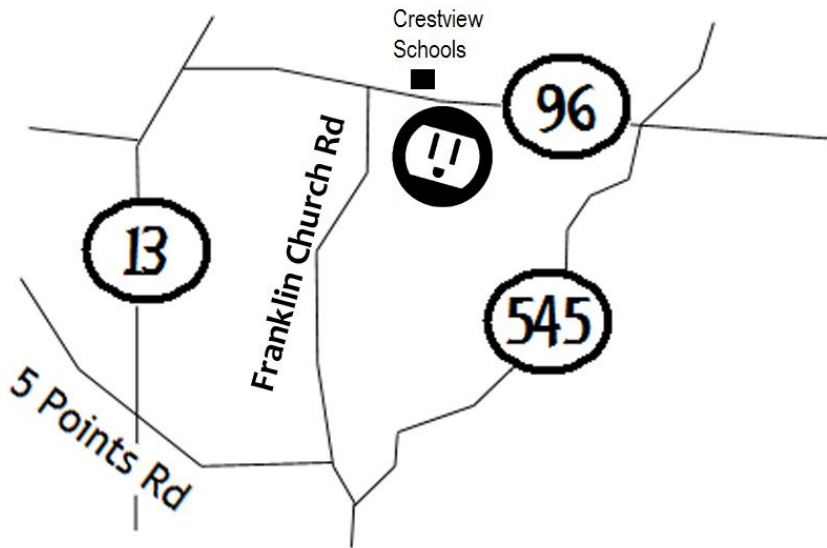
May 29

- 761 Psalm 29
- Romans 8:12-17
- *John 3:16-18

May 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 SS & Lifetree 4H Meeting 6pm STATIC Boys & Girls Less of Me 6 p	2 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p	3 Youth Band Practice 6 p Bootcamp 7-8 p	4 A.O.A. 10-11 a Synthesis 6:30 p Lifetree 7 p	5 Girl Scouts 6 p Band 6:30 p	6 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p Bootcamp 6:30 p Building in Use 6 p	7 Choir 10a - 12 p Bootcamp 1 - 2p Building in Use 3 - 5 p
8 Prayer Ministers mtg. 9:30 a S. S. & Lifetree 9:45 a STATIC Boys Less of Me 6 p	9 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p	10 8:00 a - 1:00 p Youth Band Practice 6 p Bootcamp 7-8 p	11 Columbia Gas A.O.A. 10-11 a Synthesis 6:30 p Lifetree 7 p	12 Lunches Band 6:30 p	13 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p Bootcamp 6:30 p	14 Choir 10a - 12 p Bootcamp 1 - 2p
15 S.S. 9:45 a Lifetree 9:45 a Child Protection Training 12:15 p STATIC Girls Less of Me 6 p	16 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p Finance 7 p	17 Youth Band Practice 6 p Bootcamp 7-8 p Trustees 7 p	18 A.O.A. 10-11 a Outlet Mobile Pantry 3 - 5 p Synthesis 6:30 p Lifetree 7 p	19 Girl Scouts 6 p Band 6:30 p	20 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p Bootcamp 6:30 p	21 Choir 10a - 12 p Bootcamp 1 - 2p
22 Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 a Lifetree Café 9:45 a STATIC SlopFest 1 - 4 p	23 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p	24 Youth Band Practice 6 p Bootcamp 7-8 p	25 A.O.A. 10-11 a Synthesis 6:30 p Lifetree 7 p	26 Good Neighbors Lunch 12 p Band 6:30 p	27 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p Bootcamp 6:30 p	28 Choir 10a - 12 p Bootcamp 1 - 2p
29 S. S. & Lifetree 9:45 a VBS Meeting 12:15 p STATIC Boys & Girls Less of Me 6 p	30 A.O.A. 10-11 a Zumba 5:30 p	31 Youth Band Practice 6 p Bootcamp 7-8 p				



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:45 a.m. For All Ages

Mission Statement

The Mission of our church is to make disciples for Jesus,
in our church, community, and throughout the world.

Vision Statement

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we will:
boldly love each other into spiritual maturity;
serve our neighbors sacrificially;
and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!



1574 St. Rt. 96 E.
Ashland, OH. 44805

Phone: 419-895-1011

Fax: 419-895-1011

Email: UMCFaith@aol.com

Website: umcfaith.com