

We gather today, only halfway through the season of Christmas, and trusting God's guidance for the new year. Welcome to worship, one and all.

This worship service can be watched live on YouTube, as it happens, anywhere you have an internet connection. Additionally, past services will be archived so you can stay up-to-date or relive your favorite Sunday morning moments. You can find the link on our website or check it out at <https://bit.ly/FPClive>

Guest Pastor: Rev. Joanne Marchetto  
Worship Assistant: Carolyn Baittinger  
Usher: Donna Call  
Deacon Greeter: Kim Kreider

Audio: Tracey Gill  
Video: Andy Ingram  
Nursery: Michael Davis  
Fellowship: Sally Heimbach



***Order of Worship***  
***December 31, 2023***

***Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus***

3002 N. Second Street, PO Box 507  
Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049  
610.967.5600

[office@faithchurchemmaus.org](mailto:office@faithchurchemmaus.org)  
[www.faithchurchemmaus.org](http://www.faithchurchemmaus.org)



***FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS***

**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Please use the prelude time to turn your attention to God's presence and help. Nurturing our relationships and friendships in fellowship is essential to our life as a congregation, so please continue to do so following our time of worship.

### ***FOCUSING UPON GOD'S PRESENCE AND VOICE***

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Leader:** Come let us worship God, the Creator of all things. We are humbled by the wonders of creation and amazed by God's imagination and might.

**People:** God cares for all of creation and each one of us. God hears our cries and responds to our needs. In our times of trouble, we call on our God, whose presence gives comfort and strength.

**Leader:** Let us worship God and give thanks.

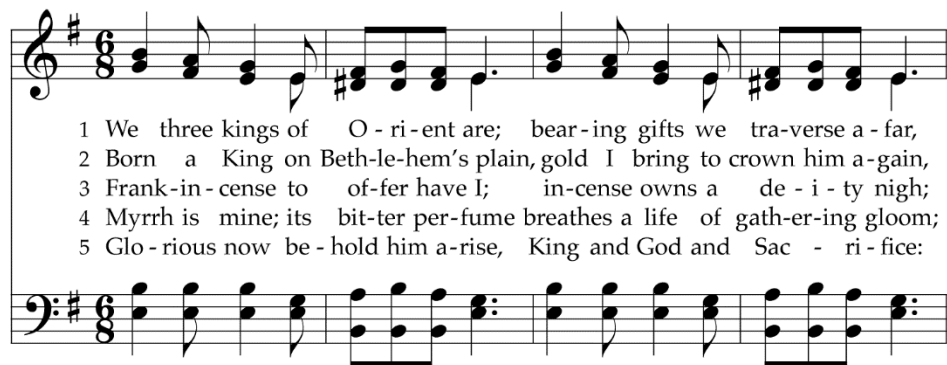
Let us celebrate the wondrous things that God provides.

**People:** Let us bless God, that his love may be known to the ends of the earth!

## \*OPENING PRAYER

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

## 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

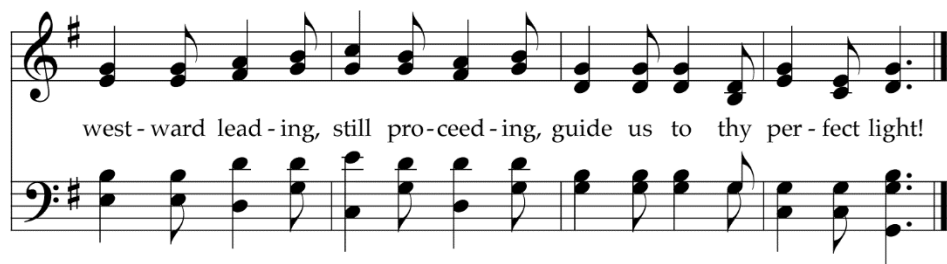


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

## Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

## LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

**Leader:** The epiphany season celebrates God's inclusiveness. Yet we continue to build barriers to protect our own interests and keep others at a distance. If loyalty to God calls for accepting and embracing all God's children in love, we have much to pray for.

**People:** God of the stars, whose guidance is always available to those who look up and listen, speak to us now. We are troubled by many things. Break into our thoughts to reveal great joy at the heart of life, that we may worship wholeheartedly, offer you our best, and lead others to new discoveries of faith.

**Leader:** Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayers.

*(A moment is given for silent confession to God.)*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*HYMN OF ASSURANCE #581

GLORIA PATRI

## **THE WORD OF GOD TO THE CHURCH**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

ISAIAH 60:1-6

<sup>60</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.


## MESSAGE

*“Follow the Light”*


JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

145


## What Child Is This




1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

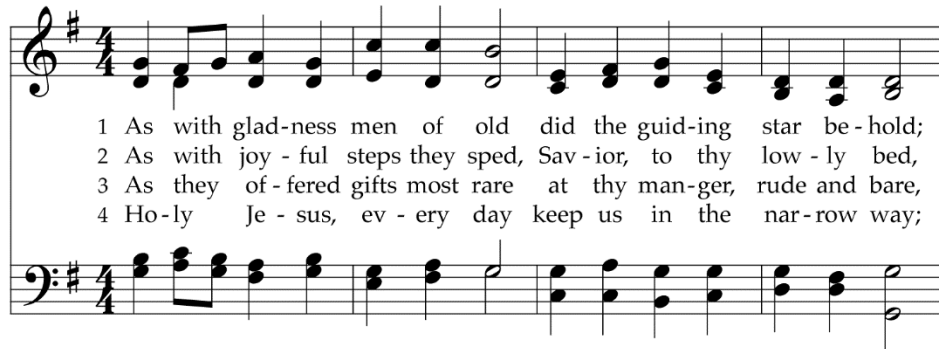
TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871  
 MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES  
 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

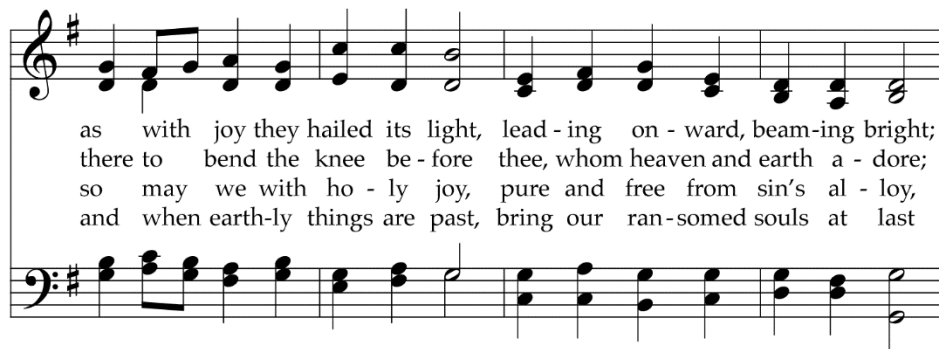
GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL – PG. 35  
(Please use “debts & debtors”.)

Postlude Richard A. Williamson, OneLicense.net A-713988

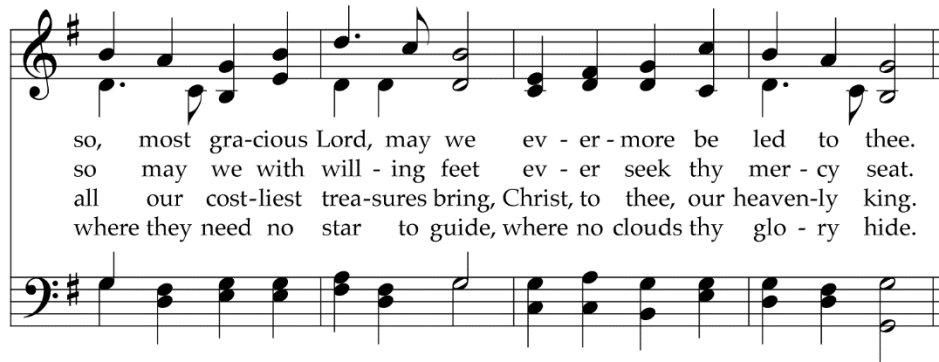
## As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.



# Faith Life

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

We hope you'll join us following worship for beverages, snacks, and fellowship.

### IN THE PULPIT THIS MORNING

Please welcome Rev. Joanne Marchetto, our youth director, to the pulpit this morning. We are grateful for the gift of her talents today while Pastor Becki enjoys some vacation time.

SUNDAY  
Morning  
TOGETHER

- **TODAY:** Fellowship (New Year's Eve)
- **January 7** – Pot Luck Lunch

### POT LUCK LUNCHEON

Next Sunday, following worship, we will gather together for our **Pot Luck Luncheon**. The Ministry to the Congregation Committee invites all to attend! The main course is **Soup**. They ask church members to please bring the following. If your name begins with...

A-L..... please bring a side dish.  
M-Z..... please bring a dessert.



See the back of this page for a list of SMT's future Sunday and mid-week events. Youth Group News is also on the next page!

## Weekly Volunteers Needed!

Please see Page 3 for details.

## BOOK Study

Want to talk about how the church can reach out to young people today? Join Us for the study of "Hear Us Out: Six Questions on Belonging and Belief"

JANUARY 8 AND 22

7:00-8:30P.M.

IN PERSON AND ZOOM

Read the book, then come discuss! Zoom link available in church weekly email starting Jan 7. If you need help getting the book, let Pastor Becki know! We'll cover Chapters 1-3 on Jan 8 and Chapters 4-6 on Jan 22

If there's one book I could recommend for churches to take seriously when they consider ways to welcome emerging generations into their midst, it would be Hear Us Out. — Brian D. McLaren, author of Faith After Doubt

HEAR

US

OUT

SIX QUESTIONS  
ON BELONGING AND BELIEF

SUE PIZOR YODER AND CO. LAB, INC.

### KNOW THYSELF

In the midst of cold and flu season (and whatever else might be going around), remember to pay attention to how you are feeling and who is around you. Stay home if you aren't feeling well. Listen to your body and get rest when you need it. Masks are not required, but are welcomed for anyone who might feel more comfortable with a mask, or anyone who might be feeling even a little under the weather. We can love our neighbors as we love ourselves when we take consideration for everyone's physical health!

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

**Pastor Becki will be on vacation** December 25 through January 1, and will be back in the office on January 2.

For pastoral care needs during that time, contact your deacon or Rev. Joanne Marchetto. Their information can be found in the directory.



**Also!** All contributions to the church that are to be counted as 2023 contributions **must be received at the church no later than Tuesday, January 2**. Donations made after that, even if the check is dated 2023, will be counted toward

your 2024 giving. Online gifts processed after December 31 will also count towards your 2024 giving. Thank you for your understanding.

The Financial Secretary will print and send out your 2023 tax statements before the end of **January 2024**.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

January 28, 2024 - following worship

Reminder: Annual Report submissions are due December 31!

### FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EMMAUS

3002 N. Second Street - PO Box 507 - Emmaus, PA 18049  
610-967-5600—[office@faithchurchemmaus.org](mailto:office@faithchurchemmaus.org)  
Visit us on the web! [www.faithchurchemmaus.org](http://www.faithchurchemmaus.org)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM to Noon.  
Closed on Fridays.



*Sunday Morning Together brings our church family together for fellowship and special activities. Most activities take place right after worship. Children of God of all ages are welcome!*

- 1/14 Fellowship
- 1/21 Fire Safety & First Aid
- 1/28 Congregational Meeting
- 2/4 First Sunday Luncheon
- 2/1 Fastnacht
- 2/8 Fellowship
- 2/25 Pretzels & Lent Fellowship
- 3/3 First Sunday Luncheon & Ice Hockey
- 3/10 Fellowship
- 3/17 Vision Team Event
- 3/24 Palm Sunday- Egg Hunt
- 3/31 Easter; Easter Breakfast
- 4/7 First Sunday Luncheon
- 4/14 Church Clean-up Day & Lunch
- 4/21 Earth Day Clean
- 4/28 Scavenger Hunt



### **TALENT SHOW: FEBRUARY 4**

Sign up to participate in our upcoming talent show!

- ☆ Share a **SIGHT**; crafts or hobbies you enjoy and can be placed on a table to see.
- ☆ Share a **SOUND**; something to be heard and/or performed on a stage.
- ☆ **"S" FOODS** don't need to be signed up for, but please bring a dish to share for lunch that starts with the letter S. If your last name begins with A-K bring a side dish that starts with the letter S, and L-Z bring something sweet.

Sign up by speaking with Heather Davis, or on the whiteboard in Fellowship Hall.

### **WORD ON WEDNESDAY (WOW)**

Our Word On Wednesday group meets on Wednesdays at noon in the parlor. WOW will take off for the holidays and will **not meet on Jan. 3.**

All are welcome!

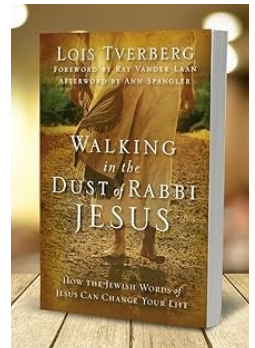


### **THURSDAY WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP**

This group meets Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in homes of our members for coffee, study, prayer and laughter.

We will continue our study on "Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus" **starting again January 11, 2024** and begin a new study (TBA) in February.

Interested? Contact Anne Laubach or Deanna Robinson.



### **YOUTH GROUP NEED**

Pastor Jo Marchetto, our Youth Group Director, could use some help from us here at FPC. **At times, an adult or two are needed to assist in the Youth Group activity, program.**

No experience is needed or special skills, just a genuine interest in our youth. The commitment can be flexible. Why not give Pastor Jo a call (phone number is in the directory) and find out what it's all about. You will be greatly appreciated! **THANK YOU!**



### **SUPPORT OUR YOUTH! BUT HOW?**

**Sponsoring a meal** for our Youth Groups is a very beneficial and easy way to show your support for our youth. (For a rewarding experience, consider joining them for the meal and getting to know them better.) It's easy - scan the QR code to schedule/sponsor your meal, or you can call Pastor Jo Marchetto, our Youth Director. What a wonderful way to show interest in and support our youth! Thank you.



### DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA MINUTE?

The Board of Deacons has identified the following members who are either confined to their homes, at a nursing facility, or sometimes unable to attend Sunday worship services:

Kay Cole -----	Fellowship Villa
Marie Heffner-----	Lehigh Center
Sandy Missmer -----	Home
Barbara Newman -----	Home
Dody Perrin -----	Home

If you have an extra minute, perhaps you could call, send a card or even visit one of these members. Their phone numbers and addresses are located in the Faith Directory. Be a Deacon in your own right and help make someone's day a little brighter.

### GIVING TO FAITH CHURCH IS EASY!

You can support the mission and ministry of our church by donating online at <https://bit.ly/39QO3dQ>. You can scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the donate page on our website. We deeply appreciate your generosity and are so thankful for each of you!



For more information about this option, please read the details about electronic giving on the [Donate](#) page of the church website: <https://bit.ly/39QO3dQ>

### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Messages to be shared via the Prayer Chain may be emailed directly to [prayers@faithchurchemmaus.org](mailto:prayers@faithchurchemmaus.org). Messages can also be sent through a form on the Prayer Requests page of the church website. If you wish to be included in our Prayer Chain distribution list (or if you don't think you are receiving messages), please contact the office.



## COLLEGE ADDRESSES

Is your information up to date?

- ✓ Contact your deacon
- ✓ Email or call the church office.
- ✓ Comment on the Facebook group page.
- ✓ A note in the secretary's mailbox

**PLEASE UPDATE NOW**

610-967-5600    [office@faithchurchemmaus.org](mailto:office@faithchurchemmaus.org)

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE UPDATE

**As of 12/27 we have 66 pledges at \$224,914.**

It's not too late to pledge. It's not too late to pledge. The pledge cards will stay in the pews until the end of the year or use the on-line form found on the website: <https://faithchurchemmaus.org/donate/pledge/>.



### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

You might think that assisting during worship is a bit daunting, but it is easier than you think! Spoon-fed instructions are provided, with all the necessary materials. Everything is prepared for you! Yet, as easy as it is, volunteers are always needed. Here are the dates where a worship assistant is needed:



#### **January 7**

Contact Sally Heimbach, or use this link to the SignUpGenius: <https://bit.ly/3FCW8iQ> Thank you.

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Everybody loves fellowship time following worship. It's a wonderful time to catch up with your church family! Hosting is easy and instructions are provided, but we still need people to volunteer. Here are the dates where hosts are needed:



#### **January 21, 28**

Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex, or contact Heather Davis. Thank you.

### THE NURSERY NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers for the nursery during the worship time. If you do not have your clearances, we can assist you in obtaining them. Here are the dates where volunteers are needed:



#### **January 7, 14, 21, 28**

Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex, or see Sally Heimbach. Helpers will need their clearances. Thank you.

### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Scan this QR code to donate to aid disaster relief, or send a check with PDA in the memo line, mail to:

Presbyterian Disaster c/o  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



# TWO WEEKS OF FAITH

This calendar is prepared on the Thursday prior to distribution.  
Please see the church [website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Key	
BR	Brick Room
FH	Fellowship Hall
MR	Music Room
P	Parlor
S	Sanctuary
Z	Zoom

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 31

10:00 a.m.— Worship Service: Rev. Joanne Marchetto  
11:00 a.m.— Sunday Morning Together

### Monday, January 1

*Happy New Year!*  
*Church Office Closed*

### Tuesday, January 2

9:00 a.m.— Quilters (FH)  
7:30 p.m.— Ministry of Support meeting (P)

### Wednesday, January 3

7:00 p.m.— Faithful Harmonizers rehearsal (S)

### Thursday, January 4

### Friday, January 5

*Church Office Closed*

### Saturday, January 6

9:00 a.m.— Zumba (FH)  
10:00 a.m.— Crazy Quilters (FH)

## NEXT WEEK

### Sunday, January 7

10:00 a.m.— Worship Service  
11:00 a.m.— Sunday Morning Together: Pot Luck Luncheon  
5:00 p.m.— Youth Groups Together: Game Night

### Monday, January 8

1:30 p.m.— Daybreak  
7:00 p.m.— Book Study (in person and Zoom)

### Tuesday, January 9

7:00 p.m.— Session meeting (BR)

### Wednesday, January 10

7:00 p.m.— Faithful Harmonizers rehearsal (S)

### Thursday, January 11

### Friday, January 12

*Church Office Closed*

### Saturday, January 13

9:00 a.m.— Zumba (FH)  
10:30 a.m.— Outside Use (FH)



## SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If it snows sufficiently to make you wonder if worship will be held, we will post the cancellation information on WFMZ: (<https://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter/>).



Daybreak - January 8  
2024 Per Capita—\$48.00  
Spring Flyer deadline—February 18

## ARE YOU GETTING THE INFO YOU NEED?

Faith Church has four email lists. Are you interested in being added to one or more of them? Please indicate your interest, add your email address, tear off this tab, and drop in the offering plate.

- ☐ Weekly Announcements    ☐ Quarterly Newsletter  
☐ Prayer Chain    ☐ Emergency Alerts

Name & email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Looking Ahead**

*Mark Your Calendars!*

Jan. 28.....Annual Congregational Meeting  
Feb. 4.....Pot Luck Luncheon, Talent Show  
Feb. 23.....Youth Group 30 Hour Famine  
Mar. 3.....Pot Luck Luncheon  
                    Phantoms Hockey Game  
Apr. 7.....Pot Luck Luncheon  
Apr. 14.....Church Clean-Up Day  
May 4.....Fellowship Event—Mind Body Soul  
Jun. 17-20.....Vacation Bible School  
Jun. 22-30.....Work Camp at Dexter, ME  
Sept. 28.....Fellowship Event—Autumn Fest