

April 2023

## From the Elders



Dear church family,

I can say with complete honesty that I have never experienced being a part of church that felt more like a *family* than ours. It has changed our lives, and Hanna and I are deeply grateful to the Lord. As I get to know more of you as an elder, I figured you may want to know a bit more about me and my family.

I grew up in Philadelphia with two faithful, believing parents (George and Carolyn, who recently joined the church as well; in fact, you can typically find them sitting with us on a Sunday morning). I confessed Christ from a young age, but it was not until age 15, when we lived in York, that I experienced true repentance leading me to forsake habitual sins. It was then that I was baptized, and from there the Lord burdened me for ministry. I went to Liberty University, where I met Hanna (a fellow Yorkian), and from there went on to serve at a church elsewhere in York as a student ministry worker. I now serve full-time with ABWE (the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism), in addition to my ministry at the church. Our kids are Davion (10), Lydia (5), and Calvin (2).

What's your story? If we haven't yet officially met, let's connect soon. It is my aim to help the pastors shepherd well and to know the flock well (Proverbs 27:23).

A congregation is more than a group that gathers on Sundays; it is a community committed to Christ, to our inheritance as believers, to Scripture, to love and good works, to the next generation, and to displaying the gospel throughout our locale. May the Lord help us get to know one another better!

In Christ,  
–Alex Kocman

## April Events



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|---|-----------------------------|
| 2– Life Group, 6 PM                                   | 12– Prayer, 11 AM           |
| 3– Life Group, 5 PM                                   | 16– Life Group, 6 PM        |
| 4– Ladies' Group, 10 AM                               | 17– Life Group, 5 PM        |
| Life Group, 5 PM                                      | 18– Ladies' Group, 10 AM    |
| 5– Prayer, 11 AM                                      | Life Group, 5 PM            |
| 7– Life Group, 6 PM                                   | 19– Prayer, 11 AM           |
| 8– Easter Egg Hunt, 10 AM                             | 21– Life Group, 6 PM        |
| 9– Sunrise Service, 8:30 AM,<br>followed by breakfast | 23– Fellowship Meal, 12 PM  |
| Worship Service, 10:30 AM                             | 25– Men's Bible Study, 6 PM |
| 11– Women's Bible Study, 6 PM                         | 26– Prayer, 11 AM           |
|   | 29– Church work day         |

*Note: Dates and times may change. Please check with the leader of the activity to confirm.*

## Announcements



- ◆ **Work Day**– Please mark your calendars for April 29. We will have an important opportunity to clean, repair, and beautify the place God has given us to worship and serve Him. Come when you can and leave when you must– there’s something for everyone to do!
- ◆ **Baptism**– If you have come to faith in Christ but have never identified with Him publicly in baptism, now is your opportunity! Our next baptism will occur during the service on May 28. Please talk to Pastor Wes if you have any questions or would like to participate.
- ◆ **Volunteer Survey**– Be on the lookout for a volunteer survey coming your way in May. We would appreciate everyone’s input as you reflect on your service to our body.

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## Welcome, Babies!



**Asher Lou Vargas** joined his family on March 6, weighing in at 6 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 19.25 inches long.

**Darius Gonzolo Herb Rodriguez** arrived on March 26, weighing in at 8 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches long.

Congratulations to both these precious families!

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## Unseen Members



When you think about the members of our church, you most likely think about the people that you see regularly on Sunday. You may not know, however, that we do have several members that are unable to meet with us on Sundays due to physical limitations. Kathy Miller meets with two of these members on a regular basis and would like to introduce them to you.

**Dolores Lieberknect** attended Faith from the time she was 11 years old. She and her husband, Luther, were York County farmers, supplying produce to local markets, milk to Rutter’s, and tobacco to auctions. They were married for 75 years and had two children, William and Joy. Today Dolores lives 27 Cedar Street, Manchester, PA 17345. Her birthday is February 19.



**Elizabeth Sams** became a member of Faith Bible Fellowship Church after moving to PA from the Midwest. She had three sons and taught at a university. Elizabeth loved watching sermons on television and putting puzzles together. She currently resides at the Pleasant Acres Nursing Home, 118 Pleasant Acres Drive, Room 510A, York, PA 17402. Her birthday is January 9.



Please remember to pray for our unseen members on a regular basis. You could also consider writing a letter to introduce yourself and your family, sending notes of encouragement, or having your children draw pictures or make cards to send.

*“Let us love one another with brotherly affection.” – Romans 12:10*

## Meet the Laws



Hi! We are Tim and Candace Law. We started attending the church in the spring of 2021. Just as was true with many people, we wanted to worship with true believers. Too many other churches were still going virtual because of the pandemic, and we both left our previous denominations due to the dwindling spirituality of the other churches. The feeling left us empty and wanting a more meaningful experience.

Ironically, it was Pastor Wes's openness and kindness in allowing the church to be used as a voting center, where we first met him in the fall of 2020, that impacted our choice to attend in the first place. Since then, we have met many, many wonderful and spiritual people at Faith Bible Fellowship Church. We believe in the values of this church and have seen these values practiced by the people who attend on a regular basis.

Candace was a school nurse for over 30 years at York City schools and York College. Now retired, she spends a good amount of time helping out with her grandsons, the Tuesday ladies' group, and many other activities that keep her very busy. Tim teaches as a substitute frequently for the Northeastern School District, but his main focus is tennis: coaching both boys and girls, running a program called Tennis for Kids, and maintaining a YouTube channel called Playing It Forward Coaching.

We live within five minutes of the church and always look forward to getting to know more of the members. We are certainly enjoying these relationships!

We also have a mini Golden Doodle that is 18 months old named Cinnamon. She is kept at home during church services, as her friendliness to everyone would certainly disrupt the proceedings!

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## Meet the Pullers



We are the Puller family: Zack, Amy, Edith, and William, with a third little one due in August. We had been looking for a biblically grounded church for a while and finally came to Faith Bible Fellowship a little over a year ago. We are thankful for the strong focus on the Word and the family atmosphere. We especially love all that is offered for our kids to be a part of and the sound teaching that they receive as well.

Zach works as a police officer in York County, and Amy is a stay-at-home, homeschooling mom. We also have a big Newfoundland mix named Sirius— our gentle giant!

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## Skate Night



On March 5, the church enjoyed an evening of fellowship and fun at Fountainblu Skating Arena. The event was so successful that there will likely be another one planned for the future. Please put the event on your calendar, even if you don't skate. It's a great time to get to know others at Faith in an informal setting.

## Missionaries of the Month



*We are delighted to hear this month from David and Rebecca Riddell, who are currently serving in France with the church planting ministry, World Team. Please continue to pray for them and their ministry as they introduce themselves through this article.*

As we introduce ourselves, we want to say thank you to those of you who already know us and have followed our ministry, and thank you to those who are getting to know us for the first time!

We are David and Rebecca Riddell and have been serving with World Team as church planters since 1988. Did we grow up in Christian homes? For David, the answer is yes; for Rebecca, no! David's father took him to a Billy Graham Crusade in 1969, where he gave his life to Christ. Rebecca was saved out of a non-Christian background through the ministry of Young Life in her high school. We met at university in Ohio, where we were part of the InterVarsity group on campus.

The 1976 Urbana Missions Convention was a turning point in our lives where we both understood the Lord's call and leading into ministry and began to seriously explore missions in our future. We married in 1978 and moved to upstate New York, where we found jobs— Rebecca as a French teacher and David as a trainer in a long-term health care facility. We were involved in a local church and volunteered with the local Youth for Christ club. At that time the elders of our church challenged and encouraged us to get further education to prepare for ministry, so we moved back to Philadelphia, and David entered Westminster Seminary in 1980. We attended a local BFC church (Maple Glen BFC, now Welsh Road Church) which became the training ground for much growth in ministry, life, and family.

During David's studies at Westminster, we took part in a one-month study and research trip to France. As we were the only married couple traveling with a child, we had the opportunity to stay with pastors, French Christians, and missionaries. God used that time to show us the great spiritual needs in France and the tremendous lack of missionaries and pastors. The way was clear! France was where we were called! We spent three more years serving at Maple Glen before heading to France in 1988 to learn the language and culture. Sometimes we chuckle at how much we thought we knew when language school was done! We served in several church plants in the first 20 years of ministry. Since that time, David also served as France field director and the Europe Area Director and currently serves as the International Director of the mission. We are involved in mentoring/coaching younger leaders and training others to do the ministry. We participate in a local French church (also planted by World Team) where David is an elder and frequently preaches. Rebecca coordinates Sunday school and nursery, helps lead weekly Bible studies, and is part of a visitation team. We have four adult children and seven grandchildren living in the United States who make visits back "home" to see us when their schedules allow— and we do the same!

Thank you again for your years of prayerful support and interest in the ministry here in France!

— David and Rebecca Riddell