

From the Elders



The new year always brings excitement. A common practice over the past several years at Faith BFC every January has been to have a new membership class for anyone interested in becoming a member at our church. This is particularly exciting because I am always reminded that God is at work here at our church. Any numerical growth is a result of God's tremendous grace toward our church.

We had over fifteen people interested in becoming members who attended our classes in January. That number, as exciting as it is, is not the most encouraging thing to come from those classes. The most encouraging thing as I talk to these people is to hear how welcoming our church was when they first visited and how we continue to be welcoming months after they decided to keep coming. It means a great deal to us to hear that you all are going out of your way to greet visitors with a smile and make sure that they feel welcomed. It is one thing for the pastors and leaders to greet and welcome a visitor; it is expected. It's quite another thing when the people who make up the church go out of their way to greet and welcome visitors. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, and keep fighting the good fight.

-Ricardo Vargas

February Events



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| 1- Prayer, 11 AM | 15- Prayer, 11 AM |
| 5- Congregational Meeting, 12 PM
Life Group, 5 PM | 17- Youth Group, 7-9 PM |
| 6- Life Group, 5 PM | 19- Life Group, 5 PM |
| 7- Ladies' Group, 10 AM
Life Group, 5 PM | 20- Life Group, 5 PM |
| 8- Prayer, 11 AM | 21- Ladies' Group, 10 AM
Life Group, 5 PM |
| 10- Life Group, 6 PM | 22- Prayer, 11 AM |
| 11- Ladies' Group, 9:30 AM | 24- Life Group, 6 PM |
| 14- Women's Bible Study, 6 PM | 26- Fellowship Meal, 12 PM |
| | 28- Men's Bible Study, 6 PM |

Note: Youth group activities are yet to be scheduled. See Pastor Ricardo for more information.

A Note from the Chauzas



Hello from Maryland! We are finally almost settled in here (except for all the boxes, of course). The Lord was gracious, and we were able to move downstairs around New Year's. There are still a few things coming together, but we can finally see an end to the renovations! Becca is working hard, and I am trying to fall into a routine. We are enjoying reconnecting with Belcroft Bible Church and seeing all the growth there since we left seven years ago. The grandkids are enjoying the time they get

with us now and haven't grown tired of us yet. Thank you for your continued prayers. We so appreciate all your love and encouragement during this transition. We miss you all and will keep you in our prayers and thoughts.

-Lorraine Chauza

Announcements



◆ **New Logo and Website**– You’ve probably seen our new logo on the slides at church, the bulletin, and even on the earrings of some the ladies in our church! Have you taken a minute to visit our new [website](#), though? Take a look and feel free to direct any feedback to our webmaster, Alex Kocman.

◆ **Congregational Meeting**– Members, please make plans to stay after the service on February 5 for our annual meeting. Various members of the leadership team will be reporting on last year’s activities, as well as presenting the budget for the upcoming year. We will also be voting to fill various elder and deacon positions. Make sure you get a copy of the annual report ahead of time so you can be prepared for this important meeting.

◆ **Roller Skating!**– Our church is renting out the entire Fountainblu Skating Arena for a family skating event! All are welcome, and skating is optional. Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 5, from 4–6:30 PM. The address is 521 Locust Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070. We have been asked not to bring any food or drink, as the snack bar will be open. Please see Amy Fuhrman if you have any questions. Hope to see you all there!

Ministry Highlights



You may have heard the term *deacon* before, but do you know what they do? The Deacon Board at Faith Bible Fellowship Church currently consists of the following members: Carl Douthit, Helen Gemmill, and Shawn Coolman. They serve the church by offering practical support to the members of the congregation in three main areas:

- ◆ Helping the widows and elderly in the church
- ◆ Taking care of building needs and repairs
- ◆ Administering the benevolence fund and helping those in need

The Board meets once a month to discuss needs and projects. This year, the deacons coordinated the installation of new basement exit doors, new sanctuary doors, setting up the sound booth, and getting new parts for the heating system. They often get involved when people are moving to organize help for them. In addition, the deacons try to be wise stewards of the benevolence fund, helping those who are struggling financially, both within our church and within our community. The deacons very much appreciate the church family providing for this fund so that it can be used to assist others in their time of need. If you are ever aware of needs within our congregation, please reach out to any member of the Deacon Board.

“The greater number of our deacons are an honour to our faith, and we may style them as the apostle did his brethren, the “glory of Christ” ... Deprive the church of her deacons, and she would be bereaved of her most valiant sons; their loss would be the shaking of the pillars of our spiritual house, and would cause a desolation on every side. Thanks be to God such a calamity is not likely to befall us, for the great Head of the church in mercy to her, will always raise up a succession of faithful men, who will use the office well, and earn unto themselves a good degree and much boldness in the faith.”

— Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Meet the Snyders



We are Jarrod and Korie Snyder, and we have been attending Faith for a little over a year. We are high school sweethearts and have been married for 16 years. Jarrod is owner/operator of York Ice Company, a business that has in his family since 1872. He currently serves as chairman of the International Packaged Ice Association (yes, it's a thing) through 2023. Korie is trained as a reading specialist and currently homeschools their four children and provides private reading intervention services to local families.

We have four children. Aubri is 13 and loves history, reading anything she can get her hands on, and playing the piano. Kenzi is 11 and loves soccer and working at a local farm. (She wants to be a veterinarian.) Moriah is 8 and loves swimming competitively, spending time with horses, and playing with dolls. Isaiah is 6 and enjoys playing soccer and being on swim team. If you give him the chance, he'll wow you with facts about animals you've likely never heard about.

As a family, we enjoy spending time at our cabin in northern PA and traveling as much as possible. We look forward to getting to know more of Faith's congregation on a personal level in 2023.

Vargas Diaper Bash



At our last Fellowship Meal on January 22, we had the opportunity to bless the Vargas family with a diaper bash. They will be welcoming their third son in March (Ezra? Asher?...). A big "thank you" goes out to Paige Coolman for coordinating the diaper bash, complete with decorations and cake, and our best wishes and prayers go out to the Vargas family on their prospective arrival.



From Church Extension Ministries



As you may recall, CEM recently held its Christmas Gift Month fundraiser. The goal was to raise \$200,000 to catch up the budget deficit, make sure all BFC church planters were fully paid for the year, and open the new year with a strong cash base. CEM is so grateful to report the final total from the fundraiser: \$200,464! Praise the Lord for His faithfulness!

Church Planter Testimony



*Joshua Dupiche is a church planter in Milford, DE. Last year was very particularly difficult for his family as he lost his sister to cancer and consequently took in her two children. Here is his testimony, reprinted with permission from the CEM publication, *The Antiochan*.*

Watching my baby sister die from inoperable brain cancer was the most difficult experience of my life. I loved Juline. Of course, I did my best to be with her as much as life and God would allow. But each day with her was followed by another filled with emotional exhaustion, depression, and conversations that reinforced the obvious. She would die, and we would grieve.

I've experienced loss before, but never this close, never having to watch it happen. Death appeared to me a superpower. No doctor could stop it, nothing could change it. It was real, something I could experience. This pain led to all kinds of questions about faith, doubts that needed answers, and ultimately a decision about what I believed. Here's how I made it through with my faith intact and continue to make it day by day.

First, it was grace. The faith that sustained me through this event was a gift from God. It wasn't something I was able to sustain on my own but a profound blessing I found at the bottom of the pit. Day after day, I depended on God to keep me, to ensure I remained in Him, to answer my questions, and soothe my broken heart. Our suffering serves many purposes, but none more important than to make us more dependent on God (2 Cor 1:9-10). Throughout this time of my life, I was far from strong. But God never called me to be strong. He called me to total dependence on the Lord and the power of His might. I found strength when I had none. I had power when I was emptied. I found grace to sustain me when I lacked faith.

Second, through the prayers of the church. Paul says in 2 Cor 1:11 that he would be helped through the prayers of many. In Philippians 1:19 Paul says that, through the believers' prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, this (suffering) would turn out for his deliverance. James 5 says the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. Through the prayers of the church, I became the recipient of divine assistance. Through the prayers of my friends and church family, Jesus personally saw to it that I was raised up. I thank God for those who prayed for us, for those who prayed when they didn't know what to say to me but knew what to say to God. Your prayers helped us; they helped me.

Third, Juline's death reminded me of how I was brought back to life. Ephesians 2 says I was dead. I had no life of God in me though I walked around and spoke. But God in His mercy brought me to life. That was a real event, as real as Juline's passing and at the same time greater than her passing. If God could bring to life my dead spirit, than surely He could bring Juline back to life, too. Death, which appeared as a superpower, has already been overcome through Christ. , who was once dead, am now alive by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. How much more will He make us alive when we shed this mortal body?

As much as it hurt to say goodbye to Juline, and as much as I miss her, I will see her again. I am reminded of what Christ said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" I hold onto this every day. Glory to God who gives us life today through Jesus Christ our Lord!