

FELLOWSHIP CONNECTIONS



March 2023

From the Elders



Hungry for some more fellowship on the Lord's Day? Come to the parsonage following the service. The Bunting family wants to make it abundantly clear that there is a standing invitation to the entire church that, after corporate worship on Sundays, the parsonage is open for a time of food and fellowship and that everyone from our church family is invited.

During this time, we eat lunch together, drink coffee together, chat together, talk theology together, and eventually go outside and get some fresh air together.

There have been as few as three people there on a Sunday afternoon and as many as forty. No matter what, we make it work!

If you are interested in joining us, please just stick around after the service long enough and follow the herd of people over to the parsonage. If you are more of a planner, just text Liz the night before, and she will give you all the details you need. Hoping to see ALL of you at some point on a Sunday afternoon this year, and I really do mean that!

Press on.

–Pastor Wes Bunting

March Events



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| 1– Prayer, 11 AM | 19– Life Group, 5 PM |
| 5– Roller skating, 4–6:30 PM | 20– Life Group, 5 PM |
| 6– Life Group, 5 PM | 21– Life Group, 5 PM |
| 7– Life Group, 5 PM | 22– Prayer, 11 AM |
| 8– Prayer, 11 AM | 24– Life Group, 6 PM |
| 10– Life Group, 6 PM | 26– Fellowship Meal and
Volunteer Fair, 12 PM |
| 11– Ladies' Group, 9:30 AM | 28– Ladies' Group, 10 AM |
| 14– Ladies' Group, 10 AM
Women's Bible Study, 6 PM | Men's Bible Study, 6 PM |
| 15– Prayer, 11 AM | 29– Prayer, 11 AM |

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

"...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

— Hebrews 10:25

Announcements



- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **Volunteer Fair**– Many of you are new to the church and looking for ways to serve. There will be an opportunity to find out about our ministries and sign up on March 26 during the Fellowship Meal. Watch for details to come!
- ◆ **Easter**– Mark your calendars now for our community Easter Egg hunt on April 8 and our Easter Sunday services (Sonrise and regular) on April 9.

Ministry Highlights



The Bible says we are to pray without ceasing. Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings are to be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life. We are to keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. This means that we at Faith Bible Fellowship take prayer seriously. Here are some ways our prayer ministry is at work to keep us an actively praying church.

Every Monday morning our weekly prayer email is sent out with a list of current prayer requests from our congregation, missionaries, Church Extension Ministries, and our pastors and elders. To get your prayer request or praise added to the list, fill out a blue prayer card on Sunday morning and put it in either the offering plate or in the prayer box in the lobby. You can find a prayer card either underneath the seat in front of you in the sanctuary or next to the prayer box in the lobby. During the week if you have an urgent prayer request you want shared with your church family, you can contact a pastor or Anna Bintaviahok. If you do not already receive our prayer emails or church emails, you can fill out a Connection Card, also located in the seat in front of you in the sanctuary or next to the prayer box, and put it in the offering plate or prayer box.

We also put out a monthly prayer calendar with a specific prayer prompt for each day. Throughout the month we will pray for our community, government, unreached people groups, church leadership and ministries, and more. Copies of the next month's prayer calendar will always be available the last Sunday of the month in the lobby and will remain out the entire month. At the bottom of Monday morning's prayer email will be that week's prayer calendar prompts for those who do not have a copy of the calendar but still want to pray through them.

Last but not least are our prayer meetings. If you have never attended one, we recommend that you consider it. Every Wednesday at 11 AM and 7 PM you can connect with other brothers and sisters over Zoom and pray together. Usually the week's prayer list is prayed through, but you can always ask for prayer for whatever the Lord has placed upon your heart. It is a beautiful time of fellowship and sharing among fellow believers. To join the Zoom meeting, go to our website. On the home page there are details on the prayer meetings, and you can click *Pray With Us* to join in the meeting. If you are at work during the day, consider taking an early lunch and joining us online.

Thank you to everyone who submits prayer requests and to everyone who faithfully lifts up their brothers and sisters in prayer. Thank you, church family, for keeping this ministry active and alive.

– Anna Bintaviahok

Meet the Schwinnns



We are the Schwinn family: Jesse, Jen, Jacob, and Jolee. We have been attending Faith since the fall of 2022. Jesse is a police officer in the Baltimore area, and Jen is an office manager at a church in their neighborhood. As a family, we enjoy playing board games, camping with our lab Gunnar, fishing, crabbing, and having new adventures. Jesse and Jacob enjoy weekend hiking trips together on the Appalachian Trail.

Jacob loves football and has played for the Dallastown Cougars since he was 7. He plans to try out for his middle-school team this fall. He enjoys school and wants to be a welder after he graduates. Jolee enjoys reading, playing soccer and softball, and making new friend.

We are grateful to Faith for the warm welcome and look forward to getting to know everyone better and becoming more involved in the future.

Sno Glo



In January, our youth had the opportunity to join with other BFC churches for their annual Sno Glo retreat. This report is from one of the young people who attended.

Hi, my name is Eddie Bintaviahok. I'm 15 years old, and I've been attending the youth group at FBFC for two years. I have been to Sno Glo twice. One of my favorite things about Sno Glo has been that the speakers have both been great. I learned a lot both times. I also have a lot of fun with all the other youth who attend, hanging out with them all weekend. I'm glad I could go, and I am looking forward to going next year again.



Why We Worship the Way We Do



Reverence is the word we most frequently hear new visitors use to describe their impression of our worship style, and for that I am deeply grateful. I believe that, over the last several years, three principles have undergirded our approach to corporate worship. These principles have been at work beneath the surface, like hidden currents, directing us to our current convictions regarding Lord's Day worship.

Scripture Saturation - When our family first attended Faith, we were struck by one element of the service: public readings of Scripture that weren't just transitions for songs or a warm-ups for the sermon. A note in the bulletin referred to 1 Timothy 4:13: "[D]evote yourself to the public reading of Scripture[.]" It made sense. If we believe Scripture is divinely inspired, inerrant, and infallible, it follows that it is "the supreme and final authority of faith and conduct" (*Articles of Faith* 1.1). Since Scripture is sufficient for life and godliness, it should also shape and dominate the words we use to communicate back to God in prayer and song.

Recently, this conviction has led us to pursue singing psalms. Ephesians 5:19 states that we are to be filled with "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." We are familiar with spiritual songs and hymns, yet God has also given us 150 inspired psalms. Why would we not use them in worship, singing God's Word back to him?

Covenant Renewal - The second conviction that has informed our philosophy of worship has been the notion that our Lord's Day service should retell the gospel story. In Nehemiah 8–9, the Jews, restored to their homeland after the exile, publicly read Scripture, confessed sin, and were reminded of God's grace in his covenant with them. Similarly, the early church in Acts 2 committed herself to prayer, apostolic teaching, baptism, and the Lord's Supper—God's Word preached and God's grace acted out in the sacraments.

Vow renewals have become increasingly common among married couples. Similarly, each Lord's Day is a chance to remember and renew our covenant relationship with the Father, by the Spirit, through the Son. We begin by adoring God; then we confess our sin in light of his goodness. We hear the gospel announced, are refreshed in his forgiveness, hear his Word preached, and come to his table to be nourished by his grace. Thus, we believe our music should be rich with doctrinal content retelling this gospel storyline.

Divine Holiness - Each time I lead worship, I am reminded of my own unworthiness. If you know the stress of getting children out of the house on a Sunday morning, you know what it means to come into God's presence conscious of one's need of grace. In truth, we should all approach worship with a spirit similar to that of Isaiah, who, when faced with the utter holiness of God, cried, "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, ..." (Isaiah 6:5) This is not to say that we are to approach God apprehensively or with a servile, groveling sort of fear. We have boldness and access to our Father with confidence through faith in Christ. (Ephesians 3:12) Yet the God we approach is still holy, holy, holy. When we praise God in song, our joy should be a serious joy, wrought in deep adoration of the transcendent, Triune God.

Ultimately, our style of worship should have little to do with our own preferences and entirely to do with the expressed will of the God we serve. May our corporate worship be "a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." (Hebrews 13:15)

- Alex Kocman, Director of Music Ministry and Elder