

FOCUS



ON

FAITH

Volume 48, Number 8
2018



September 3, 2018– Worship at 9:00 am

Beginning September 9, 2018

Sunday School—9:00 am

Worship—10:15 am

LEAD PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson

PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP: Rev. Josh Knappenberger

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: Dennis J. Duda

Faith United Church of Christ

5992 Route 378

Center Valley, PA 18034

610-282-3939

Office@faithchurchucc.org

www.faithchurchucc.org



Thank you to the newsletter crew for their help in mailing the newsletters this month -

*Ruth Cressman, LaVerna Diehl,
Joan Hassler, Evelyn Hovis,
and Sue Walter*

2018—2019 Consistory

Officers:

President: Deb Orach

Vice President: Kevin Long

Secretary: Mary Ellen Long

Elders:

Deb Orach

Mim Allison

Jane Van Horn

Kevin Long

Deacons:

Colleen Kandt

Tom Berghold

Barb Scattergood

Mary Ellen Long

John Barone

Samantha Ritter

Becky Hite

Justin Koser

Church Treasurer: Joe Orach

Liaisons: *to be determined at next Consistory meeting*

*We are a people
who have come together
through a common faith,
a common love,
and a common covenant
with the triune God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
and together we endeavor
to be a community of
worship,
education,
mission,
fellowship,*



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The Gospels claim that the Kingdom of God has a character to it called "Here, But Not Yet." Simply put, this suggests that there are portions and/or hints of the Kingdom of God that are already present but the complete fulfillment of the Kingdom will be a future reality.

Here, but not yet. It's about what we already possess and what we anticipate having in the future. I am writing this article as I sit in my allergist office after having received my two weekly injections. Here, but not yet. From here I will go to my dentist's office where she will repair a cavity. Here, but not yet. In a few weeks I will go on vacation and the first week of my two week vacation will include a family reunion at Disney World in Florida in AUGUST! Here, but not yet. In a few hours I will be able to tell you if my anticipation for the allergist and the dentist has been fulfilled. The reunion? That will take longer before I can report back.

My family has been doing these reunions every 5 years since Ethan was 4. He's 29 now so this will be our fifth Disney reunion. I have to be honest with you. I'm kind of "Disneyed Out." I was hoping for a different gathering place this time. I suggested Williamsburg, VA but my suggestion was voted down by my sisters so off to Disney, IN AUGUST, we shall go. Now before I go any further, let me assure you that I am not equating allergy shots and dentist visits to family!

When Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God to his followers they waited with joyful anticipation. When His Apostles carried

this message to new people they too listened and waited with joyful anticipation. How could they have been so patient for something so amazing to become a full reality? How could they be so joyful about something that they had yet to fully experience?

As I have already said, my family has done these Disney Reunions before. I have experienced them four times. I suppose that is the "Here." However I have not experienced THIS reunion yet. This reunion is my "Not Yet." My tendency right now is to assume that this reunion will be very much like the last and so while I am looking forward to seeing family I am not all that excited about going to Disney again. I'm just not expecting something "new" but that is not fair of me. Over the past five years people have changed. Even Disney has changed. Why should I think that this reunion will be exactly like the last one five years ago? I really shouldn't suppose that the "Not Yet" will be anything like the "Here."

We perform an injustice whenever we think that things in the future will be like things in the past. This is true of reunions or the Kingdom of God. But sometimes our cynicism about the past gets in the way of joyful anticipation. In our lives we must joyfully anticipate what awaits us in the future. In our church life we must joyfully anticipate what awaits us in the future. As we consider what God has done in our church, in our lives, in our society, and the world we must joyfully anticipate what God will do in the future! No more cynicism!

I'm going to put aside my cynicism about Disney just as I encourage all of us to put aside any cynicism about what God has done in the past. I'm going to anticipate something amazing about this reunion just as I encourage us to anticipate something wonderful about what God will do in the future.

I'll let you hold me to this. You see by the time you read this the reunion will be over as well as the rest of my vacation. If I complain about it you get to ask me, "Why didn't you listen to your own word?" Accountability does a lot to hold you to your word!

Peace,
Pastor Bruce

CALLING ALL CONFIRMANDS!

The 2018 - 2019 Confirmation Program is now upon us! The Confirmation program is open to youth in grades 7-9. There will be an orientation meeting for all Confirmands and their parents on **Sunday evening, September 9th at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.**

Pastor Bruce looks forward to seeing returning students for their second year and new students who will begin their first year. Should you have any questions, give him a call!



A little rain (lots actually!) didn't stop these guys from having fun!! They just moved the party inside!!



FROM THE DISCIPLESHIP DESK

Summer is a time of rest and relaxation...

If this is true, nobody told that to the school athletic clubs or marching bands, nor did anybody inform the parents for whom going on vacation to the beach causes more anxiety than sitting in an office all day would typically cause.

Summer seems to have just as little relaxation as the rest of the year. Humanity stopped wandering in the desert millennia ago, but we never really learned to rest.

Summer not being a time of rest is nothing new. In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, summer was a time of working on the farm. The summer break from school was originally intended so that children could work. In the twentieth century, America became more industrial, and the summer became a time for children's play. Now as it moves into fall without pause, summer's one of the craziest seasons of the year.

So if there is no period of the year for rest, when do we allow ourselves to take time for rest. God rested after creating the world in six days, and so the Ten Commandments tell us to, "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy."

Our fast-paced world will not give us our time to rest, but that doesn't mean we don't need that rest. It's great to remember the Sabbath, but keeping it takes discipline.

In Basic Training, our rest sometimes came in the form of scattered 20-30 minute catnaps, or, if the drill sergeants were feeling generous, we got an extra 10 or 15 minutes to eat our MRE lunches.

For our "always on the go" lives our rest must come in the small moments between the barrages of insanity. These instants must be harnessed and used intentionally, or else they will be over too soon

leaving us with only the memory of the time we could spend on the couch or just be sitting, with our eyes closed, and be breathing deeply.

These are sacred moments that God gives us, and they are holy if we do not let them pass us by.

Keep your Sabbath and make it holy!

Pastor Josh

A Message to the CHILDREN OF FAITH CHURCH

In May you selected \$1,200 worth of animals to donate to Heifer. We used the offerings you left in the little white church each Sunday morning as you entered for Sunday School. Along with a donation from the Southern Lehigh class of 2017 and Faith's Mission Team you were able to select a wonderful variety of farm animals to help those in need around the world.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THIS:

Some generous organization matched your offering and turned it into **\$3,600**. Instead of giving 1 Heifer your donation turned into 3 Heifers. All of your animal selections were tripled...3 Flocks of Duck, 3 Bee Hives, and so on.

Thank you so much for your generous offerings each Sunday. It is amazing how far a small offering can go to make the difference in the livelihood of one family. Keep up the good work and let's plan to do this again next year! - *The Mission Team*





1 World Avenue • Little Rock, AR 72202
888.5HUNGER • 888.548.6437
www.heifer.org • info@heifer.org

THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generous spirit, Heifer International is helping families in need all over the world. Together we are providing the right tools and opportunities to help them achieve self-reliance.

Donor ID: 00056498Y

Receipt #: 13725979

Date Received: 5/23/2018

Amount: \$1210.00

General Fund for Animals - Geese (20.00), Bees (30.00), Ducks (20.00), Fish (300.00), Chicks (40.00), Heifer (500.00), Sheep (120.00), Rabbits (60.00), Pig (120.00)

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#BWCDJDN

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Faith United Church of Christ

5992 Route 378

Center Valley, PA 18034-9455



Dear Friends:

I wanted to personally thank you for your incredible generosity and commitment to helping women in need.

Please know your gift of \$1210.00 will have *three times* the impact thanks to our special matching gift challenge, all of which will support women and their families in our projects across the world. For every dollar you gave, Heifer will receive two more.

Your gift will start an incredible chain of giving ... starting with the family you help, and spreading to their friends and neighbors as they Pass on the Gift of training and resources. And with this matching gift challenge, you're helping *three times* as many families lift themselves and their neighbors out of hunger and poverty.

Thank you for helping erase hunger, poverty and despair — and replacing it with food, stability and hope. I am so grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Pierre U. Ferrari
President and CEO



0000000000



Heifer International gratefully recognizes

Faith United Church of Christ

for your contribution of healthy animals and training
 in their care to help struggling families overcome a life of hunger and poverty.
"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1

Peter A. Fenari

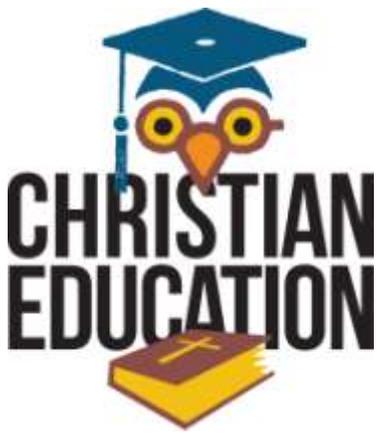
Heifer International

May 2018

Date



0000030



Rally Day is coming!!

We will be kicking off our 2018-2019 Sunday School year on **September 9 at 9AM**. **Join us for a Whirlwind Tour!** For our program this year, we will visit our church's labyrinth. We'll learn what the Christian flag is and why we have such one on a flagpole in front of our church, and in the sanctuary, we will learn the exciting meanings behind some of the symbols we see in worship every week. We'll wrap up our time together with some food and fellowship. We can't wait to see you on the 9th! Sunday School will begin regularly on the 16th at 9AM.

Children's Church!!

No, it hasn't gone away. **Children's Church is returning on September 9th.** Pastor Josh is looking forward to leading the younger members of our church community in worship at their level while the adults worship in the sanctuary. On the 2nd Sunday of every month, the children will be led to their own worship space after the Children's Sermon. Any curious parents or adults can come and observe this special worship time as well.

Bible Sunday!!

Join us on **Sunday, September 16th** and celebrate as **Trent Eaves, Karlee Allison, and Kate Jellison receive their *Adventure Bibles!***"

Youth Mission Sundays!!

Are you wondering "What is a Youth Mission Sunday?" Well, you're not alone. Youth Mission Sundays are a new ministry here at Faith. On the 4th Sunday of every month, after the Children's

Sermon in worship, Pastor Josh will lead the youth out of worship to do small projects in which the children will learn to show the love of Christ to the world. Our first project will be weeding and picking in our church garden, and by the end of the worship service what is harvested will be in the narthex of the church. If you would like some of the veggies, please leave a donation for Betty Lou's Pantry. You may also use this time to get to know our young harvesters.

Note to the Parents: Some of these mission projects might get messy. It may be best to allow your children to dress down in church for the Mission Sundays.

Sleepout for the Homeless

Knowing that people have to sleep in cardboard boxes and actually sleeping in a cardboard box for a night are two different things. Many people know that the homeless people of America sleep wherever they can and do what they must to stay out of the weather, but how many people have experienced what living as a homeless person is like?

The Penn Northeast Conference of the UCC is giving the youth of its churches the opportunity to experience sleeping outside with only corrugated cardboard between themselves and God's elements.

Sleepout for the Homeless is an annual youth event hosted by the Penn Northeast Conference where the youth sleep in a church parking lot in refrigerator boxes for a night. It's a valuable opportunity for youth to take a step beyond learning about poverty, and experiencing firsthand what poverty can be like. Bonnie Bates, our conference minister, will be talking to the youth about the importance of the mission work of the church.

This event will be limited to the 6th thru twelfth grade youth of our church and will take place at Forks UCC in Stockertown, PA. The

date for this year is September 29th-30th, 2018 (That's a Saturday to Sunday). The youth are welcome to worship at Forks on Sunday Morning or return to their own churches to worship in their own communities.

The event will start at 6PM on September 29th (Supper will be eaten at home) and will end at 9AM on September 30th. Please see the following website for details:

<http://pnec.org/youth/sleep-out-for-homelessness/>

In the case of rain or extreme cold, the youth will be moved into the church for their safety.

Pastor Josh will not take any youth to this event unless a parent from Faith is also able to attend.

REMINDER:

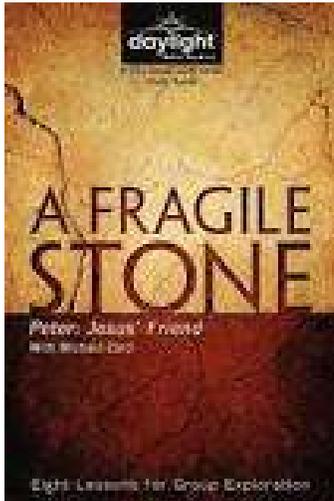
A reminder for the **Youth Advisory Board**—We will hold our first meeting, in Pastor Josh's office, on **September 16th, 2018 at 9AM.**



**STAY TUNED AS WE ARE IN THE
PROCESS OF PLANNING
MANY MORE FUN ACTIVITIES
FOR THIS FALL!!**

Puzzle Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised...
Matthew 11:5, NIV

Join Us!!



This Fall the **Adult Sunday School Class**, which meets in the memorial room every Sunday at 9 am, will study a video series -

A Fragile Stone: Peter, Jesus' Friend

This video series will let us travel with the author, Michael Card, to Israel as he walks us through the friendship between Jesus and Peter.

Come join us for this Bible Study. It may be the next best thing to traveling to the Holy Lands and you will do it without even getting on an airplane!



You are Invited to Join our Team!

Our church is very active with a variety of Missions. There are only a few of us working to make this all take place. We are inviting anyone with interest in working with missions to please feel free to join us. Even if you can't make every meeting we could use your help. Our meetings are held on the **second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room**. Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, September 11**.



Mission Reminders

New Christmas Mission:

~This year we will not be participating in Operation Christmas Child. There will be no packing party. Instead we have selected a new shoe box mission and these gifts will be distributed in the Lehigh Valley.

~Please save shoe boxes for our new shoe box ministry for Christmas. All boxes must be wrapped. Remember- No boot boxes. Many boxes are already wrapped. But we are planning a morning at the Talboo's to wrap the remaining shoe boxes. Please plan to join us for a fun-filled morning. A date has yet to be determined. We'll keep you posted.

~If you need a ride let us know...we'll pick you up!

~If you wish to wrap shoe boxes in your own home, please contact Karen T and she will be sure to bring a bunch to you.

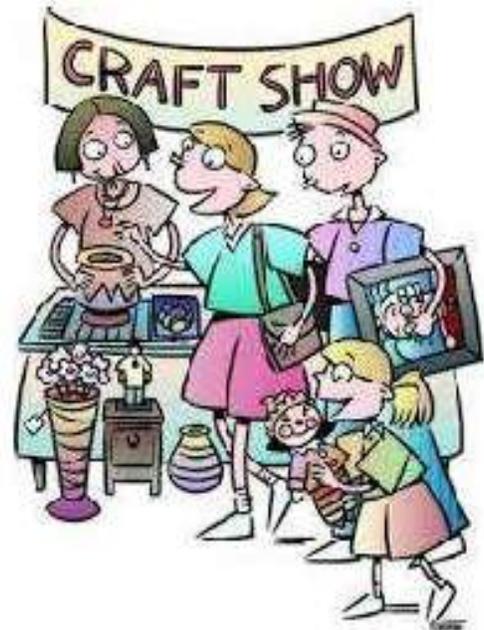
Fall Bingo:

~**Fall Bingo has been set for Sunday, November 4.** The proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit both the General Fund and Missions. Prizes will include Longaberger Baskets, Thirty-One products, and a few Vera Bradley. Of course, we will have a Basket Raffle and Door Prizes.

~Tickets will go on sale Sunday, October 7. Ticket price will be \$20. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors. Get your tickets early. It's always a fun afternoon and you don't want to miss out!

FAITH UCC's

YARD SALE & CRAFT SHOW



SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

8 AM TO 2 PM

FOOD AND BAKED GOODS FOR SALE

COME JOIN THE FUN RAIN OR SHINE!!!

Space still available for Yard Sale Venders.
Contact Ruth Smith if interested at 610-797-4635

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE IN SEPTEMBER

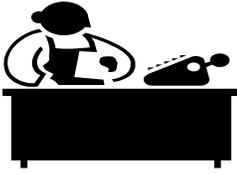
Head Usher—Kevin Long
Nursery—Catherine Stevenson

	Sept 2—9 am	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 23	Sept 30
Greeter	Mim Allison	Bebe Moyer	Shirley George	Henry & Sue Roberts	Ruth Cressman
Ushers	Scott & Louise Christman	Joe & Deb Orach Donna Schoenberger George Rau	Kim & Ken Ritter Bruce & Michelle Keeler	Chuck & Karen Talboo Wes & Heather Koser	Bob & Patti Shelly Tom & Brenda Hovis
Lay Reader	Karen Long	Darin Jellison	Bible Sunday	Karen Talboo	Louise Christman
Acolytes	Morgan Webb Noah Ritter	Alex Kane Will Kane	Avery Koser Noah Jellison	Damyn Allison Weiland Hite	Morgan Webb Noah Ritter
Flowers	Walter	Carol Beck	Talboos	Becks	Available
Lawn Crew	Tim Hovis	Dwayne Schantz Roger Erney	Bruce Torrence Wes Koser	Joe Orach	Brian Bross
Fin. Sec.	Scott Christman	Tom Hovis	Tony DiSanto	Scott Christman	Scott Christman



**Fall
Worship
Times**

Beginning
September 9th
Worship starts at **10:15 am**



FROM THE TREASURER

JUNE & JULY FINANCIALS

JUNE		YTD		Weekly Attend.	Weekly Offering
Receipts	\$17,534.99	\$112,815.38	6/3	78	\$ 3,227
Disbursements	\$19,977.79	\$124,156.99	6/10	58	\$ 1,624
	(\$2,442.80)	(\$11,341.61)	6/17	63	\$ 3,101
			6/24	55	\$ 2,142
			Total	254	\$ 10,094

	Weekly Attend.	Weekly Offering
7/1	77	\$ 5,227
7/8	60	\$ 2,159
7/15	76	\$ 3,858
7/22	59	\$ 3,151
7/29	58	\$ 1,783
Total	330	\$ 16,178

JULY		YTD
Receipts	\$25,541.19	\$137,856.48
Disbursements	\$20,870.81	\$144,337.60
	(\$4,670.29)	(\$6,481.12)

(Our weekly offering goal is \$3,500)

June/July Special Offerings:

OCWM—\$15

Betty Lou's Pantry—\$50

June/July Fundraising Income:

Clothing Shack—\$600

Auction—\$10

We lost a Friend



Richard Woodring, Jr. passed away peacefully on August 17, 2018 at the age of 77. Please keep Dick's family in your thoughts and prayers through the difficult days ahead.

FAITH Night at the Iron Pigs!





From the Secretary:

The **deadline** for **October Newsletter** articles and information is **September 10th**. Please email to faithchurchcv@gmail.com or place them in the Secretary's mailbox in the conference room.

ALTAR FLOWER dates available:

—**September 30, October 21, November 25**

Call the office to reserve your dates. The cost is \$34.



Many thanks for your continued of Betty Lou's Pantry during the summer! For the last two Sundays of June, the five Sundays of July, and the first two Sundays of August, our regular donations included 330 items and \$240.

ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

**CANNED PASTA • BAKED BEANS
CHUNKY/HEARTY SOUPS
BOXED POTATOES • CANNED TUNA**

Items stocked at the Pantry include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pork & Beans | Chili |
| Canned Fish (salmon) & Meat | Canned Pasta |
| Peanut Butter | Canned Tomatoes & Canned Sauce |
| Kidney & Black Beans | Chunky Soups |
| Canned fruit | Macaroni & Cheese |
| Canned Tuna | Canned Vegetables |
| Beef Stew | Dry Pasta & Spaghetti |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Canned Tuna |

Monetary Donations are a particularly effective way to help the Pantry. A donation of \$10 will buy over 60 lbs of food through Second Harvest. If you are in need or know of someone in the area who is, please call **610-282-2838** and leave a message, or email bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com

—*Mike Ford*



2018 VBS





SEPTEMBER BIBLE READINGS

September 1

Job 9:1; 10:1–9, 16–22
Acts 11:1–18
John 8:12–20

September 2

Job. 11:1–9, 13–20
Rev. 5:1–14
Matt. 5:1–12

September 3

Job 12:1–6, 13–25
Acts 11:19–30
John 8:21–32

September 4

Job 12:1; 13:3–17, 21–27
Acts 12:1–17
John 8:33–47

September 5

Job 12:1; 14:1–22
Acts 12:18–25
John 8:47–59

September 6

Job 16:16–22; 17:1, 13–16
Acts 13:1–12
John 9:1–17

September 7

Job 19:1–7, 14–27
Acts 13:13–25
John 9:18–41

September 8

Job 22:1–4, 21–23:7
Acts 13:26–43
John 10:1–18

September 9

Job 25:1–6; 27:1–6
Rev. 14:1–7, 13
Matt. 5:13–20

September 10

Job 32:1–10, 19–33:1, 19–28
Acts 13:44–52
John 10:19–30

September 11

Job 29:1–20
Acts 14:1–18
John 10:31–42

September 12

Job 29:1; 30:1–2, 16–31
Acts 14:19–28
John 11:1–16

September 13

Job 29:1; 31:1–23
Acts 15:1–11
John 11:17–29

September 14

Job 29:1; 31:24–40
Acts 15:12–21
John 11:30–44

September 15

Job 38:1–17
Acts 15:22–35
John 11:45–54

September 16

Job 38:1, 18–41
Rev. 18:1–8
Matt. 5:21–26

September 17

Job 40:1–24
Acts 15:36–16:5
John 11:55–12:8

September 18

Job 40:1; 41:1–11
Acts 16:6–15
John 12:9–19

September 19

Job 42:1–17
 Acts 16:16–24
 John 12:20–26

September 20

Job 28:1–28
 Acts 16:25–40
 John 12:27–36a

September 21

Esther 1:1–4, 10–19
 Acts 17:1–15
 John 12:36b–43

September 22

Esther 2:5–8, 15–23
 Acts 17:16–34
 John 12:44–50

September 23

Esther 3:1–4:3
 James 1:19–27
 Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

September 24

Esther 4:4–17
 Acts 18:1–11
 Luke (1:1–4) 3:1–14

September 25

Esther 5:1–14
 Acts 18:12–28
 Luke 3:15–22

September 26

Esther 6:1–14
 Acts 19:1–10
 Luke 4:1–13

September 27

Esther 7:1–10
 Acts 19:11–20
 Luke 4:14–30

September 28

Esther 8:1–8, 15–17
 Acts 19:21–41
 Luke 4:31–37

September 29

Esther 9:1–32
 Acts 20:1–16
 Luke 4:38–44

September 30

Hos. 1:1–2:1
 James 3:1–13
 Matt. 13:44–52



Miracles happen!

Create this colorful reminder of God's wondrous works.

**What you need:**

- white cardstock
- white wax crayon
- paintbrush
- water
- watercolor paints

What you do:

1. Across the paper horizontally, write with the white crayon "Miracles happen!" (or a Bible verse such as Job 5:9; Psalm 77:14; Jeremiah 32:27; or Matthew 19:26).
2. Wet the paintbrush and paint over the words with different colors.
3. Let dry and then hang up.

September

01 Anna Tilley

01 Dan Thompson

02 James Tilley

03 Iris Shelly

03 John Barone

03 Greg Thompson

03 Adriana Muth

03 Tim Long

05 Evelyn Hovis

05 Pauline Kemmerer

09 Tim Holschwander

09 Patti Shelly

10 Carol Beck

10 Olivia Muth

14 Howard Barrick

14 Evelyn Trumbauer

14 Virginia Haller

14 Patricia Bley

14 Gavin Kennedy

15 Angela Knappenberger

17 Cindy Talaber

17 Kate Jellison

18 Donna Herndon

20 Tam Christman

21 Carrie Fosbenner

21 Wendy Thompson

22 Romaine Zeiner

23 Cathy Wimmer

24 Craig McCormick

26 Susan Roberts

26 Erin Gollie

27 Abby Muth

28 Michael DiSanto

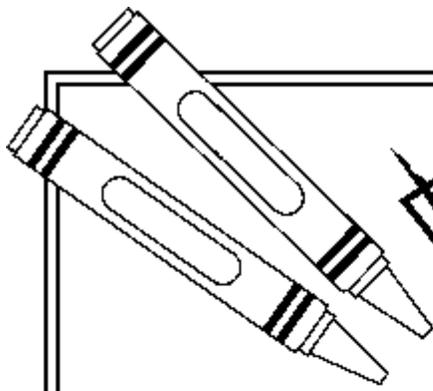
28 Damyn Allison

29 Ruth Smith

29 Eric Fosbenner



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



PUZZLE

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.



blind



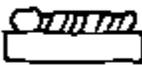
leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



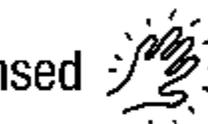
raised



sight



cleansed



The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
who have _____ are _____, the _____
_____, the _____ are _____

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV