

# Welcome to Roots of Faith

We're so glad you're here!

Not only can we receive Christ Jesus as Lord, but we can also live in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in our faith in God. We want to encourage and strengthen your faith today! If this is your first time, please share your email address with the greeter or pastor so we can communicate more about our programs and services.

*Faith UMC is One Church in Two Locations and Our Vision is Building Community by Reconciling People with God and One Another!*



## Painting the Parables

by Rev. Angelique Bradford, Associate Pastor

"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper." Psalm 1:3

You may have experienced a painting event at a local Painting Studio with family and friends, but you have not experienced an event like this. We had an awesome time during the "Painting the Parables" event held at Roots of Faith. We examined various scriptures that referenced trees. We talked about the way trees are interpreted and how they help our faith to grow closer to God. One familiar tree that we all remembered was the Sycamore which is referenced in Luke chapter 19. What are some familiar verses of scripture that you can recall of a tree that remind you to grow closer to God? I hope you will reflect upon the many ways the love of God is revealed to us through creativity.

## Building Community by the Numbers

On 12/19/21, 66 people attended worship churchwide! 54 at Faith (+1 in-person, 13 online) and 12 at Roots (8 in-person, 4 online).

# News & Announcements

## Christmas Eve Offering

Today, we come alongside people in need around the world with a special offering in support of the UMCOR Global COVID Response. All loose cash in the offering plate on 12/23 and 12/24, along with any checks and online donations designated for "UMCOR", will go to this special offering.

## Christmas Carol Sing

Sun. 12/26, 10am & 11:30am. Wear a festive Christmas Sweater or PJs, and request your favorite Christmas Carols for a special holiday worship service!

## Owlah Service of Repentance & Forgiveness

Sun. 1/2, 10am & 11:30am. Traditionally, Christians kept a vigil to prepare themselves spiritually for a new year by ridding themselves of bad habits, renouncing evil and injustice, & renewing their covenant relationship with God. We turn to this tradition in the new year as an opportunity to reevaluate our lives in light of the future.

## Remembering Dr. King

Sun. 1/16, 10am & 11:30am. Worship & celebration service in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will also recognize Human Relations Day with a special offering to benefit neighborhood ministries.

## Faith Family Night

Mark your calendars for a brand new monthly mid-week program night for all ages at Faith UMC! 2nd Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, Starting February 8th.



6:00pm - Fellowship & Dinner

6:30pm - Devotions & Worship

6:45pm - Activities & Lesson for Kids

6:45pm - Speakers & Discussion for Adults

Nursery care provided. Transportation available from Roots at 5:30pm, registration required. Contact Pastor Scott or Pastor Angelique for information.

Give online at [www.faithfoxchapel.org/ROFgive](http://www.faithfoxchapel.org/ROFgive)

## Programs and Ministries

Children's Sunday School	Sundays	10:00am (F)
Bible lessons for children in grades K-5 meets after the children's message.		
Circles Sharpsburg	Tuesdays	6:30pm (O)
Anti-poverty program to achieve individual and community goals.		
Virtual Moment of Prayer	Wednesdays	12:00pm (O)
Gathering to lift up congregational and community requests in prayer.		
The Neighborhood Table Dinner	1st-3rd Thurs.	6:00pm (R)
To-go meals with Legal Clinic 2nd Thu. & Ask the Doctor Clinic 3rd Thu.		

Location Key: (F) - Faith Church (R) - Roots of Faith (O) Online

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For a Staff Directory, Church Office Hours, and More Visit Our Website:

[www.faithfoxchapel.org](http://www.faithfoxchapel.org)



## ROOTS OF FAITH

A Ministry of Faith UMC

800 Main St

Sharpsburg, PA 15215

December 23rd, 2021

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE Courtney Lutz, keyboard

GREETING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Welcome this day to worship.

**People: The light of this season has beckoned us forward.**

**Leader:** Come and rejoice, for God's light is coming to us.

**People: Praise be to God who pours light into our lives.**

**Leader:** Open your hearts and spirits and receive the blessings of God.

**People: May we always be ready to respond in joyful ways to God's love. AMEN.**

\* OPENING PRAYER

**Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth; and so direct our steps that we might ever walk in the way revealed to us, as the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with joy to the manger where he dwelled, who now and ever reigns in our hearts, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*PRAISE SONGS *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* REND COLLECTIVE

We wish you a merry Christmas	Good tidings we bring
We wish you a merry Christmas	To you and your kin
We wish you a merry Christmas	We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year	And a happy New Year

*What Child is This* UNKNOWN, WILLIAM DIX

What Child is this who laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping This this is Christ the King Whom shepherds guard and angels sing Haste haste to bring Him laud The Babe the Son of Mary	The silent Word is pleading Nails spear shall pierce Him through The cross be borne for me for you Hail hail the Word made flesh The Babe the Son of Mary
Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding Good Christian fear for sinners here	So bring Him incense gold and myrrh Come peasant king to own Him The King of kings salvation brings Let loving hearts enthrone Him Raise raise the song on high The Virgin sings her lullaby Joy joy for Christ is born The Babe the Son of Mary

\*PASSING THE PEACE

**Leader:** May the peace of the Coming Lord Jesus Christ be with you!  
**People: And also with you!**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold

it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

OFFERING Offerings may be placed in the basket on the altar table or given online at: [www.FaithFoxChapel.org/ROFgive](http://www.FaithFoxChapel.org/ROFgive)

OFFERTORY *Away in A Manger* MURRAY, MCFARLAND, LUTHER

Away in a manger  
no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the sky  
looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing  
the Baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus  
no crying He makes

I love Thee Lord Jesus  
look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle  
'til morning is nigh  
Be near me Lord Jesus  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever  
and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children  
in Thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven  
to live with Thee there

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Loving God, may these offerings bring hope, peace, love and joy to others who seek a better life for themselves. Do justice in a world of neglect and indifference. May the coming of the Christ Child inspire others to give abundantly in Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

\*GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2:1-20* (NRSV)

<sup>2</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Leader:** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Jesus, Light of the World* Rev. Scott Shaffer

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ Candle symbolizes the Light of Christ in the World.*

**Leader:** Tonight is the night we have all been waiting for. Our Advent wreath will now be completed by the lighting of our Christ candle. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen His glory.

We light this candle to represent that Christ is truly the center of our lives.

"For unto us a child is given, unto us a Savior is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders." With the birth of Jesus, our lives will be forever changed. We will be transformed by his model and message. We honor Messiah with Christ candle's flame, our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim O Come all you faithful; rejoice in this night, as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

**All: Lord, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we will follow you; we will never walk in darkness, but have the true light of life.**

\*CANDLELIGHT SONG *Silent Night*

*As we pass the light, the unlit candle is tipped into the lit candle.*

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin  
mother and child.

Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

\*CLOSING SONG

*Joy to The World*

TOMLIN, CASH, HANDEL, WATTS, GILDER

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n  
and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks,  
hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if you are able

Courtney Lutz, keyboard