

FAITH *In Focus*



Engaging the Word...Impacting the World

Vol. 16 Issue 1

January 10, 2016

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WELCOME TO FAITH!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

"There's never been a country in the history of the world that lasted and improved themselves, except by a religious and spiritual revival." Those words (spoken by Billy Graham) in 1952 aptly describe the heart behind a God-sized endeavor in 2016 that will take Franklin Graham to all 50 states. Under the banner, "Decision America Tour 2016," Franklin Graham will hold prayer rallies in all our state capitals over the next 9 months. The tour kicked off in Des Moines, Iowa this week. It will come to Ohio sometime in April or later.

Mr. Graham, one of the most courageous defenders of Biblical authority in our culture today, has clearly expressed his disillusionment with both the Republican and the Democratic political parties. "The only hope for our country," he says, "is God."

The Billy Graham Association is inviting you to become a prayer partner in this endeavor. Those who make this commitment will receive a prayer guide free of charge. This guide includes brief information about each state, with prayer suggestions for you to follow. To become a prayer partner, go to DecisionAmericaTour.com.

As your pastor, I am encouraging you to become involved in this project. I think most of us agree that our country is in

a critical situation. The solutions to our problems go far beyond finding the right presidential candidate (although that is certainly important as well). Ultimately, we need to see our people discover a renewed respect for the holiness of God and the authority of His Word. This situation calls us to fervent prayer.

Although spoken to the Israelites in the days of Solomon, the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 seem particularly relevant to our current situation: "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Decision America provides one opportunity for you to pray for our country. I encourage you to make such prayer a part of your regular prayer practice. If each of us would pray for our country and our national leaders at least once a week, it would make a tremendous difference. Please don't be passive or indifferent about these important issues. Jesus Christ is still Lord of the Nations! Let's recognize His Lordship and seek His help.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

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Congratulations...

We extend our congratulations to Tyler and Jill Henschen on the birth of a son, Ty Thomas. Little Ty was born on December 25, his great-grandmother's birthday (Marge Henschen). We extend our congratulations to the entire family!



It's a Girl!

Shirley and Jay James are proud to announce the birth of their 7th grandchild! Blake Elizabeth was born to Ashleigh and Collin Miller on January 6. She weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz., and grandma says, "She's beautiful!" Ashleigh, Collin and Blake reside in Rockford, Indiana. Congratulations to the whole family on this happy event!

Notes from our Missionaries...

Merry Christmas FAC!

I am so thankful for your partnership in the Gospel! You all are a blessing and light to your community and throughout the world. I am so grateful for your love, encouragement and prayers!

Michelle Gruber

Pastor Tom and Faith Alliance,

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thanks for being my church home and for praying for the recent violence targeting foreigners in Bangladesh.

I'll be praying for a trust in God that puts today's world firmly in His hands!

Blessings,

Dr. Kris Prenger

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Pray for our nation and our national leaders
- Pray for the Elders meeting and the Governing Board meeting on Monday, January 11
- Pray for the staff retreat this Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Ted Wagner, recovering from heart surgery
- Riker McDonney, Wanda Miller's great-great grandson, newborn, seizures
- Catelyn Cedarleaf, surgery on her lip and nose on Monday, January 11
- Mary Ann Herriott, recovering from accident
- Mitchell Nutt, upcoming back surgery January 29
- Ben Boyle's sister, Angie, brain tumor
- Chris Bowers, undergoing chemotherapy
- Jay Berkey, undergoing chemotherapy
- Brent Paulus, on-going illness
- Kitty Stroede, friend of Pat Meyer, stage 4 bone cancer

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

- Matthew 11:28-29

*Seek His Presence, His Peace,
His Love...any time, any place.*

Cancellation Policy...

By policy, on days when the New Bremen Schools cancel because of weather, evening activities at the church are also canceled. This includes Wednesday Night Live activities. If at any point you have questions about whether your group will meet, please call the church office (419-629-3688) or the leader of your event.

Woman's Bible Studies...

Two winter Bible studies for women have just started. The first, a study of the book of Ruth, meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Luan Louis, 310 Mill St., New Knoxville. The second is a study of Jennie Allen's book, Restless. It meets at the church on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. All women are welcome to attend.



Wednesday Night Live...

It's not too late to become a part of our Wednesday Night Live studies. Pastor Tom is teaching a study on the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Trent is leading a study on the Gospel of Mark at the same hour. Youth and Children's activities are held simultaneous to these studies. A soup-sandwich-and-salad supper is held in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening as well.

The Ultimate Resolution...

Resolutions are easy to make but oh so hard to keep. In fact, many people refuse to make them for that very reason. After all, by February, most people have broken them, and by March they don't even remember what they were. It's just too hard to change, so why try?

Yet Scripture exhorts us to be more like Christ, to forgive our enemies, to tithe and to be thankful in all situations. Shouldn't we resolve to put some of these into practice, even if ever so imperfectly?

Peter admonishes us to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). That's the ultimate New Year's resolution – all but certain to be broken repeatedly before the sun sets on the first day. Yet though we fail, are we not better for trying?

Financial Report

Offering January 3, 2016

General Fund: \$5,666

Local Mission: \$190

Great Commission: \$595

Youth Center Repairs: \$45

Trent Fledderjohann: \$90

Tea House: \$10; Kitchen: \$10

Cierra Otting Mission Trip: \$970

Bon Samaritan Sewing: \$200

Youth Center/Café: \$20

Attendance

Week of January 3, 2016

9:00 Worship – 77

10:30 Worship – 139

Youth Discipleship – 5

Kids – 50; Adult Workers – 13

Total Worship – 284

International Class – 13

Wednesday Night

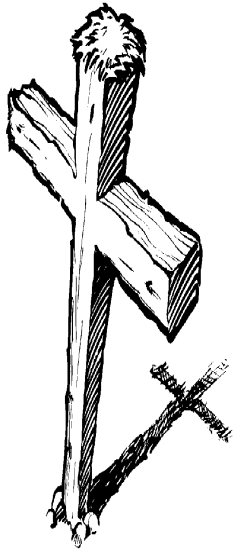
JOURNEY – 29

CONNECT – 9

Kids – 37 ; Adult workers – 10

Youth Group – 46 students; 2 adults

RENEW



COMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 10, 2016

Today

- 9:00... Early Service
- 9:00... Discipleship Class
- 10:30... Late Service
- 10:30... Kids

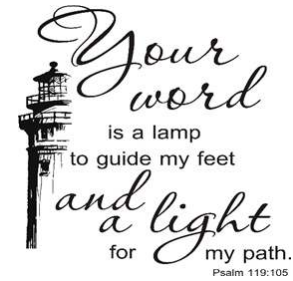
- Jan. 13 ...Life '16 papers/deposit due
- Jan. 15 ...Overtime
- Jan. 17 ...Mad River Mountain Trip
3:00 pm–10:00 pm
- Jan. 27 ...Pizza Sale Orders Due
- Jan. 29 ...Overtime

MINISTRIES



This Week

- Wednesday...Youth Group...6-8:30 pm
- Friday...Overtime...9:30 pm–12 am



January Birthday Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to...

- 1—Mark Hoge, Londyn Middendorf
- 4—Josie Sprague
- 5—Kyla Stachler
- 7—Pat Lampert, Andrea Otto
- 9—Tracy Shelton
- 13—Monica Lemley
- 17—Lucas Heitkamp, Eileen Wessel
- 18—Christy Homan
- 20—Tom Sager
- 22—Cassie Stachler
- 23—Patty Schulze
- 26—Josh Felver, Mike Pohlman, Sarah Sabourin, Angela Terpstra
- 27—Grant Bear, Sam Freer, Troy Williams
- 29—Katie Brautigam
- 30—Sawyer Henthorn, Carter Homan

