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Faith Alliance Church
6670 Knoxville Ave.
New Bremen, OH 45869
419-629-3688

Website: www.faith-alliance.org
Church Staff

Tom Sager, Senior Pastor
tom@faith-alliance.org
Trent Fledderjohann,
Senior Associate Pastor
trent@faith-alliance.org
James Lampert, Youth Pastor
james@faith-alliance.org
David Wray, Missions Pastor
dave@faith-alliance.org
Gina Tangeman, Children's Director
gina@faith-alliance.org
Kristin Lampert, Pre-School Director
kristin@faith-alliance.org
Jenny Schulze, Office Manager
jenny@faith-alliance.org
Kristin Lampert, Care Coordinator
kristin@faith-alliance.org

WELCOME TO FAITH!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

I know you're probably sick of politics by now, having just been through the national conventions of both major political parties. However, because the issues at stake in this election are so significant, I felt I needed to address the political arena once again.

The first suggestion I would like to make is this: don't vote solely on the basis of personality. No two candidates running for President have ever had such low likeability ratings. Likewise, I don't remember a time when character issues in both candidates were more questionable either. Yes, character is important, but the current situation makes it critically important that we consider the *issues* in this election. We have just heard each party spend 4 days personally tearing down the opponents' candidate. We need to get beyond this, and consider the issues themselves.

The issues are defined by the party platforms, and a careful reading of both platforms will reveal significant differences between the two parties. I doubt that many of you have read the platforms. (I have committed to read both platforms before the election. I encourage you to do the same.) But I'm realistic enough to know that many of you won't read the 50 plus pages in each platform, so I have enclosed with this newsletter the table of contents for both platforms.

You can get an idea of each party's priorities simply by reading the topics they address. The issues addressed are similar, but the wording in many cases distinguishes the positions. My hope is that this table of contents will whet your appetite a bit, and you might actually read

portions of either platform. (At the end of each page, I have given you the web site where I found the documents.)

The question to ask yourself as you read this: which of these documents better represents the values and purpose of the Kingdom of God? I admit, I'm not sure where God stands on the economy or on states' rights, but I'm pretty sure God has strong views on issues like the sanctity of life, and the holiness of marriage, and the injustice of racism.

I know there are those who say that "religion and politics don't mix." I say, they *have to mix!* As Christians, the Lordship of Christ is the central reality of our lives. We cannot put God's will and purpose on the shelf while we consider our political preferences. We must allow our faith to guide us as we evaluate the issues.

I believe this election will determine many aspects of the long-term well-being of our nation. In all likelihood, the next president will nominate several Supreme Court justices. That means the legacy of our next president will extend far beyond 4 or 8 years that he or she will be in the White House. Please don't sit this election out! The consequences are too great. Consider the issues; pray about your vote; go to the polls in November.

For the immediate, please join me in praying regularly for our nation to recognize once again that we are "one nation under God," submissive to the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tom

Update on Our Pastoral Search...

We have just completed the face-to-face conversations with three candidates for our Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Worship position. Please be praying for the search committee as we discern which candidate God wants on our ministry team.

Volunteers Needed!

School is just around the corner, and that means overtime on Friday nights will be starting back up again. Pastor James is in much need of volunteers to help out after Friday night home football and basketball games at the youth center. Overtime runs from 9:30 pm - 12:00 am during the football and basketball season, and only when a home game falls on a Friday night. Pastor James' goal would be to have enough volunteers that you would only have to help just one Friday night per season! If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor James at 937.638.5932 or email him at james@faith-alliance.org. THANK YOU!

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Praise: Heidi Siebenaler has been accepted at Winebrenner Seminary, where she will study Christian counseling
- Praise: Michelle Gruber has received her work visa

Pray for:

- Search for our Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Worship
- Gabon Team, now in Africa: Pastor Dave, Mark, Caleb, Vicki, Julie, Jeff, Cierra; returning August 4
- Mandy and Nate Niekamp, death of Mandy's mother
- Jay Berkey, now under Hospice care
- Joann Boyer, recovering from hip replacement
- Family of Jade Riggs, 10-year-old drowned; friend of Oakley's
- Brent Paulus, on-going health concerns
- Children's Fair Ministry this week
- Alan Dock, upcoming surgery on August 5
- Barney Gruebmeier, upcoming surgery on August 8

Women's Bible Studies...

Over the next several months, there will be 3 women's bible study classes:

- The Armor of God (by Priscilla Shirer) begins August 18th
- Living Beyond Yourself (by Beth Moore) begins October 13th
- Seamless (by Angie Smith) begins October 18th

There is further information on these bible studies on the Women's Ministry table in the foyer. Please pick one up and join us! All women are welcome.



Women's Ministry...

HOPE Ministry focuses on meeting the needs of persons in the church, community, and surrounding area. HOPE Ministry will be meeting on August 1 in Room 1 of the Education Building. All are welcome.

All women are invited to join us for a lunch outing at Casa Lupita on August 7 after the second service. Please join us.

The book group is reading Streams of Mercy by Teresa Slack. Discussion will take place in the Fellowship Hall on August 21 at 9:10 during the first service. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions, contact Andrea Ball at 419-305-1812.

ACT Prep...

Shelly Finke will be offering ACT Prep sessions on August 3, 4, 10, and 11 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. An overview of test tips will be followed with some practice on the reading and writing sections with emphasis on the English section of the test. Please e-mail Shelly at shelly@nktelco.net if you have questions or plan to come. Sessions will be held at the church in the Educational Building.

August is Family Worship Month...

There will be no Kids' Church during the month of August in order that families may worship together and our Kids' Church staff may have a break. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us in the main sanctuary for worship.

Update on Nebobongo...

The epidemic in Nebobongo is still lingering six months after the onset, but now is well under control. We received a detailed financial report and patient log detailing exactly who received financial assistance for their care. Through your generous donations to date, the hospital has been able to provide lifesaving care for 737 children whose families would not have been able to afford treatment otherwise. The amount to cover just these hospital bills cost \$12,749.75. Doctors Without Borders has recently set up a treatment center in a nearby government facility which has greatly reduced the strain on Nebobongo Hospital. We are so thankful for your support that has allowed Nebobongo Hospital to stand firm in their community's time of need. We have also seen the hospital move a small number of patients directly into the malnutrition program, discussed above, upon successful treatment for the disease outbreak.

County Fair Gospel Tent...

While You are at the Auglaize County Fair, plan to visit the gospel tent each evening at 7:30 p.m. The following artist will be performing:

Sunday, July 31—Legacy Five

Monday, Aug. 1—The Jim Brady Band

Tuesday, Aug. 2—Triumphant Quartet

Wednesday, Aug. 3—The Isaacs

Thursday, Aug. 4—The Browns

Friday, Aug. 5—Soul'd Out Quartet

Saturday, Aug. 6—Guy Penrod (5:00 p.m.)

Financial Report

Offering July 24, 2016

General Fund: \$6,910

Local Mission: \$175

Great Commission: \$605

Adult Mission Trips: \$100

Building Fund: \$50

Local Mission Fund: \$228

Hope House: \$73

Tea House: \$10

Deacon Fund: \$5

Attendance

Week of July 24, 2016

9:00 Worship—90

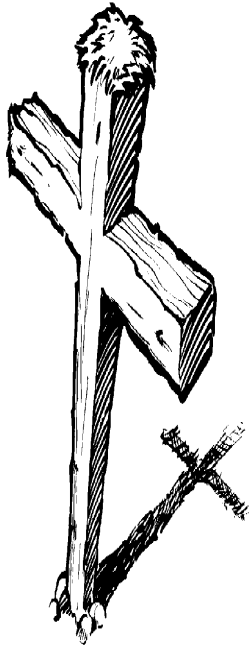
10:30 Worship—106

Kids—45; Adult Workers—6

Total Worship—254

International Class—12

RENEW



MINISTRIES



Sunday, July 31, 2016

Today

9:00... Early Service

10:30... Late Service

This Week

Wednesday... Summer Youth Group

2:00-4:00 pm

COMING EVENTS

Aug 3rd...Last Day of Summer

Youth Group

Sep 4th... Back to School Kick-Off @
Kings Island! (Depart after church)

Sep 7th...Youth Group Kick-Off Party

Sep 14th...Youth Group officially be-
gins



2016 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

Restoring the American Dream

Rebuilding the Economy and Creating Jobs
Fair and Simple Taxes for Growth
Our Tax Principles
A Competitive America
A Winning Trade Policy
Freeing Financial Markets
Responsible Homeownership and Rental Opportunities
America on the Move
Building the Future: Technology
Building the Future: America's Electric Grid
Start Up Century: Small Business and Entrepreneurship
The Federal Reserve
Workplace Freedom for a 21st Century Workforce
A Federal Workforce Serving the People
Reducing the Federal Debt

A Rebirth of Constitutional Government

We the People
The Judiciary
Administrative Law
Defending Marriage against an Activist Judiciary
The First Amendment: Religious Liberty
The First Amendment: Constitutionally Protected Speech
The Second Amendment: Our Right to Keep and Bear Arms
The Fourth Amendment: Liberty and Privacy
The Fifth Amendment: Protecting Human Life
The Fifth Amendment: Protecting Private Property
The Fifth Amendment: Intellectual Property Rights
The Ninth Amendment: The People's Retained Rights
The Tenth Amendment: Federalism and the Foundation of Personal Liberty
Honest Elections and the Electoral College
Honest Elections and the Right to Vote

American Natural Resources: Agriculture, Energy, and the Environment

Abundant harvests
A New Era in Energy
Environmental Progress

Government Reform

Making Government Work for the People
Balancing the Budget
Preserving Medicare and Medicaid
Saving Social Security
Protecting Internet Freedom
Immigration and the Rule of Law
Reforming the Treaty System
Internal Revenue Service
Audit the Pentagon
Improving the Federal Workforce
Advancing Term Limits

Regulation: The Quiet Tyranny
Crony Capitalism and Corporate Welfare
Honoring our Relationship with American Indians
Americans in the Territories
The Territory of Puerto Rico
Preserving the District of Columbia
Great American Families, Education, Healthcare, and Criminal Justice
American Values
Marriage, Family and Society
A Culture of Hope
Education: a Chance for Every Child
Academic Excellence for All
Choice in Education
Title IX (editor's note: sex discrimination)
Improving Higher Education
College Costs
Restoring Patient Control and Preserving Quality in Healthcare
Protecting Individual Conscience in Healthcare
Better Care and Lower Costs: Tort Reform
Advancing Research and Development in Healthcare
Putting Patients First: Reforming the FDA
Advancing Americans with Disabilities
Ensuring Safe Neighborhoods: Criminal Justice and Prison Reform
Combatting Drug Abuse
America Resurgent
A Dangerous World
Confronting the Dangers
Supporting Our Troops: Resources to Do Their Job
Supporting Our Troops: Standing by Our Heroes
Citizen Soldiers: National Guard and Reserves
Honoring and Supporting Our Veterans: A Sacred Obligation
America: the Indispensable Nation
Challenges of a Changing Middle East
Our Unequivocal Support for Israel
U.S. Leadership in the Asian Pacific
Renewing the European Alliance
Family of the Americas
Africa: the Promise and the Challenge
Sovereign American Leadership in International Organizations
Defending International Religious Freedom
America's Generosity: International Assistance that Makes a Difference
Advancing Human Rights
Liberty to Captives: Confronting Human Trafficking
Facing 21st Century Threats

- Cybersecurity in an Insecure World
- Protecting Against an Electromagnetic Pulse
- Confronting Internet Tyranny

Source: www.gop.com/the-2016-republican

2016 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

Preamble

Raise Incomes and Restore Economic Security for the Middle Class.

Raising Workers' Wages ...
Protecting Workers' Fundamental Rights...
Supporting Working Families
Helping More Workers Share in Near-Record Corporate Profits....
Expanding Access to Affordable Housing and Homeownership ..
Protecting and Expanding Social Security.....
Ensuring a Secure and Dignified Retirement.....
Revitalizing Our Nation's Postal Service

Create Good-Paying Jobs

Building 21st Century Infrastructure

Fostering a Manufacturing Renaissance

Creating Good-Paying Clean Energy Jobs

Pursuing Our Innovation Agenda: Science, Research, Education, and Technology ...

Supporting America's Small Businesses

Creating Jobs for America's Young People.....

Fight for Economic Fairness and Against Inequality

Reining in Wall Street and Fixing our Financial System

Promoting Competition by Stopping Corporate Concentration....

Making the Wealthy Pay Their Fair Share of Taxes.....

Promoting Trade That is Fair and Benefits American Workers

Bring Americans Together and Remove Barriers to

Opportunities ..

Ending Systemic Racism

Closing the Racial Wealth Gap

Reforming our Criminal Justice System

Fixing our Broken Immigration System

Guaranteeing Civil Rights.....

Guaranteeing Women's Rights

Guaranteeing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights ..

Guaranteeing Rights for People with Disabilities.....

Respecting Faith and Service

Investing in Rural America

Ending Poverty and Investing in Communities Left Behind ..

Building Strong Cities and Metro Areas.....

Promoting Arts and Culture

Honoring Indigenous Tribal Nations

Fighting for the People of Puerto Rico

Honoring the People of the Territories

Protect Voting Rights, Fix Our Campaign Finance System, and

Restore Our Democracy

Protecting Voting Rights.....

Fixing Our Broken Campaign Finance System

Appointing Judges

Securing Statehood for Washington, D.C.

Strengthening Management of Federal Government

Combat Climate Change, Build a Clean Energy Economy, and Secure Environmental Justice

Building a Clean Energy Economy.....

Securing Environmental and Climate Justice

Protecting Our Public Lands and Waters

Provide Quality and Affordable Education.....

Making Debt-Free College a Reality

Providing Relief from Crushing Student Debt.....

Supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions

Cracking Down on Predatory For-Profit Schools

Guaranteeing Universal Preschool and Good Schools for Every Child

Ensure the Health and Safety of All Americans

Securing Universal Health Care.....

Supporting Community Health Centers

Reducing Prescription Drug Costs

Enabling Cutting-Edge Medical Research

Combating Drug and Alcohol Addiction

Treating Mental Health

Supporting Those Living with Autism and their Families....

Securing Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

Ensuring Long-Term Care, Services, and Supports.....

Protecting and Promoting Public Health.....

Ending Violence Against Women.....

Preventing Gun Violence

Principled Leadership

Support Our Troops and Keep Faith with Our Veterans

Defense Spending

Veterans and Service Members.....

Military Families.....

A Strong Military

Confront Global Threats

Terrorism.....

Syria

Afghanistan

Iran

North Korea.....

Russia

Cybersecurity and Online Privacy

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Weapons

Global Climate Leadership

Protect Our Values.....

Women and Girls ...

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People.....

Trafficking and Modern Slavery.....

Young People

Religious Minorities.....

Refugees.....

Civil Society.....

Anti-Corruption.....

Torture.....

Closing Guantánamo Bay

Development Assistance

Global Health

HIV and AIDS

International Labor....

A Leader in the World.....

Asia-Pacific

Middle East

Europe

Americas

Africa

Global Economy and Institutions.....

Source: www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2016