



FAITH ALLIANCE CHURCH

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November 20, 2016

Welcome to Faith Alliance!



From Pastor Tom's Desk...

"...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." (Philippians 4:11)

When the apostle Paul wrote these words, he was speaking of a lifetime of experience - some full of joy, some full of struggle. He goes on to talk about the experience of plenty and want, suggesting that as long as he has Christ, he can get through anything. Recognizing the sufficiency of Christ is the foundation of contentment, which in turn produces a heart of thankfulness.

In contrast, our culture continually attacks our sense of contentment through the barrage of advertising that is a part of our daily experience. In fact, the goal of advertising is to create a sense of discontent; to make us say to ourselves, "I need that thing." Even beyond, "I can't be really happy unless I have that thing." So the cultural environment causes us to focus on what we don't have, instead of what we do have. This may be good for the economy, but it's not good for our spiritual development.

Such discontent is actually the root of covetousness. The tenth commandment says, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house, or his wife, or his servant, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to him." We usually think of covetousness as desiring something that belongs to someone else. I had an older gentleman in one of my churches who used to say, "I wish I had my neighbor's __, and he had a better one! He thought wishing his neighbor better fortune negated his covetous attitude.

Unfortunately, he was mistaken. The root of covetousness or discontent is simply greed - desiring material needs. We have virtually everything we need materially. (That's why advertisers spend millions of dollars to convince us that we need something which we really don't need!) When we realize how blessed we are materially, and then add to that the spiritual blessings that are available to us in Christ, our hearts will overflow with a sense of gratitude.

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This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to make a mental (or written) list of the blessings God has given you, including material, relational, and spiritual blessings. See how long a list you can create, and then thank God for these blessings. You may find that you don't have time to ask God for very much, because you'll be spending most of your time thanking God!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Mitch & Carrie Middendorf, loss of Mitch's mother, Norma
- Rich & Andrea Ball, loss of Rich's father, Richard Senior
- Shirley James, broken ankle and dislocated knee cap
- Ted Wagner, recovering from nasal surgery
- John Schulze, heart failure
- Ty and Kim Wolf, death of Ty's father
- Mitch Middendorf's mother, Norma, critically ill
- Dottie Fennick's brother Pete, pneumonia
- Joann Boyer's niece Tina, illness
- Lib Conley's son, Walter, recovering from motorcycle accident
- Gregg Thobe, undergoing chemotherapy

A Tour of DC through Christian Discoveries...

Have you ever wanted to tour Washington D.C. but you're not an 8th grader? An adult tour has been scheduled for September 27 - 30, 2017. See the Nation's history through Christian Discovery. You will get the opportunity to tour Gettysburg, many museums, memorials, and more! This trip is four days, three nights; with an all-inclusive cost of \$869 (four people per room) \$995 (two people per room). If you are interested or would like more information please contact Carol Bock or Sherry Henschen.

Carol's email: nkumc@nktelco.net

Community Thanksgiving Service...

The churches of New Bremen will come together at St. Peter's Church for a service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 pm. Pastor Becky Erb Strang of St. Paul UCC will bring the message of the evening, and pastors from all four churches will participate. A free will offering for Agape Ministries will be received.

The service will include two numbers by our combined community choir, under the direction of Scott Kuenning. Practice will be held at 6:30 pm. prior to service. All interested persons are invited to participate!

As You Plan Your Holidays...

The Christmas season is a busy time, so we are providing important dates to assist in your planning.

Nov. 27 - First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 4 - Farewell for Pastor Tom and Pam. One Worship service at 10:00 am.

Dec.11 - Children's Christmas Program, 9:00 and 10:30 am.

Dec.12-14 - Live Nativity Scene.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service, 4:00 pm.

Dec. 25 - Christmas morning worship. One combined service at 10:30 am.

Live Nativity Sign Ups...

Live Nativity Sign Ups are now in the foyer. There is a sign up sheet to volunteer to bake cookies here at church (kitchen help), greeters, traffic directors, dress as one of the Biblical characters, or you can sign up to set-up and/or tear-down.

*If you have any questions or concerns about the changes for this year please feel free to contact Gina or Kristin.

Thank You...

Thanks to my Faith Alliance Family for your prayers and nice cards. I enjoyed the cards and knew you were there for me.

Blessings,
Betty Wieter

Janitor Position Available...

The position of Youth Center janitor is currently open. This position requires about 5 hours per week. All cleaning supplies and equipment are provided. Interested persons Shockwave speak with Pastor Tom or Pastor Trent, 419-629-3688.

Financial Report

Offering November 13, 2016

General Fund: \$6,190

Great Commission: \$930

Adult Missions: \$135

Local Missions: \$226

Building Fund: \$45

Kitchen Fund: \$10

Joel Meyer: \$80

Deacon Fund: \$200

Hope House: \$50

Youth Center: \$20

Youth Mission Trip: \$30

Tea House:\$10

Attendance

Week of November 13, 2016

9:00 Worship - 73

10:30 Worship - 139

Kids - 68; Adult Workers -14

Total Worship - 308

Youth Discipleship - 6

Foundation Class - 13

*Marriage Conference

YOUTH GROUP

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Doors open - 6:30p.m.

Jr. High Class - 6:30p.m. 7:30p.m.

Sr. High Class - 8:30p.m. 9:30p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship Class - 9:15am-10:15am

(In Classroom 8)

UPCOMING EVENTS

November:

23rd: Thanksgiving Break, No Youth Group

December:

14th: Youth Christmas Party

Happy Birthday this month to

Kaitlyn Schwieterman

Volunteer Bell Ringers Needed...

A great way to help this Holiday season would be to ring bells for those in need. The Salvation Army needs bell ringers to stand outside of St. Marys Kroger, K-Mart, or JCPennys. The shifts are two hours long. Time slots are open from 10am- 8pm from Thanksgiving to Christmas. They are looking for ages 16 and older to help; children are welcome to ring with a parent.

Please contact John Bernstein at 419-953-6069 or email johnbern45@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Gift Wrapping...

Tracy Shelton is willing to wrap Christmas presents for anyone who may not have time or could use an extra hand with their gift wrapping this year. Tracy will wrap the presents you bring to her then notify you when she is finished. She would like you to provide supplies, but she will do the labor. Contact Tracy if you are interested: 419-202-4781.