



FAITH ALLIANCE CHURCH

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December 11, 2016

Welcome to Faith Alliance!

From Pastor Trent's desk...



Mark 10:15 - "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

I think it's fair to say that a young child receives the news of the kingdom of God very similarly to how they would receive candy from a shady looking stranger on Halloween. The child would have a smile on their face, they would extend their open hand, receive the gift, and want to consume it instantly. A child hasn't been around long enough to see the warning signs: 1. That the stranger looks "shady," 2. That some people can't be trusted (cont'd in #3), 3. especially on Halloween! 4. "it's too good to be true" means nothing to them, and the list goes on... A small child hasn't been burned enough times yet to stop and consider that something seems a bit off. If it was your child receiving the candy on Halloween you would probably take the candy away from them before they could consume it - you'd want to inspect it first, "just in case."

Jesus told adults to receive his kingdom like a child knowing that most adults have had enough hurtful life experiences, knowledge, and understanding that it's reasonable for us to doubt some proposals. Our sinful world programs us to be skeptical, we absorb skepticism into our DNA, and probably for good reason. The only reason this is the case is because some people are bad, their motives are impure. But Jesus comes saying, receive my gift like a child. Don't fear, don't worry, don't doubt it. It's a plea to our warped hearts and minds.

A parent is suspicious of a shady looking stranger because they don't know if the person should be trusted, their motives are unknown. It's the nature of the gift-giver that determines the attitude of the recipient. If your mom offered the same piece of candy to a child, you'd tell the child to eat up, because you know the gift-giver is good and you have had a lifetime to confirm it.

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When has God not been good? Yes, he disciplines, he speaks what is true even when it hurts, but he also loves unconditionally, and he's faithful - just like a loving parent. I hope this Christmas you will have a season of receiving God's goodness like you're a little child. Receive it with a smile and joy in your heart, receive it without any fear, doubt, or worry. Our Gift-Giver is good, he loves you, he's proved it time and again. God has no plans to harm you, he can, and should be trusted. Enjoy the gift, celebrate it. To steal a line from a man who had his heart set on God, "Taste and see that the LORD is good." - David, Psalm 34.

Women's Luncheon...

All women are invited to a luncheon following the second service. All women will meet at Casa Lupita in New Bremen around noon. We hope to see you there!

Family Caroling Night...

All ages are invited to join Faith Alliance for a night of Christmas Caroling around the town. As we carol we will be inviting people to attend the Live Nativity the following nights. This will take place tonight (December 11). Starting at 5:00pm a potluck dinner will be served. If you plan to participate please bring something to share. Starting at 6:00pm we will head around town to sing Christmas Carols. If you're unable to join us for the potluck, but would still like to go caroling please meet at the church at 5:45pm.

Poinsettias for Loved Ones - "In Memory Of..."

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Josh & Missy Felver | John & Mary Leopard
Arthur Vagedes
Carl & Margaret Felver
Forest & Aileen Hileman |
| Luan Louis | Jeff Henschen |
| Roger Dicke | Joanne Dicke
John Schneider |
| Tim & Vivian Kilmer | Carol Thompson |
| Helen Tangeman | Tony, Ron, & Harold Tangeman |
| Jim & Kay Roeth | Donald Denniston, James Roeth (Senior) |

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Rick Westerbeck, death of brother, Mike
- Sharon Wray, death of brother-in-law, James
- Maya Schwieterman, daughter of Ryan and Angie, spinal issues
- Amber Sommer's father, Gee, cancer
- Tina, Joann Boyer's niece, surgery on Dec. 19
- John Schulze, heart failure
- Lib Conley's son, Rick, kidney stones



ReviveOHIO Dinner...

A dinner will be hosted for ReviveOHIO on Thursday, December 15, 5:30 to 6:30pm. This dinner will take place at Grand Lake UMC. Jay and Rhonda Hager are providing the pulled pork. If you can help by providing food items or finances please contact Rhonda Hager at 567-644-9953.

Prayer Vigil: December 4 from 7-7:30pm, in the International Classroom at Faith Alliance Church.

Great Commission Women...

The Great Commission Women will be meeting on December 13 at 6:30pm. at the Cottage Cafe in Minster. Dinner will be ordered off the menu and then time will be spent honoring the Lord, "the reason for the season." There will be prayer time and a social time as the GCW close out this year. All women are invited to attend. Come and be inspired!

Thank You...

Thank you to our church family for the many cards, kind words, flowers and prayers during the sickness and death of Mitch's mother. Your kindness was very appreciated and meant so much to all of us.

Mitch and Carrie Middendorf and family

Thank You...

Thank you to everyone for helping with the Sager Retirement Luncheon. Thanks to those who set up, cleaned up, tore down, ran errands, served drinks, cut cakes, and decorated. Your help was very much appreciated.

Thank You...

Thank you all so much for your condolences, sympathy cards and beautiful flowers received on the death of Rich's father. We appreciate it more than words can say. We are grateful we live and worship with such caring people.

Rich and Andrea Ball and family

Financial Report

Offering December 4, 2016

General Fund: \$6,026

Great Commission: \$880

Local Missions: \$201

Tea House: \$10

Deacon Fund: \$15

Attendance

Week of December 4, 2016

Combined Worship - 350

Kids - 13; Adult Workers - 4

Total Worship - 367

Thank You...

Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, picture, and wonderful reception that you provided in celebration of our retirement. It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor over these nine years. We are certain that the Lord has many blessings in mind for you over the future years.

Pastor Tom and Pam

Blue Night Worship...

On Saturday, December 17, at 5:00pm, St. Paul's will be offering a Blue Christmas/Longest Night worship service in their main sanctuary. The service will be open to the community and will include scripture, song, and lighting of candles in memory of loved ones. Those who worship will be able to write their loved one's name on an ornament to take home. All are welcome to join!

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

December:

14th: Revive Ohio Rally @ NB High School

21st: Christmas Break

28th: Christmas Break

Happy Birthday this month to

Jackson Terpstra, Mariah Parlett

Calla Ferguson, Kira Bertke

Journey Boyle, Nathan Bear
