



The Possible Impossible

In a powerful story from a documentary movie, *As If It Were Yesterday*, by Myriam Abramowicz and Esther Hoffenberg, which is about the Belgian Christians who sheltered 4,000 Jewish children during World War II to save them from the Nazi death camps, a six year-old boy was placed with a Christian family.

After a time, they said they could no longer keep the boy. They said, "He's a thief." Those making the placement were distressed and one went to visit the family.

"How can a six year-old boy be a thief? That's impossible..."

"Yes, he's a thief. Our little girl got a manger for Christmas, with little Jesus and the rest, whatever there is. And he stole the little Jesus. Our daughter is very upset. She won't eat."

So the placement worker took him aside. "Listen, you know the Nazis want to kill us all. And here you are with good people trying to save you. Why did you steal?"

Sir, I didn't steal."

"You'd better tell me. Nothing will happen to you."

"I have taken Jesus to hide him."

"What do you mean?"

"I know little Jesus is a Jew. The Germans could have taken him. So, I hid him to save him."

How was it possible for this six year-old to understand the need to save baby Jesus? Why did he find it necessary to hide Jesus?

He told the placement worker, "Is it possible for Jesus to do the impossible and save me and my family?" The placement worker told the boy, "nothing is impossible with God." Perhaps, the placement worker read the six year-old boy an amazing story of hope when it appeared that all hope was gone.

"Greetings, O favored one! The Lord is with you." But Mary was perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary. You

have found favor with God, and now you will conceive in your womb a son, and you will name him Jesus! He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High." Mary said, "How can this be, since I am still a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. And now your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; this is the sixth month for her who was barren. For nothing will be impossible with GOD. (Luke 1:27-37)

The reason for Christmas is a season to remember the possible impossible story of the birth of the Savior of the World.

However, I remember the first time I read Luke 1 to my grandsons. Miles was three years old and Dwayne was five years old. The look of awesome wonder was written across their faces, but Dwayne surprised old Papa with a question, "Papa, what is the meaning of Christmas?"

I told Dwayne, "Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. Jesus' birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of know about this amazing event. Jesus' birth is the story of the Possible Impossible."

The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before the Christ child birth.


For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders; and his named shall be call Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

I invite you join us, and to rediscover the Possible Impossible during this season of Advent.

Peace,
Pastor Brady



George Bailey Fund

 One of the greatest Christmas movies ever is the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*. In the movie, George Bailey spends his whole life serving and helping others. But when things become overwhelming to him, he becomes desperate and looks at suicide as the only way out. At the last moment an angel is sent to show George what the world would have been like without him and what a wonderful life he actually had lived. The movie ends with George's friends, neighbors and even the



Although this was only a movie, it does show how much we depend on each other. Faith Church had established the "Love Fund" to set aside some money to try to help some of those people in need. In the past we have provided gift certificates or cash for food, rent, utilities, a car payment and other needs. Christmas is an especially hard time for people. Although the economy is good for many, there are many that are still in need.

Just as George's friends, neighbors and even relative strangers stepped up to help George when he was in need, we are asking that you do the same. During the month of December we ask you to consider making a special donation to the *George Bailey Fund*. Any money donated will be used to help those in need over Christmas and into next year. Please mark your check or offering envelope "George Bailey Fund" and place it the weekly offering. You may just be the angel that someone needs this Christmas.

The Faith UMC Praise Team will share their annual Christmas offering on Sunday, December 16, 2018. This year's program, *Loving Christmas through Music*, will be presented at both the 9:00am and 11:00am services and feature video scenes intermingled with musical selections. Plan now to invite your family and friends to share in this very special worship experience in celebration of the birth of our Saviour.



Todd Family Open House

December is the Christmas season with all of its traditions in preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The Todd family has established a tradition of opening their home for an annual Christmas party.

You are invited to join the Todd family for their 20th annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 9th.

The party beginning at 12:30 pm and goes all day.

It will be a time of fun, food and fellowship.

Activities will include watching the Browns play the Carolina Panthers, game playing, good eating and good conversation. Feel free to come and go as your schedule allows but be sure to come hungry.

The Todd's address is 11298 Heritage Drive, Twinsburg and directions from the church will be available.

If you have any questions, ask Deb or Gary Todd or call them at (440) 823-5012 or (216) 235-2728.

We hope to see you all there.

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday Evening Bible Study Group will not be meeting during the month of December. We will resume on Sunday, January 6th, when we will begin a new study of 1 Timothy.



We encourage you to plan on attending this new study. We will be meeting in the Wesley Room at 6:00 pm on Sunday evenings. We hope that we will see you there.

Please contact Gary or Deb Todd if you have any questions or want more information regarding this study.

Monthly Birthday Celebration

❧ December 16th ❧

Do you have a birthday in December? If you do, tell us quickly at **330-425-2565**. We want your name on our cake. We want to celebrate you.

Birthdays are about family. Come and celebrate your December birthday with your church family. We will celebrate in the middle of the month on **December 16th** after second service.



If you would like to help, please contact Theresa Johnson at FUMCLayLeader@gmail.com or Gary Todd at 330-425-9745.

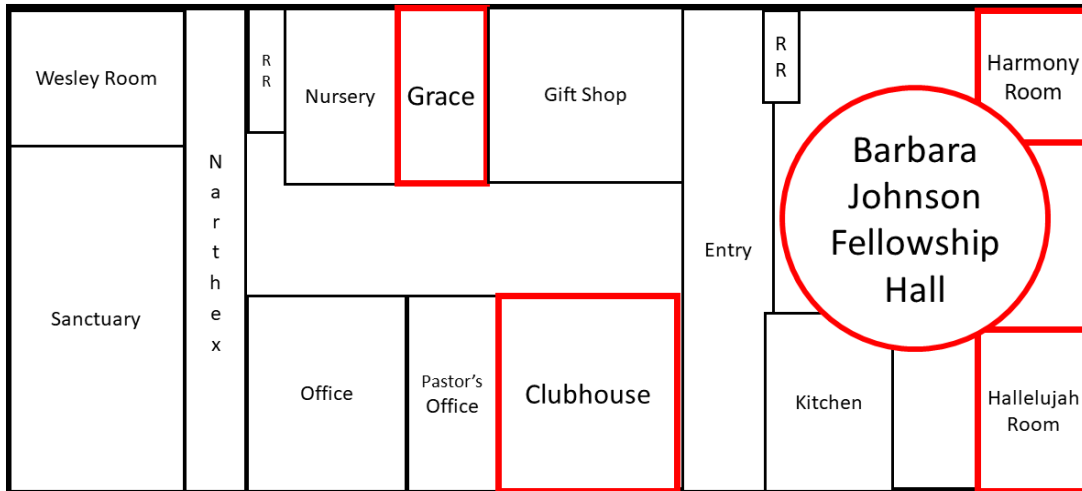
Join Us.

Our Rooms Have Been Named

Thank you everyone for participating in our *Name That Room* contest. Each room will receive a new plaque. May those who enter, be blessed.

Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it may become holy. (Exodus 40:9)

Name that Room Contest



N.O.W. Open House

Thank you to all who came and enjoyed the time with our neighbors and business owners on November 3rd, when we hosted the *N.O.W. Open House* at Faith Church. We had a few last minute changes to deal with, which made things a bit of a challenge. However, everyone pulled together and the event was a tremendous opportunity for those attending to meet representatives from local businesses as well as our neighbors.

A special, huge thanks goes to all those who helped make the day a success: Theresa, David, Jackie, Bill, Mike, Tracy, Donna, Lee, Sheryl, Ruth, Mary Ann (our church secretary), and Gerald, who was our "official" photographer for the day. All of your help was greatly appreciated. (Note from Merry Ann Clark, organizer of this event.)



Communion Stewards for Second Service

On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate Communion as part of our Worship Service. This is not only a time to remember what Christ did for us, but a time to be in communion with Him and the Body of Christ. The contemporary service at 11:00 a.m. not only gives you the opportunity to receive Communion but also the opportunity to be a Communion Steward and assist with serving Communion. If you are interested in serving as a Communion Steward and have not previously signed up, please contact Gary Todd.



Following is a list of the Communion Stewards for the next ten months.

SUNDAY

12/02/18

01/06/19

02/03/19

03/03/19

04/07/19

05/05/19

06/02/19

07/07/19

08/04/19

09/01/19

NAMES

Sara Schmitt, Debi Sweat

Tom Prorok, Deb Todd

Delaney Rush, Sarah Straw

Myrtle Hawks, Trisha Zona

Bob & Lynn Denges

Matthew & Annie Zellner

Ken & Patty Kempf

Greg & Lenora Matthews

Mike & Tracy Shaub

Gerald & Sylvia Gunn

**Please advise Gary Todd if you are not available on the week scheduled.*

Merry Christmas

*From the Administrative Council
and Staff of Faith Church*

Movie Night Schedule

Once a month we present a movie on a Friday night in Fellowship Hall. Each of these movies has a message that, to an open heart, could be life changing. The movies start at 7:00 pm. Below are the movies that we will be showing for the next few months.

December 7 th	The Star	January 11 th	Priceless
February 15 th	TBD	March 15 th	TBD

We encourage you to come and to invite others to see these wonderful films of faith and encouragement. The movies are free and pizza, snacks and refreshments will be provided.



COVENANT Bible Study to Resume

The second segment of Covenant Bible Study classes, led by Pastor Brady, will resume on Tuesday, January 15th, 2019, and will meet in the Wesley Room each Tuesday at 7:00 pm through March 5th. Study Guides will be provided for all those attending the classes. Plan to join us as we continue our journey.

...all are welcome.

...you'll be heard.

...a deeper understanding awaits.

COVENANT is an in-depth group Bible Study in which participants read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God—and each other—better.

The 24-week experience covers all the books of the Bible as participants move back and forth from Old Testament to New Testament. Covenant Bible Study shows the interconnectedness of scripture while demonstrating how the covenant relationship between God and people is woven through the entire Bible.

Covenant represents a relationship—a living, breathing conversation. And we invite you to join in it.

Each eight-week segments each explore a different aspect of Covenant life. Each will examine what Covenant means, and the progression of a Covenant relationship with God. Classes will meet Tuesdays, 7-8 pm

Lay Leader Luncheon December 2nd

I can't believe that 2018 is almost over. I also can't believe that three years have gone by with me as your Lay Leader. In celebration, I will be picking some of my personal favorite dishes to share.

Join us as we enjoy old and new favorites for lunch after 2nd service.

The early church made of point of sharing meals. For me, it is an honor to continue that tradition. If you would like to bring a favorite dish or you would just like to make a suggestion, contact me at

FUMCLayLeader@gmail.com
or 330-405-1588.





Adam Ruhe ~ 3
 Charles Lawler ~ 4
 Holli Ruman ~ 6
 Laura Dennewitz ~ 8
 Jeffrey Victor ~ 8
 Stephen Williams ~ 12
 Andy Dennewitz ~ 16
 Greg Matthews ~ 17
 Brandon Shobert ~ 17
 Grace Prorok ~ 18
 Merry Ann Clark ~ 19
 Jack Lewis ~ 22
 Kayley Sarver ~ 22
 Lynn Brower ~ 24
 Neela Christie ~ 25
 Carol Howard ~ 25
 Gary Timko ~ 25
 Robin Desai ~ 26
 Michelle Amtsberg ~ 28
 Susan Morefield ~ 29
 Jacquelyn Comeaux ~ 30



John & Andrea Peters ~ 15
 Don & Laura Alberta ~ 17
 Tom & Kathy Prorok ~ 22
 Matt & Annie Zellner ~ 25
 Christopher & Neela Christie ~ 27
 Robin & Rita Desai ~ 27

In November the youth and adults packed 18 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.



"For the past 25 years, we have been collecting shoeboxes filling with gifts and delivering them to children in need around the world. Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl to experience the love of God in a tangible way and hear the Gospel. Many boys and girls who receive shoebox gifts also participate in our follow-up discipleship program. The Greatest Journey, which teaches them how to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others." – Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse.

Thank you to those who provided supplies to put in the shoeboxes and to Theresa Johnson who also helped with packing and organizing. We pray these will be a blessing to the boys and girls who receive them.

Also, in November, we had our annual *MYF Does Thanksgiving*. We get together the Sunday before Thanksgiving and make and partake in an entire Thanksgiving meal. It is always delicious and a really nice time.

In December we will be baking cookies and treats for goodie bags to be delivered to the people we will be caroling to on another Sunday. And we will have our annual New Year's Eve Overnighter at the church filled with crazy fun games and fantastic food, fun, and entertainment!

LOOKING AHEAD: Annual mid-winter retreat to Camp Asbury is January 18-20. Money for the retreat is due Sunday, December 16.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." I TIMOTHY 4:12

MYF Mission Statement

TO EQUIP TEENS TO LIVE AS CHRISTIANS IN THE REAL WORLD

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

Contact Dave and Kris Loughley
 at 330-571-2850 or
dloughley@aol.com, kloughley@aol.com.



December Schedule

Sunday, December 2: Regular Meeting
 Sunday, December 9: Baking Cookies for Caroling
 Sunday, December 16: Christmas Caroling, Money for Asbury Due
 Sunday, December 23: NO Meeting
 Sunday, December 30: NO Meeting
 Monday, December 31-Tuesday, January 1, 2019:

MYF in Pictures (and at play!!)



Friday Night at the Movies

Presents

The Star

7:00 pm, December 7th in Fellowship Hall

Donkeys don't dream. Well, not in an aspirational, "follow your dreams" way, at any rate.

But Boaz is no normal donkey. Marching in a circle grinding grain is not Bo's vision of destiny fulfilled. No, Bo and his friend, Dave the dove, harbor royal aspirations: marching at the vanguard of the king's caravan.

Bo breaks his bonds and flees his angry owner, but an injury to one hoof keeps him from fleeing far. He soon takes refuge in the courtyard of a young couple named Joseph and Mary. And the tenderhearted, miraculously pregnant young woman tends to Bo's hurt hoof.

Meanwhile, a dazzling, mysterious star has appeared in the heavens. That blazing object prompts three wise men and their camels—Deborah, Cyrus and Felix—to begin the long journey toward, well, actually, they don't know quite where. But they're convinced the celestial sign portends the birth of a king.

Someone else has taken anxious notice of the star too: King Herod. It *means* something. But he's not sure what. The unexpected arrival of the three visitors from the East only amplifies his paranoia, especially when they carry on about bringing gifts for a king—a *different* king than Herod.

Back in Nazareth, the birth of Mary's baby is now fast approaching, but she and Joseph must take a long trip to Bethlehem for a census ordered by Herod. Little do they realize that their craven ruler has ordered a speechless, ogre-like henchman and his two fearsome dogs to track down the identity of this would-be king ... and end his reign before it begins.

Thankfully, Bo makes the perilous journey with them, fulfilling a bigger destiny than he could have guessed in his wildest donkey dreams.



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9/11:00a Worship & Communion 6:00p MYF/Cookie Making Madness	3 6:30p Music Practice 7:00p Ad Council	4 6:30p AA/SHR 6:30p Boy Scouts/FH	5 6:45p Women's Prayer/WR	6 6:00p Girl Scouts/FH 7:00p Praise Team	7 7:00p Friday Night at the Movies (The Star)	1 8:00a Men's Prayer 8 8:00a Men's Prayer
9 9/11:00a Worship & Communion 6:00p MYF/Cookie Making Madness	10 5:00p Trustees 6:30p Music Practice	11 6:30p AA/SHR 6:30p Boy Scouts/FH	12 6:00p Girl Scouts/FH 6:45p Women's Prayer/WR	13 7:00p Praise Team	14	15 8:00a Men's Prayer
16 9/11:00a Worship/ Christmas Cantata 6:00p MYF/Caroling	17 6:30p Music Practice 7:00p Finance	18 6:30p AA/SHR 6:30p Boy Scouts/FH	19 6:30p Boy Scouts/FH 6:45p Women's Prayer/WR	20 6:00p Girl Scouts/FH 7:00p Praise Team	21	22 8:00a Men's Prayer
23 9/11:00a Worship	24 Christmas Eve 7/11p Christmas Eve Worship Services	25 Christmas Day 6:30p AA/SHR	26 6:45p Women's Prayer/WR	27 7:00p Praise Team	28	29 8:00a Men's Prayer
30 10:00a Worship	31 New Year's Eve MYF/New Year's Eve Overnighter	FH = Fellowship Hall WR = Wesley Room SHR = Sr High Room Sanc = Sanctuary		 CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND		

**** December 17th — Deadline for submission of articles for the January Newsletter**

Faith United Methodist Church
2560 Post Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087



December 2018

Faith United Methodist Church
"Centered in Jesus Christ – Reaching out in Love"

Worship Services

Traditional 9:00 am

Contemporary 11:00 am

Christian Education

(September thru May) 10:10 am & 11:10 am

Staffed Nursery: 8:45 am–12:00 pm

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6