

# FAITH NEWS

## FAITH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



ISSUE  
No.1

January 2024

### GOOD NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Note  
Champions News  
Celebrate Recovery  
Turning Point

### MINISTRIES ABOUND

#### FROM PASTOR HALEY AKERS

"So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5: 16-18.

It is exciting to stand at the threshold of a new year, I am filled with gratitude and anticipation for the journey that is yet to fill my new planner 📅. The turning of the calendar invites us to reflect on the blessings of the past, embrace the challenges of the present, and envision the possibilities of the future. When I think of an old year passing and a new, fresh year ahead the hymn "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" comes to my mind.

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember, and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, love's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past, and leave behind our disappointment, guilt and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

In faith we'll gather round the table to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

A time to remember as the hymn says, reflecting on 2023 it has been a challenging, tumultuous, strenuous, and demanding year. This is true not just of our church, but in our individual lives as well. With the loss of loved ones, unexpected health challenges and economic struggles. For some of our brothers and sisters in Christ this year has been one of the worst years they have experienced. We have also seen transformation, healing, resilience and growth as we have never seen before. Witnessing what God has orchestrated in His divine grace at Faith Church has been one of the greatest blessings of my life.

We remember, and we are moving on. In this season of newness, God's grace urges us to look ahead for what is to come, though He never changes, He's always doing a new thing. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is continually working to bring new vitality and purpose into our lives. "But forget all that- it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19.

As we begin a new, clean, blank calendar pages for 2024, make sure your heart is open to the transformative power of God. He can write renewal, hope and breathe His fresh fragrance of life onto those blank spaces of our lives...and calendars, creating pathways through the wilderness where you may have felt lost or abandoned. "This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new."

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I would just like to say Thank You Faith Church. Because of your openness to bless the Least of These the Lord is changing lives. They are getting set free from addiction. Getting Jesus in their hearts. As all of us together sow our time, talent and treasure. Jesus said "whatever you do for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters of mine you did it for me". Matt 25:40 (Chris Roberts)

I cannot express how much I appreciate your willingness to partner with us. When I was praying I felt strongly that God was leading for us to reach out to you. You guys are amazing and opened your days and the fruit is already being seen. Our CR attendance has already grown by 25% and people are experiencing the freedom and healing that comes from Christ. May God richly bless you for your Kingdom Minded Focus 🙏 (Trey Freeman, Celebrate Recover/Turning Point)

Greetings and Happy New Year from your Finance Chair:

Looking back at the Year 2023, I can say we had a good year. Our General Offerings totaled \$89,827 with our Designated Offerings totaling \$2,948. Included in the Designated Offerings was \$1,175 that was added to our Memorial Fund. During 2023 we had two major offerings, the Lenten/Easter Offering that received \$447.50 and went to the Salvation Army here in Newark and the Champions. Our Advent/Christmas Offering totaled \$445 and will go to the Champions, Salvation Army Food Pantry and Licking County Coalition of Care. Some major repairs were the elevator (\$1,510), the chairlift (\$430) and we had our organ repaired at \$524. Our bell tower was also repaired for \$10,620. The major expenditure of the year was to pay the United Methodist Church \$41,344 for our portion of the pension liability (\$23,041) and (\$18,303) for apportionments to disaffiliate as of June 30, 2023. Please don't hesitate to address any questions you may have to me. Cheryl Deweese

#### What is Turning Point?

Turning Point is a new church service that will have a little bit more of a focus on reaching the lost and connecting with those who do not normally attend church. The idea for the name Turning Point comes from the Biblical Greek word Kairos. A good definition of Kairos is "A time when conditions are right for the accomplishment of a crucial action; the opportune and decisive moment" we believe God is calling this ministry to work as a potential Turning Point in the lives of those who attend. We hope to see people who do not know Jesus Christ come to know Him and those who do continue to grow in their knowledge of God and their faith. ~ Trey Freeman, Pastor

#### What is Celebrate Recovery?

At Celebrate Recovery, we believe that Jesus came to bring freedom and healing to our lives. We help people recover from many of life's obstacles by creating a safe atmosphere that encourages openness, honesty, trusted relationships, and commitment to Christ. We are a Christ-Centered Recovery Group. We focus on more than just drugs or alcohol- CR covers the whole scope of life. Anyone struggling with a Hurt, Habit, or a Hang-Up can find freedom and healing through Celebrate Recovery. As a Christ-Centered recovery group we understand that a person must be renewed. Meaning the way we think and view the world must change in order to experience lasting freedom and true healing. Celebrate Recovery has some components which are similar to a church service. We gather for a time of worship and then a teaching or testimony. The Bible, the 12 recovery steps and 8 principles are the primary teaching tools we use. Celebrate Recovery is healed people being used by God to help heal hurting people.

#### Who Are The CHAMPIONS NETWORK?

The Champions Network is helping in many ways to revitalize our community. We prayed for all of the people we reached to find hope in Jesus this year and we will continue to visit in hopes that they will seek help and soon be delivered! December Transports: Meetings - 20, Toy-for-tots deliveries - 18 families/30 children, Summer Bloom - 18, Treatment - 4. Meals - 350 pounds (Produce) 15 families, Meeting meals - 141, NFC Sunday meals - 21. We served 53 people at the Christmas Party at Vesper Hills. Unsheltered Camps visitation - We made 2 visits in December to 5 different camps. Distributed: 50 pairs of gloves, 30 scarves, 2 cases of hand and foot warmers, 35 snack bags. We are thankful for 1) Newark Faith Church, 2) Summer Bloom, 3) Grace-Point Community Church, 4) Family of Faith Community Church, 5) The Refuge - Men's residential rehab in Lancaster, 6) Outreach Ministry - Men's residential rehab in Pataskala, 7) St. Vincent Haven - Men's facility in Newark, 8) The Main Place - Newark, 9) Lighthouse Behavioral Health in Newark, 10) Health Progress Detox - Newark, 11) The Landing at Cedar Ridge - Frazeyburg, 12) The Counseling Center Residential - Portsmouth, 13) Licking County Day Reporting - Newark, 14) Flint Ridge Nursing Home Outreach - Chris Roberts, 15) Family of Hope Mission.

# Faith News

## Christmas Gifting

My Goodness! How BLESSED are we?! We thank you so much for your giving hearts. We know that many lives will be touched by each of these items, and many will be blessed because of your generosity in giving to the least of these.

### From the Food Pantry Tree:

49 Items total.  
8 - Toothpaste  
(which half will go to NYAP)  
1 Tooth Brush pack  
1 pack of Razors  
1 box of Saltines  
1 box of 12 Ramen Noodles  
3# bag of Onions  
8 cans of Veggies  
11 Peanut Butter jars  
1 box of 5 Mac & Cheese  
2 boxes of Elbow Macaroni  
1 Box of Club Crackers

### Toys from NYAP Tree

9 Trucks  
3 DIY Toys  
7 Games  
1 Train  
Multiple Books (WOW!)  
3 Vinyl Figures  
1 Construction Set  
6 Puzzles  
1 Manicure set  
1 Kit  
4 Stuffed Toys  
1 Memory Verse Box  
1 Play Dough  
8 Dolls  
5 Crayons  
1 Discovery Game  
1 Flash Cards  
32 Dots  
2 Junior Geologist Kits  
2 Puzzle Mats  
1 Remote Helicopter  
1 Tea Set  
1 Junior Tablet  
1 Marker Box  
3 Pencils  
1 Activity Pack  
1 Activity Box Set

### Items from the Hat & Mitten Tree

4 Fleece Throws  
1 Pair of Shoes  
3 Coats  
1 Scarf  
2 Hat & Glove Sets  
21 Hats  
39 Gloves & Mittens  
7 Ear Muffs  
3 Sweaters  
1 Headband  
31 Socks  
1 long Sleeve Shirt  
2 short Sleeve Shirt  
2 Thermals  
1 Hooded Sweatshirt  
2 packs of Hand Warmers

