



# Faith Christian Church

*The church on the hill.*

Volume 1 January 2024

Website: [www.faithchristianlima.com](http://www.faithchristianlima.com)

Our Vision:

*Striving together to live our faith, share our love, and serve our Lord.*

Our Mission:

*Connecting the Community to Christ through faithful actions.*

## Worship Schedule

### January 7

Liturgist: Armida Nicely  
Usher: Tim Andrews  
Greeter: Kay Andrews

### January 14

Liturgist: Jane Urish  
Usher: Jill Johnson  
Greeter: Thora Davis

### January 21

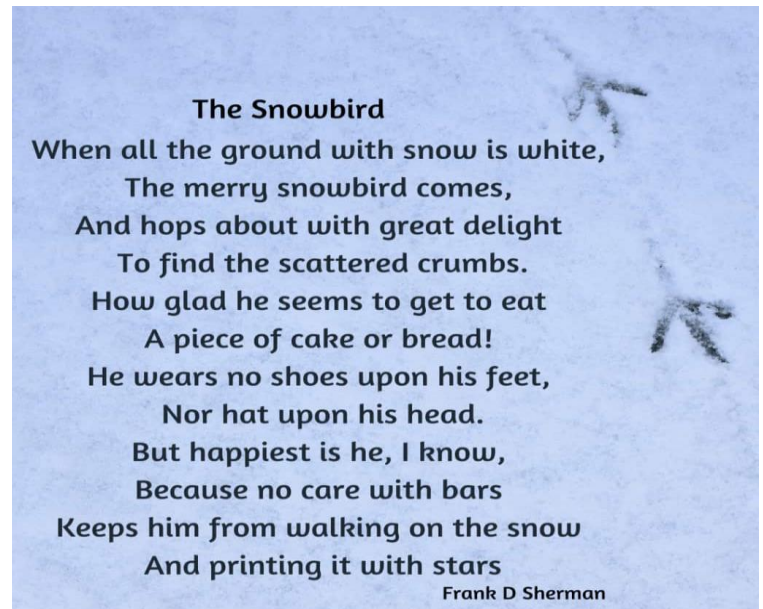
Liturgist: Kay Wellman  
Usher: June Cogan  
Greeter: Jenny Cogan

### January 28

Liturgist: Jim Cooper  
Usher: Sally Dailey  
Greeter: Heather Feltz

**Ushers and Greeters:** please arrive at 10 a.m. to be available to greet members and guests.

**Greeters:** ask guests to sign the guest book. And give them a pen.



### The Snowbird

When all the ground with snow is white,  
The merry snowbird comes,  
And hops about with great delight  
To find the scattered crumbs.  
How glad he seems to get to eat  
A piece of cake or bread!  
He wears no shoes upon his feet,  
Nor hat upon his head.  
But happiest is he, I know,  
Because no care with bars  
Keeps him from walking on the snow  
And printing it with stars

Frank D. Sherman



- Jan. 4 – 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Jan. 7 – 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
12:00 p.m. Undecorate the Church
- Jan. 8 – 4:30 p.m. Lima Rescue Mission Meal
- Jan. 9 – 4:30 p.m. Church Council
- Jan. 10 – 12:30 p.m. Ladies Lunch  
4:30 p.m. Church Life
- Jan. 14 – 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
New Members
- Jan. 21 – 10:30 a.m. Congregational meeting
- Jan. 22 – 12:00 p.m. Worship/Faith Formation
- Jan. 23 – 10:00 a.m. Deacons/Mission



### Coffee Hour Hosts:

**Jan. 7** – Heather Feltz & Penny Keller-Clark

**Jan. 14** – Brenda Burns & Kay Wellman

**Jan. 21** – Rochelle & Allie Gaetano

**Jan. 28** – Thora Davis

## Pastor Terri's Thoughts

It's hard to believe we are entering 2024. It is my deepest hope that you will enter this new year with love, laughter, and a servant's heart. I can't wait to see what wonderful things God has planned for our church this coming year. I think it's important to enter the year with laughter and so there are a few jokes below and then to close on a more serious note about making this year count written by Steven Cloud.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Old age is when you're forced to..

At the beginning of this year I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds ... Only have 15 more to go...

My resolution was to read more... So I put the subtitles on my TV

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year ... But nobody likes a quitter!

What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.

### A Year of Time

Steven B. Cloud

".....Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2024, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760

hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breath, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be towing time our the window, or will you make every minute count?"

Blessings in the New Year and let's make every minute count.

Shalom,

Pastor Terri





## Monthly Bible Study

As we begin a new year, the monthly Bible Study is beginning the book of Ruth. Lesson 1 was trouble times that Ruth and Naomi lived in. Lesson 2, the lesson we are doing in January, begins the story of Ruth. We will meet Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

This is a good time to join us as we begin this heart warming study. We are always hoping for new members!



## Worship/Faith Formation

Attending: T. Haithcock, I. Cooper, L. Morrison, K. Andrews, K. Wellman

Excused: P. Hunt

Kay opened the meeting with a devotion

### 1. Old Business

a. Linda has the following special music planned:

- i. Nov. 26, Victor Williamson, vocal
- ii. Dec. 3, Doug Mullenhour
- iii. Dec. 10, Maria
- iv. Dec. 17, Lisa Fantz
- v. Dec. 24 AM Ava Boedecker, Ms. Duncan

vi. Dec. 24 eve. Lisa Fantz

b. Communion is scheduled for 12/24. We will propose 2/4 and Maundy Thursday 3/28 to Council.

c. Child care location has been used and seems to be working OK. No feedback received.

d. Nov. 26, we will decorate after church. Terri and JoAnn are bringing the decorations in from the garage, and we expect many helpers. We will provide lunch-Kay W lasagna; Terri, garlic bread; Kay A., salad; dessert, Linda M. and Thora, cookies for coffee hour.

e. Jill has installed blinds in the front windows. Linda says they are working well.

### 2. New Business

a. Advent series – “The Sights and Sounds of Christmas” will be held Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20 at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. with Terri leading the afternoon, and Wes Howe the evening.

b. The preschool Children’s Christmas Program will be Dec. 10 with Rochelle Gaetano directing. There is nothing the committee will need to do. There will be a cookie exchange following the service that day.

c. Terri will look for appropriate poinsettias at Lowe’s for purchase by the congregation. Irene will prepare info for next Sunday’s bulletin.

d. Irene will complete the next list for ushers, greeters, and liturgists – Jan.-Mar. 2024.

e. We will undecorate the church on Jan. 7 after the service with lunch to follow. Irene and Kay W. will bring soup, Kay a. will bring ham salad sandwiches, and Terri will bring crackers and cookies.

f. Kay A suggested that the communion plates be passed by members rather than Terri. We agreed that Terri will seek assistance the day of the communion service. We talked about going back to intinction but decided to continue as is while the flu season continues. We can bring this up again before the Lent service in March.

g. As of now, we all agreed to continue to serve on the committee in 2024. Penny Hunt has agreed to assume chair of the committee after the appointment at the Annual Meeting Jan. 21. Terri ended the meeting with a prayer.

Next meeting: Jan. 20, 2024, 12 noon.



## Deacons/Mission-December

Present: Sally Dailey, Pastor Terri Haithcock, Jill Johnson, Brenda Burns, June Cogan, Jane Urish, Thora Davis.

Excused: Ann Scalzi

The meeting was opened with devotions.

#### I. Special Offerings:

The 25% from the Neighbors in Need and Peace and Global Witness offering on Oct. 1, will be sent to Fairfield Central Elementary School for their Therapy Dog fund. Next is the Christmas Joy and Christmas Fund to be taken on 12/24. A video will be shown showing how the fund is used in helping retired pastors, church workers and other clergy in need.

II. Food donations—going well for both the Blessing Box and Chi-Ki-Lo. There has been more demand lately.

III. Coffee hour—new schedule coming out. Service Sunday on 12/31, so no coffee hour then.

IV. Rescue Mission—Lee's chicken was donated last month, which was a special treat for the men. Our December meal will be meatballs with sauce, potatoes, corn casserole or other vegetable, water, fruit and dessert. We continue to have good participation from the congregation in working and supplying the food.

V. Congregational Support—Food in freezer—still have plenty. Cookies need airtight containers (freezer bags or storage boxes).

- A. Visitation-- none recently. June calls Sonya B occasionally.
- B. A directory update or addendum is needed again. Some newer people may not be included in the last one.
- C. Cards—Being sent to Donna G, Jean B., Sonya B, Kim Dailey, Dr. S. Will add Carol W.
- D. Homebound—to involve some who are no longer able to drive for activities, we will have a Ladies Lunch in January, provide transportation and order take-out food for the group.
- E. A Memorial service and meal were provided for Ruth W. with good congregational support.

VI. Other business: Our Christmas Project is collecting adult male and female sweat shirts

and pants {mostly men's and large (X-4X) sizes} which will be given to St. Rita's hospital for patients with insufficient clothing on discharge.

- A. Review of Council minutes and upcoming events.
- B. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 10 A.M.

Minutes recorded by Thora Davis



#### Shawnee Children's Program-Dec.

Kay opened the meeting with a devotion and welcomed Rochelle Gaetano as a new member of the committee.

#### Standing Reports:

- a. October and November Financials: JoAnne reported that we ended both Oct. and Nov. with operating losses totaling \$4167; however we maintain \$127,639 in our checking account. We have purchased many things with grant monies and have no current needs.
- b. Program participants: 23 preschoolers and 47 school age. We have a waiting list for 3 & 4 year olds.
- c. Parent Feedback: Rochelle stated that the updates are appreciated. We need to continue to increase the DOJO use.
- d. Personnel Updates: Cassidy has resigned so JoAnne is recruiting for a part time position. Laura had gall bladder surgery and is recovering.

- e. Program Needs/Issues. None identified. Christmas Break will be 12/26 -1/1.

**Old Business**

- a. Plans for cultural diversity events in 2024 will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b. JoAnne is working on changing the books so that all employees will be treated as church employees.
- c. We don't have any new updates from the Cross River Group who is working with us on an employee retention refund.
- d. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter teacher bonus was distributed and appreciation noted from teachers (\$200 each and \$400 for Director).

**New Business**

- a. Terri reported that she had met with Jennifer from E.S. Evans and they will be completing a discretionary audit of the program in April.
- b. Rochelle Gaetano reported that the Children's Christmas Program is ready for Sunday 12/10.
- c. JoAnne has purchased new supplies for math and reading skills.
- d. JoAnne presented the 2024 budget which includes \$37,000 in new grant monies, which may arrive yet this year from the state of Ohio Phase 4. It will be directed toward payroll.
- e. JoAnne reported the major accomplishments for 2023 which include: Phase 3 Grand reconciliation for \$125,000; new vinyl flooring in the preschool area and hallway; new fire alarm system; new drinking fountains; quarterly bonuses to teachers; maintaining positive program and environment.
- f. The committee approved a Christmas bonus for the staff - \$500 each and \$1200 to JoAnne. They also approved a revision to the 2024 budget to include 5% salary increases for the staff depending on our finances.

Terri ended the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Feb. 8, 2024, 12 noon. We will discuss goals for 2024 as well as summarizing JoAnne's performance.



**Council Meeting Highlights-Dec.**

Treasurer's Report: Filed for audit. Balance as of 11/01/2023 \$104,304.31

Income	\$41,281.00
Expenses	\$17,074.00
Balance as of 12/01/2023	\$128,511.31

Comments: We had a great month income-wise due to our very generous members. As you can see, we are ahead by \$24,207.00 this month. Our Foundation funds went up by \$5,171.54 this month and the Edward Jones account went up by \$23,483.36. As of right now we will be finishing the year out financially sound. I have made out a proposed budget for 2024, which combines the church and SCP income and expenses I have kept the amounts budgeted for each committee the same, I have also combined the Mission and Deacons, as well as the Worship and Faith Formation (formerly Christian Ed). I have added in a few line items and taken out a few items. The Youth Fund will be added into the Worship/Faith Formation account. Motion was made by Howard Hunt and seconded by Kay Wellman that we approve the 2024 budget. Motion passes.

**Clerk's Report:** Motion made by Kay Wellman and seconded by JoAnne Urish set Congregational Meeting Date for January 21, 2024, motion passes. Jim Cooper and JoAnne Urish signed the 2024 MVP Mission Pledge for \$2,000.00. Thora Davis will be overseeing the Mission committee for next year and Howard Hunt will be overseeing the Stewardship committee for 2024.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Terri attended the following meetings – Faith Formation/Worship, Mission/Deacons, Shawnee Children's Program. Pastor Terri made 5 visits. Pastor Terri said that even though Thanksgiving was early it seems like everything is going very quickly. We completed the End-of-Life Series and Pastor Terri thought it was very successful. The Advent Study is going well with approximately 12

attending between the two sessions. Pastor Terri stated the importance that committees meet and elect their chairs before January. Pastor Terri is hoping to take in new members on January 14. Rochelle Gaetano will be a new member and Allie Gaetano will be by letter of transfer. The date is subject to change depending on Allie's schedule. Pastor Terri was pleased with the response to the fall one of our members had during the Star Lighting. It is great that we have the first aid kit and other supplies available. The attendance for the Star Lighting was excellent. The Preschool Christmas program went extremely well, and Pastor Terri talked to many people about our church. All the newsletters were taken. A big "Thank You" to Rochelle Gaetano for directing the program. Pastor Terri is looking forward to Christmas Eve morning worship at 10:30am and early evening worship at 5:30pm. E.S. Evans and Company will be conducting our audit on the church and SCP. We will be meeting with Jennifer on April 22nd at 1:00pm.

### **Ministry Committee Reports**

**Deacons & Mission:** We have received lots of sweats for the hospital. We will tag them on Service Sunday, December 31. We served 24 men at the Lima Rescue Mission this month. A recommendation was made to update the directory, which Irene has started. For the next Ladies Lunch, we will offer transportation for members and lunch will be provided. Next special offering will be the Christmas Fund and the Joy offerings.

**Worship & Faith Formation:** We will be having Communion on December 24, 2023. Kay Wellman made a motion and seconded by Irene Cooper, that we have Communion on February 14 & March 28, 2024, motion passes. Linda has special music planned for the month of December. Thank you to Linda for getting the special music organized, the members really enjoy the different performances. The blinds have been installed upfront. The Advent series is underway and going great. 13 people have ordered Poinsettias. The new Ushers, Greeters, and Liturgists list is out. On January 7 we will undecorate the church with lunch to follow. Pastor Terri will seek assistance with passing out the Communion cups on the Sundays.

Penny Hunt will chair the Worship committee; the next meeting is January 22. A great big thank you to Kay Wellman for the wonderful job she has done chairing the Worship committee.

**Personnel:** Will be doing Sharlene's evaluation soon.

**Stewardship/Finance:** Howard Hunt sent out the Stewardship letter about our pledges for next year. Thanks to Irene for typing, it up. We are receiving pledges for next year. The new offering box envelopes have been passed out for 2024.

**Buildings & Grounds:** JoAnne ordered 3 ring doorbells (1/2 off on Black Friday) which need to be installed. Jim is looking into our AEP rate and gas bills to see if we can save some money. Jim will be working on the transition for the back entrance door with the ramp. JoAnne shared with Jim an idea for barriers on the doors to help protect us against an intruder. Church Life & Growth: We have done the following activities: End of Life Series, Christmas Craft, Men's Breakfast, Star Lighting and Fudge Contest, and cookie exchange. We will be going Caroling to 2 nursing homes on Dec. 17, with pizza and white elephant exchange afterwards.

**SCP:** In October and November, we spent more than we took in, but have \$127,000.00 in our checking account. We will be receiving \$37,770.00 from the Phase 4 Grant, which will go towards payroll. There are 23 preschool children enrolled and 47 school-age children. Rochelle has joined the SCP committee. We are using DOJO classroom to help our communication with parents. Cassadi has resigned, so will be looking for a part-time teacher. The staff will be receiving 5% raises for 2024. The staff will be working on promoting Cultural Diversity awareness to the children, planning activities in 2024. We gave out 4th quarter and Christmas bonuses. With our 2023 grant money we put in new flooring and new drinking fountain.

**Old Business:** Jim inquired if anyone else would like to be the President of Council. We all agreed that he is doing a wonderful job and we would like if to stay on as our President.

**New Business:** Motion was made by Mary Johnson and seconded by Howard Hunt that we give the staff a cash bonus of \$75.00, motion passes.

**Adjournment:** Jim Cooper adjourned the meeting

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Terri Haithcock

**Next meeting:** Tuesday January 9, 2024 @ 4:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Urish, Clerk



### *Blessing Box*

*Take what you need,  
Leave what you can,  
Always be blessed.*

The Blessing Box continues to be used. Please continue to bring in non-perishable food. You may leave your food in the office or place it in

the Blessing Box yourself.

Items are also needed for Chi-Ki-Lo food pantry: canned goods and brownie mix. The food pantry also needs hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, combs etc.). These items can be placed on the shelves at the back of the sanctuary. The food pantry is open Wednesday and Thursday 9-noon.

The last Tuesday of the month is "Burton's Buzz" Social Hour from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch and a guest speakers that will cover a variety of topics. RSVP to Connor Niese at 419-302-4489.



### **Committees for 2024:**

**Deacons/Mission:** Thora Davis (Chair), Brenda Burns, June Cogan, Jenny Cogan, Sally Dailey, Jill Johnson, Ann Scalzi, Jane Urish

**Building and Grounds:** Tim Andrews, Jim Cooper, Johann Kramer, John Martin, Armida Nicely, Jill Nichols

**Church Life/Growth:** Irene Cooper (Chair), Heather Feltz, Deb Marshall, Armida Nicely, Jill Nichols, Ann Scalzi, JoAnne Urish

**Personnel:** Mary Johnson, Thora Davis, Jim Cooper

**Worship/Faith Formation:** Kay Andrews (Chair), Irene Cooper, Linda Morrison, Penny Hunt, Kay Wellman, Pastor Terri

**Shawnee Children's Program:** Kay Wellman (Chair), Irene Cooper, Sally Dailey, Rochelle Gaetano, Lori Prorok, Terri Wies-Haithcock, JoAnne Urish, Director

**Finance/Stewardship:** Howard Hunt (Chair), Jay Doute, Penny Hunt, Mary Johnson  
**(New committee members accepted after approval at Congregational Meeting.)**

### **2024 Council Members:**

Jim Cooper, President

JoAnne Urish, Clerk-Treasurer

Terri Haithcock, Pastor

Kay Andrews

Tim Andrews

Irene Cooper

Thora Davis

Howard Hunt

Mary Johnson

Kay Wellman

**(New Council members accepted after approval at Congregational Meeting.)**

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Pastor: Terri Weis-Haithcock, 419-302-2741

Treasurer: JoAnne Urish

Organist: Linda Morrison

