



Psalm 126.1-3: "When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.' The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced."

My sisters and brothers, the Lord has done great things for us – and so now we celebrate. This is an ancient practice of our foremothers and forefathers. When God does something amazing – we celebrate. Think about Moses, Miriam, and the nation of Israel standing at the water's edge. They observed their enemies were destroyed by the waters that enveloped them. So, what do they do? They sing and dance. Think about the woman who lost a valuable coin. She turns her house upside down to find it, and when she finds it what does she do? She throws a party. When the prodigal's father welcomes his wandering child home, what does he do? He has a feast.

We at Faith Harbor have had a terrific year. The Lord has accomplished so many things through this rag tag group of Jesus followers – so this Sunday we celebrate. Our choir has been working tirelessly on this time of celebration. There will be singing and eating and laughing and joy. This really sounds like what the psalmist is writing about in Psalm 126.3. As a result of the great things the Lord has done – we rejoice! This is part of an ancient practice of rejoicing.

You all are invited to our Christmas Cantata this coming Sunday, December 17th at 10am in the sanctuary. Right after the cantata the hospitality committee is having a time of fellowship around food that everyone is invited to stay for. Let's celebrate how good the Lord has been to us – and let's do it together.

From your lay leader...

TOO MUCH STUFF?



Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21 NASB

When is enough, enough? When do we say we have enough stuff? I realize there are some who don't want a lot of clutter in their house or even in their lives and they're good at not indulging. My daughter-in-law is a prime example of not having a cluttered house. I inspire to be like her when I grow up. My house is so full of stuff my mind feels like it is about to explode, I don't know where to start. And now I'm trying to let go of my parents' things. Memories are nice so I will definitely keep all the photo albums and maybe one or two of their precious items but everything else must go. And as I look in my own house, when Ray and I pass on, I don't want our children to have to go through all of this. In the process of decluttering my own house along with my dad's I'm learning to not want anymore. I say, "When's the last time I used this?" and "When's the last time I even looked at that?" If it's been a while, it's time to let it go. Are you like me and feel it's time to declutter? Can't think because there's too much clutter in your house, if so, maybe it's time to let some of it go.

WOW!! I just came up with an amazing idea. Why not sell the clutter and give what you made to the church or donate it to the Thrift Store. What an amazing year 2024 would be if we decluttered our homes and gave to the church and/or Thrift Store. Let's store up our treasures in heaven, by sharing the love of Christ with others and giving to the poor and needy. What's the Lord calling you to do?

The earlier Christians did just that, some sold their possessions, some sold their fields and others sold their homes. They were all of one accord. No one had need of anything.

We don't need to be like the Jones's, we need to be like Christ.

Loving you always, your sister in Christ,
Jessica Blackburn, your lay leader



The walks are right around the corner. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact me so we can get you or them an application and a sponsor. Don't delay, they fill up fast. Contact: Jessica Blackburn 910-622-1193 or jmb@rayblackburn.com

If you have been qualified to be a sponsor, please get with me so we can get you set up with pilgrims needing one. Thank you. **Men's walk January 25th-28th, Women's walk February 8th-11th.**

News & Announcements

WELCOME TABLE:

December 17th: Cathy & Doug Medlin

Communion Servers:

Rebecca Drudge, Judy Miller, Sherri & David Davila,
and Ray Blackburn (gluten free)

SCRIPTURE CARD beginning Monday, December 18th

Centering Prayer: The Lord has done great things for us. Psalm 126
M Jeremiah 23.5-8, Matthew 1.18-25

Tu Judges 13.2-25, Luke 1.5-25

W Isaiah 7.10-14, Luke 1.26-38

Th Luke 1.39-45

F I Samuel 1.24-28, Luke 1.46-56

Sa Malachi 3.1-24, Luke 1.57-66

Su II Samuel 7.1-16, Romans 16.25-27, Luke 1.26-38

Key scripture: Malachi 3.1: "See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me."

From the Finance Team:

Giving up to 11/30/23	Budget up to 11/30/23	2023 total budget
\$399,699.89	\$412,441.99	\$449,936.72



Toy drop-off and set up will be December 14 & 15 at Blakes Chapel with distribution on Saturday, December 16. Families with children are paired with volunteers and invited to “shop” for new toys/gifts for their children in a special Christmas shop where everything is offered free of charge including wrapping materials. Each individual/family also receives a Christmas card, along with a list of all participating organizations in the area. Volunteers are needed. For information, please contact Faye

Strickland at: fayestr46@gmail.com or 910-264-6151. Thank you!

We are blessed to be a blessing to others!
Faye Strickland



Please join us! CHRISTMAS CANTATA~ “One Incredible Moment”

by Mac Lucado and Tom Fettke

Date: Sunday, December 17th

Time: 10:00a.m.

Be sure to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy the beautiful music!

*The Hospitality Team will host a light reception following the Cantata. Brunch foods and beverages will be served at 11:30a.m. Hope to see you there!



We have about 15 Poinsettia’s left – if you would like to reserve one, please let me know by Monday, December 18th. I need to know the name of the person you’d like to Honor or if it’s In Memory of someone. \$10/each – cash, checks (made payable to FHUMC) or online payments accepted. Poinsettia’s will be in the Sanctuary through the Christmas Eve Services.

Thank you!



Do you have a heart for worship? Join us at 5:30pm in the sanctuary~ **Saturday, December 30th** for a contemporary Worship service!

Bring your friends and come with an open heart.

Faith Harbor Pilots

A ministry for men, by men, for the good of all.

The Faith Harbor United Methodist Men invite all men to be a part of something special. The men of the Church are being called to serve as ***“A beacon of hope, anchored in Christ, sharing God’s love through joyful service.”***

The meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month unless otherwise designated. We meet at 8am for breakfast and fellowship. Please join us as we begin our planning for the future. All men are eligible to join. The only requirement is the desire to become a disciple of Christ.

We hope to see you at our next monthly meeting on Saturday January 20, 2024 at 8am.

Monday Morning Men’s Group

Come as you can, if you can - This weekly men’s group will be meeting at Sears Landing every Monday beginning around 8:30am and waiting until 9:00am to order for those wishing to eat. This will be an informal gathering for all men who are interested in food and fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Roger Morton at rramorton@gmail.com.

The **Nursing Home Ministry** will join members of the Gathering Church of Surf City on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am in the Memory Care Unit at the Woodbury Wellness Center located at 2778 Country Club Dr, Hampstead. **You are welcome to join us every second Sunday for worship and visit with the residents.**
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”—John 3:16

Contact: Bescye P Burnett (678) 882-6721 or bescyep@gmail.com

“Love...Loves...Loved”

“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced”. —James Baldwin (1924–1987)

Please join us for our 13-week Grief Share Group held by the Stephen Ministry group here at Faith Harbor. We will meet every Monday from 10am-12:00pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome! Feel free to contact Gail Robinson with any questions~
gail.robinson0694@gmail.com





Nourishing Joy Women's Group will be taking a break in the month of December. We will let everyone know in January when we will begin meeting again. Thank you so much!

Women Rooted in Christ, Anchored in Love, Building each other up.

Connections matter...connections with God and with each other. Come and see how God creates a place for women to be encouraged & strengthened, as we learn about Jesus's love for us and how to share it with others. Regardless of what stage of life you are in, you have gifts and insights that others need, and we want you to be a part of building up God's Kingdom. If you have any questions, please call Stacie Holmes at 910-270-9465 or email: stacieaholmes@gmail.com.

When? Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30



Perhaps you have noticed that the new tax law has reduced your ability to deduct your contribution to charitable entities, including Faith Harbor. For the past couple of years, you were able to deduct at least \$600 per couple. However, that amount has now gone away. In fact, unless you can itemize your deductions for more than \$27,700 for a couple (\$13,800 for a single), you can't deduct any contribution that you make to a charity. Those of you who have paid off your home mortgage usually have a tough time getting past that. **BUT THERE IS A SOLUTION.** A Qualified Charitable Contribution can be made from your IRA, 401K, or any brokerage account directly to the charity on your behalf, and

it is not included in your income (eliminating the tax you would have paid on it) and the charity gets the benefit of your donation. And if you are over the age of 73, you may need to do an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). This is a great way to take the distribution and avoid paying income tax on those tax-free dollars and profits that you put away years ago. As we get close to the end of the year, you may want to consider taking advantage of this. For more information, see Gail Widholm, Finance Chairperson, or your tax advisor.

If you would like Pastor Neal's new address, feel free to let me know!





Are you missing anything? Please check out our lost and found box over by the mailboxes (across from Room 6). We have several umbrellas, water bottles, glasses, and many other items.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS...



Hello Faith Harbor Families,
Please take a minute to look over our schedule below and mark your calendars.
Lots going on in the next two months!

December

17th: Jr. Basic Christmas Party at 3:30pm! We will have a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Families are welcome to join us at Lake Linda after & enjoy the Christmas lights.

24th: Christmas Eve Services are as follows...8:00am, 9:30am, 5:00pm & 7pm.

A look ahead:

January

Jan 14th: Jr. Basic. Pick up at 12:30pm

Jan. 21st: Safe Sanctuary Training after church. This is required for anyone working with our children or youth. This presentation will take no longer than 30 minutes.

Jan. 28th: Jr. Basic. Pick up at 12:30pm.

Jan 28th: Children's Counsel meeting after church in classroom 1.

Blessings,

Melissa Schleinkofer, Children's Ministry Director

mxcook8@yahoo.com or <http://www.faiharborumc.org>



***Sun., Dec. 17th~** Christmas Cantata at 10am with a light brunch to be held afterwards, all are welcome!

That evening~ Dec. monthly meal & outing! For all youth- Let's gather together for Appetizers & Finger foods & a Hot Chocolate Bar at 4pm in The Reef. Afterwards, at 5pm we will head over to Lake Linda to enjoy the Lights together in the Van. Parents are welcome to join us also. Pick up time for youth riding in the Van will be 6:30pm back at the church. You don't want to miss this fun night!!

***Sun., Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve~** Morning services at 8am and 9:30am. Candlelight Services at 5pm and 7pm. Please plan to come and enjoy any of these beautiful services. No Regular youth group meetings that evening.

***Sun. Dec. 31st~** Covenant Renewal Morning services at 8am and 9:30am. Happy New Year's Eve! No Regular youth group meetings that evening due to the holiday break. Regular youth group meetings to resume on Sunday, Jan. 7th.

***Other Info./Missions~**

Thank you to all that participated in the Coat Drive with CWS (Church World Services) for refugees coming into the local area during the Winter months. If you wanted to donate coats but didn't get the chance- please let me know. ***We will be starting a NEW Drive for bedding.** They can only accept NEW bedding, in particular Twin sheet sets, then next is Queen sheet sets. We will be placing a marked bin in the Narthex soon.

***Special Note!** The Christmas Caroling event- "Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa" date will be **Wed., Dec. 20th** School will officially be out (early release that day!) Please plan to meet at the church for Cocoa & Cookies at around **4pm** and then we will plan on heading out no later than 4:30 pm to spread some Christmas Cheer! Everyone in the Congregation is invited to join the fun. Wear your most Festive Attire! (If you drop off your youth, then pick up will be about 6ish back at the church.) Thanks

If you need further information or details about any of these events or the Fhumc's bAsiC (brothers And sisters in Christ) youth group, please reach out to me. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and your youth!

Peace of Christ be with you,

Jewels Swain, Fhumc Youth Coordinator

(910)232-9844 or julietswain@hotmail.com

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Today I will be honest with God, who already knows my heart.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

~Psalm 37:4 (NRSVUE)



Members: Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Nancy Buckman; Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Judy & Ken Hoopes; Janet Hughes; Janice Long; Doug & Sandi Lowery; Martha Marlow; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Judy Pratt; Rachel Shade; Jewels Swain and family; Steve Wells; the family of Susan Wieland; Jim Wygant

Military: Joe Fraley, Alex Harris, Andy Harrison, Ryan Hermance; Greg Holmes; Sgt. Joey Horne; Abbie Kizer, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, David Ritz, Michael Roberson, Charlotte Taylor

Family and Friends: David Abernethy (Jewels Dad); Johnsie's great niece Rebekah and family; Kelly Bonnell's Husband; MK Clewis's daughter, Harper, and family; Eileen Eifert (John Pratt's sister); Parker Fox; Linda Holt (Mike Hopper's Sister); Rick Hughes; Elizabeth Lilly (Gail's granddaughter); Catherine McDowell; Tommy Mears; Jenny Merritt; the family of Rachael Meyer; Todd Rice (Colin's brother); Barbara & Neil Schilling; Julie Scott (Hank & Jan Maser); Sue Thomas (Janet Hughes Sister); Brenda (Harriet Rice's friend); *Betty Ann (friend of Diane Secary)*

And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort, and healing. Heavenly Father, I am praying for complete healing and good health. Please take away my worries & grant me inner peace and strength. AMEN



December

1st: Kelly Byrd

3rd: Marion Shade

4th: Leslie Jones; Hayden Arnold; Katherine Alexander; Neal McHenry

6th: Sherry Sliwa

8th: JoAnn Rivenbark

9th: Bill Widholm

10th: Laura Alexander; Melanie Greene

11th: Danielle Shepard; Reagan Shepard

13th: Don Mizelle

14th: Doug Mewborn; Sandi Lowry

15th: Harriet Rice

16th: Kenny Burgess; Judy Paliotti; Madison Fox

17th: David Henry; Charlie Clark

21st: Robert Barnes; Sonya Burgess

22nd: Marlaine Hopper; Caroline Hinkle

25th: Alex Harris

26th: Ann Cassler; Alexis Medlin Passingham

29th: Jill Strohpaul

31st: Perry Chase Smith; Stephen Cosner; Gerry Colman

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

Sunday, 12/17

10:00 Christmas Cantata
3:30p JR Basic Party
4:00p Youth Fellowship Meal
5:00p Lake Linda's Christmas Lights

Monday, 12/18

7:30 Open Prayer
8:30 Sears Landing Men's Breakfast Group
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
10-12p Griefshare Group, Sanctuary
6:30p Cub Scouts

Tuesday, 12/19

7:30 Open Prayer
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
6:00pm Praise Band Practice
6- 7:45p MDT
7:00p.m. Women's AA/Reef

Wednesday, 12/20

9:30 Communion
11:30 Women's Group, Sanctuary
4:00p *Cocoa, Cookies & Caroling*
6:30p Choir to Woodbury Wellness
7:00p.m. Boy Scouts/Reef

Thursday, 12/21

7:30 Open Prayer
12:00p AA Group, Rm. 6
6:30p GS Troop #2424

Friday, 12/22

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group

Sunday, 12/24- Christmas Eve

8:00 & 9:30 Communion Service
5:00 & 7:00p Candlelight Service

Monday, 12/25 – Friday, 12/29

Office Closed