



*Mark 1.1: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ."*

We are at the beginning – again. Here, we begin a new leg of our journey as a particular people called Faith Harbor United Methodist Church. As you personally begin this new leg of your journey – I would encourage you to consider, with great devotion and great attentiveness, where are you going? For the end is vitally important at the beginning. In so many ways, you can't get your bearing on what direction to go in without knowing where you are going?

As you consider where you are going, we are also encouraging you to ask those around you where they are going. If you feel so inclined, ask them while videotaping their responses. Many folks have started posting these on our Facebook page and you can check out their responses. This is a terrific way to engage our community and to encourage them to consider this question that allows us all to deal with the end.

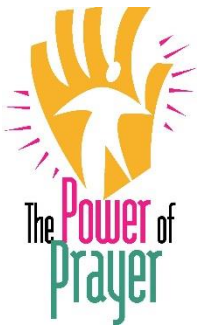
Remember that Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. The scripture tells us over and over again to be ready for this day. This aspect of being prepared has less to do with Hollywood's portrayal of apocalyptic cinematic fantasies that arouse in us suspicions about our neighbors and strangers. Instead, this aspect of being prepared has more to do with us paying attention to and participating in the things that the Lord pays attention to.

For the next 12 months we are going to be journeying through the Gospel of Mark. I would encourage you to devote yourself to the reading of this good news and to pay attention to Jesus Christ in this gospel account. I pray, that all of us will grow in our devotion and love of God through this 12 month journey. And in this devotion may we set our eyes on Jesus – the author and perfecter of our faith.

# Where are you going?



## From your lay leader...



### WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD

*"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." **John 17:20-24 ESV***

To know that people are praying for you just makes the pain or the situation you are going through a lot easier to bear. At least it does for me. With all that life has thrown at me this past year, just knowing my loving family has been praying for me has lifted my spirits. I can truly feel the prayers being answered. Though maybe not the way I would have liked them to be answered but answered none the less. Our God is so amazing, His peace is available to all.

To think that our Lord and Savior prayed for us before He died for us, gives me peace. Did you know He prayed for each one of you? The passage above is His prayer for us. WOW! Those who will believe... That's me, That's you. HELLO!!! Jesus prayed for you and me to be perfectly one. One in Him, One in each other. All of us so that the world may know that Jesus came and that He shared God's love, and we are to do the same.

There is another passage that refers to us in the times of Jesus. It was when Jesus appeared to His disciples in the locked room for the second time after His death. The first time Thomas wasn't there but this time he was. He had doubted that all the disciples had seen Jesus. He had to see and feel for himself. Well, Jesus appeared and went to Thomas, showed His scars to him, and told him to stop doubting and believe. Thomas said he believed. Then Jesus told him *"Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* John 20:29 NIV

We are blessed and have been prayed over by our loving Savior, and on top of all of that He died for you and for me. He now sits at the right hand of the Father and continues to intercede for you and for me. How can you not have joy? How can you not be at peace? Jesus loves YOU!!!

### WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD

Loving you always, your sister in Christ  
Jessica Blackburn



# News & Announcements

## WELCOME TABLE:

December 10<sup>th</sup>: Sabrina & Zander Guy

## COMMUNION SERVERS~

December 10<sup>th</sup>: Youth

## SCRIPTURE CARD beginning Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Centering Prayer: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak. Psalm 85

M Isaiah 35.1-10, Luke 5.17-26

Tu Isaiah 36.1-10, Luke 5.27-32

W Isaiah 40.25-31, Matthew 11.28-30

Th Isaiah 41.13-20, Matthew 11.11-15

F Isaiah 48.17-19, Matthew 11.16-19

Sa Matthew 17.9-13

Su Isaiah 61.1-11, I Thessalonians 5.16-24, John 1.6-28

Key scripture: Isaiah 35.8: "A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way."

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



Pastor Neal would like to share his new address:  
c/o Pete & Mona Chapman  
779 Country Road 3000  
Aztec, NM 87410  
\*He will have the same cell phone #

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The 2023 Advent Devotionals are available in the Narthex.  
ONE PER FAMILY PLEASE

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Do you have a heart for worship? Join us at 5:30pm in the sanctuary~ **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** for a contemporary Worship service!

Bring your friends and come with an open heart.

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**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](mailto:fayestr46@gmail.com) or 910-264-6151. Thank you!

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

#### UPDATE!

CHAP now has 389 families representing 620 children on its list for Christmas. It's time to bring the new toys, unwrapped, for all ages and for girls or boys. We need stocking stuffers and bicycles and everything in between. And don't forget gift cards for those hard to shop for teens! **Last date to drop off in narthex is the morning of December 15th.** So, pick up a list or pick an angel off the tree and bring joy to our community.

# Faith Harbor Pilots

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 December 16, 2023 at 8am.**

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## Monday Morning Men’s Group

**Come as you can, if you can** - This weekly men’s group will meet at Sears Landing every Monday 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](mailto:rramorton@gmail.com).

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### **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

OUR 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!

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.





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

Dec. 10th: Jr. Basic we will be heading to Woodbury to sing Christmas songs for residents and hand out handmade cards.

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

### 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](mailto:mxcook8@yahoo.com) or <http://www.faitharborumc.org>



Greetings everyone!! The Christmas season is here already, and we have a lot of exciting happenings coming up this month! Please see below and mark your Calendars accordingly:

**\*Sun., Dec. 10th~** This will be our Youth Sunday for December at the 9:30am Service. Opportunities to serve include: 4 Readers (Psalms, Opening Prayer, Prayers of the People, Nicene Creed), 2 Doorman, 2 Greeters, 4 Ushers, 2 Children's classroom helpers. Please let me know if your youth can serve. Thank you!

**That evening~** MS youth- Regular Meeting from 4-5pm in The Reef. We will be having our Christmas Party & activities!! Please bring a \$2 to \$3 silly gift for our exchange game!

HS youth- Regular Meeting from 5:30- 6:30pm in The Reef. We will be having our Christmas Party & activities!! Please bring a \$2 to \$3 silly gift for our exchange game!

**\*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 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.

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](mailto:julietswain@hotmail.com)



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I can embrace life's twists and turns because I know God is with me.

*Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.*

~Psalm 25:5 (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; *Evangeline Schleinkofer and family*; 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)

*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

1<sup>st</sup>: Kelly Byrd

3<sup>rd</sup>: Marion Shade

4<sup>th</sup>: Leslie Jones; Hayden Arnold; Katherine Alexander; Neal McHenry

6<sup>th</sup>: Sherry Sliwa

8<sup>th</sup>: JoAnn Rivenbark

9<sup>th</sup>: Bill Widholm

10<sup>th</sup>: Laura Alexander; Melanie Greene

11<sup>th</sup>: Danielle Shepard; Reagan Shepard

13<sup>th</sup>: Don Mizelle

14<sup>th</sup>: Doug Mewborn; Sandi Lowry

15<sup>th</sup>: Harriet Rice

16<sup>th</sup>: Kenny Burgess; Judy Paliotti; Madison Fox

17<sup>th</sup>: David Henry; Charlie Clark

21<sup>st</sup>: Robert Barnes; Sonya Burgess

22<sup>nd</sup>: Marlaine Hopper; Caroline Hinkle

25<sup>th</sup>: Alex Harris

26<sup>th</sup>: Ann Cassler; Alexis Medlin Passingham

29<sup>th</sup>: Jill Strohpaul

31<sup>st</sup>: Perry Chase Smith; Stephen Cosner; Gerry Colman

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## HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

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### **Sunday, 12/10- Youth Sunday**

8:00 Communion Service  
9:30 Communion Service  
10:30 Disciple Bible Study  
10:30 JR Basic to Woodbury  
4:00p MS Christmas Party/5:30p HS Party

### **Monday, 12/11**

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, 12/12**

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

### **Wednesday, 12/13**

9:30 Communion  
10:00 Rainbow Circle, Rm. 6  
11:30 Women's Group, Sanctuary  
7:00p.m. Boy Scouts/Reef  
7:00pm Cantata Practice/ 7:45p Choir

### **Thursday, 12/14**

7:30 Open Prayer  
12:00p AA Group, Rm. 6  
6:30p GS Troop #4242

### **Friday, 12/15**

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group

### **Saturday, 12/16**

8:00 FH Pilots Men's Group  
9 – 11 Cantata Dress Rehearsal

### **Sunday, 12/17**

10:00 Christmas Cantata  
3:30 JR Basic Christmas Party  
4:00p MS/HS Fellowship Dinner  
5:00p Lake Linda's Christmas Lights