



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BECOMING A PEACEMAKING CHURCH** We have begun a church-wide initiative to understand and apply what the Bible teaches about managing conflict and finding healing in relationships! Check the back table for resources to help you in learning and applying these principles.

**CHURCH SECRETARY NEEDED** -- We are currently seeking to hire a new church secretary. This a paid position which would require about 4 hours of time weekly. Please see Pastor Kyle for a job description.

### CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Community Cantata – TONIGHT at 7pm, at Calvary UMC  
Christmas Eve Service – December 24<sup>th</sup> candle-lighting service at 6pm

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (Important!)** -- Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be starting the new year with communion together, followed by our annual congregational meeting. At this meeting we will be electing officers for our “interim leadership team” to govern our church over the next year. We will also be approving our budget for 2018.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** The longest night of the year is THIS Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. On that night at 7pm a special worship service will be held for those who are struggling this Christmas season at Christ UMC, in Tower City.

**CLOTHING DRIVE for NEEDY FAMILIES** A Christmas/New Year Party is being held for families of children who receive free backpacks and participate in Kids Café meals throughout the summer. At the party they will receive gifts of necessary clothes items. Donations of underwear and socks are being collected.

**WILLIAMS VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** – Each month we collect items to help local families through the Williams Valley Food Pantry in Tower City. For DECEMBER we’re collecting Shampoo.

**HOMETOWN HEROES** – Wiconisco Hometown Heroes committee is honoring Service Men & Women by placing individual banners throughout Wiconisco. Any service members, born, raised, or living in Wiconisco could be honored. Banners are 30” X 60” and available until April 1<sup>st</sup>. For applications contact Sheila Herb (215-0295) or Melanie Waters (579-1181) or pick one up at Wiconisco’s Post Office, Tax Collector Office, and Thompson’s garage.

## MESSAGE NOTES

“GET READY – Preparations & Expectations” [Isaiah 40:1-11]

### GOD’S INCREDIBLE GIFT....

... is on the way! (vs. 2)

... could be missed without our best \_\_\_\_\_ . (vs. 3-5)

... is most \_\_\_\_\_ and most \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 5-8)

... is not often as we expect it to be. (vs. 10-11)

➤ We “prepare the way” by removing obstacles and filling in the potholes.

#### Common Obstacles:

<i>Pride</i>	<i>Reckless or harsh words</i>
<i>Sinful desires, Greed</i>	<i>Deceptive talk</i>
<i>Manipulation</i>	<i>Gossip</i>
<i>Disrespect</i>	<i>Complaining</i>
<i>Anger, Bitterness</i>	<i>Broken Commitments</i>

#### Common Potholes:

<i>Prayerlessness</i>	<i>Seeking God through His Word</i>
<i>Uplifting Worship</i>	<i>Fellowship with Believers</i>

**\*\*to dig deeper, watch this week’s small group videos (Session 4) at [wvfaith.org/peacemaking.html](http://wvfaith.org/peacemaking.html) or read chapter 6 of the book “The Peacemaker” by Ken Sande**

**Next Sunday: “GOD IS HERE. NOW. – Part 1: Love & Grace (Matthew 1:18-25)**

**We are glad you are worshiping with us today!**  
Please take a moment to let us get to know you by filling out a “connection card” (inside cover of the hymnal or on the back table)  
Then place it in the offering plate or give to an usher.

- **Your children are important to us.** We have several resources to serve their unique needs -- *Activity Packets* are on the back table to use during the service; our *Nursery* is not currently staffed but is available for young children and their parents. *Kids Church* (K-6<sup>th</sup> gr.) often takes place during the second half of our service.

---

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

---

Prelude (Please use this time to prepare your heart for worship)

Call to Worship: Psalm 96

Opening Prayer

**#89 “Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”**

Greet One Another

ADVENT MEDITATION – Song of Angels & Shepherds  
**Carol #108 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

Pastoral Prayer

Offering/Offertory  
**#556 “Doxology” (with chorus)**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-15

*Children dismissed for Kids Church*

MESSAGE: “GET READY – Preparations & Expectations”

**Closing Hymn: #96 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

Closing Prayer

*Happy Birthday* Ron Raudenbush (12/9); Dione Sowers (12/13)  
Chris Klinger (12/16); Bob Hoffman (12/16); Lori Tschopp (12/22)

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

	<b>Today</b>	<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>
Greeter:	Deb R.	Claudia
Offering Counters:	Alice & Gina	Alice & Gina
Prayer Leader:	Dolly	no prayer mtg

**THIS WEEK @ FAITH**

Sun.	7pm -- Community Christmas Cantata (Calvary UMC, Wiconisco)
Tues.	1pm -- Prayer Group
Wed.	6pm – Praise Band Practice 7pm – Peacemaker Group
Sun.	9:30am – Sunday School 10:30am – Worship Gathering 6pm – Candle-Light Service

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Cantata (Calvary UMC)	December 17
Congregational Meeting	January 7

## PRAYER CONCERNS

---



---



---

## OUR MISSION & VISION

“Make disciples who love God and love others”

Faith Deepening through God's Word  
Edifying Family as God's People  
Contagious Freedom in Christ

*All we could ever imagine, could ever hope for, He is...  
He is the Prince of Peace whose first coming has  
already transformed society but whose second coming  
will forever establish justice and righteousness. All this,  
and infinitely more, alive in an impoverished baby in a  
barn. That is what Christmas means - to find in a place  
where you would least expect to find anything you  
want, everything you could ever want. – Michael Card*

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budgeted Monthly Income	\$6,317 (\$1,458 per week)
November's Collections	\$5,189 (\$1,298 weekly ave.)
Last Week's Offering	\$870



## CONTACT INFO

**Church Office** (717) 453-9012  
[faihec.church@gmail.com](mailto:faihec.church@gmail.com)  
[www.wvfaith.org](http://www.wvfaith.org)

**Pastor Kyle Roth** (717) 269-3899  
k\_roth@live.com

Find us on Facebook as “Faith EC Church”



“GET READY – Preparations and Expectations”

December 17, 2017

WILLIAMS VALLEY  
**Faith E.C. Church**

EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL

543 Center Street  
Wiconisco, PA 17097  
[www.wvfaith.org](http://www.wvfaith.org)