



# A Newsletter of Polo Faith United Methodist Church

## Words of Faith

Loving, Growing, Serving in Faith

JANUARY 2018

Happy New Year Members and Friends of Faith United Methodist Church!

Grace and Peace to you from our Father through Jesus Christ born in our hearts through the Holy Spirit!

“A prudent question is one-half of wisdom” Francis Bacon, an English philosopher, statesman, scientist, jurist, orator, and author.

As we move from one year to the next we can profit as we look back as it can guide us forward in the new year. The myth is experience is the best teacher. The truth is Evaluated experience is the best teacher! We can find the new trails God is leading us into and reflect on the paths God has guided us through.

2017 was a year of tumult and change for many. In our local church a change of pastoral administration to a national change of administrations in Washington, D.C. At church we baptized a baby and laid to rest beloved people, including some that seem to have passed all too early. No one but God knows what is in store for 2017 but we know that God will be with us, Emmanuel!

**SPIRITUAL QUESTIONS:** Am I closer to God today than I was on Jan 1? What is my spiritual growth plan for 2018?

**EMOTIONAL QUESTIONS:** What drained me emotionally in 2017? What fills me emotionally? Is there anyone whose forgiveness I need to seek or forgiveness I need to give? Where is the clutter in my life?

**RELATIONAL QUESTIONS:** Would I rate my marriage or family life a 10? Would my spouse or significant others in your life rate it a 10? If it's not a 10 ask this question, “What would it take in 2018 to make it a 10?” Same question for each of your children, grandchildren and siblings and even parents.

**PHYSICAL QUESTIONS:** What kind of shape am I in? Is that OK? Do I have a physical scheduled between now and March 31? What's my major physical focus area for 2018? Am I living my best for God with my temple?

**FINANCIAL QUESTIONS:** Are my finances in order? Am I managing my debt appropriately? Should I make a year-end sacrificial offering to the church? Do I need to take a step up in my giving to tithing?

**INTELLECTUAL QUESTIONS:** How am I growing as a servant leader in the church and community? What are my reading and learning goals for 2018? What will I read, listen to or watch to keep intellectually fresh in 2018?

**CALLING QUESTIONS** What caused me the most stress in 2017? How am I going to fix that in 2018? What am I pretending NOT to know? What is my calling in life now? What on earth am I here for? What is God calling me to be and to do in 2018?

**CHURCH QUESTIONS:** What is God wanting me to do to support Faith United Methodist Church with my time, talent, treasure, service and witness? Am I making attending the service of worship a scheduling priority?

Plato said that the unexamined life is not worth living. Conversely the life that is examined with worth living!

Please stop and reflect on 2017 and then “pro-flect” on who God is calling you to be in 2018, where God is leading you in 2018, what God is calling you to do in 2018, who God is calling you to reach in 2018 and how God wants you to walk the journey of life in 2018.

Pastor Brian LeBaron

# Growing in Faith

We are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our personal devotion, small groups, and worship.

## JANUARY 2018 EVENTS

### FIRST FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



Starting Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Polo Sub Stop we will be hosting an After School Program from 3:15 to 5:00 PM. There will be fun games, tasty snacks, a place for kids to “hang out.” This program is targeted to the upper elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up into junior high. Pastor Brian and other adults will provide supervision and facilitation.

### 5<sup>th</sup> QUARTER PARTY



Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> is Senior Night at our last home game for the Polo Marcos Basketball team as they go up against rival Dakota Indians. Pastor Brian and Ashley and Coach Daniel Death will host a party in Fellowship hall with pizza, pop and time to “hang out” for the children and teens after the game. The party will get underway after the game, approximately 8:30 – 9:00 PM and dismiss by 10:30 PM.

### POLO COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA



# Christmas Cantata Reprise



On behalf of the Community Choir, I want to thank members and Friends of Faith UMC for their support and attendance at the Christmas Cantata, December 10, "We're Glad You Came."

It was amazing to see the full sanctuary that afternoon and to have many complimentary words given to us all for the presentation of this cantata.

"Thank You's" to United Methodist Women members for preparing the refreshments for us, and to Tena Terry, Ginny Snodgrass, John and Jean Death, and Ron Hammer for serving as greeters. Our request for persons attending to bring donations for the Food Pantry realized 15-20 bags of food, which Randy and Nancy Ocken delivered to the Pantry for us. "Thank You" to them as well!

We hope your Christmas will be blessed by the awareness of Christ in your homes and hearts, and that you can say along with us, "we're glad You came, Jesus."

*Jean Frey, Director*



*Faith UMC Bell Choir*



*Randy Hayes*



*Polo Community Choir*



*David Sowinski & Robin Jefford*



# Serving in Faith

We are committed to serving the people of Polo and the world.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our giving of time, talents, and financial gifts.

## JANUARY MISSION FOCUS

*Pennies  
from  
Heaven*



Thank you for your faithful support of the Pennies from Heaven fund.

This fund was established to fulfill a need for Polo residents who are in need of emergency funds. In 2017 the funds were used to help a young family with court costs and to help a family avoid eviction from their apartment. Several gas cards were given to individuals to drive to work or to get children to **doctor's appointments**. Pennies is the January Serving Team focus. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this important fund.

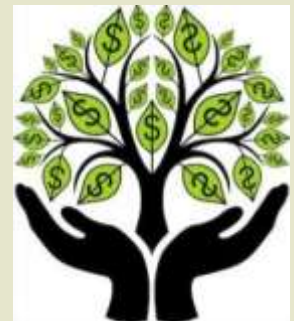
## POLO FAITH UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 2017 Polo Faith UMC Financial Information

Monthly Income (General Fund)	\$	20,469
Monthly Expenses Paid	\$	19,261
Balance Current Fund	\$	549

Expense amount does not include elevator or our outreach projects.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year. If you are able to give a little extra now to support the basic costs of running the church, it will be greatly appreciated.



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## WHEELS OF FAITH



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A RIDE? CALL 815.677.8194**

*Our Wheels of Faith bus is*

*making 3-5 trips a week taking people shopping and to the doctor. If you know of anyone who could use this wonderful service, please share the new flyer with them or the new number. The newest bus has a wheel chair lift and is air conditioned and will be comfortable for everyone.*

## PCCC CHRISTMAS BOXES

**PCCC  
196 Polo Families served!!**



Thank you to Marla Buskhol who was the lead organizer this year and to everyone else who helped collect, pack and deliver these Christmas boxes to Polo families.

## COMBAT HUNGER



January needs for the Polo Lifeline are these:

Coffee	<b>Cream of Chicken Soup</b>
Tea bags	<b>Cream of Mushroom Soup</b>
Cereal	Cheese
Spaghetti & sauce	Canned fruits
Canned tomato products	Canned chicken
Bread	Canned carrots
Ketchup	Cake mix
Any boxed potatoes	Pancake mix
Pork & Beans	Deodorant, pain reliever
French Style Green Beans	Toilet Paper, wipes
Cheeseburger helper	Child Ig. diapers

Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you for supporting our local food pantry!

## STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY



**Our Table  
Community  
Meal**

**5:30—7pm**

What: Free home-cooked meal

When: The last Monday of the Month

January 30, February 26, March 26  
April 30, May 28

Where: Faith UMC, 702 E. Dixon,  
Polo, IL

We hope you will join us for this opportunity to get to know our neighbors better. Bring your friends.

## PCHS SCHOLARS CELEBRATED!

We are pleased to recognize PCHS students from Faith UMC for their excellent class work!



High Honor students listed in a recent Tri-County Press article were Abby Gorzny, Lucas Hammond, Justin Young, and Baylee Wiemken.

Honor Roll students were Ally Rhodes, Tyler Maginnis, and Dakota Meyer.

*CONGRATULATIONS* to each of these youth! We share the pride of your families in your accomplishments

## CHILDCARE IN 2018



Seeing the potential need for nursery and childcare during Sunday Morning Worship services, some educators, nurses and other nurturing people are willing to provide care in our well equipped nursery and pre-school classroom. The children can remain in the service as usual as desired by parents and then after the children's lesson have the option for care or to remain in the service.

## SECOND HAND ROSE



### ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

January 23 - 27, 2018

Faith UMC provides workers for the Tuesday-Saturday weekly schedule every 5 weeks.

The schedule is:

Tuesday & Wednesday	11 am-2 pm & 2-5pm
Thursday & Friday	1 -5 pm, (or you can work 1-3 or 3-5 if 4 hours is too much)
Saturday	9-12 noon

If you are willing to learn this fairly easy but important job, we will have you work with someone who has more experience.

If you would like to join our team, please call Ginny Snodgrass at 779.770.6393 or the church office.




# Loving in Faith

We are committed to loving God and all people.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our praise, prayers, and fellowship.

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER


<u>Ongoing Prayers:</u>	Nancy Mackey	Growing tensions and divisions in our country
Verla Attig	Wallace Mackey	Our need for thoughtful political discourse
Lenora Bakener	Annabelle Muench	
Kay Dillard	Tabitha Naylor	
Bill Ehmen	Eldon Ports	
Jean Frey	Arvilla Siddens	
Faith Glaman	National and World Leaders	
Betty Good	Our struggles to love our neighbors	
Harlan Long		
Marlene Mackey		



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Jim Deets	15 Blake Strickler	30 Reagan Terry
1 Tyler Maginnis	16 Jule DeBois	31 Brayden Collins
2 Kendall Kyker	17 Bill Cross	
3 Karla Merdian	17 Jodi Merrell	
3 Betty Miller	17 Landon Montross	
4 Rebecca Jacobs	17 Brad Ford	
4 Coretta (Cora) Buskohl	21 Shareen Buck	
6 Amy Jo Gillingham	22 Adeline Beck	
6 Butch Hummel	23 Emily Witmer	
6 Braelyn Velez	25 Lilly Gillingham	18 Tim & Colleen Stauffer
7 Brandy Whalen	25 Judy Norris	
7 Cathy Rogers	25 Brendon Velez	
8 Kathy Danko	26 Nancy Ocken	
11 Eldon Ports	27 Jared Frey	
13 Carrie Deets	28 Cheryl Goeking	
13 Valeria Forster	30 Robin Jefford	

## JANUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

## JANUARY UMW MEETING


Greeters:

01-07-18 Karla Merdian, Ginny Snodgrass  
Roger & Jane Palmer

01-14-18 Mark & Diana Maginnis  
Harold & Lucille Woodin

01-21-18 Drew & Tena Terry  
Donna Gillingham, Jan Bates

01-28-18 Matt & Margie Shore  
Shawn and Tiffany Willis



January 18  
Pledge & Installation  
Service  
1:30 PM  
Scout Room

Hostess: Jan Bates  
Program: Jan Bates  
Devotions: Jan Bates



## COOKIE THANK YOU'S

CHURCH CONFERENCE 2017

Faith UMC Family,  
Thank you so much for the care package! It was so sweet of you to think of me during the holidays. Its nice to know I have your support during my first year of college. Thanks again + happy holidays! ♡  
Sincerely, Jenna Handorf

Faith UMC Family,  
Thank you very much, for not only thinking of me while I'm away at school, but taking the extra step to send me a care package. It was a great reminder of how much my small town home means to me. Once again, thank you so much and have a blessed holidays!  
Sincerely, Matthew Handorf



Rev. Young-Mee Park and Pastor Brian



Former Pastor Sally Bowers and her daughters, Rachel and Ruth

Watch calendar, website and bulletins for upcoming committee meetings

February Newsletter Deadline is January 15

Copies of the Ad Council minutes and financial reports are available in the green folder on the table outside the office.

This newsletter is created by human hands directing Technology. If you notice any errors, kindly let us know. We will be happy to make any corrections. We reserve the right to change the wording of any articles submitted to reflect kindness, consideration, and the best intentions of all.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Faith United Methodist Church  
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