



**Faith United Methodist Church**  
**204 Horn Street**  
**Brillion, WI 54110-1508**

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*February 2025*

**Rev. Dr. Wesley Jacob, Pastor**

**Faith United Methodist Church**

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**Church Office Hours:**

Monday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thursday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Friday—Closed

Saturday—Closed

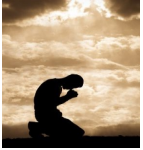
**Sunday Worship—10:00 am**

My  
Heart  
belongs to  
**Jesus**

**IT'S HARD TO STUMBLE WHEN YOU ARE ON YOUR KNEES**

*"But now you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God..." Romans 6:22*

Dear Faith Church Family,



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. As I write to you this month, my heart is filled with both the joy of our fellowship and the solemn weight of the trials we witness in the world. Our prayers ascend to God for the families and communities devastated by the fires in California, for the courageous firefighters who labored tirelessly, and for those displaced and grieving amidst the ashes. Let us also fervently pray for peace and reconciliation in the ongoing conflict in Gaza, entrusting all into the sovereign hands of our Lord.

In these tumultuous times, let us anchor ourselves in the unchanging truth of God's Word, drawing strength and encouragement from His promises. The psalmist declares, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..." (Psalm 46:1). May these words fortify our spirits as we reflect together on the richness of God's grace and the call to live as His faithful servants.

**Updates: A Community United in Prayer and Fellowship**

Before delving into our reflection, I rejoice in sharing the life and fellowship of our church family. Liz will soon travel to India to be with her mother during a confusing time. As she travels, let us uphold her and her mother in prayer, asking for God's peace and provision. This past month, we resumed our *Coffee Hour*, a cherished opportunity for fellowship and connection. I was also deeply encouraged by the warmth and hospitality of the Faith Women who hosted the *Open House* at the parsonage on January 19 - a testament to the love of Christ that binds us together. Lastly, we join Jim and Sharon in giving thanks for Laura's healing, marveling at God's mercy and faithfulness in answering our prayers.

**The Paradox of True Freedom: Slaves to Christ**

As we navigate the complexities of life, Scripture invites us to embrace a profound and countercultural truth: true freedom is found in being slaves to Christ. The Apostle Paul writes, "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life" (Romans 6:22).

**Bondage to Sin: Humanity's Great Crisis**

Jesus taught, "Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin" (John 8:34). This sobering reality underscores the universality of sin and its destructive power. Sin is not merely a moral failure; it is a tyrannical force that ensnares, blinds, and ultimately leads to death (Romans 6:23). John Stott describes sin as an "addiction that corrupts every aspect of our being." How grievous it is to see the world languish under the weight of this bondage.

**Redemption Through the Blood of Christ**

But thanks be to God! In His infinite mercy, He has provided redemption through the blood of His Son. Peter proclaims, "You were ransomed... with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19). R.C. Sproul reminds us, "The cross is the centerpiece of God's plan to rescue sinners, an act of substitutionary sacrifice rooted in His holiness."<sup>1</sup> Through this sacrificial act, Christ has freed us from sin's grip and granted us new life.

## **Freedom in Submission: The Divine Paradox**

Here lies the paradox: to be truly free, we must become slaves to righteousness. Augustine of Hippo eloquently states, “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.”<sup>2</sup>

Freedom is not the license to indulge in selfish desires but the liberty to live in alignment with God’s perfect will. G.K. Chesterton captures this beautifully: “The paradox of Christianity is that it frees a person to be bound.”<sup>3</sup> As we submit to Christ’s Lordship, we experience the transformative power of His Spirit, producing fruit that glorifies God and brings us joy.

## **Called to Serve: A Testimony to the World**

Dear Faith Church, our calling as servants of Christ is both a privilege and a responsibility. Paul’s words in Galatians 2:20 resonate deeply: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” To live as Christ’s bondservants is to reflect His love, grace, and truth to a watching world. As Thomas Watson writes, “The service of God is perfect freedom, for it is sweetened with the delights of His presence and the assurance of His promises.”<sup>4</sup>

In a culture that exalts autonomy and self-expression, our joyful submission to Christ stands as a powerful witness. Let us embrace this calling with humility and courage, proclaiming the gospel in word and deed.

## **Encouragement for the Journey Ahead**

As we press on in faith, let us take comfort in the assurance of God’s provision and care. The Lord, our Good Shepherd, leads us beside still waters and restores our souls (Psalm 23:1-3). In every trial and triumph, His grace is sufficient for us, and His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

I urge you, dear friends, to meditate on these truths in the coming days. May we be a people marked by gratitude, obedience, and unwavering trust in our Savior. Let us intercede for those who are suffering, offer comfort to the weary, and shine as lights in a darkened world.

## **Closing Exhortation**

As we conclude, I leave you with the words of Jesus: “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). Let us walk in the freedom Christ has purchased for us, living as His faithful servants and proclaiming His glory to the ends of the earth.

With love and prayers,

Rev. Dr. Wesley Jacob

*Fellow Servant of Christ*



## **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*, 2nd ed. (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1998), 124.

<sup>2</sup> Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991), 3.

<sup>3</sup> G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, rev. ed. (New York: John Lane Company, 1908), 75.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, reprint (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2008), 248.

## Those Who Serve Us

### Communion Sunday, February 2

Communion Steward - Blain & Sally Keuer  
 Greeters/Ushers - J'ette Kraus  
 Acolytes - Cindy VanHandel  
 Song Leaders - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp  
 Children's Message - Darron Lattomus  
 Counters - Team 1

### Food Pantry Sunday, February 16

Greeters/Ushers - Clarence Harms  
 Acolytes - Vivian & Jack Hermans  
 Liturgist - Kathy Brockmann  
 Song Leaders - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp  
 Children's Message - Kathy Brockmann  
 Counters - Team 3

### Casual Sunday, February 9

Greeters/Ushers - Lynn Gauger  
 Acolytes - Rylee & Reegan Woodard  
 Children's Message -  
 Counters - Team 2



### Children's Choir Sunday, February 23

Greeters/Ushers - Dianne Behnke  
 Acolytes - Charli Lattomus & Parent  
 Liturgist - Mitchell VanHandel  
 Song Leader - Amy Riemer-Hermans  
 Children's Message - Darron Lattomus  
 Counters - Team 4



## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/1	Adasyn Vertz	2/19	Camden Ourada
2/3	Jan Stanko	2/20	Michael Kocourek
2/4	Shawn Calaway	2/21	Howard Behnke
2/7	LeoLattomus	2/23	Dennis Kiekhaefer
2/8	Sharon Behnke	2/24	Alex Behnke
2/14	Daniel McConnell	2/24	Sue Juckem
2/14	Dennis Rusch	2/26	Joyce Behnke
2/16	Faith Vasko	2/26	Jodi Haese
2/16	Holly Vasko	2/26	Tina Kiekhaefer
2/17	Richard Knier	2/27	Clarence Harms
2/19	Colton Larsen		



No Anniversaries for February



# Winter Warm-Up Fest

Sunday, February 9, 2025

at Brillion Faith United Methodist Church



**Polka Worship Service at 10:00 am**

**Featuring the Bob Kuether Legacy Band**

**Lunch 11:15 am to 12:30 pm**

“MOM’S” Famous Chicken Dumpling Soup  
Chili

Grilled Cheese Sandwiches  
Homemade Desserts

**Over 100 Silent Auction Baskets**

*Paul Hornung signed jersey (certified)*

Bidding closes at 12:45 pm  
Winners announced at 1:00 pm

**Bake Sale**

**Specialty Popcorn Sale**

Tickets are available from church members and at the door:

**Adults \$10**

**Ages 5 to 12—\$5**



**Ages 4 & under—Free**

Proceeds support church missions and ministries. For more info: 756-2717

# Soup and Substance 2025 Ecumenical Schedule

6:00 pm - Soup; 6:45 pm - Substance

Wednesday, March 12, 2025	Zion Global Methodist Church, Forest Junction
Wednesday, March 19, 2025	Holy Family Catholic Church
Wednesday, March 26, 2025	Faith United Methodist Church
Wednesday, April 2, 2025	Brillion Community Church
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	Peace United Church of Christ
Friday, April 18, 2025 12:00 - Soup 12:45 - Substance	Peace Evangelical and Reformed Church, Potter

## MISSION AND OUTREACH



### The Food Pantry has the following needs...

- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Salad Dressings (especially Ranch)
- Ketchup
- Tuna
- Chucky Soups
- Tomato Soups
- Saltine Crackers
- Graham Crackers
- Jello and Pudding cups



February 23 - March 16

### Most Needed Items:

- Cleaning Supplies
- Hair Care
- Laundry Soap
- Feminine Needs
- Deodorant
- Kitchen Trash Bags
- Bathroom Tissue
- Dental Care
- Paper Towels
- Diapers/Baby Care
- Body Lotion
- Face/Bath Soap

*Donations Remain in the Communities Where They are Collected!*



It's that time of the year again...time to register for Summer Camp at Pine Lake! Camp is a place to belong, to try new things, gain confidence, and find life-long friendships. Pine Lake Summer Camp has something for everyone, for

all ages, for families including, Outdoor Adventure, Games/Sports/Adventure Week, Backpacking, Circuit: Game Makers, Spotlight (a performing arts camp), Grandparent/Grandchild Camp, and Mother/Daughter Camp. We offer scholarships to help with the cost of camp. Have the best week of your summer by attending camp!

Youth Camps			
<b>Pine Lake Youth Camps Schedule</b>			
<b>Grades 2-4</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Wild Trek (Sun-Fri)	<b>Grades 4-6</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Wild Trek (Sun-Fri)	<b>Grades 6-8</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Wild Trek (Sun-Fri)	<b>Grades 9-12</b> Leadership Skills (Sat-Fri) Wild Trek (Sun-Fri)
<b>June 22-27</b> Wild Trek (Sun-Fri)	<b>July 13-18</b> Spotlight (Sat-Sun) Wild Trek (Sun-Fri)	<b>July 20-25</b> Wild Trek (Sun-Fri)	<b>August 1-6</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)
<b>August 10-15</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>Lake Lucerne Youth Camps Schedule</b>		
<b>Grades 2-4</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>Grades 4-6</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>Grades 6-8</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>Grades 9-12</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)
<b>June 22-27</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>July 13-18</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>July 20-25</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>August 1-6</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)
<b>August 10-15</b> Credit Camp (Sat) Credit Camp (Sun)	<b>Family Camps</b>		
<b>Pine Lake</b> Family Camp (Sat) Family Camp (Sun)	<b>Lake Lucerne</b> Family Camp (Sat) Family Camp (Sun)	<b>Adults with Differing Abilities Camps</b> Family Camp (Sat) Family Camp (Sun)	<b>June 10-20</b> Family Camp (Sat) Family Camp (Sun)
<b>June 20-23</b> Family Camp (Sat) Family Camp (Sun)	<b>July 13-18</b> Family Camp (Sat) Family Camp (Sun)	<b>July 27 - August 1</b> Family Camp (Sat) Family Camp (Sun)	Find your week of life-changing, faith-strengthening experience today.



**On December 29, 2024, we celebrated Testimony Sunday.**

**This is the testimony shared by the Rukamp Family.**

On February 6th, our excitement of finding out we were having another girl was replaced with disbelief and sadness when we received the news that she had a congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH). CDH is a birth defect that occurs when a baby's diaphragm does not form completely, resulting in a hole that allows abdominal organs to move into the chest cavity.

After confirmation of the CDH from another local specialist, we were referred to our team in Madison which was headed by our pediatric surgeon and MFM.

During our initial visits to Madison, there were a lot of ultrasounds, consultations, and learning more about genetics, CDH, and our options. After a fetal MRI diagnosed Teagan with a severe case of CDH, lung volume of 26% or less, we were yet again devastated. At this stage, Teagan had a less than 50% chance of survival. We faced a difficult decision of terminating the pregnancy, continuing pregnancy as is, or an in-utero surgery called FETO. It did not take too long to know what we needed to do, to give Teagan the best chance at survival and us being able to meet her.





The FETO balloon procedure required us to temporarily relocate our family to Madison in mid-April at 30 weeks for our pediatric surgeon to place a tiny balloon in Teagan's throat to help her lungs fill up with fluid to help them expand and grow. After the balloon was placed, Brittany endured twice a week ultrasounds to track the balloon and amniotic fluid levels. Twice while the balloon was placed, Brittany had to have amnioreductions to remove excess fluid levels and help keep Teagan in as long as possible. Approximately eight liters of fluid had to be removed throughout pregnancy.

At 35 weeks, the doctors popped the balloon with a needle and the clock started for when Teagan could arrive. We prayed and hoped that Teagan would stay in as long as possible so that she could get all the treatment options that she would need upon birth. Arriving anytime before 37 weeks meant that ECMO, the highest life saving measure, would not be available. Thankfully, Teagan stayed in until 37 weeks and 2 days.

Upon birth, Teagan's journey was just beginning. She had CDH corrective surgery at 2 days old-everything but one kidney and her bladder was in her chest. She had an unplanned OR visit on day 3. Teagan was intubated and on various levels of oxygen for about the first month of life. Teagan was a fighter and graduated the NICU at American Family Children's Hospital after 79days.

Despite 126 days at Ronald McDonald, 20+ ultrasounds, 4 MRIs, many trips to Madison, and more tears than anyone wants to admit to, we know that FETO gave Teagan life. Prior to FETO, Teagan had a lung volume as low as 18%.

Today Teagan is doing very well. She is breathing entirely on own with no assistance since about a month old. She sees speech therapy and Birth to three weekly and soon may be starting PT as well. Teagan is fed entirely by G tube as we continue to work towards oral feeds. Teagan is still followed by many specialists including GI, Nutrition, Surgery, and others. The future looks very bright for Teagan,. We could not have done it without our amazing surgeon and doctors. We are forever thankful for all the love and support from our parents, family, friends, church family, and God throughout our journey. Throughout, our whole journey, we knew God had chosen us to be Teagan's parents. He had a plan for us and her, even at times when we were not sure what it was. This is only part of her story. There are countless days when we were getting lab results or days in the NICU where things got very scary. However, God pulled us through and showed us how the power of prayer truly does work.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<h1>February</h1>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Communion Sunday 10:00 am						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Winter Warm-Up Festival</b> Sunday 10:00		Free Community Meal 4:30-6:00 pm		Finance Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Food Pantry Sunday 10:00 am	Trustee Meeting 6:30 pm					
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Sunday Worship 10:00				Mission and Outreach 6:30 pm	<h1>2025</h1>	