

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

*“An inclusive spiritual family shaping a better you for creating a better world.*

*A place to make a difference.”*

February 11, 2018

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

## **Transfiguration Sunday**

*We are delighted that you are here today! We hope you will find us an affirming, uplifting, and committed family of faith. Here we work to make everyone, without any exceptions, to feel accepted, inspired, and encouraged in their spiritual journey. In dialogue, we seek to understand. In encouragement, we seek to heal. In all things we yearn to live by love, for peace, with joy. This is a place where your intellect will be challenged, your heart will be nurtured, and your spirit refreshed. Varying beliefs are expressed openly and freely, and your doubts will not be suppressed. We trust that we are all, every person and part of creation, continuing to be blessed by God’s grace; and that in community we can help each other to see this grace alive in our lives and relationships. We hope to share our gifts with you, even as we pray that you will want to share your gifts with us. Whoever you are and wherever you may be in your life’s journey, we invite you to be a part of our lives and our spiritual home. Welcome!*

## **CALLED TOGETHER AS SPIRITUAL FAMILY**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

*Please sign the registration pads at the ends of the pews on the center aisle.*

*We ask that you please shut off cell phones and practice quietness during the service.*

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after the worship  
in Romig Hall (lower level of elevator or stairs).*

*\* = You are invited to stand as you are able*

### **Prelude**

"In Thee is Gladness"

J. S. Bach

### **Welcoming the Light of Love in Our Midst** (acolytes light altar candles)

*We prepare ourselves for communing with the sacred as love’s light is brought into our awareness. The light of love burns within and among each of us, and we carry that light into our sanctuary; visually reminding us of the image of the divine that lives in our hearts, minds, and souls – and that we nourish through our faith-filled fellowship.*

### **Affirming God’s Presence in Us All**

“You Matter!”

### **Sharing Christ’s Peace**

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, greet and welcome those around you and share “the peace of Christ.”*

## **\*Centering Our Souls**

We all long for mountaintop experiences, and they are certainly needed at times.

**But we are ones called to live out our lives in the valleys, where we can do the most good.**

Too often we seek glory and imagine it coming easily and with no effort.

**Yet the reality is that much work goes into the things in which we come to see as most valuable.**

We, like the disciples, may want to stay up on the mountain with Jesus, building some dwellings to live out our lives in bliss.

**But Jesus leads us back down the mountain to continue our labors of transforming the spirits of ourselves and others.**

Transfiguration, transformation, and resurrection require an investment of our whole beings, and sometimes even our lives.

**We'd rather not consider the costs of living by the values of Jesus, yet following him requires that we not only consider them but enact them in all that we think, do, and say.**

Allow us the joy and beauty of the mountaintop, O God; but keep us mindful of the things we need to do when we return to the valleys.

**Grant us courage, determination, and perseverance as we discern and follow the vision you have for us and our church. May it be so now and always.**

**\*Hymn of Vision**

“O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair”

**#184**, vss. 1, 2, 5

**Our Stories of Random Acts of Kindness & Intentional Deeds of Compassion**

## **WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES**

**Choral Anthem**

An Anthem of Comfort by Gilbert M. Martin

**A Time for All God's Children**

**Prayers**

***Sharing Our Joys and Concerns***

***Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People***

***Pastoral Prayer***

***Unison Prayer: “Poetic Prayer in the Spirit of Christ”***

Loving Spirit, who is here and there,  
we're grateful for your tender care.

Your virtues rise, your values prized;  
near and far, and everywhere.

Feed our bodies, and feed our souls.  
And by forgiveness make us whole.  
And may we all evils deplore,  
as we search and sail for mercy's shore.

May peace and love within us rule,  
and justice be your Spirit's tool;  
Now and always, for us and others,  
and for all creation.  
May we make it so, all as one,  
by your inspiration.

**\*Hymn of Transfiguration** "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain" #183, vss. 1, 3,  
5

**Scripture Lessons** Mark 8.31; 9.2-10

**Message** "The Wonder of Transfiguration, The Labor of Called Ministry"

**\*Hymn for Transformation** "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" #182

**WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE**  
**THROUGH FAITHFULNESS**

**Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

*"Generosity arises from gratitude like heat arises from fire. Like fire, gratitude is lovely to see;  
but when it warms others with generosity, that is when it becomes a true blessing."*

**Offertory** "Organ Improvisation"

**\*Song of Dedication**

*Tune: Old Hundredth; p. 7*

The light of love does shine most bright  
when all are siblings in our sight;  
We are one fam'ly on this earth;  
We are God's children from our birth.

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God of every nation and all creation: We are grateful for your love and mercy, shown so abundantly to us and to all. We are much more willing to give to those we think are deserving, but we know we need to be more generous than that. For those in need, whether friend, family, or foe, may these tithes and offerings be a blessing to them. Help us to be your voices of peace, your arms of forgiveness, and your heart of love for all peoples and all creatures throughout this wonderful earth. Let our giving be a foundation for the building of friendships throughout the world, in the name of the one who was a friend of all, may it be so.

**\*Encouragement for the Journey**      “Seeker’s Benediction” -- Polly Moore

Go into the seething cauldron of the world.

Listen for the questions and voices that you would rather not hear.

Answer them with the energy of the Holy Spirit,  
the power of the One who gives us life,  
and the boundless love of Christ.

**Postlude**

Gigue in C Major

D. Buxtehude

**\*The Light of Love Goes into the World**

*Love’s light is not extinguished from our worship, but is transferred from the flame of the candles to the passion in our hearts that we may go forth to let the light of love shine through us as we go to serve in the world!*

**WE GO FORTH AS PEACEMAKERS**  
**TO CREATE JUSTICE FOR ALL**

*Our worship is fulfilled, and our purpose is confirmed,  
through our service as God’s stewards to the world and all creation.*

*Use the blessings God has given you as you share  
the joy in your heart, the wisdom in your mind,  
the love in your spirit, and the peace in your soul.*

*Thank you for sharing sacred fellowship with us.*

Faith UCC is an open and affirming church, embracing diversity in our congregation and community, and affirming the dignity and worth of every person. We are an inclusive community of faith that celebrates God's presence through worship and the sharing of God's word. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of the church, regardless of race, ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, capability, or circumstance of life.

Our Ministry

Ministers — All the Congregation

Trustee — Tom Daubert

Liturgist —

Acolyte —

Fellowship — Women’s Guild

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers

Ushers — Tom Daubert, Larry Bair

Children’s Message —

Nursery —

## Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman  
Organist—Mark Ferraguto Choir Director – Mike Dolan  
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

*The liturgies for this morning's worship, along with the Song of Dedication, were written by Rev. Bret S. Myers except where otherwise noted.*

### **Prayers for healing and wholeness:**

Family of Lois Bair, Carlton Miller, Don Asendorf, Bob Ritzman, the family of June Brown, Lisa B. (JoAnn's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Bunnie Hartswick, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the Snook family.



### **Welcome to all first-time (and returning) guests to Faith UCC!**

We would like to get to know you and for you to get to know us.

Join us after worship for coffee and **conversation**.

There is free parking on Sundays at the meters and at the McAllister & Pugh Street parking garages – so, we hope you'll worship with us again next Sunday!

**Electronic Giving Options:** During the offering time in the service, you may place your offerings on the plates the ushers will bring around. If you prefer to give electronically simply **scan the QR code** with your smartphone to be directed to our online donation page.



### **February Special Offering**

**[Mid-Penn Legal Services](http://www.midpenn.org)** (<http://www.midpenn.org>)

MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit, public-interest law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice and high quality civil legal services to low-income residents and survivors of domestic violence in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "MidPenn" noted in the memo line or on the envelope.



- February 13 Trustees, 7 PM
- February 14 Ash Wednesday, 7 PM
- February 18 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent
- February 19 Consistory, 5:30 PM
- February 25 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Get In Touch with Us!**

Faith United Church of Christ 300 E. College Avenue State College, PA 16801  
Tel: (814) 237-3904 Websites: [www.faihucc.info](http://www.faihucc.info) [facebook.com/SCFaithUCC](https://facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)  
Church Office Email: [faihucc@comcast.net](mailto:faihucc@comcast.net) Pastor's Email: [revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com)

Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, **Thursdays**, & Fridays

**Pastor Bret's Office Hours:**

**Tuesday 5-8 p.m., Wednesday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday 2-4 p.m.  
or other hours by appointment.**

Appointments are recommended so as to give you the time you need without interruptions.  
You may call the church office, or his cell at 608-370-9472, or email him at [revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com).