



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 smart phone to be directed to our online donation page.

November Special Offering



Lancaster Seminary (UCC) is a vibrant, diverse learning community known for academic excellence, celebration of differences across Christian traditions, and creative engagement on issues of importance to our world.

Your generous gifts help to provide scholarships for seminarians. Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Lancaster Seminary"



- **November 14** Trustees Meeting 7 PM
- **November 19** 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev Betsy Bruaw, speaker
Thanksgiving Dinner after Service
- **November 20** Consistory Meeting 5:30 PM
- **November 23** Thanksgiving Day

Faith United Church of Christ

*"An inclusive spiritual family shaping a better you for creating a better world.
A place to make a difference."*

November 12, 2017

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

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

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."

***Hymn of Faithfulness** “My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff” #418

***Centering Our Souls**

We are a pilgrim people, seeking for truth and the answers to our life’s questions.

We come asking “when,” and you tell us “how.”

We plan for the big events of life; we prepare for them by concerning ourselves with what is yet to come.

But you remind us that every moment can be a blessing when we share our love with others.

The little moments, the unexpected and unplanned moments, are often our most memorable moments. And collectively they become the script of our lives.

It is not the destination alone, but the journey that shapes our spirits and souls.

Let not our anticipation of some future reality blind us to the beauty of your present reality in us. Focus our concerns on how to be your people, here and now.

You call us to be good – to be loving, just, and peaceful. May we find our ambition and aim in these things, and leave the rest to your control. In the Spirit of Christ, may it be so, now and always.

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Why I Love Faith UCC: A Stewardship Moment

Jackie Hunt

A Time for All God’s Children

Jean Cole

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer Jesus Taught (unison) *Please feel free to do the version you know, or the one below:*

“Our heavenly Creator, sacred be your name: your kin-dom* come, your will be done, on earth as if in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen”

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

The family of Bill and Mary Jane Wild, the family of Jean Weller, 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.

*"Kin-dom" is an inclusive, non-authoritarian, and egalitarian term that reminds us that we are all "kin" as the children of God.

***Hymn for Wakefulness** "Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve" #491; vss. 1-3

Scripture Lesson Matthew 24.45-25.13

Message "The Diligence of Keeping Awake"

***Hymn for Being Woke** "Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed" #537; vss. 1-3

**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*

When we give thanks, then go to sow; Our blessings are assured to grow.

We are not known by what we keep; We're known by deeds that others

reap.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God who prods us to be earnest in caring, dutiful in sharing, joyful in giving, and abundant in gratitude: We pray that these tithes of our income, and offerings of our spirit, will be blessed for your purposes near and far. We are doubly blessed in our giving – being able to, and doing so freely from our hearts. Remind us not to be prideful in giving, nor ashamed in receiving; for we are here for each other – sowing seeds of compassion that will feed the world, and together reaping a harvest of peace. May it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;

grace to risk something big for something good;

grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth
and too small for anything but love.

So, may God take your minds and think through them;

may God take your lips and speak through them;

may God take your hearts and set them on fire.

Rev. William Sloane Coffin

***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 —

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers

Ushers — Tom Daubert

Children's Message — Jean Cole

Nursery — Jean Frank

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier

Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman

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