

Faith United Church of Christ

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

January 14, 2018

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!

*The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Affirming the Life of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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

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**

To prophets of all ages, your truth, O God, has been preached.

To your truths, some of have listened, some have turned away, and some have responded with anger and violence.

The prophets have warned of waywardness, ushered in understanding, re-instituted repentance, propounded peace, kindled kindness, incited integrity, fostered faithfulness, and cultivated compassion.

They reversed the values of the world, and taught us of a higher law and a nobler spirit.

They have humbly accepted their holy calling, courageously confronted the pontiffs of power, unshackled the prisoners of injustice, and exposed the warlords of greed and corruption.

They, too, have called out the complacent masses to cease their silence and to cancel their complicity.

They have taught the personal responsibility of each individual and the corporate accountability of institutions, businesses, and governments.

They have showed us the way of non-violence and peace through the methods of love and brotherhood, affirming the unity of us all.

We, too, are called to be prophets against oppression.

Give us the courage of the prophets of the past to tell the uncomfortable truth, even to those we love and revere; to stand in integrity, even at our own risk.

And like Samuel, Martin Luther King, Jr, and so many other faithful prophets, may we do so out of a genuine desire to help our loved ones and our enemies to move forward into a brighter day of equality, justice, harmony, and goodness.

Let their examples inspire our own actions. Let us be impassioned to speak the truth in love to a world that would rather not listen.

Let us be the progenitors of peace to an age and a culture that has sought for solutions through war, has defined diplomacy as power, and has sequestered privilege through wealth.

May we, like Eli, keep our own thoughts and actions true and right.

But may we be more committed than he to divest ourselves from systems that injure our neighbors...more willing than he to restrain those we hold most dear from profiting at the expense of others.

For as M.L. King, Jr. reminds us: “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people.” May it be so.

***Hymn Faithful Following**

“Lead On Eternal Sovereign”

#573

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Choral Anthem

Come Follow Me

Words by Sally K. Albrecht

Music by Jay Althouse

A Time for All God’s Children

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer “Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer”

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. May it be so.

***Hymn of Perseverance**

“For the Healing of the Nations”

#576

Scripture Lessons

I Samuel 3.1-4.1a

Message

“A Purpose to Fulfill”

***Hymn of Trusting in Peace**

“We Shall Overcome”

#570

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 Prophets and Peacemakers: We are thankful for your blessings of encouragement as we seek to correct injustices and come to the defense of those without voice. May these tithes and offerings be instrumental in nurturing equality, promoting peace, and establishing harmony between all your peoples and all your creation. Help us to be generous not only with our monetary-giving, but also with our truth-giving, life-giving and soul-giving – for the betterment of your world; may it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

When life brings you loss, sadness, or suffering, may the hope within you rise like a cool, refreshing stream. When circumstances are disillusioning, painful, or despairing, may the faith by which you sail be persevering and bring you back safely to the harbor of peace. In all your life, remember that you are born to give wings to love. Be thankful for the love you have received, and be generous in the love that you give. May your life be laced with grace.

Postlude

***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	Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers
Trustee —	Ushers — Cyndi Vincenti
Liturgist — Mary Jane Wild	Children's Message —
Acolyte —	Nursery —
Fellowship —	

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:

Bob Ritzman, the family of June Brown, 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.



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.

January Special Offering

Centre County Women's Resource Center Services ([www.http://ccwrc.org](http://ccwrc.org)) for women, men, and children who have experienced dating & domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Women's Resource Center" noted in the memo line.



- **January 15** **MLK, Jr Day**
- **January 21** **3rd Sunday After Epiphany**
- **January 28** **4th Sunday After Epiphany**
- **February 4** **5th Sunday After Epiphany**

Get In Touch with Us!

Faith United Church of Christ, 300 E. College Avenue, State College, PA 16801
Tel: (814) 237-3904 Websites: www.faithucc.info, facebook.com/SCFaithUCC
Church Office Email: faithucc@comcast.net Pastor's Email: revbmyers@yahoo.com
Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

Please make an appointment with Rev. Myers if you would like to meet with the pastor.
You may call the church office, or his cell at 608-370-9472.