

Faith United Church of Christ

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

April 15, 2018

Sacred Fellowship 10:45AM

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

Prelude: Keep us Lord, By Thy Word D. Buxtehude

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**

In the Spirit of Love, we come to remember that we are all family, no matter our religion, nationality, ethnicity, or political party.

But we come more than to remember. We come to be inspired to be more loving in our daily lives, more compassionate in the things we do, and more kind to the people we meet.

For our is not a faith of mere beliefs, but of practices and actions that accord with the virtues and values of our God.

We affirm that God is love, and that all who love one another are of God.

Love or compassion is the ethic of every world religion, and it is summarized in what know as the Golden Rule.

We who live by this rule will not do to others what we wouldn't want done to us, but will do to others what we would want for ourselves.

In all things, we consider the needs, wants, preferences, and uniqueness of every person, asking ourselves that if we were them and not me, “What would I most want?”

By building relationships with them, we come to know their aspirations, gifts, talents, and interests. We look to encourage the best that is within them.

For this is how we best apply the Golden Rule: deciding what is best for others by what they tell us about themselves and by how wisdom tells us that they can be the best persons within our wider society that they can be.

In all things, we see ourselves in a covenant community where we are all responsible for one another.

For this is the heart and spirit of Jesus' teachings and practices.

May we the courage of compassion, the courtesy of kindness, and the pleasantness of peacefulness as we live as siblings to all in this beautiful world that God has made. 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

Choral Anthem With Joyful Voice by Joachim Neander

A Time for All God's Children

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Unison Easter Prayer

“Prayer for Abundant Living”

O God of empty tombs and resurrection living:
 Make us mindful of the pervasiveness of hope,
 the determination of faith,
 and the persistence of love.
In a world where suffering is ever near,
 and where terrorism provokes fear,
 instill in us a resolve
 to live peacefully, justly, and compassionately.
May we be the agents of healing and reconciliation
 when opposed by the forces of destruction and alienation.
May we be the beacons of beneficence
 when others are the harbingers of hatred.
Call us to be your resurrection people:
 those who trust in kindness more than might,
 in forgiveness more than revenge,
 in gentleness more than harshness,
 and in virtue more than prudence.
May beauty flow forth from our spirits,
 truth from our lips,
 and mercy from our hands.
Help us to live the life that is light,
 that we may, like Jesus,
 rise above the shadows of death and despair
 and shine forth the blessings of love on all of creation.
In the Spirit of the risen and still rising Christ, may it be so.

***Hymn for a Borderless World**

“This Is My Song”

#591

Scripture Lesson

I John 2.28-29; 3.1-3, 7, 10-11

Message

“An Inclusive and Pluralistic Understanding of Faith”

***Hymn for World Unity**

“Now Is the Time Approaching”

#609

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

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Organ Improvisation

***Song of Dedication** *Tune: Old Hundredth*

Our Easter joy triumphant rings! Our resurrection hope does spring!

Christ's love and peace will ever rise, when we see through forgiving eyes!

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

We are a resurrection people! By rising with hope, we overcome apathy. By rising with courage, we overcome fear. By rising with joy, we overcome dejection. By rising with faith, we overcome powerlessness. By rising with perseverance, we overcome pain. By rising with forgiveness, we overcome anger. By rising with kindness, we overcome cruelty. By rising with generosity, we overcome poverty. By rising with Christ, we overcome death. May the tithes, gifts, and offerings we share empty the crosses and open the tombs of our own and others' lives. May we be beautiful like blossoming lilies, and graceful like fluttering butterflies, that we may rise with love for all and proclaim peace forever. Blessings be.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

Postlude

Postlude: Postlude in F Major E. L. Ashford

***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.



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.



April Special Offering

Hoffman Homes for Youth serves boys and girls ages 6 to 18 with mental health diagnoses by providing behavioral and cognitive therapy, physical health care services, education, spiritual nurturing and a safe and comfortable home for up to 141 children.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Hoffman Homes" noted in the memo line.

More at: <http://hoffmanhomes.com/>



- April 16 Consistory meeting, 5:30
- April 22 4th Sunday of Easter
- April 29 5th Sunday of Easter, Rev Ann Graves
- May 4 First Friday

Get In Touch with Us!

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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, 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.

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
Fellowship — June Irvin

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:

Susie Keck, Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), the family of Lois Bair, Carlton Miller, 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.

