

Faith United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

No Matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey,
You are welcome here!

December 15, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

JOY



*stand as you are able

Prelude "Sleepers, Awake, a Voice is Calling," BWV 645 J. S. Bach

Pastoral Welcome

Come to me all of you who are weary and I will give you rest. - Jesus

Announcements

***Opening Hymn** Angels we have Heard on High #125

***Prayer of Confession**

God, sometimes I forget how miraculous the story of your birth really is. Sometimes my list of things to do during the holidays takes my attention away from the delight of the birth of Jesus. Sometimes materialism and wanting more stuff extinguishes the vibrancy of my faith. Awaken in me the joy of my salvation again. Awaken the gladness in my soul that you have called me by name and have granted me everlasting joy.

Moment of Silence for Personal Reflection

***Promise of New Life**

Behold, God makes all things new! Do not remember the former things. New life springs up and renews us and heals our hurts. Trust that our God is making our very lives new this Advent season.

-Influenced from Isaiah 43

***Sung Response**

From the Cantic of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wonderous things that You bring to the ones who wait.

***Sharing Christ's Peace**

L: The Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another greet and welcome those around you and share "the peace of Christ." If you feel more comfortable you are welcome to place your hands on your heart as you greet those around you. This may be a good option for you if you have social anxiety or are more introverted, this is a symbol of goodwill that you may be more comfortable with. Sharing God's peace can be done in many ways!)

A Time for All God's Children

Following the Children's message, the nursery is available for infants and toddlers under 4 years old. The nursery is located through the door at the right front of the sanctuary, and up the stairs. Church school is available for children and youth (4+ years) in Asendorf Hall (3rd floor). Children are always welcome to remain in the worship service.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Joy

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

L: A word from the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Special Music *In dulci jubilo, BuxWV 52* by Dietrich Buxtehude

Josie Navarra, soprano; Marinda Jenkins, alto

Michael Anderson, bass

Violin, Emmanuel Houndo; Violin, Sarah Buzalewski

Organ, Mark Ferraguto

Sermon

Joy during Hard Times

Prayers of the People

We invite people to share their joys and/or concerns out loud so we can be praying for each other. We believe that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer.

After each expression, please end your prayer by saying *This is my prayer* and the people may respond: *God, hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

Ever loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is 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 Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

Offering

***Doxology**

P: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

We offer our time, talent, and treasure to be part of the movement of God's love. No matter how small or large, these gifts matter. Bless them to bring justice and to offer mercy as a light of guidance in a world in need of hope. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Joy to the World!

#132

***Blessing**

Postlude

Toccatà in G Major, BuxWV 165

D. Buxtehude

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.



December Special Offerings

Please note there are **2** special offerings this month.

The **UCC Christmas Fund** (formerly Veteran's of the Cross) is our traditional December offering.

Penguin Packs is the additional offering, to help cover expenses through the rest of the year because we're serving so many more children than last year.

Please note your offering (amount/organization) in the memo line or on the envelope.

Calendar items are listed in the Announcements.

If you'd like earphones for hearing assistance, please speak with an usher.

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
Liturgist — Anne Colton

Pastor — Jes Kast
Usher — Kees Brandse, Jane Lee Childs

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier
Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

The family of Daniel Pfaff, the family of Richard H. McCormack (Jane Lee Child's brother), Patty Bittner (Jean's daughter), Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Darlene Ripka, the Piggot family.

Please help us keep this list up to date. Notify the office of additions or removals.

Get In Touch with Us!

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On the Web: www.faithucc.info facebook.com/SCFaithUCC

Church Office Email: faithuccsc@gmail.com

Pastor email: PastorJesFaithUCC@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: 9:30 AM– 1:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Pastor Jes' office hours: 9-5 M-Th. Pastor also values community engagement.

Please contact the office ahead of visits.

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