

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

July 15, 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!*

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

Before the service begins

*Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.*

*I’ve heard it in the chillest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.*

*Emily Dickinson, 1830 - 1886*

(the Order of Worship follows)

## 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  
in Romig Hall (lower level of elevator or stairs) after the worship.*

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

### **Prelude**

“On the Shores of Babylon”

J. Pachelbel

### **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**

Beautiful Jesus

**#44**

### **\*Centering Our Souls “Prayer of Praise”**

**All: O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination.**

**You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You.**

**And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast love.**

**We have come to you in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective.**

**Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy.**

**May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now, and forevermore. In Jesus we pray. Amen.**

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

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

**Special Music** Hymne by Vangelis, arr by Don Coate, performed by Abby Reed

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

**Scripture Lesson** Psalm 85:1-11  
Ephesians 1:1-14

**\*Hymn** Come, we who love God's name

**# 379**

**Message** What if Hope is real?

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Unison – The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

### 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**

By the Spirit's inspiration, we give of what we have that your blessings may abound and that goodness may flourish. Instill in us a spirit of generosity that we may do our part to help all who are in need. Pour out your Spirit upon us that we may

envision one world, the world of all of Your children. Let our lives be a testimony of the unifying nature of your love to all that we meet along our life's way. May it be so.

\*Hymn We would be building  
\*Encouragement for the Journey

#607

Postlude Toccata in G Minor J. Pachelbel

**\*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.*

*Worship resources:*

Prayer of Praise: posted on My Redeemer Lives website.  
<http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html>

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 — Larry Bair  
Liturgist — Lois Bair

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers  
Ushers — Larry Bair  
Fellowship — Susan Brandse

## Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier  
Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman  
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

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

Susie Keck, Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Lisa B. (JoAnn's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the Snook family.

*God Answers  
Knee Mail*



***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!

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**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.



### **July Special Offering**

Out of the Cold: Centre County (OOTC<sup>3</sup>-<http://www.ootc3.org/>) provides the homeless in our community with a warm and safe overnight accommodation and nourishment within a welcoming atmosphere as a supplemental option to locally established shelters.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and financial support!



- July 22 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- July 29 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Aug 3 First Friday
- Aug 5 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Church Picnic @ Sunset Park, 4-7

### **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).