

Faith United Church of Christ

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

June 17, 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!

Prelude Galliard from Gloriana B. Britten, arr. for organ by M. Ferraguto

Welcoming the Light of Love in Our Midst

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 for a Spiritual Harvest** “Come, O Thankful People, Come” **#422**

***Centering Our Souls**

O Creator God, we often consider you to be the scatterer of seeds, but you remind us that we are all to scatter the seeds of compassion, encouragement, and comfort.

Help us to recognize the opportunities we have to scatter good seeds in our lives; but more importantly, help us to co-create with you those opportunities.

Remind us to get our rest and sleep so that we do not wear ourselves out in scattering the seed.

But when we awake each morning, inspire us to consider how we can be a blessing in the lives of others.

We know that if we will simply scatter the seeds of love and kindness, that you will find ways to help those seeds sprout and grow.

Grant us the wisdom to know that faithfulness consists in scattering the seeds you give to us to share, and not in guaranteeing the results of our scattering. Help us to trust in your providence that blessings will occur if we but follow your lead. Blessings be.

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Commissioning of the Pastoral Search Committee

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us as the Pastoral Search Committee. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God?

I am.

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

I do, relying on God's grace.

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of God. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Christ Jesus.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of the Pastoral Search Committee, and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive God's blessing and ours in the service you are to perform, in the name of Christ.

May it be so.

A Time for All God's Children

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer: "Poetic Prayer in the Spirit of Christ"

Loving Spirit, who is here and there,
we're grateful for your tender care.

Your virtues rise, your values prized;
near and far, and everywhere.

Feed our bodies, and feed our souls.

And by forgiveness make us whole.

And may we all evils deplore,
as we search and sail for mercy's shore.

May peace and love within us rule,
and justice be your Spirit's tool;

Now and always, for us and others,
and for all creation.

May we make it so, all as one,
by your inspiration.

***Hymn Creating God's Community**

"Enter in the Realm of God"

#615

Scripture Lesson

Mark 4.26-29

Message

"Scatter the Seed, Trusting in Blessing"

***Hymn for Sowing Seeds of Love**

"You Are the Seed"

#528

**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.

*Encouragement for the Journey

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

W. Held

*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 — Larry Bair

Ushers — Larry Bair

Nursery — Lois Bair

Fellowship — Kees and Susan Brandse

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman

Organist—Mark Ferraguto

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), Carlton Miller, Bob Ritzman, 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.

*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!

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.



June Special Offering

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC: to largely support youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message.

Thank you for your consideration and financial support!



- June 18 Consistory Meeting 5:30PM
- June 18-22 Bible Day Camp @ St. John's, Boalsburg
- June 24 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- June 25 61st Anniversary of the UCC!

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 facebook.com/SCFaithUCC
Church Office Email: faihucc@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.