

Faith United Church of Christ

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

February 18, 2018

The 1st Sunday of Lent

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

Canzona in G Minor

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**

Creator of Covenant with all living things: We are thankful for the beauty of earth, of life, and of all creation.

We are grateful for the blessing of each plant, animal, fish, and bird...for clean air, water, and soil.

Let us not take the blessings of creation for granted, but may we rise to be the stewards of the earth that you have called us to be – preserving, nurturing, and protecting all things you have made from the ravages of greed and the myopia of present need.

Inspire us to respect all things – to see all living things as our siblings...to work for the justice of all creation...and to heal all the wounds we have made in the pursuit of selfish aims.

May our minds dawn with the wisdom of how to live in harmony with all things.

May our hearts be warmed with compassion like the heat of the noonday sun.

May our souls find tranquility like the radiant beauty of a multi-hued sunset.

Let our love grow joy of parents at their baby's birth. Let us covenant to care for all creation for as long as we are blessed with the gift of life.

For we are not the owners of this blessed earth and all that we've been given, but rather the curators of creation who are to preserve and restore the beauty of your masterful design.

Let your covenant be our covenant.

May we care for all you have placed in our care with the assiduousness of a sacred promise.

And so may we pass on the beauty with which we are blessed to the 7th and 70th generations that will inherit the fruits of our stewardship. May it be so now and always.

***Hymn for Creation Care**

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

#569

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Choral Anthem

Anthem for Lent 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 Stewardship** “Pray for the Wilderness” #557; vss. 1, 3, 5

Scripture Lesson Genesis 9.8-17

Message “The Covenant with All Creation”

***Hymn for Harmony** “We Live in the Fullness of God’s Whole Creation” see insert

**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

When we give thanks, then go to sow;

Our blessings are assured to grow.

We are not known by what we keep;

We’re known by deeds that others reap.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God, whose coming was tender and mild, but whose presence is empowering and passionate: We are thankful for the hope you inspire in our world where poverty is painful and loving-kindness is lacking. Jolt us with justice that the world’s prayers for peace may be answered. Jostle us with generosity that we may know the joy of giving. In this season of Lent, enter into our hearts that hope may arise within us to expect that which has been promised: that nourishment will be provided for the hungry...that comfort will call upon the suffering...that freedom will ensue for the imprisoned...that justice will be imparted to the persecuted...that compassion will nurture the oppressed...that peace will pacify the violent...and that love will live in the midst of all peoples and creatures that you have declared good. May this gift of hope that you give to us be passed on to others by how we give of ourselves through our time, talents, tithes, and offerings. Blessings be.

*Encouragement for the Journey

Postlude

"Keep us Lord, by Thy Word"

D. Buxtehude

*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 —
Liturgist —	Children's Message — Jean Cole
Acolyte —	Nursery — Jean Cole
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:

Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Family of Lois Bair, Carlton Miller, Don Asendorf, 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.



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.



February Special Offering

[Mid-Penn Legal Services](http://www.midpenn.org) (<http://www.midpenn.org>)

MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit, public-interest law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice and high quality civil legal services to low-income residents and survivors of domestic violence in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "MidPenn" noted in the memo line or on the envelope.

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS** 

- February 18 1st Sunday in Lent
- February 19 Consistory, 5:30 PM
- February 25 2nd Sunday in Lent
- February 26 OOTC3 Begins @ Faith
- March 4 3rd Sunday in Lent

Get In Touch with Us!

Faith United Church of Christ 300 E. College Avenue State College, PA 16801
Tel: (814) 237-3904 Websites: www.fathucc.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.