

Faith United Church of Christ

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

November 18, 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!

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

I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ

J. S. Bach

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!”

***Hymn for Abundant Giving**

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

#565

***Centering Our Souls**

Generous God, who gives not only of your assets, but of yourself:

We are thankful for the bounty that is our in so many ways.

We are thankful for shelter and clothing, food and clean water, friends and family.

Remind us that whatever it is that we think we own, it is only ours to care for and not to keep.

Remind us how to take our duties of stewardship seriously, and to help create a world in which resources are distributed more equitably.

Inspire us to go beyond duty in our giving, sharing joyfully of what we have and who we are with others – our brothers and sisters throughout creation.

If we have been blessed with more than others, let us not take pride in our ability to give more to charity.

For the widow with but a mite, as Jesus said, gave more those who gave much but who had so much left.

Kindle within us a desire to sacrificially give – not because of any honor it brings us, but because of what blessing it brings to others.

And so may we live in right relationship with you and with others. Blessings be.

Stewardship Moment

Lois Bair

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Special Music

Thanksgiving!

by John Ness Beck

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 for Faithful Giving** “Take My Life, God, Let It Be” **#448**

Scripture Lesson Mark 12.38-44

Message “Learning Generosity from the Poor”

***Hymn for Joyful Generosity** “Take My Gifts” **#562**

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**

O God who prods us to be earnest in caring, dutiful in sharing, joyful in giving, and abundant in gratitude: We pray that these tithes of our income, and offerings of our spirit, will be blessed for your purposes near and far. We are doubly blessed in our giving – being able to, and doing so freely from our hearts. Remind us not to be prideful in giving, nor ashamed in receiving; for we are here for each other – sowing seeds of compassion that will feed the world, and together reaping a harvest of peace. May it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

Postlude Now thank we all our God

G. Kaufmann

***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

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman

Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins

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 (hospice), Allen Killpatrick, Bunnie Hartswick (hospice), Jo Ann Edwards, K. Thompson, Ben and Louise Harris, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot's family.

*God Answers
Knee Mail*

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



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.



November Special Offering

Lancaster Seminary (UCC) (<https://lancasterseminary.edu/>) a graduate school affiliated with the United Church of Christ, is known for academic excellence, celebration of differences across Christian traditions, and creative engagement on issues important to our world. Our mission is to educate and nurture leaders to join in God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish.

Calendar items now listed in Announcements

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: 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.