

December 2018

# Faith Works!

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST | STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801 | 814.237.3904 | WORSHIP: 10:45 AM  
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



## MINISTER'S MUSINGS



Seasons Greetings! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. And I pray that the seasons of Advent and Christmas will be even more special and meaningful.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas has always been a favorite time of the year for me. It is a time not only of being with family, but a time that centers on themes of thankfulness, hope, faith, joy, love, and peace. I always try to focus on these things in my own consciousness throughout these holiday seasons, and rarely have I been let down when doing so. Nevertheless, there have been times that I, like many others during these seasons, have been faced with feelings that are not always quite as joyous and happy as we strive to make them to be.

So much attention is given to this holiday that it can either be a positive or negative experience, depending on how life has been recently. Christmas is one of the saddest times for many people. Sorrow, fear, anxiety, and even dread can be at their apex at this time. For those who have never felt alone, despondent, overburdened, heart-broken, or despairing during the holidays, this may not make much sense that some do not anticipate the holidays with joy in their hearts and peace in their minds. For these others, Christmas is indeed the happiest time of the year.

The Christmas “Spirit” certainly bears witness to the positive rather than the negative, and many may attest that the Christmas “Story” does the same. But are we looking at the whole story if we believe Christmas is “only” about peace, love, and joy?

We that are Christians believe that Jesus’ birth brought hope, faith, love, peace, and joy to the world. How can that be anything but a cause for celebration? The singing of tender, inspiring, and heart-warming songs inspires those attitudes in us, and also give us an opportunity to share that attitude with others. These carols tell of the love of Jesus’ parents, the awe of the shepherds, the respect of the magi, the joy of the angels, and even the peaceful contentment of the friendly beasts who shared their stable with the one who would bring all people (and creatures) together in love and harmony...people from every walk and station of life, from every nation and race, and even from every specie. But what about “the rest of the story?”

I consider what it must have been like for Mary to have been told by an angel that she was going to become pregnant and give birth to the Messiah. The biblical text reports her consternation at this at first, while her faith had to play catch-up. Once she did accept that she would bear a child, it must have produced a lot of anxiety and dread in itself. What would her fiancé, Joseph, think when he found out she was pregnant? What would her family and the entire community think? Would they all reject, abandon, and banish her? Since there were stringent laws concerning such matters, would she be imprisoned or even stoned to death? Who could possibly believe her side of the story? And what would it have been like in Joseph’s situation? How saddened, angry, broken-hearted, and despairing was he when he discovered that his fiancé was with child – a child that was not his? Could he believe her? Imagine the vexation he must have later had in seeing the angel. Who could believe his story? Could he even fully believe the angel?





The vexation, anxiety, fear, and dread that both Mary and Joseph had concerning the birth of Jesus was compounded in that they were told he would be the savior of the world. How could any set of parents take on such an overwhelming responsibility to care for whom they were told was God's own son?

The original Christmas story is thus filled not only with numerous causes for celebration, but also for numerous causes for consternation, anxiety, dread, and despair. And perhaps this is why it is a part of "the greatest story ever told." In this way it reflects life as we ourselves know it. The most meaningful and inspiring parts of our life are often the ones in which we do not know the outcome, and in which we may even fear and dread what our practical minds tell us is likely to be the outcome; but, yet, in which our faith tells us to hope and trust in something that will save us from the despair and will guide us like a star to a place where we are reassured and inspired by the presence of God's love and grace in our lives.

Life is not always easy when we have faith. Indeed, that we, like Mary and Joseph, even "need" faith indicates that it is not easy. But faith is what gives it meaning and purpose amidst the trials, struggles, and hardships. Purposefulness is not gained by remaining in the calm of the port of our own understanding, but is found as we lift our sails with faithfulness on life's great ocean amidst the uncertain winds and unnerving waves of anxiety, fears, and dread. By accepting the challenge of our hearts and acting on faith, we become participants in the greatest story ever told – the story of the salvation of all creation.

The Christmas story reminds us that despite our anxieties, fears, bewilderment, and worries, these unsettling states of being need not have the last word on our voyage. It reminds us that we have the greatest opportunity to experience the birth of meaning and purpose in our lives when we open ourselves up to the possibility of hope and faith – even when it seems our ship is sinking mid-ocean. This is the Christmas Spirit: it blows into our lives, fills our sails, and steers our rudder to a world where love, peace, and joy await our arrival.

We do not acquire this Christmas Spirit by ceaseless hours of ease, but by acting on a faith that extinguishes the seemingly endless flames of apprehension, anguish, and discouragement with the quenching love and peace of God. How this happens may pass the understandings of our mind; but if we open ourselves to it, then it may light a different fire in the hearth of our heart – one that does not destroy or incinerate our peace, but warms and lights our way. My prayer for each of you is that you have a very meaningful Christmas that is full of faith.

May love, peace, and true joy be with you and yours this season!  
Pastor Bret

## FROM PASTOR JES

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Dear Faith Church!

I am so thankful for the call to this congregation and so excited to begin working with you all!

May the Lord bless you and keep you especially close during the Advent and Christmas season, and draw all our hearts and minds closer to The Reason for the Season and to one another!

Jessy and I look forward to arriving to you in January. Until then, God's blessings to you all!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jes



The November Consistory meeting began with a pasta meal, which supported one of the many PSU student fundraisers that use Romig Hall and its kitchen.

The majority of the meeting focused on a request from Out of the Cold Centre County to use Faith Church facilities in an initiative to expand their operations to include daytime services for the homeless. This initiative is a response to unmet needs following the closing of Hearts for the Homeless. The request was to use Romig Hall three days per week—Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 to 1:30. OOTC will provide lunch and counseling during these hours. They will provide security by having two staff people on site, will care for laundry required for showers, and will reimburse the church for added utilities and/or increased trash disposal expenses. The OOTC use of Romig Hall was approved by Consistory.

REMINDER—Please return your stewardship response form to the church office!

Sincerely,  
Larry Bair, Consistory President



## Our December schedule:

December 2, 2017

1st Sunday of Advent

Parent Care

December 9, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

Parent Care – Choir program

December 16, 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas program rehearsal

December 23, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent -- Children will present their Christmas program

(Please advise Barb of the availability of your family/children to participate – Email: [bkcwminc@aol.com](mailto:bkcwminc@aol.com))

December 30, 2017 = Christmas Story Video

Please join us every Sunday. You are truly missed when you aren't with us!

Blessings,

Barb Chellman - Church School Coordinator



*To volunteer or for more information about either Church School or Nursery, please contact:*

Barb Chellman: [bkcwminc@aol.com](mailto:bkcwminc@aol.com)

Michelle Barnard: [rmwgrad@hotmail.com](mailto:rmwgrad@hotmail.com)

# TRUSTEES UPDATE

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Our TMT had an unscheduled meeting in November. We received a request from OUT OF THE COLD 3 to use our Romig Hall for daytime care of their clients. They are requesting to use Romig Hall from October through May on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 am through 1:30 pm.

To my knowledge this is Faith Church's first attempt at daycare. Also this is OOTC3's first attempt. Monday and Wednesday will be covered by Saint Paul's UMC, next door, also their first attempt at day care.

TMT and Consistory had many questions. TMT called a special meeting to address these questions. After much discussion, emails, texts, phone calls, questions, possible situations and scenarios, TMT voted unanimously to recommend to Consistory that we take on this important mission. Consistory has agreed this is a most important mission for Faith Church.

TMT also approved at this meeting a snow removal contract which we hope we don't have to use!

Alva Chellman, Junior Co-Chair TMT



## The Caring Network...

What is the Caring Network and what do the Caring Leaders do?

We are very fortunate to have a group of nine Caring Leaders (volunteers) who are friends and members at Faith Church. They are: Edna Bicehouse, Jane Childs, Jean Frank, Sue Doran, Rev. Ernie Hawk, June Irvin, Mary Jane Wild, and Jim and Sally Welsh.

Each Caring Leader has a list of people from the church with whom they keep in contact.

Our main question is: *“How do you want to be cared for?”*

Please let your Caring Leader know if you have a prayer request or if you need help or support in some way.

If you have any questions please call me at 814-777-0339 or email me at [sandy99@onemain.com](mailto:sandy99@onemain.com).

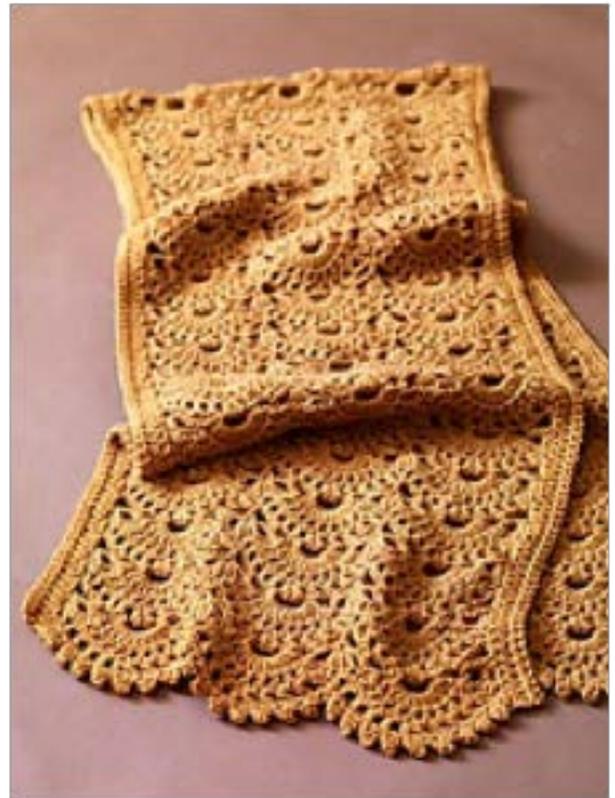
Thank you,

Sandy Miller -  
Caring Coordinator

Part of the Caring Network's work is done through the Prayer Shawl ministry.

Caring Network leaders bring ministry needs to the Pastor and others on the Caring Teams. If you know anyone in the Faith Caring Community (members and friends of Faith) who would welcome receiving a handmade prayer shawl (also known as “comfort shawls” or “peace shawls”), please let Pastor Myers know.

The purpose of the prayer shawls, which are made for both men and women, are to comfort, support, and encourage. Prayer shawls are prayers for healing and hope. Since 2011, we have given over 30 shawls to members and friends of Faith. Each shawl is labeled with a prayer and the name of the recipient.

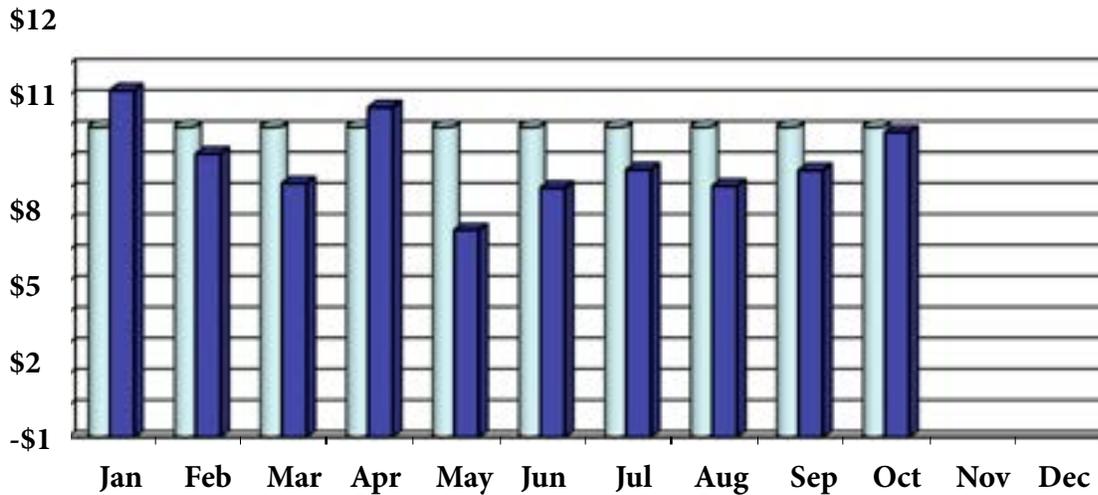


# October 2018

## Faith United Church of Christ

### Monthly Offerings: Budget vs. Actual

Thousands



#### October 2018

Total received = \$9,844      Total budgeted = \$10,000  
Budget to actual difference (Current Month) = ( \$ 156)

#### October Year-to-Date

Total Received = \$89,126      Total Budgeted = \$100,000  
Budget to actual difference (Year-to-Date) = ( \$10,874)

*Thank you for your continued stewardship in providing financial support  
for the missions and ministries of Faith UCC*

# FAITH HAPPENINGS



Rev. Jes has a strong and vibrant online presence. We invite you to explore her work and faithful involvement and service!  
<https://www.revjeskast.com>      <https://twitter.com/JesKast>  
<https://www.facebook.com/jeskast>      <http://instagram.com/revjeskast>



## DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING



**Christmas Fund(UCC)** (<http://www.ucc.org/nin/>) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM).

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.



**Don't forget to browse the Holiday SERRV Craft Shop,** between November 29 and December 16. The shop will be open to the public each Thursday, Friday and Saturday during that period, 11:00-3:00. We will also be open to the congregation after worship on three Sundays--December 2nd, 9th and 16th. Many of these wonderful craft items are "one of a kind," so plan to shop early for the best selection!

You can help us spread the word by inviting your friends and neighbors, and posting to social media. If you have access to an old fashioned bulletin board, pick up a flier to post in the Gathering Space. And there are still some openings for volunteers to staff the sale. If you're interested contact me at 359-6090 or [dvbair@yahoo.com](mailto:dvbair@yahoo.com).

Peace, Lois Bair



### First Night Café

As part of the community First Night festivities, Faith will again offer warm

food and fellowship on New Year's Eve at its renowned First Night Café!

It takes many hands to bring this wonderful project to life, so starting Dec. 2 we'll be asking folks to sign up to supply foods and to volunteer as café workers.

Join the fun and support Faith ministries in the process!

For more information, contact any of the Café Committee members—

Lois Bair, Susan Brandse, Brent Frank, & June Irvin



### Faith Church Cards for Sale—Again!

These beautiful greeting cards were created in 2004, using photos of the church taken by long-time member Bob Dunham.

After a “good run” as a fundraiser for Faith ministries, sales tapered off and the extra cards were stowed away. Time passed (14 years in fact!) and earlier this year the cards were discovered at the back of a cupboard. They are in mint condition, so the Fundraising Task Force enlisted the Women’s Guild to package them for sale once again.

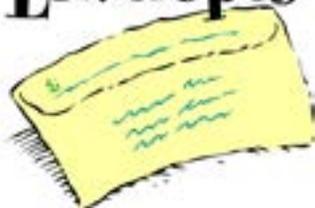
You can find two versions of the cards just outside the Pastor’s office (need room for SERRV!)—one featuring the chancel window with all its rich colors, the other a lovely snowy image of the front of the church—in packages of five cards for \$5.

As in 2004, proceeds will support the ministries of Faith Church.

### Note from Financial Secretary:

2019 weekly dated Giving Envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space beginning **December 2**.

## Offering Envelopes



These are without name or number. If you wish to use giving envelopes throughout 2019 just take a box and using the appropriate dated envelope, add your name and place your envelope (with your offering!) in the offering plate.

Thank you,  
Barb Chellman



### CHOIR Rehearsals

Thursday Evenings @ 7PM  
December 5, 12, & 19

## ANNUAL MEETING



### Reminder!

Mark the Annual Meeting on your calendar: **December 16<sup>th</sup>** after service!

**Consistory expresses its thanks and gratitude** to all who were part of the successful search and call for a settled pastor for Faith Church.



The process took nearly two years and untold hours of work and discussion and, in the end, was spectacularly successful.

December 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 SERRV 11-3
2 SERRV after service	3	4	5	6 SERRV 11-3	7 SERRV 11-3 First Friday	8 SERRV 11-3
9 SERRV after service	10 PCC Ministrium Consistory 5:30 PM	11	12	13 SERRV 11-3	14 SERRV 11-3	15 SERRV 11-3
16 SERRV Finale	17 SERRV Pack up	18 SERRV pack up	19	20	21	22
23 Christmas Fund Offering	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve: First Night Cafe					

JUST FOR



**Directories** are in the Gathering Space. If you would like a new cover with the new Mission and Vision statements, please contact the office to have one printed.

If you'd like to access the digital version, please contact Jeff in the office.

If you have an event, or know of an event that should be listed, please contact the office.

**Weekly announcements** are available on the church website:

<http://www.faihucc.info/news.html>.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## December Highlights



**Ring in 2019** in Downtown State College! Enjoy New Year's Eve at a local restaurant, take in the holiday atmosphere with carved ice sculptures and festive musical and visual entertainment - it's fun for the whole family!

First Night State College will take place in downtown State College, PA and on the University Park campus of Penn State University on December 31, 2018.

More: <https://firstnightstatecollege.com/>



## The Polar Express

December 1, 2, 8 & 9

Schlow Library and State College Municipal Building



<http://www.visitpennstate.org/events/>



## InterFaith Coffee Hour

UNITY – WHAT IS IT? - VIEWS FROM MANY FAITHS.

Come Share Your Own Perspective...

TUESDAY, **DECEMBER 18**, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Webster's Bookstore and Café, Guest Facilitator: Holly Hubregsen

Coffee hours held third Tuesdays, October - March, 6:30-8:00 pm (unless otherwise announced)

Food & beverages available for purchase; anyone making purchase of any kind at Webster's can request a voucher for free parking.

Questions? More information? Contact Sarah: [InterfaithInitiativeCC@hotmail.com](mailto:InterfaithInitiativeCC@hotmail.com)



For a more complete listing of events & happenings for the entire month of November, click this link:

<http://www.statecollege.com/calendar/?category=&title=&start=2018-12-01&end=2018-12-31>

Or copy it into your browser.

## ARBORETUM WINTER CELEBRATION AND HOLIDAY TREE DISPLAY

The Arboretum invites everyone to welcome the holiday season on Friday, December 7, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at a festive gathering in the H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens. Seasonal décor will include a tall tree showcased in the Glass House in the children's garden, and holiday trees at the overlook pavilion, in the children's garden, and along the main walkway. A highlight of the evening will be performances on the event lawn by a cappella ensembles from Penn State and the community singing a mix of popular and seasonal tunes. Performances will begin at 5:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome to bring blankets and chairs to place on the lawn facing the stage. Hot cocoa and cider will be for sale on site. Holiday displays will remain in place until January.



December 7, 2018

Times: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens

Admission: Free

Phone: 814-865-9118

Visit Website: <http://arboretum.psu.edu/>

## Bellefonte Victorian Christmas

The 37th Annual Bellefonte Victorian Christmas is a merry weekend of old-fashioned holiday entertainment, shopping, and social events embodies what is good and wholesome about this holiday of all holidays.



Here are all the events in chronological order so you don't miss a thing! It's a great

way to plan your visit to Bellefonte Victorian Christmas. Also remember all venues are subject to change.

More: <http://www.statecollege.com/calendar/event/bellefonte-victorian-christmas,55673/>

## Lemont German Christmas Market

There will be NEW features this year in celebration of the 10th anniversary. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on Saturday and Speeder rides will be offered by the Bellefonte Historic Railroad Society. There will also be new and returning vendors, and new things to see and do. We are hoping for Christmas tree sales and crafts demonstrations in the lower Coal Sheds. Food sales will be on the lower level as well.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 5 -8 pm  
& SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th,  
10 am - 4 pm

Website:

<http://www.lemontvillage.org/christmas-market>

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND VOLUNTEERS



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 WAYNE BICEHOUSE  
 JEAN COLE  
 MIRA COBLE  
 MEEGHAN HOLLIS  
 14 LOIS BAIR  
 MELISSA COBLE  
 23 CATHY ARBOGAST  
 27 EILEEN PFAFF  
 TOM FOUNTAINE



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

19 JOHN & CYNDI VINCENTI  
 22 TOM & TAMRA FOUNTAINE  
 27 BOB & ANN GRAVES  
 31 BRENT FRANK & STEVEN ROMIG



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DEC 2  
 9  
 16  
 23  
 30

## COMMUNION TEAM

DEC 2 JANE CHILDS, JUNE IRVIN, TSUL-TRIM DATSO,

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

DEC 2  
 9  
 16  
 23  
 24  
 30  
 31 FIRST NIGHT CAFE

## FLOWERS

DEC 2 THE KLEIN FAMILY  
 9  
 16  
 23 POINSETTIAS THROUGH THE REST OF DECEMBER

## LITURGIST

DEC 2  
 9  
 16  
 23  
 24  
 30  
 31

## NURSERY

DEC 2 COMMUNION, PARENT CARE  
 9  
 16  
 23  
 24 CHRISTMAS EVE, PARENT CARE  
 30  
 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE, PARENT CARE

## SUNDAY TRUSTEES

DEC 2 LARRY BAIR  
 9  
 16  
 23  
 24  
 30  
 31

## USHERS

DEC 2 LARRY BAIR, JANE CHILDS, KEES BRANDSE  
 9  
 16  
 23  
 24  
 30  
 31

**Blanks indicate openings.  
 Please notify the office for corrections.**



# WORSHIP CALENDAR



## December 2 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Je 33:14-16  
Ps 25:1-10  
1 Th 3:9-13  
Lk 21:25-26

Holy Communion

*Sign of Things To Come*

## December 9 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Ma 3:1-4 Or  
Bar 5:1-9  
Lk 1:68-79  
Ph 1:3-11  
Lk 3:1-6

*Make Ready*

## December 16 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Ze 3:14-20  
Is 12:2-6  
Ph 4:4-7  
Lk 3:7-18

*Look Forward*

## December 23 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

MI 5:2-5a, Lk 1:46b-55 Or  
Ps 80:1-7  
He 100:5-10  
Lk 1:39-45, (46-55)

*Moving with Mary's Song*

## December 24 Christmas Eve

Is 62:6-12  
Ps 97  
Ti 3:4-7  
Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20

## December 25 Christmas

Is 9:2-7  
Ps 96  
Ti 2:11-14  
Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)

## December 30 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas

1 Sa 2:18-20, 26  
Ps 148  
Co 3:12-17  
Lk 2:41-52

*Who Is This Child?*

## December 31 New Year's Eve

Ec 3:1-13  
Ps 8  
Re 21:1-6a  
Mt 25:31-46

*Watch Night*

### Prayers for healing and wholeness:

The family of JoAnn Edwards, Susie Keck (hospice), Allen Killpatrick, Bunnie Hartswick (hospice), 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.

If you know of a correction or update that should be made to our prayer list, whether an addition or removal, please notify the office.

Also please secure permission of the prayer recipient to have their name published.

Thank you for your help!

These are the standard weekly texts which may or may not be used on a particular Sunday for worship.

If you would like to know what texts are being used, go to the church website on Friday evening or Saturday to check the [online bulletin](http://www.faithucc.info/bulletins.html).

<http://www.faithucc.info/bulletins.html>



## Faith United Church of Christ

300 East College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801

*Contact the office to unsubscribe.*

# Faith Works!

WORSHIP: 10:45 AM

*We welcome children!*

During the service, nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers (up to 4 years old) and Church School for children and youth ages 4+ years (except on Communion Sundays). **Holy Communion is celebrated monthly -- usually every first Sunday.**

Pastor: [faithuccpastor@comcast.net](mailto:faithuccpastor@comcast.net)

Office: [faithucc@comcast.net](mailto:faithucc@comcast.net)

Web Site: [www.faithucc.info](http://www.faithucc.info)

 Facebook: [facebook.com/SCFaithUCC](https://facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)

 Twitter: [twitter.com/FaithUCCSCPA](https://twitter.com/FaithUCCSCPA)