

a monthly magazine publication of Faith Church

Dec 2019

# *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



**Happy Holy Days!**

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

## Christmas Traditions: Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love

Advent commences the time of year that is seasoned with many different traditions. White lights twinkle, colorful lights glitter, humanlike figurines made out of snow and angelic beings decorate storefronts, and evergreens with red bows wind around lampposts on city sidewalks. Everything seems to dazzle a little brighter this time of year and reflect the warmth and love of Christ with us and Christmases past. This time of year is marked by traditions that help us count the years and remind us of what we hold dear.

A tradition in my family growing up was cheese fondue on Christmas Eve. We dipped generous portions of bread into hot cheese fondue almost like it was communion. Christmas Eve was the only time we had fondue; to this day, the taste of grace is like melted cheese on Christmas Eve! As a whole family, after dinner we would go to the candlelight service at church and sing our favorite Christmas Carols just like we will do at Faith this month. At the end of the service, we would light our small candles and the lights would go out as the whole congregation sang Silent Night in the peace of the candlelit tree.

In the midst of our rituals let us also put on the tradition of the virtues of our faith this Advent: peace, hope, joy, and love. I don't know about you, but sometimes those virtues get put away in my life like dusty Christmas figurines, and I have to pull them back out this time of year and polish them



new. We practice these virtues every year and know that the coming of Christ is a cosmic realigning of all the powers and politics on earth. No longer is the world dominated by authorities concerned for only a few, but the coming of the Christ child aligns the whole world back to peace, hope, joy, and love. Love changes the whole world and makes all things new like streets glittering with Christmas lights. We are invited to participate as God chose to put on flesh and become one of us. Amazing isn't it? God wanted to be like us humans so that we could better experience God in our lives.

Marcus Borg in his book *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Say About Jesus's Birth* says, "God's dream for us is not simply peace of mind, but peace on earth." The little baby Jesus, born to his courageous mother Mary, initiated the realm of God's reign where the last shall be first and those who are hungry will be fed and the weakest are the shining examples of God's leaders. God with us is peace on earth.

The arrival of Jesus changes everything and we no longer can simply sit by and not participate. So let us put on the virtues of our traditions of peace, hope, joy, and love this Advent. Each Sunday we will focus on a different virtue as we prayerfully walk

the path to the manger with Mary and Joseph. We are invited to experience Christ alive in our lives each Sunday at Faith UCC this month. This month we will walk the path of peace, celebrate the sacrament of baptism, receive new members in our congregation, and the choir will uplift our souls during their cantata. Each week we will experience the Christ child with us. God is here!

Let us practice the virtues of our faith this Advent and Christmas and put on the dazzling lights of peace, hope, joy, and love. We will arrive to the manger of Christ together on Christmas Eve at 7 pm as we sing with all the angels Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Together in peace, hope, joy, and love – Pastor Jes

# CONSISTORY CORNER



Consistory has continued to find its own “inner turtle” while diligently working toward establishing a bright future for Faith UCC under the mantra of “Gotta have Faith”. Over the last month, Consistory has been busy. The 310 working group recommended to continue to research and uncover new possibilities while moving in a positive direction to secure rental for the 310-property next to the church. Consistory made a commitment to enhancing Faith’s digital front door (website and social media) while upgrading the office computer technology.

Additionally, we started and completed our annual Pledge (Stewardship) Campaign. This year’s campaign included a mailer and personal testimonials on Why Faith Church matters to different members of our congregation. The mailer highlighted some of the ways everyone’s financial donation makes a difference in our lives and all of the lives impacted by our church including: worship with our new settled Pastor, the glorious music heard through our sanctuary and out onto College Avenue, our unapologetic Open and Affirming church values, educating our youth in church school, and the fellowship (after service, during the Strawberry Festival, and at the Chili Café). Our missions in our local community with Penguin Pack and providing nourishment, warmth, and safe daytime and overnight accommodations through Out of the Cold were also highlighted. The testimonies brought to life the deep reasons why we worship together and the importance that we pay it forward to the saints of the future. Every contribution is vital and important for our little church to have a powerful impact on people’s lives through our mission.

This past month strengthened our Faith community, our commitment to each other, and our Faith friends of the Future. If you were not able to make your pledge on Commitment Sunday (November 24, 2019) there is still time. Please send your commitment card back at anytime and we will count you in on helping Faith UCC spread God’s love to our community and beyond.

In Christ’s Service,  
Jared

Jared Hammond  
President of Consistory



# TRUSTEES UPDATE



The TMT shoulders the responsibility of maintenance, upkeep and repair of the physical plant of Faith Church. The TMT is charged with oversight responsibility for memorials, equipment monitoring and liaison with tenants of the church owned property at 310 West College Avenue.

In 2019 the following items were accomplished:

- Door Bell and camera at both the Gathering Space door and Calder Way door

- Refinishing of Calder Way door

- Offices/Nursery furnace repair

- Changing over to LED bulbs where applicable

- TGM – mulch on Flower Beds

- Update pastors office & new desk

- Changed snow removal contractor

- Added day shelter for OOTC3 guests on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday in addition to our 2 week overnight

- Gelnett repaired 2 belt transmitters

- Marcon repaired high gutter above the west lawn

As 2020 fast approaches your TMT has many exciting projects we are anxious to get started. We continue to solicit your input as to how we can better serve Faith Church.

“310”

In February the Charter Foods Corporation informed Faith Church they would not be leasing our 310 property for the Taco Bell Franchise. Thus Taco Bell will no longer be our tenant after February 2020. A 310 group was formed and began exploring our options. After considerable study, research and discussion, the 310 group recommended to Consistory that we find a new tenant at a higher price per square foot than we are currently receiving. We are actively pursuing a new tenant and hope to complete this phase by year end or early 2020. This has been a very interesting and fascinating process to this point. Our superior 310 location on College Ave has attracted so much attention and interest to all parties involved. The interest has been both local and national. We will carefully consider all offers before deciding on one with which to partner. We are looking forward to having a rent paying tenant by late April or early summer. Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward in this important process.



Alva Chellman – Jr. Co-Chair – Trustee Ministry Team

# CHURCH SCHOOL



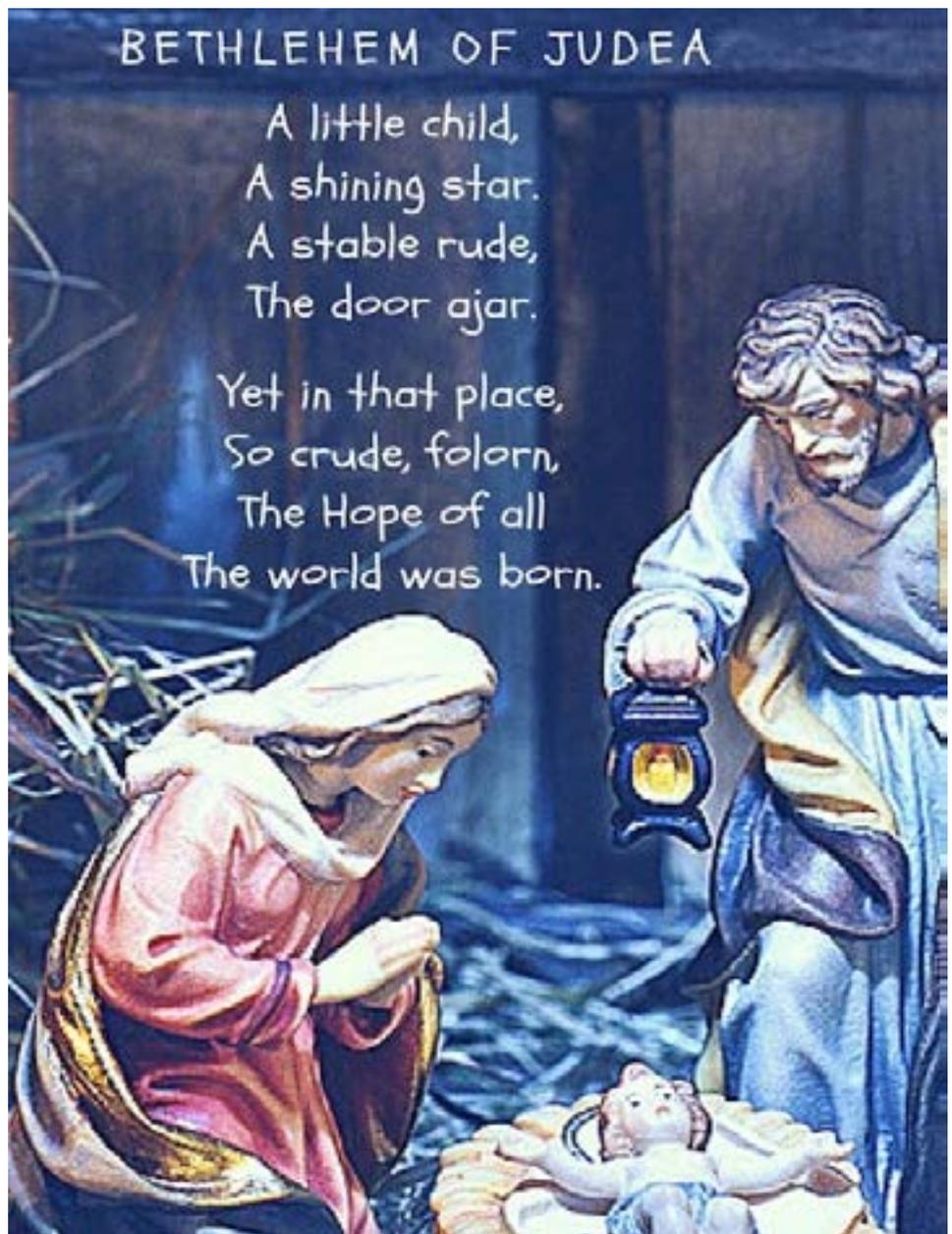
Greetings to our Faith UCC families,

During December we will prepare a short Christmas program to be presented to our congregation at our Christmas Eve service.

We have needs such as additional volunteers and teachers with safe child clearances enabling church school expansion to 2 or 3 age group classes; students to be acolytes; nursery helpers.

Our church School is on its way with our Lord's help, prayers of our people, teachers and helpers. We're looking forward to the New Year providing us the opportunity to grow!

Blessings,  
Barb Chellman



# CARING NETWORK



The Caring Network...

**“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.” Charles Dickens.**

What comes to your mind when you see the word CARE? Have you ever felt others really don't care about you? I often heard people say, “who cares, it's all about them.” Here at Faith UCC we have a caring church family and we invite you to be part of that family.

We have a team of Caring Leaders who help us to stay connected. They inform our Pastor Jes and Sandy Miller, the Caring Coordinator, to decide how to share with our church family. The important question is: How do you want to be cared for? When people share information with us that they wish to keep confidential, we respect their wishes.

The following people, members and friends, are the Caring Leaders who volunteer to reach out to help us stay connected. Each leader will contact the people on their list by calling, sending a note or meet up, to get to know you better. They are: Edna Bicehouse, Jane Childs, Jean Frank, Sue Doran, Rev. Ernie Hawk, June Irvin, Mary Jane Wild, and Jim and Sally Welsh.

Please feel free to call Sandy Miller – [814-777-0339](tel:814-777-0339) – or email [sandy99@onemain.com](mailto:sandy99@onemain.com) if you have any questions or concerns. We want to make sure you are included, and welcomed here at Faith Church.

Part of the Caring Network's work is also done through the Prayer Shawl ministry, by our Women's Guild.

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 Jes know.

The purpose of the prayer shawls, which are made for both men and women, is to comfort, support, and encourage. Prayer shawls are prayers for healing and hope. Since 2011, we have given over 40 shawls to members and friends of Faith. Each shawl is labeled with a prayer and the name of the recipient.



## Special Offerings

UCC offerings like One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross), Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and Our Church's Wider Mission. With exception of OCWM, no line item is needed, since support is given via special offerings. Faith Church has been a "5 for 5" congregation for many years and continues to receive thanks and recognition from Penn Central Conference and the national setting of the church for our efforts!

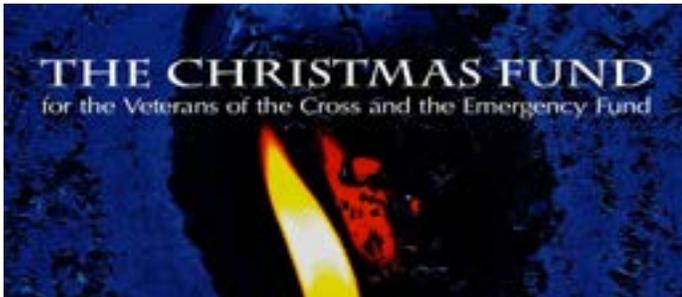
Special Offerings (as of 12/1/18)

Month	Charity	Amount
Jan	Centre Safe	\$365.00
	OOTC	10.00
Feb	Mid-Penn Legal Services	\$370.00
	OOTC	30.00
Mar	One Great Hour of Sharing*	\$415.00
	Penguin Packs (Kiwanis)	1000.00
Apr	Hoffman Homes for Youth	\$380.00
	Penguin Packs (personal)	70.00
May	Hartman Center	\$180.00
Jun	Strengthen the Church*	\$388.00
	Penguin Packs (Noisy Offering)	156.90
	Penguin Packs (personal)	100.00
Jul	Out of the Cold	\$465.00
	+STC	90.00
Aug	Bethany Children's Home*	\$260.00
	Penguin Packs (Noisy Offering)	232.90
	Penguin Packs (personal)	500.00
Sep	Park Forest Pre-School	\$495.00
	OGHS	100.00
	Penguin Packs	10.00
Oct	Neighbors in Need*	\$425.00
	PFPS	50.00
	Penguin Packs	35.00
Nov	Lancaster Seminary	\$310.00
	NIN	20.00
	OOTC3	50.00
	Penguin Packs	255.00
Dec	Christmas Fund*	TBD
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,766.00 (Jan-Nov 2018)</b>	<b>55.77% increase over last year</b>
	<b>\$6752.80 (Jan- Nov 2019)</b>	

\*Conference designated Special Offerings

## DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Please note there are 2 special offerings this month.



The UCC Christmas Fund (formerly Veteran's of the Cross) is our traditional December offering.

For decades, the Christmas Fund has helped provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. At Christmas, the offering provides gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year.

### Penguin Packs

Additional funding for Penguins Packs will help the program make it through the end of the year. Why are we off budget? A 50% increase in the number of children being served! This year's count is 75, compared to last year's 52!



### SERRV



Don't forget to browse the Holiday SERRV Craft Shop, between **December 5 - 22**. 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 8, 15 and 22. 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, check the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space, or contact me at [422-8441](tel:422-8441) or [dvbair@yahoo.com](mailto:dvbair@yahoo.com).

Peace,  
Lois Bair



WISHING WELL DAYS ARE COMING UP!

Our congregation is an active member of Interfaith Human Services, and for many years we have helped raise funds for people in Centre County who are in need.

One service is ringing the bells. Last year over 800 people from many congregations, organizations, and businesses volunteered to help.

This year the campaign will run from **Friday, November 29th to Monday, December 23**. IHS will ring bells on Saturdays at The Corner Room and the Benner Pike Walmart, and every day at Meyer Dairy. Our congregation has signed up for one day, December 4, at Meyer Dairy. If you are available, please sign up to ring the bell, won't you? And consider making it a family/friend affair.

The sign-up sheets are ready for you to choose times, an hour shift or two. It's fun, and a good way to get into the holiday spirit!

Thank you very much for helping others – it will bring joy to many in Centre County!

**The Adult Forum** class meets at 9:30 every Sunday in the library room. The first Sunday of each month is used for a discussion of current published articles of interest to Faith members. Other Sundays currently study Christianity from the Reformation until today. About half the time is watching a DVD on the day's topic with the remainder of the time used for discussion.

December Topics:

12/8--No Class

12/8--Christian Missions & Moral Reform

12/15--The Church's Encounter with Modern Learning

12/22--Fundamentalism & Pentacostalism

12/29--No Class



## Directory

A new directory will be published shortly after Consistory changes are made.

And with so many new folks joining Faith Church, we want to ensure we have accurate contact information.

If your contacts have changed, if you would like your contacts in the updated directory, or you've never let us know how best to contact you, use this QR code to go to the online form created for this.

The form also includes requests for other optional information.



<https://fucc.breezechms.com/form/24e4f1>

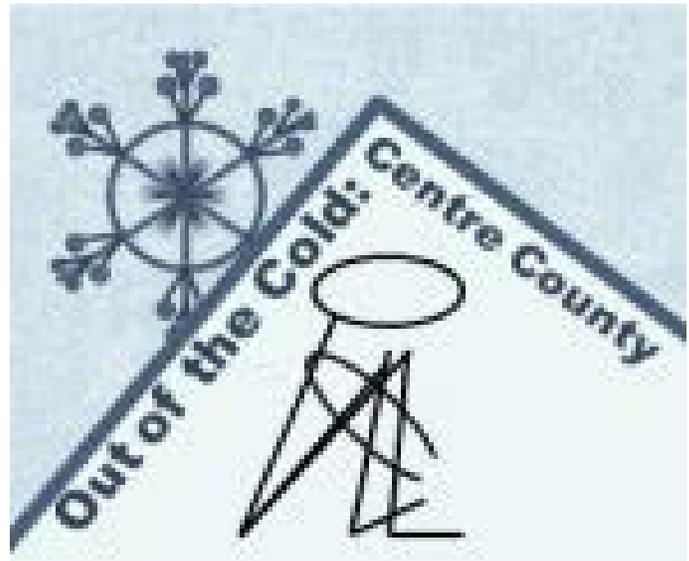


## OOTC Overnight

January will be here before you know it and as a steadfast partner with OOTC, Faith is hosting the overnight shelter from **Jan 2-13**.

Check out the Volunteer Handbook (Use the link below or pick up a hard copy on the Gathering Space table). <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vv0-LjR6WtHaeGhKXlmy0mzS-d5LVZGgyfDyPcWijoc/>

Use the Signup Genius link to indicate whether you'd like to help with overnight supervision, meals, or other needs as listed. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f45a9ad2ba5fa7-faith>



## Something new:

This year, Faith will be partnering with the State College Evangelical Free church. They wanted to get a feel for what volunteering was like their first year before committing to hosting. They have access to the same signup, so you may see unfamiliar names.

It is truly exciting to see that Christ's People, even when doctrine & teachings are very different, join together in demonstrating Jesus' love to a needy world.

Jeff is the point of contact for both congregations: admin here, elder there. Contact him if you have questions or would like help signing up.

## 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. 8 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, Jane Childs, Brent Frank, & June Irvin (see the Café flyer on the next page).

JUST FOR



It's that time of year to be **heavily** investing in stocks.

Beef, Chicken, Vegetable ...

Someday you, too, could be a bouillinaire!

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

(an Open and Affirming Congregation - ONA)



The First Night Chile Cafe is celebrating its 26th year in conjunction with the State College First Night celebrations (also celebrating 26 years). The Cafe is open from 4 - 6:30 pm, December 31. Proceeds benefit the ministries of Faith Church.

**Come enjoy a variety of homemade chili and cornbread, hotdogs, desserts, and beverages!**

Donation: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 10., \$6 for college students, and \$20 for a family of 4.

Use the Calder Way entrance and take the stairs down to Romig Fellowship Hall. Wheelchair friendly entrance is off Locust Lane (marked Office) with an elevator to the hall.

# FAITH CALENDAR



## December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	2 SERRV Set Up	3 SERRV Set Up Trustees 7 pm OOTC Day	4 SERRV Set Up OOTC Day SMART Recovery	6 SERRV Sale 11-3	6 SERRV Sale 11-3 First Friday	7 SERRV Sale 11-3
8 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata SERRV Sale after service (Gathering Space) Habitat Fundraiser 2-6 (Romig)	9	10 OOTC Day  Hands for Hope Fundraiser 5-8pm	11 OOTC Day SMART Recovery	12 SERRV Sale 11-3 OOTC Day	13 SERRV Sale 11-3  Apollo (THON) Fundraiser 5-8	14 SERRV Sale 11-3
15 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	16  Consistory 5:30	17 OOTC Day	18 <i>FW Deadline</i> OOTC Day SMART Recovery	19 OOTC Day	20	21
22 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent SERRV Sale after service Annual Meeting	23 SERRV Pack Up	24 OOTC Day Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25  Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day OOTC Day	27	28
29 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas	30	31 OOTC Day First Night Chili Cafe New Year's Eve Ser- vice 7pm	January 1  New Year's Day	2	3	4



## DID YOU KNOW?

“Happy Holidays” isn’t just about Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s. Here are a few other holi-  
days from mid-November through early January:

- Mawlid el-Nabi — Islam (honors the birth of The Prophet)
- Hannukah — Judaism (Festival of Lights)
- Solstice — Pagan, Wiccan (Shortest Day of the year)
- Zarothost Diso — Zoroastrian (Death of the Prophet Zarathustra)
- Rohastu — Buddhist (Bodhi Day)
- National Bacon Day (self evident, right?)



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

All announcements are available on the church website:

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

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## December Highlights

Experience the cool vibe of downtown State College during our monthly **First Friday** events.

A casual atmosphere features art, people-watching, mingling with friends, shopping, and dining at the diverse and delectable State College restaurants.

First Friday goers will experience after-hours access to galleries and shops, free bites and beverages, live music and entertainment, retail and restaurant specials, and more.

And there's free parking in the Pugh, Fraser and Beaver garages with validations from participating merchants.

Start Time: 5:00 pm  
Location: Downtown State College  
Address: 127 S Fraser Street  
Website: <http://firstfridaystatecollege.com>



<https://happyvalley.com/state-college-pa-things-to-do/events/state-college-penn-state-event-calendar>

[Use the Date Search function on the left.](#)



<http://www.visitpennstate.org/events/>  
Use the Date Search function on the left.



[https://www.statecollege.com/calendar/?start\\_ts=1573534800&end\\_ts=1573707600](https://www.statecollege.com/calendar/?start_ts=1573534800&end_ts=1573707600)

# Service of Hope: Blue Christmas



**Thursday, December 19, 2019**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Congregational Care and Stephen Ministry Teams of Grace Lutheran Church, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Faith United Church of Christ, State College Presbyterian Church, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

A Blues Christmas is to console and serve those dealing with loss.

#HT Elvis

Contact the office if you'd like to know more.

# BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND VOLUNTEERS



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- DEC 1
- 8
- 15
- 22
- 23 CHRISTMAS EVE
- 29
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

## COMMUNION TEAM

DEC 1

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- DEC 1
- 8
- 15
- 22
- 23 CHRISTMAS EVE
- 29
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE / FIRST NIGHT

## CHILI CAFE

## FLOWERS

- DEC 1
- 8
- 15
- 22
- 23 CHRISTMAS EVE
- 29
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

## LITURGIST

- DEC 1 SUE CROMWELL
- 8 CHRISTMAS CANTATA
- 15 ANN COLTON
- 22 JIM WELSH
- 23 SUE CROMWELL (CHRISTMAS EVE)
- 29
- 31 (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

## NURSERY

- DEC 1 COMMUNION (PARENT CARE DAY)
- 8
- 15
- 22
- 23 CHRISTMAS EVE
- 29
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

## SUNDAY TRUSTEES

- DEC 1
- 8 TOM DAUBERT
- 15
- 22
- 23 CHRISTMAS EVE
- 29
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

## USHERS

- DEC 1
- 8 TOM DAUBERT, JANE LEE CHILDS
- 15
- 22
- 23 CHRISTMAS EVE
- 29
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

# WORSHIP CALENDAR



You will notice that the readings below are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary, hosted by Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

All the text references are listed for use with other translations.

Clicking the link for each date will take you to the NRSV reading at the Lectionary, where all the scriptures listed for that day are displayed in one place for your convenience.

DECEMBER 1 [1st Sunday of Advent](#)

HOLY COMMUNION

DECEMBER 8 [2nd Sunday of Advent](#)  
CHRISTMAS CANTATA, BAPTISMS, NEW MEMBER WELCOME

DECEMBER 15 [3rd Sunday of Advent](#)

DECEMBER 22 [4th Sunday of Advent](#)

DECEMBER 23 [Christmas Eve](#)

DECEMBER 29 [1st Sunday After Christmas](#)

DECEMBER 31 [New Year's Eve/Watch Night](#)



## Prayers for healing and wholeness:

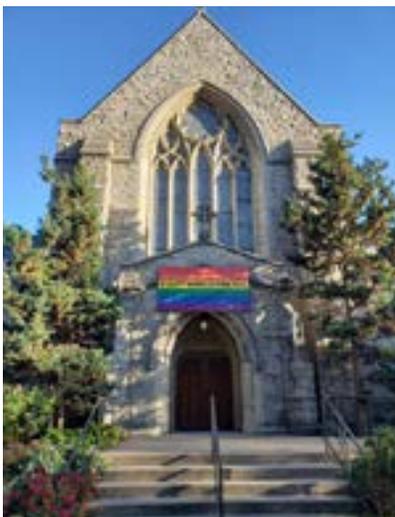
The family of Daniel Pfaff, the family of Richard H. McCormack (Jane Lee Child's brother), Patty Bittner (Jean's daughter), Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Darlene Ripka, the Piggot family.

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

Also *please* secure permission of the prayer recipient to have their name(s) published.

Thank you for your help!

Scripture texts and Lections are from the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings, hosted by Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. See the [Terms of Use](#) for copyright details.



## Faith United Church of Christ

300 East College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801

*Contact the office to unsubscribe.*

# FaithWorks!

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: [PastorJesFaithUCC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorJesFaithUCC@gmail.com)

Office: , [faithuccsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithuccsc@gmail.com)

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)