

January 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

Loading
2019

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

Happy New Year, Faith UCC friends and members!

I am grateful to God to finally be with you as your Pastor and fellow sojourner of the Spirit. My wife and I have moved to the area and are slowly beginning to make a new home in this wonderful place we call Happy Valley. I have traded towering concrete buildings for majestic mountains, and I do believe this is an upgrade! It is good to be with you all. I am looking forward to getting to know you more very soon as we work together to follow God's leading in the ministry that God has entrusted to us.

The liturgical year begins with holy curiosity. January 6th commences the season of Epiphany. Epiphany (θεοφάνεια) means an appearance, a manifestation, or a glorious display. It's the moment when we think "Ah, ha! I have never seen it that way!" Epiphanies awaken our souls to the profundity of the mysteries of the universe.

My first Sunday with you we will read the story about inquisitive sojourners and their caravans from far away lands who made a long journey to visit the newborn Christ Child. These pilgrims of the desert had an epiphany of their own. The Gospel of Matthew recounts it this way:

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. – Matthew 2:9-11

These curious stargazers believed that the cosmos spoke of the wonders of God. Indeed, the Holy Spirit spoke to these magi as they faithfully began a journey to explore the questions they had. Did they know whom they were about to visit? Were they scared? Excited? I imagine many of the questions we have in our spiritual journeys they also had.

At the very beginning of the Christian story, God weaves interfaith friends together in holy curiosity. God is always drawing new people together and making the table of our Lord bigger so that each person has a seat at the feast of grace. As we contemplate this story this month and curiously get to know each other more, my prayers are with us as we wonder who might need a church home like ours. How is God calling us to reach out to our community in new ways? What do our individual souls need to awaken to the mysteries of God more profoundly? I wonder what epiphanies God will reveal to us this year.



As we begin to get to know each other and build our relationship as Pastor and congregation, let us, friends in Christ, be like the magi setting out on a journey of curiosity, asking these questions: How will God use us together in the ministry of grace? In what ways is God calling us to continue the compassionate courageous ministry of Faith? What new ministry are we called to?

My soul comes alive pondering these questions with you, so during the month of January, I have set up times to meet with you over coffee/tea both in the church and at local coffee shops. I am calling these Listening Cafés. You will quickly learn that I like good coffee and good tea. I believe these hot cups bring people together. I desire to get to know you, listen to you, and facilitate chances for us to get to hear each other and God in our midst. Please stop by at one of these times and introduce yourself for an informal chance to fellowship together!

Listening Cafés for January

- Tuesday, January 8th 10:00-11:30 am at Faith UCC
- Thursday, January 17th 10:00 – 11:30 am at Faith UCC
- Wednesday, January 23rd 3:30-5:00 pm at Webster's Bookstore
- Monday, January 28th 9:00 – 10:30 am at Panera (corner of Allen and Beaver)

The star of wonder leading the wise ones to Jesus is the same star of wonder shining in our life today. The light is always offering us direction and leading us to new epiphanies for our souls. I pray you feel the warmth of this light in our new ministry together.

God's grace and peace,
Pastor Jes





MINISTER'S MUSINGS



The end of the year is also the end of the interim period for Faith UCC. It has been a season of trying some new things, of adapting to new circumstances, and for continuing the journey of our spirits in familiar and unfamiliar ways. An important part of the journey has been to prepare for receiving a new settled pastor, someone who obviously will not be a replica of any former pastor and one whom will have her own interests and passions both inside and outside the setting of the church. I pray that you will all welcome Rev. Jes Kast with not only open minds and helping hands, but with hearts full of warmth for who she is just as she is. I pray for you to inspire her ministerial aptitudes to be for you the kind of pastor that she wants to be for you, and that helping her to live up to and into this calling will be a blessing for the church as a whole, as well as for each of you individually.

I have both enjoyed and struggled in my own serving of you, and I suspect there will be some of both in this next phase of Faith UCC history. We all are, after all, human and do not always see things as others do. It is testimony to the spiritual health of churches and individuals to be a blessing to one another even when differences arise. I pray that this spirit of siblinghood will be strong for all of you as you venture forward in faith.

The behavioral covenant, core values, vision, and mission statements that were created are excellent guiding stars in your future endeavors as a church family called by God into the future. Look to them to remind you of the values and virtues, purposes and meanings, which will bless your common life if you but let God's Spirit lead and direct.

My prayers go with you as a congregation. Faith UCC, as I affirmed when I first came and still believe, has the potential to do great things in State College and the wider community and world. Do not underestimate yourselves or take easier roads than God has in store for you. You are a haven for those often excluded by others, a sanctuary for those needing spiritual edification and guidance, and a source of inspiration for those looking for a religious home that is willing to speak truth to power and walk beside the oppressed. I pray these attributes of your identity will not only continue, but flourish.

I, too, ask for your prayers as I seek a new place to be in ministry. I am still living in the mystery of what is next, but I trust that blessings will be forthcoming even as they have been with you and in the past. In all things, may God's love go with us, God's joy find its way into our hearts and minds, and God's peace abide within us and between us and others as we embark upon the year, and years, ahead.

Blessings to you always,

Rev. Bret S. Myers



The December meeting of Consistory was held on Monday the 10th and primarily focused on finalizing Annual Report items for the congregational meeting on the 16th.

At this writing, there are a number of important events on the horizon:

- Don't miss the children's program during worship on December 23.
- Please join us Christmas Eve at 7:00 for a candlelight service of lessons and carols.
- Rev. Myers' last Sunday worship service will be on December 30. Following the service there will be a special coffee hour to thank Pastor Bret for his nearly two years as Interim Pastor at Faith.
- On New Year's Eve, Pastor Bret will lead a short meditation in the sanctuary beginning at 7:30.
- On January 6 join us for the first Sunday of the new year as we welcome our new settled pastor, Rev. Jes Kast.

Christmas joy to all!

Larry Bair
Consistory President



CHURCH SCHOOL



Our **January** schedule:

- January 6, 2019: First Sunday after Epiphany - World Wide Communion – Parent Care Day
- January 13, 2019: Second Sunday after Epiphany - Water into Wine/ The Wonderful Wedding Party
John 2: 1 - 11
- January 20, 2019: Third Sunday after Epiphany - Jesus Learns About His Job/Just What the Doctor Ordered
Luke 4: 14 - 21
- January 27, 2019: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany - Jeremiah Becomes a Prophet/ Yes, You Can
Jeremiah 1: 4 - 10

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

Blessings,
Barb Chellman - Church School Coordinator

*Dear God,
Thank You for this journey with Your children.
Open our hearts that we may feel Your love. You are
with each of us when we are together and apart! Amen*



*To volunteer or for more information about Church School, please contact: Barb Chellman: bkcwminc@aol.com

For information about our Nursery, please contact: Matthew Haines: mzh687@psu.edu

TRUSTEES UPDATE



The Trustees did not meet in December.

On behalf of the entire team, may you have a joyous celebration of the New Year and many blessings in 2019!

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.

Thank you,

Sandy Miller -
Caring Coordinator

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

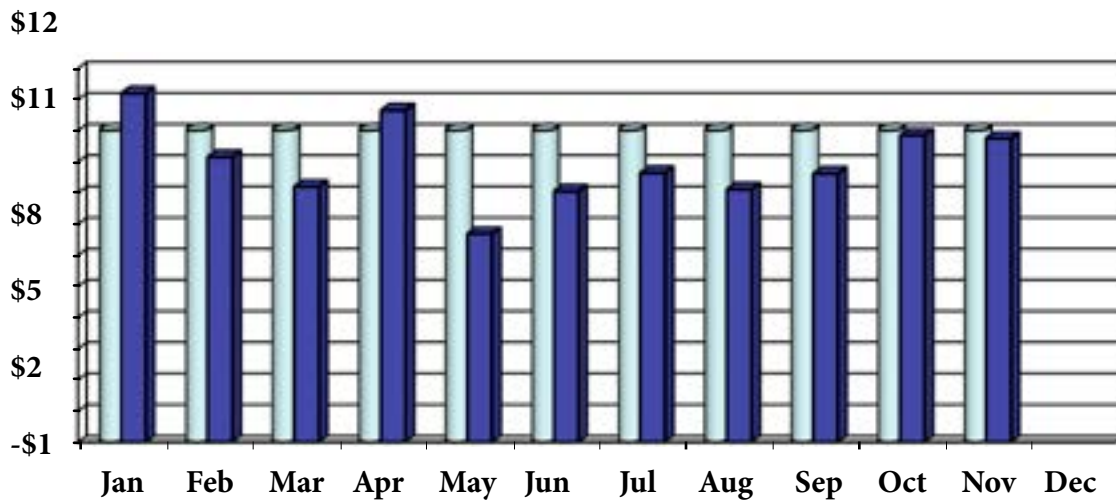
Caring Network leaders bring ministry needs to the Pastor and others on the Caring Teams. If you know anyone in the Faith Caring Community (members and friends of Faith) who would welcome receiving a handmade prayer shawl (also known as “comfort shawls” or “peace shawls”), please let Pastor Myers know.

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.



November 2018 Faith United Church of Christ Monthly Offerings: Budget vs. Actual

Thousands



November 2018

Total received = \$9,744 Total budgeted = \$10,000
Budget to actual difference (Current Month) = (\$ 256)

November Year-to-Date

Total Received = \$98,870 Total Budgeted = \$110,000
Budget to actual difference (Year-to-Date) = (\$11,130)

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



JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

Centre Safe, formerly the Centre County Women's Resource Center, provides services for women, men, and children who have experienced dating & domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations.



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

Learn more at: <http://ccwrc.org/>

Note from Financial Secretary:

2019 weekly dated Giving Envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space.

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



Thanks to you—

—the 30th annual SERRV sale was a success!

Whether you helped with setting up, manning the register, packing up, or purchasing items, your participation serves hundreds of individuals and families in the SERRV network.

Peace, Lois Bair

FAITH HAPPENINGS CONTINUED



First Night Café—25 Years of Partnership!

The 25th annual First Night Chili Cafe celebrated its Silver Jubilee along with First Night State College this year.

As part of that celebration, these special placemats were created to honor the partnership, not only with FNCS, but with many other community organizations that Faith Church touches.



Faith Church supported these organizations in 2018 via Donations, Gifts, Participation, & Facilities Use:
(click the logo to go to their web page)



The Adult Forum Class

continues to meet at 9:30 each Sunday morning.

We have been studying the first part of 'The History of Christianity from the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation.'



Each class consists of a 'Great Courses' talk by an expert (by DVD) of about 30 minutes followed by an open-ended discussion.

We expect to follow this course for most of the first quarter of 2019.

The topics expected for the four Sundays in January are: The Councils and the Trinity, Expansion Beyond the Roman Empire, Justinian and Byzantine Christianity, and Eastern Orthodoxy and Islam.

Please join us in Meyer Library for a interesting and productive experience.



CHOIR Rehearsals

Thursday Evenings @ 7PM
January 10, 17, 24 & 31



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>

Christmas Cantata





Dear Friends of Hartman Center,

We can't make our hopes and dreams for Hartman Center come to life without HELP!!!

Lots of people committed to many different opportunities to serve in many different ways. And the organization of such a group needs "called out". And so in 2019, we are announcing a

Hartman Center Legion

I would give credit for the idea to a comment Scott Owens made after a recent Hartman Center BOD meeting. He jokingly emailed. "We will need 100 people to get done what we hope to get done!" I replied, "That's a great idea."

Part of the mailing for the February LOVE OFFERING (promotional info, labels) for HC will include this invitation to join an elite and committed group of people called The HARTMAN CENTER LEGION (sure a history buff knows that a Roman "legion" has lots more than just 100. But you have to start somewhere.)

Folks who sign up will be asked to support one or more of the following:

1. An annual "Love Offering" gift directly or through their local church.
2. Help recruit for the summer camping and other Conference sponsored programs (maybe as a BIG SPLASH visitor...certainly in their home congregation).
3. Be willing to attend a WORK WEEKEND the first weekend in May (May 2-5) to help get camp ready for the summer
4. Be part of an elite team with high level construction /handyman skills that could be called upon for special projects (example...upgrading Michaux Lodge after 35 years of great memories).
5. Be part of an elite team that seeks to encourage and attract other non-profit groups to use HC facilities especially year-round and weekly
6. Be part of a special project to restore the Stone House for historical purposes and finally,
7. Volunteer to be part of an elite team of leaders (Directors, SSTs, Counselors, and nurses) for the summer camping program.
8. Be part of elite teams to plan Hartman Center Fundraising events (like Fall Festival or the Golf Outing).

So what am I asking you RIGHT NOW? Let me know if you think the LEGION is a good idea. Better yet, let me know if you will be a member of the LEGION. PLEASE let me know at abushnell@aol.com

As always, thanks for your support for Hartman Center.

Dave Bushnell

January 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 First Friday	5
6	7	8 Trustees 7pm	9 SMART Recovery	10 ESGMT 1pm	11	12
13	14	15	16 FW Deadline SMART Recovery	17	18	19
20	21 Consistory 5:30	22	23 SMART Recovery	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 SMART Recovery	31		

JUST FOR



Besides training all the major Greek heroes, Chiron was also a doctor.

That would also make him the Centaur for Disease Control.



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



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



[2018-19 LIHEAP Seasons Begins](#)

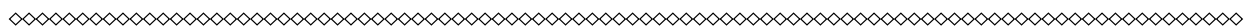
LIHEAP is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills. The season is now open. There are links for making application in the link above.

[PA General Assistance Program Has Restarted](#)

This link updates a previous notice sent in September—applications are being accepted and the program officially restarted on November 19. General Assistance provides a small monthly grant--approximately \$200--to qualified individuals, usually the poorest of the poor. This page provides comprehensive information about the program: <https://clsphila.org/GA>

[Federal Government Resources for Protecting Houses of Worship](#)

This is a bit more sobering. The Department of Homeland Security sent a notice/reminder of its resource for congregations following the shooting at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh. While none of us like to think about the possibility violence or destruction happening in our worship settings, recent events like Tree of Life, California fires, hurricanes, and other incidents remind us that preparations can be important. The DHS guide and links (at the link above) provide information that may be helpful in a variety of situations.



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.

[Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light](#)

is making plans for our 8th Annual PA to DC Bike Trip from May 10-15, 2019.

For the second year in a row, we'll have two groups, one originating in the State College area and one in the Philadelphia area making the trip to raise a faith voice for action against climate change. This public statement of concern is also a fundraiser for PA IPL and riders spend a day on Capitol Hill advocating for policies that will turn the tide of climate change and protect God's creation and God's most vulnerable people.

This year, we hope to recruit more riders and still have a diverse group so we are asking potential riders to fill out an application between now and January 28. The participants will be selected and make commitments by mid-February.

The application form is at paipl.us/what-do-we-do/



Interfaith Power & Light

A Religious Response to Global Warming



[clickable link](#)



Save The Date!

Penn Central Conference
Open & Affirming Winter Gathering

Saturday, February 23, 2019
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA

Does "All Are Welcome" REALLY MEAN ALL?
Why don't LGBTQ+ and allies attend our welcoming
&
inclusive churches? Are there actions, words, symbols
or signs
that trigger feelings of exclusion? Is this just "political
correctness" OR is it loving kindness?
More Information to Follow!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND VOLUNTEERS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 JOHN VINCENTI
- 6 WILLIAM HAMMOND
- 10 SAMUEL PELLETIER (CHILD)
- SUE CROMWELL
- 22 BOB GRAVES



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- JAN 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

COMMUNION TEAM

- JAN 6

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- JAN 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

FLOWERS

- JAN 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

LITURGIST

- JAN 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

NURSERY

- JAN 6 COMMUNION, PARENT CARE
- 13
- 20
- 27

SUNDAY TRUSTEES

- JAN 6 LARRY BAIR
- 13 TOM DAUBERT
- 20
- 27

USHERS

- JAN 6 WAYNE & EDNA BICEHOUSE,
- JANE LEE CHILDS
- 13 TOM DAUBERT
- 20
- 27

Blanks indicate openings.
Please notify the office for corrections.



January 6 Epiphany of the Lord

[Is 60:1-6](#)

[Ps 72:1-7, 10-141](#)

[Ep 3:1-12](#)

[Mt 2:1-12](#)

Holy Communion

January 13 Baptism of the Lord

[Is 43:1-7](#)

[Ps 29](#)

[Ac 8:14-17](#)

[Lk 3:15-17, 21-22](#)

January 20 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany

[Is 62:1-5](#)

[Ps 36:5-10](#)

[1 Co 12:1-11](#)

[Jn 2:1-11](#)

January 27 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany

[Ne 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10](#)

[Ps 19](#)

[1 Co 12:12-31a](#)

[Lk 4:14-21](#)

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

Cyndi V's Family (mourning brother Steve), the family of Susie Keck, the family of Bunnie Hartswick, the family of JoAnn Edwards, Allen Killpatrick, 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!



Scripture texts in the links are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Lections are from the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings. See the [Terms of Use](#) for copyright details.

From the online Revised Common Lectionary is a project of the [Vanderbilt Divinity Library](#), a division of the [Jean and Alexander Heard Library](#). 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.faihucc.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

Office: faithucc@comcast.net

Web Site: www.faithucc.info

 Facebook: facebook.com/SCFaithUCC

 Twitter: twitter.com/FaithUCCSCPA