

Faith United Church of Christ

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

June 24, 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

Pastorella from BWV 590

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!”

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.”

***Hymn for Immigrants**

“When Jesus Went to Egypt”

see insert

***Centering Our Souls**

You, O God of all people, call us to go to the other side to be a blessing to those unlike ourselves.

We sometimes tremble in fear if we consider what could happen, but we are calmed when we feel your presence with us in following your lead.

There are times when our boats seem too small for the seas we must travel, and while we may ourselves seem insignificant in accomplishing the tasks of which you ask us to do, our trust is in your ways, come what may.

When our boats are rocking and we feel water coming in, remind us to steer towards your shores.

Grant us peace by taking away our fears. Inspire our faithfulness by considering our calling rather than our circumstances.

Still within us the storms of discontent and the waves of blame. May it be so.

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

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 the Storms of Life**

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

#441

Scripture Lesson

Mark 4.35-41

Message "Feeling Small in Life's Storms? Enlarge Your Faith!"

***Hymn for Faith in the Journey** "Jesus Calls Us to a Journey"

Tune: Promise 87.87 D; Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986; Words: Rev. Bret Stuart Myers, 6/18/2009

Jesus calls us on a journey / to an unfamiliar land;
To a place that seems so foreign / and that we don't understand;
Though we're called out in the evening / when we're weary and afraid;
In his boat we'll find assurance / if its on his course we're staid.

On the journey we'll encounter / violent winds and crashing seas;
And our doubts will come a streaming / in the midst of our dis-ease;
We will wonder why we ever / left the safety of our shore;
Why we ever dared to follow / such a faith that's now a chore.

While our voyage may be fearful / and we wonder why we dare;
To risk life and its contentment / when the world seems not to care;
Peace we'll find amidst our struggle / though the waves be thrashing
'round;
If love guides our every purpose / then in love we will be found.

When we're asked to leave our comfort / of opinions we hold true;
When we're asked to hear a stranger / whose own views we've misconstrued;
When we go through stormy waters / asked to see the other side;
If in peace we row together / then with Jesus we abide.

Let us fear not what's before us / though the crowds we leave behind;
Let us seek to know the "other" / with an openness of mind;
Let us sail to new horizons / where we'll find our destiny;
We'll respect, affirm, each other / and we'll live in harmony.

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**

By the Spirit's inspiration, we give of what we have that your blessings may abound and that goodness may flourish. Instill in us a spirit of generosity that we may do our part to help all who are in need. Pour out your Spirit upon us that we may envision one world, the world of all of Your children. Let our lives be a testimony of the unifying nature of your love to all that we meet along our life's way. May it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

Postlude

Fugue in C Minor, BWV 575

Bach

***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.

The altar flowers are given with thanks for the generosity of the Meyer Dairy family, Joe and Carolyn, Denny and Cheryl, in again providing the ice cream and strawberries for the Strawberry Festival.



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.



June Special Offering

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC: to largely support youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message.

Thank you for your consideration and financial support!



- **June 25** **61st Anniversary of the United Church of Christ**
- **July 1** **13th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
- **July 4** **Independence Day**
- **July 6** **First Friday**

Get In Touch with Us!

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

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

Trustee — Larry Bair

Nursery — Lois Bair

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers

Ushers — Larry Bair

Fellowship — Sue Doran

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier

Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman

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, Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Carlton Miller, Bob Ritzman, 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.