

Faith United Church of Christ

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

February 25, 2018

The 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

Fugue from Sonata in D Minor

Mendelssohn

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.”

***Centering Our Souls “Let Something Essential Happen to Me”** by Ted Loder

O God, let something essential happen to me, something more than interesting or entertaining, or thoughtful.

O God, let something essential happen to me, something awesome, something real.

Speak to my condition, Lord, and change me somewhere inside where it matters, a change that will burn and tremble and heal and explode me into tears or laughter or love that throbs or screams or keeps its terrible, cleansing silence and dares the dangerous deeds.

Let something happen in me which is my real self, God.

O God, let something essential and passionate happen in me now. Strip me of my illusions of self-sufficiency, of my proud sophistications, of my inflated assumptions of knowledge and leave me shivering as Adam or Eve before the miracle of the natural--before the miracle of this earth that nurtures me as a mother and delights me as a lover; the miracle of my body that breathes and moves, hungers and digests, sees and hears, that works the most amazing messages of what and when and how, coded and curled in every cell and that dares to speak the confronting word.

O God, let something essential and joyful happen in me now; something like the blooming of hope and faith, like a grateful heart, like a surge of awareness, of how precious each moment is, that now, not next time, now is the occasion to take off my shoes, to see every bush afire, to leap and whirl with neighbor, to gulp the air as sweet wine until I've drunk enough to dare to speak the tender word:

"Thank you";

"I love you";

"You're beautiful";

"Let's live forever beginning now";

and "I'm a fool for Christ's sake."

May it be so, now and always.

***Hymn for Global Citizenship** “God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command” #592

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Choral Anthem My Soul Cries Out to the Lord by Jay Althouse

A Time for All God's Children

peoples and creatures that you have declared good. May this gift of hope that you give to us be passed on to others by how we give of ourselves through our time, talents, tithes, and offerings. Blessings be.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

Go to be a blessing! This is your calling.

Do not worry whether your task is difficult, or your efforts are successful.

Life is serendipitous; so what you may think will or has failed may actually renew a life.

Advocate for justice for those unlike you.

Work for peace with those opposed to you.

Kindness offered and love delivered can transform relationships.

Trust in this! Live by this!

Let God be responsible for the outcome;

just commit yourself to the journey of sacred living.

If you do, you will find that you will have not only been a blessing to others, but that the synergy of life will have created a blessing for you.

Rev. Bret Stuart Myers, 3/9/2017

Postlude

Finale from Sonata in D Minor

Mendelssohn

***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.



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.



February Special Offering

[Mid-Penn Legal Services](http://www.midpenn.org) (<http://www.midpenn.org>)

MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit, public-interest law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice and high quality civil legal services to low-income residents and survivors of domestic violence in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with “MidPenn” noted in the memo line or on the envelope.



- February 26 OOTC3 Setup (OOTC Feb 26-Mar 11)
- March 4 3rd Sunday in Lent
- March 11 4th Sunday in Lent
- March 12 OOTC3 Tear Down
- March 17 St Patrick's Day

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](https://www.facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)
Church Office Email: faihucc@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	Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers
Trustee —	Ushers —
Liturgist —	Children's Message — Tsultrim Datso
Acolyte —	Nursery —
Fellowship —	

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier	Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Organist—Mark Ferraguto	Choir Director – Mike Dolan
	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:

Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), the family of Lois Bair, Carlton Miller, Bob Ritzman, the family of June Brown, 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.



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*