

Faith United Church of Christ

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

August 26, 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

Now Pray we to the Holy Spirit

D. Buxtehude

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**

We come to pay reverence to the divine and our highest ideals:

From day to day, we are tempted to follow other paths and live by other values.

We come to be strengthened in God’s ways, and to rely upon the power of the sacred in our lives more than the power of human assurances.

God’s ways are our only true defense. We pray for courage and determination to let love, peace, and justice permeate our lives more than all those things that oppose these things.

We will encounter hardships in standing for what is right, but we will not renounce truth to make ourselves more at ease.

We will stand for what is right – both for ourselves and for others.

We will work for peace; not only as just a distant goal, but as a present testimony by the peaceful ways in which we live.

Our faith in God’s ways will shield us from the distractions that ask us to live by other standards.

Our saving grace is to live by God’s ways of peace and nonviolence in all our relationships.

We take with us into the world God’s word that maintains our focus and keeps us faithful.

We pray for the one’s most committed to your ways, O God, for their suffering is often great.

We pray too for our own boldness in following in your ways, now and always.

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: “Poetic Prayer in the Spirit of Christ”

Loving Spirit, who is here and there,
we’re grateful for your tender care.

Your virtues rise, your values prized;
near and far, and everywhere.

Feed our bodies, and feed our souls.
And by forgiveness make us whole.
And may we all evils deplore,
as we search and sail for mercy's shore.

May peace and love within us rule,
and justice be your Spirit's tool;
Now and always, for us and others,
and for all creation.
May we make it so, all as one,
by your inspiration.

***Hymn for Living by Christian Values** "Faith of the Martyrs" **#381**

Scripture Lesson Ephesians 6.10-20

Message "The Need for a Different Kind of Armor"

***Hymn of Discipleship & Service** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" **#495**

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**

We are called to be a generous people, always building up the Body of Christ. Let us not forget our calling, but to humbly, patiently, and gently live it day by day. Let us help bear with love the burdens of the weak, the poor, and the oppressed – coming to their aid in word, in action, and by sharing what we have with them. Let us all make every effort to build unity between ourselves and our brothers and sisters throughout the world, letting your Spirit lead and strengthen us so that we may create the bond of peace with justice that makes us all one. Let these gifts we offer today aid this calling we have from you, and so also aid those most in need. May it be so.

*Encouragement for the Journey

Postlude

Now Praise we the Lord

D. Buxtehude

*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.

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 — Larry Bair Fellowship — Jean Cole
Ushers — Larry Bair, Lois Bair, Jane Lee Childs

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Organist—Mark Ferraguto Choir Director— Marinda Jenkins
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:

Cyndy (Marilyn's daughter-in-law), June Irvin, Ben and Louise Harris, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, Susie Keck, Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Lisa B. (JoAnn's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee Dad), the Piggot's family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the Snook family.

*God Answers
Knee Mail*



Flowers courtesy of Martha Thompson
Welcoming back new and returning students and vacationers!



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.



August Special Offering Bethany Children's Home

(<http://www.bethanyhome.org>) is Pennsylvania's first DPW Sanctuary[®] Certified agency, having earned the certification in 2010. Thanks to their Sanctuary[®] accreditation, youth who have been abused and neglected have the opportunity to live the lives they deserve. Unique and specialized programs give youth access to a variety of therapeutic, spiritual, and cultural services in addition to recreational activities.



- Aug 27 Consistory Meeting, 5:30 **Note date change**
- Sep 1 Appalachian State 3:30
- Sep 2 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sep 7 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.faihucc.info 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.