

Faith United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

No Matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey,
You are welcome here!

May 26, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

Eastertide



*stand as you are able

Prelude

Echo Fantasy in D

J. P. Sweelinck

Pastoral Welcome

This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: The living water, Jesus Christ, calls us together in the spirit of love.
Come to the fountain and dip your heart in the stream of life.

**People: Water renews and refreshens,
Water heals and restores.**

L: Jesus is the Living Water who welcomes us in worship today.
We remember our baptisms as nothing can take the water of God from us.

P: Let the water of God strengthen our roots like a plant growing in the ground, so that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

***Opening Hymn** Great Work Has God Begun in You

#353

Text: Carol Birkland (1995); Tune: William P. Rowan (1993)

1 Great work has God begun in you, so let the Spirit follow through;
The mark of Christ upon your brow, baptismal touch remember now.

2 In love, God calls you to this day, and gives you strength, these vow to say;
Take up the faith that you were shown, and grow assured you are God's own.

3 Around God's table celebrate the end of bondage, sin and hate:
A feast of love and victory, the gift of Christ who sets us free.

4 Great work has God begun in you; take on God's love in all you do,
And may that love in you increase--now, with God's blessing, go in peace.

***Prayer of Confession**

God's invitation to us thirsty people is clear:

"Come to the waters of life."

Everyone is thirsty!

"Let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'"

Everyone is thirsty!

"So let everyone who is thirsty come!"

Everyone is thirsty!

Let all who are thirsty take the water of life as a gift.

The water of life is a gift, and everyone is thirsty!

O God, the waters of life are your gift, in trust for us all.

**And yet we are so often careless with that precious gift,
and render your waters undrinkable,**

unable to support your precious life on land, in animals, in people.

We turn fresh water into a commodity, and sell it to those in need.

But everyone is thirsty, and the water of life is a gift!

L: Forgive us for abusing and hoarding and selling your water.
Remind us that part of our human oneness is thirst for life-sustaining water.
Empower us to advocate just practices for all who are thirsty:

P: For the water of life is a gift, and everyone is thirsty!

Moment of silent reflection

***Promise of New Life**

In Christ we are forgiven and refreshed and empowered
to celebrate all God's good gifts and to share them in justice and peace:
For the water of life is a gift, and everyone is thirsty! Amen.

***Sung Response** De colores (Sing of Colors)

#402 (vs 2)

Sing, rejoicing!

Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.

Sing, rejoicing!

Sing to God Who so earnestly care, Who has offered salvation.

Sing the good news!

Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.

**Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

**Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

***Sharing Christ's Peace**

L: The Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another greet and welcome those around you and share "the peace of Christ." If you feel more comfortable you are welcome to place your hands on your heart as you greet those around you. This may be a good option for you if you have social anxiety or are more introverted, this is a symbol of goodwill that you may be more comfortable with. Sharing God's peace can be done in many ways!)

A Time for All God's Children

Following the Children's message, the nursery is available for infants and toddlers under 4 years old. The nursery is located through the door at the right front of the sanctuary, and up the stairs. Church school is available for children and youth (4+ years) in Asendorf Hall (3rd floor). Children are always welcome to remain in the worship service.

Reading of Scripture

Acts 16: 9 -15

Revelation 21:10-22:5

L: A word from the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: River of Life

***Hymn** Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

#539

Text & Tune: Richard Gillard, 1977

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ in you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear,
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Prayers of the People

We invite people to share their joys and/or concerns out loud so we can be praying for each other. We believe that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer.

After each expression, please end your prayer by saying *This is my prayer* and the people may respond: *God, hear our prayer.*

In the strength of the unity of our faith, we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us....

Lord's Prayer

Ever-loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

*Doxology

P: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

As for us, Holy God, we offer our gifts to bring healing to the broken, hope to those in despair, light to those in shadows, and grace for all your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Tune: NETTLETON, 1813

1 Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

2 Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

ORDER OF BAPTISM

PASTOR: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was upset, and said to them,

PEOPLE: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

PASTOR: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

PEOPLE: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

PASTOR: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

PARENTS: **We do**

PASTOR: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

PARENTS: **We do**

PASTOR: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

PARENTS: **We will, with the help of God.**

PASTOR: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

PARENTS: **We do, with the help of God.**

PASTOR: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help him to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

PARENTS: **We do, with the help of God.**

***CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

All are invited to stand as the congregation is asked to make promises

PASTOR: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

PEOPLE: **We promise our love, support, and care.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

PASTOR: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

PEOPLE: **I believe in God.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE: I believe in Jesus Christ.

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

(congregation may be seated)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

PASTOR: Let us pray. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the child being baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

PASTOR: By what name will your child be called?

PARENTS: Jacob William Ferraguto

PASTOR: Jacob William Ferraguto, I baptize you in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PASTOR: The Holy Spirit be upon you, **Jacob**, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

PASTOR: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons, daughters, and children in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

Bless the parents of this child. Bless the sibling of this child. May he always show his gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for you all. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PRESENTATION

Pastor: Sisters, brothers, and siblings of Christ, I present to you **Jacob William Ferraguto**, a beloved child of God!

***Closing Hymn**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#82

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajada, 1983, 1990; Tune: Traditional Welsh melody

1 Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Walking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

2 Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

***Blessing**

Postlude

Gigue in C Major

D. Buxtehude

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.



May Special Offering



Hartman Center is the Outdoor Ministries facility owned by Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ since 1964. Programming includes retreats, conferences, workshops, dinner meetings, summer camps, and other events. Hartman Center is located about 20 miles southeast of State

College on old Rte. 322 in Milroy PA. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and financial donations! <https://www.hartmancenter.com/>

Calendar items are listed in the Announcements.

If you'd like a large print bulletin or earphones for hearing assistance, please speak with an usher.

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 — Neil Christy
Liturgist — Jessica Young
Fellowship — Sue Doran, Martha Thompson
Pastor — Rev. Jes Kast
Ushers — Jane Lee Childs

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier
Organist—Mark Ferraguto
Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

The family of Don Asendorf, the family of Lynn Christy (Neil's brother), Don Asendorf, the family of Jane Sheckells, the family of Allen Killpatrick, Patty Bittner (Jean's daughter), Dan and Eileen Pfaff, 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.

Get In Touch with Us!

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Pastor email: PastorJesFaithUCC@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: 9:30 AM– 1:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Pastor Jes' office hours: 9-5 M-Th. Pastor also values community engagement.

Please contact the office ahead of visits.