

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

November 26, 2017

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!*

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.  
William Arthur Ward*

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.  
1 Peter 4:10*

*For it is in giving that we receive.  
— **Francis of Assisi***

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust<sup>[a]</sup> consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust<sup>[b]</sup> consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.  
Matthew 6:18-21 NRSV*

## **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 Thank We All Our God"*

*J. H. Knecht*

### **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 Giving Thanks**

*"How Can I Say Thanks"*

**#14**

### **\*Centering Our Souls** Psalm 100

**L:** Shout for joy to the Lord, everyone on earth.

**P:** Worship the Lord with gladness.

**Come to him with songs of joy.**

Know that the Lord is God.

**He made us, and we belong to him.**

**We are his people.**

We are the sheep belonging to his flock.

**Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple.**

**Give praise as you enter its courtyards.**

L: Give thanks to him and praise his name.

P: The Lord is good. His faithful love continues forever.  
It will last for all time to come. Amen.

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

### WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Why I Love Faith UCC: A Stewardship Moment

*Clovis Morrisson*

Choral Anthem

May We to Thee Belong

arr. by Walter Ehret

A Time for All God's Children

Prayers

*Sharing Our Joys and Concerns*

*Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People*

*Pastoral Prayer*

*The Prayer Jesus Taught* (unison) *Please feel free to do the version you know, or the one below:*

"Our heavenly Creator, sacred be your name: your kin-dom\* come, your will be done, on earth as if 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 yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen"

\*"Kin-dom" is an inclusive, non-authoritarian, and egalitarian term that reminds us that we are all "kin" as the children of God.

\*Hymn for Giving Time

"Take My Life"

#448

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 6:19-21

Message

"A Matter of the Heart"

\*Hymn for Giving Treasure

"Take my Gifts"

#562

### 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*

When we give thanks, then go to sow; Our blessings are assured to grow.

We are not known by what we keep; We're known by deeds that others reap.

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

O God who prods us to be earnest in caring, dutiful in sharing, joyful in giving, and abundant in gratitude: We pray that these tithes of our income, and offerings of our spirit, will be blessed for your purposes near and far. We are doubly blessed in our giving – being able to, and doing so freely from our hearts. Remind us not to be prideful in giving, nor ashamed in receiving; for we are here for each other – sowing seeds of compassion that will feed the world, and together reaping a harvest of peace. May it be so.

**\*Encouragement for the Journey**

"The *meaning* of life is to find your gift. The *purpose* of life is to give it away."

—*Pablo Picasso*

Postlude

Toccata in G Minor

J. Pachelbel

**\*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.



**November Special Offering**



**Lancaster Seminary** (UCC) is a vibrant, diverse learning community known for academic excellence, celebration of differences across Christian traditions, and creative engagement on issues of importance to our world. Your generous gifts help to provide scholarships for seminarians. Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Lancaster Seminary"



- **November 26**    **Reign of Christ**  
                         **Jerry Thomason, speaker**
- **November 30**    **SERRV Sale Begins**
- **December 1**     **First Friday**
- **December 3**     **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**
- **December 10**    **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**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](http://www.faihucc.info), facebook.com/SCFaithUCC  
 Church Office Email: [faihucc@comcast.net](mailto:faihucc@comcast.net) Pastor's Email: [revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com)  
 Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

Please make an appointment with Rev. Myers if you would like to meet with the pastor.  
 You may call the church office, or his cell at 608-370-9472.

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 —             |
| Acolyte —                        | Nursery —                        |
| Fellowship —                     |                                  |
| Guest Speaker: Jerry Thomason    |                                  |

Church Staff

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Custodian — Scott Luzier | Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman |
| Organist—Mark Ferraguto  | Choir Director – Mike Dolan                  |
|                          | Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer      |

***Prayers for healing and wholeness:***

The family of June Brown, the family of Bill and Mary Jane Wild, the family of Jean Weller, 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.

Announcements can be found online here:<http://faihucc.info/news.html>