

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

May 27, 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**

I Call to Thee Lord Jesus Christ

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.”*

**\*Centering Our Souls**

God of justice and judgment: You call us as people with unclean lips and impure hearts to put our past expectations of who we are and can be behind us so that we might live in the fullness of your glory and grace.

**Too often we imagine experiencing that glory and grace without considering what we will have to do in order to have that experience.**

For you do not call us to simple, comfortable, and easy lives. You call us to live by your ways of peace, justice, and love – advocating for “the least of these” in their sufferings while admonishing ‘the greatest of these’ for their oppressions.

**We do not wish to have the burning coal of prophecy to touch our lips, for we know the pains that the prophets of old, and the prophets of now, have suffered for their words and deeds.**

Yet it is faithfulness to respond, “Here am I, send me!”, whenever you call, and wherever that call may lead.

**Grant us the courage of Isaiah and the prophets. Instill in us a commitment to work for peace, promote justice, and live with love towards all your peoples, creatures, and creation.**

Teach us how to be prophets if that is your calling to us. Or teach us to support and encourage the prophets if that be our role.

**For in every generation, culture, and people there is a need for prophets to speak truth to power, even as there is a need for us all to be the caretakers of our brothers and sisters all around the world.**

Give us discernment for the vision ahead, strength for the mission of the present, and encouragement from the memories of the past.

**Help us to mobilize your church for outreach and compassion, for the nurture of souls and the healing of bodies, both near and far. Blessings be.**

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

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

**Choral Anthem** How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings Fair

Robert J. Powell

**Blessings of Farewell for the Music Ministry of Michael Dolan**

*Words of Thanks by the Pastor*

*Reflections from Michael*

*Congregation:* Michael, for your service to God through music as witnessed in our church, we thank you for the beauty, the dedication, and blessing you have brought to our times of worship together. We wish you blessings of farewell as you move from this place to the place where God calls you next. We pray that you will continue to bring the beauty and blessing of music to the new ventures in your life. God bless you in all the ministries in which you are called. May God's love and peace abide with you always.

**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 of Advocates for Justice**

"O God of Earth and Altar"

**#582**

**Scripture Lesson**

Isaiah 6.1-8

**Message**

"Touched by Prophetic Fire"

**\*Hymn for Prophetic Witness**

"Here I Am, Lord"

**see insert**

**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**

Short Prelude and Fugue in F Major

J. S. 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.*

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

## 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:**

Carlton Miller, Susie Keck, Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), 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.

*God Answers  
Knee Mail*



### **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 (<https://www.hartmancenter.com/>) 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 donation.



- **May 27**     **Trinity Sunday**
- **May 28**     **Memorial Day**
- **June 1**      **First Friday**
- **June 3**      **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **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](http://www.faithucc.info)     [facebook.com/SCFaithUCC](https://www.facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)  
Church Office Email: [faithucc@comcast.net](mailto:faithucc@comcast.net)     Pastor's Email: [revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com).