

Faith United Church of Christ

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

April 29, 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!

POINTS TO PONDER

Pre-service

"I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like,
but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us,
[God] will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?';
rather God will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'"

Mother Teresa, 20th century

"The mark of the faithful community is how it loves, not who are its members"
Gail O'Day

CALLED TOGETHER AS SPIRITUAL FAMILY

Call to Worship

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

How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou

M. Dupré

Welcoming the Light of Love in Our Midst

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

Leader: Christ says: I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.
What do you say?

People: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Shelter us!

L: Christ says: You have been cleansed by the word
that I have spoken to you.

P: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Prune us!

L: Christ says: Abide in me as I abide in you.

P: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Sustain us!

L: Christ says: Apart from me you can do nothing.

P: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Save us!

L: Christ says: Ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

P: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Alleluia!

***Hymn of Easter Tidings**

"I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

#251

***Centering Our Souls (unison prayer)**

**Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and word,
feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every
day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have
commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation.**

**Restore us this day that we may abide in your love and live out your
mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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."

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Choral Anthem

Sing, My Soul, God's Wondrous Love by Arlen Clarke

A Time for All God's Children

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

*Hymn of Faith

"I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty"

#50

Scripture Lessons

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Message

"Love Abides"

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE THROUGH FAITHFULNESS

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a way of pruning - letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves - so that we may extend God's love in the world. Let us give our gifts of love and mercy.

Offertory or Vocal Solo

Organ Improvisation

****Song of Dedication***

Tune: Old Hundredth

Our Easter joy triumphant rings!

Our resurrection hope does spring!

Christ's love and peace will ever rise,

when we see through forgiving eyes!

****Unison Prayer of Dedication***

O God, let these gifts grow to reach the whole world with love.

Remain in these gifts, O God, so that future generations might know that we love them as much as we love you. Amen

*Hymn for Sending Out

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

#82

***Encouragement for the Journey**

L: Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed,
securely abiding as branches of the true vine.

**P: Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you
by the One who never lets you go.**

L: Seek out those who abound with sacred questions,
and be ready to answer a mystery with love.

Go with the blessings of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
today and always.

Postlude

Fugue in C Major

G. F. Handel

***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
Trustee — Neil Christy
Nursery — Lois Bair

Guest Pastor — Rev. Ann Graves
Ushers — Neil Christy
Fellowship — Sue Doran

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:

Susie Keck, 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.



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.



April Special Offering

Hoffman Homes for Youth serves boys and girls ages 6 to 18 with mental health diagnoses by providing behavioral and cognitive therapy, physical health care services, education, spiritual nurturing and a safe and comfortable home for up to 141 children.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Hoffman Homes" noted in the memo line.

More at: <http://hoffmanhomes.com/>



- **April 29** 5th Sunday of Easter, Rev Ann Graves
- **May 4** First Friday
- **May 6** 6th Sunday of Easter
- **May 8** Trustees' Meeting, 7 PM

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 facebook.com/SCFaithUCC
Church Office Email: faithucc@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.