

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

July 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!*

## **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**

“Our Father in Heaven Above”

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."*

**\*Hymn of God's Presence**

"God Is Still Speaking"

***see insert***

## **\*Centering Our Souls**

Creative Spirit, you have taught us by example how to confront the void and make something vital and beautiful...how to, amidst emptiness, conceive a purpose for life and to follow it to completion.

**We are thankful for your artistic flair in designing a world of color, diversity, and interdependence...a place full of freedom and blessing, of harmony and grace.**

Let us be mindful of our own purpose here on this splendid planet, and may we resolve to commit ourselves to doing our part to make it a more wonderful, just, loving, beautiful, caring, and joyous place for all its inhabitants.

**Imbue our spirits with passion to fulfill our purpose, that which you have called us to be as co-creators with you.**

When we are sick, anxious, or in need, may we follow you to the mountaintop of good tidings, remembering the freedom you have designed us for and the liberation you have guided us to embrace.

**Let us listen in awe-struck silence as you speak to us of the higher altitude of virtue to which we are to aspire.**

Let us make a feast there of your wisdom, and may we find nourishment in the life of love and peace to which feeds our hunger for justice and quenches our thirst for righteousness.

**Let us be true to this higher purpose of living a good life, rather than being content with making a good living.**

By your example of generosity and sharing, may we give of what we have, and of who we are, that others, too, may be fed by the contagious spirit of believing in our abundance and trusting in our blessings.

**Put our gifts to good use in building a community of brotherhood and sisterhood with all peoples and creatures of the world. Keep our minds set on the purposes of peace, and hearts set on the lavishness of loving-kindness.**

Let not others distract us from our life's purpose and goals, as well-intentioned as they may be in having us to follow other tempting paths.

**When our days grow dark with anxieties and fears, lighten them with hope and faith. When the seas of our ordeals become rough and unruly, quiet our waters with a trust in your plans for our lives.**

Teach us how to walk on the waters of discontent...how to buoyantly float above the waves of hardship and turmoil.

**Bring us near to the shoreline of our dreams and expectations -- that we may not be terrified of the storms of life, but will stand on the firmament of faithfulness.**

And so may our time pass on this earth with this purpose, with this conviction, with this hope, and with this faith that we may be purveyors of your truth and beauty.

**Let our lives be a living miracle of what it means to life purposefully for the cause of goodness, and the establishment of virtue in our own characters, so that your Spirit may ever more fully live in us. Blessings be.**

**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 Feeding Others**

**"God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"**

**#531**

**Scripture Lessons**

**John 6.1-21**

**Message**

**"A Polylogue: Reflections on a Few of Jesus' Miracles"**

**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**

Fugue from Sonata No. 6 in D Minor

F. Mendelssohn

**\*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 — Larry Bair  
Nursery — Lois Bair

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers  
Ushers — Larry Bair  
Fellowship — Jean Cole

### Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier  
Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman  
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:***

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'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.



## July Special Offering

Out of the Cold: Centre County (OOTC<sup>3</sup>-<http://www.ootc3.org/>) provides the homeless in our community with a warm and safe overnight accommodation and nourishment within a welcoming atmosphere as a supplemental option to locally established shelters.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and financial support!



- Aug 3      **First Friday**
- Aug 5      **18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Church Picnic @ Sunset Park, 4-7**
- Aug 12     **19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**
- Aug 19     **20<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).