

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 2, 2017

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 a.m.

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

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

-- Berthold Auerbach

*"(Music) gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination,
and charm and gaiety to life and to everything."*

-- Plato

*"Feelings aroused by the touch of someone's hand,
the sound of music, the smell of a flower,
a beautiful sunset, a work of art, love, laughter, hope and faith
- all work on both the unconscious and the conscious aspects of the self,
and they have physiological consequences as well."*

-- Bernie Siegel

*"Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul
for the education of its virtue."*

-- Plato

*"I never force myself to be devout except when I feel so inspired,
and never compose hymns of prayers unless I feel within me
real and true devotion."*

--- Franz Schubert

“My poems are hymns of praise to the glory of life.”

--- *Edith Sitwell*

“Hymns are meant to be sacred music – that which connects us with the divine. The combination of the tune and the words are designed to resonate with our souls. Many hymn writers have written words to already familiar tunes, and many tunes have also been composed to affix to the poetry of words. Not every tune or set of words will speak to everyone, but we know when it speaks to us. It is always a blessing to feel within oneself the sanctity and beauty of words matching music. But to pass that blessing on to others by telling them how a particular piece is meaningful to us multiplies the blessing.”

— *Rev. Bret S. Myers, 6/27/2017*

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 "To you alone, Lord Jesus Christ" J. Pachelbel

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.

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**

"UCC Statement of Faith in the form of a Doxology"

#885

***Hymns On Creation**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	vs 1 & 2
When Morning Gilds The Skies	v 1
For The Glory Of The Earth	v 1

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

Jacki Hunt

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Unison Prayer

“Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer”

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen

***Hymn on the Spirit** “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine” all verses

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 33.1-5
Isaiah 42.9-12
Psalm 92.1-4

Singing Our Favorite Hymns & Telling Why We Love Them

Led by Jacki Hunt

When a hymn that you selected or find meaningful is sung, please share your story of it with others.

***Hymns Through The Ages**

My Life Flows On In Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing) vs 1 & 3

Early 20th Century

I Would Be True vs 1 & 2

God’s Eye Is On The Sparrow v 1

In The Garden vs 1 & 2

Called As Partners In Christ’s Service *all verses*

African American/South African

Every Time I Feel The Spirit all verses

I’ve Got Peace Like A River all verses

We Are Marching In The Light Of God twice

Late 20th Century

Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant all verses

Touch The Earth Lightly all verses

In The Bulb There Is A Flower all verses

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. Amen

Encouragement for the Journey

"Seekers Benediction" from Seekers Church, Washington, D.C.

Go into the seething cauldron of the world.

Listen for the questions and voices that you would rather not hear.

Answer them with the energy of the Holy Spirit,
the power of the One who gives us life,
and the boundless love of Christ.

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 smart phone to be directed to our online donation page.



June Special Offering

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC: to largely support youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the “God is still speaking,” message.

Please note “STC” in the memo line of your check or on the giving envelope. Thank you for your consideration and financial support!



- July 4 Independence Day
- July 7 First Friday
- July 9 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- **Communion Sunday**
- July 16 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- July 23 Sixteenth 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 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. Tues, Wed, & Fri

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	Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers
Ushers — Lois Bair	Trustee —
Liturgist — Tina Aumiller	Children's Message — Jacki Hunt
Acolyte — Aubrey Coble	Nursery —
Fellowship —	Song Leader — Jacki Hunt

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier
Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Choir Director — Colin Ruffer
Pianist — Jacki Hunt
Organist—Mark Ferraguto
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:

Linda Merchant, Lisa B. (JoAnn's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Bunnie Hartswick, Katelynn Wilson, the Family of Jean Dreese, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Parrish Family, the Piggot family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the family of Ruth Tressler, the family of Susan Meyer, and Bob Dunham

Altar Flowers Courtesy of
Joe and Carolyn Meyer



Nourishment for the Journey

Worthy Dreams

Dream largely

*that your mind will have to expand
that your heart will have to open
that your soul will find its fulfillment*

Dream wisely

*that you will not settle for less than your best self
that you will not stray from the path of your true calling
that you will live happily with integrity, honor, and grace*

Dream nobly

*that others may sing
to the music of your generosity
that others may dance
to the tune of your compassion
that others may drink
of the cup of your loving-kindness.*

— *Bret Stuart Myers, 9/19/2005*

Rev. Myers is at the UCC General Synod in Baltimore this Sunday. 2017 is the 60th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ. A year ago, Rev. Dr. Laurida Hafner, was listening to Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong speak about the UCC. She writes that he said the following words, which remind us of our calling within Christendom:

"The vocation of the United Church of Christ is to walk the theological frontier and to confront and eradicate those prejudices based on stereotypical definitions of the past and frequently undergirded by words of sacred scripture. To fulfill this vocation, your denomination has to be free of the theological answers of yesterday. But there is a price to be paid for this kind of leadership, and faithfulness to this vocation requires that you are willing to pay it."

"No church that forces engagement with new thinking will ever appeal to the masses. No church committed to social justice will ever be a majority denomination. You should not aspire to serve those idols. Your call is to be a faithful church, a witnessing church. The entire Christian world benefits from your fulfilling this vocation and I for one admire you greatly."