

Faith United Church of Christ

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

September 2, 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

Rhosymedre (Lovely)

R. Vaughan Williams

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!”

***Hymn for the Joy of Life**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

#4

***Centering Our Souls**

You, who creatively loves us: We are thankful for your undying passion to seek our well-being.

Your love for us shows us how to love one another – tirelessly, passionately, gratefully, and unconditionally.

We, who are the apple of your eye, yearn to know your love ever more fully.

You, who delights in us, teach us how to delight in one another.

Feed us with the banquet of your kindness at the table of your compassion.

May we learn, day by day, how to feed the hearts, souls, minds, and spirits of one another.

Help us to encourage the love of others, never impeding their desire to bring joy and grace to another's life.

Give us vision to see past our prejudices, hatreds, and judgments so that we may see all peoples and creations as those deserving of our love.

Awaken us to rejuvenated life. Let us rise each day to eagerly do what is pleasing to you.

Enable us to take joy in the moment, to experience the gifts of grace all around us day by day.

Teach us to take time to come away with you and our loved ones that we may rekindle the burning desire to be the turtledoves of our communities.

Make us into the fruit that sustains, the fragrance that pleases, and the flowers that beautify the world around us as we seek to extend love to all. In your Holy Spirit, may it 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 of the Gift of Love** "Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here" **#361**

Scripture Lesson Song of Solomon 2.3-13

Message "Song of Love, Song of Life"

***Hymn for Living In Love** "When Love Is Found" **#362**

WE AFFIRM & CELEBRATE OUR UNITY
AS GOD'S CREATION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(As God calls all people to the table of forgiveness, peace, and loving fellowship, Faith UCC affirms an inclusive and open Communion Table. All persons (all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations/identities, dis/abilities, religious affiliations, and other distinguishing features) are welcome to partake of this sacrament which affirms that we are all part of God's family and are to commune together in sacred relationship. Love and peace are the uniting virtues of this spiritual meeting place. Therefore, all who wish to join in this ritual of unity are invited to do so providing that you do so in the spirit of peace and mutual love for one another.)

The Purpose of Holy Communion

God seeks to be in communion with us, and wills that we be in communion with one another. Through the Christ in Jesus, God drew closer to us by living among us with all the desires and temptations of being human, and showed us that we each have the power to overcome wrongdoing by the inspiration of our spiritual lives and the discipline of our physical lives; thereby effecting the Christ in us. Jesus represented the individual model of how we each can do this; and in calling to his side the disciples and followers in his way of love and peace, many of whom were ostracized by the wider society, he revealed how to model this in our community here on Earth.

Reminding us symbolically of this union of body and spirit, Jesus took a loaf of bread, broke it like we are often broken in our relationships with one another, and showed us

the way to reconciliation by asking us to share our bread with one another in remembrance of his own example. Through the broken bread, we participate in and become the body of Christ in the world.

In like manner, Jesus took the cup filled with the fruit of the vine, the vine that sustains us and links us to one another, and the fruit that nourishes the spirit of virtue that abides within and between each of us, and asked us to drink of that same spirit of loving-kindness and uniting harmony that was in him. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in and become the new life of Christ in the world.

The bread and fruit we partake nourishes us that we may nourish others. Through this sacrament of Holy Communion, we affirm that we are committed to Christ's way of love and peace by our motives, thoughts, actions, and practices in this world. We acknowledge that we are one community made by God, and that we must consciously choose, day by day, to be in right relationship with God, each other, and our sacred values. We therefore dedicate ourselves, individually and collectively, to make the Body and Spirit of Christ real in this world, here and now, and throughout our life as a community of the faithful. What we symbolize here in this holy space, we make real by our service when we go forth from this place.

Invitation

Christ invites "all" to the table of reconciliation – those who affirm their intrinsic worth, and those who are yet to do so...those whose hearts and minds are admirable, and those still struggling to make them so...those who are most like us, and those who are least like us. In the spirit of Christ, we at Faith United Church of Christ welcome you to share your spiritual journey with us as we share ours with you in a sacrament designed to bridge all differences in a spirit of extravagant welcome, of heartfelt openness, and of mutual loving-kindness. In coming together, let us recognize our responsibility in living in love and peace with one another and all creation so as to be joined together as one Holy Communion of Body and Spirit throughout this good earth.

Partaking of the Bread and Juice

(Please remain in your seats as you are served, waiting till instructed to partake. Grape juice is used, and gluten free bread is available upon request.)

Commissioning

Go forth with forgiveness, courage, faith, hope, love, peace, justice, kindness, and gentleness. May these virtues, representing the image of God in each one of us as was also manifested in Jesus, strengthen you to reach out in compassion as you nurture and aid others within this worldwide community. May the Spirit and grace of God be with you and among you. Amen

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**

We are called to be a generous people, always building up the Body of Christ. Let us not forget our calling, but to humbly, patiently, and gently live it day by day. Let us help bear with love the burdens of the weak, the poor, and the oppressed – coming to their aid in word, in action, and by sharing what we have with them. Let us all make every effort to build unity between ourselves and our brothers and sisters throughout the world, letting your Spirit lead and strengthen us so that we may create the bond of peace with justice that makes us all one. Let these gifts we offer today aid this calling we have from you, and so also aid those most in need. May it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;

grace to risk something big for something good;

grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth

and too small for anything but love.

So, may God take your minds and think through them;

may God take your lips and speak through them;

may God take your hearts and set them on fire.

Rev. William Sloane Coffin

Postlude

Voluntary

W. Selby

***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
Liturgist — Jim Welsh Fellowship — Jean Cole
Communion Servers — Jane Lee Childs, June Irvin, Peggy Salamon, Cyndi Vincenti

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
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:

K. Thompson, Cyndy (Marilyn's daughter-in-law), June Irvin, Ben and Louise Harris, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, 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 Dad), the Piggot's family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the Snook family.

*God Answers
Knee Mail*



Flowers courtesy of Carolyn Meyer
In Memory of Margaret Davis



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.



September Special Offering

Park Forest PreSchool is dedicated to providing low income families with a comprehensive preschool program that includes education, social skills, and developmental motor skills taught by qualified teachers in a friendly, safe environment. The preschool continues their mission of assisting at-risk children to grow and thrive while preparing them for a successful start in public school. You can learn more about them on their website: <http://www.parkforestpreschool.org>



- Sep 2 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sep 3 Labor Day
- Sep 7 First Friday
- Sep 9 23rd 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.faihucc.info [facebook.com/SCFaithUCC](https://www.facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)
Church Office Email: faihucc@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.