

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

December 30, 2018

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

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**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Old French Melody

Arranged by Wilda Jackson Auld

### **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 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**

Spirit of Compassion, Source of our Virtue, Sacred One: We are grateful for your loving presence that calls us to work for justice, strive for peace, and share kindness with our siblings near and far.

**You ask us to adorn ourselves with wisdom, and to clothe ourselves with compassion, that we may learn to live together in harmony upon this blessed earth.**

Teach us to see in the stranger a promising friend, and in the enemy a sibling yet to be.  
**Strengthen our resolve to commit ourselves to peace and nonviolence in our thoughts and our actions.**

Help us to forgive, and not only exhort...to heal, and not only proclaim...and to renew, not only confess.

**When we seek to complain, remind us to thank. When we desire to admonish, encourage us to praise. For we win each other over not by our critiques, but by our gentleness and grace.**

Inspire in us a love that is never-ending, and a kindness that is overflowing.

**Remind us that we are one. Instruct us in peacefulness. And so fill our interactions with care for one another that we may be grateful for what we have and thankful for what is yet to be. Prod us to make it so. Blessings be.**

**\*Hymn of the Story of Christmas**

“The First Nowell”

**#139**

**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** “Clothes for a Lifetime”

### **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 Transformation**                      "Sing a Different Song"                      **#150**

**Scripture Lessons**                              Colossians 3.12-17

**Message**    "Clothing for Our Character"

**\*Hymn for Love Empowered**    "Cheer Up You Ones of Hope and Faith"    **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**

Silent Night

Franz Gruber  
Arranged by Eleanor Pankow

### **\*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**

O Light of Love that lives in every person and throughout creation: We have been blessed as the recipients of your goodness, and now we offer a portion of that goodness back to replenish and nurture our world. Multiply the sum of these gifts we present by the sincerity and joy of our giving that they may bring forth a harvest of compassion and justice. May our thoughts and prayers we have raised today inspire us to go forth more caringly and kindly for all our tomorrows. Be born in us that we

may carry on and create stories of love to all peoples and to all the earth. May we always be the gift of being givers. Now and always.

**\*Encouragement for the Journey**

Go to be a blessing! This is your calling.

Do not worry whether your task is difficult, or your efforts are successful.

Life is serendipitous; so what you may think will or has failed may actually renew a life.

Advocate for justice for those unlike you.

Work for peace with those opposed to you.

Kindness offered and love delivered can transform relationships.

Trust in this! Live by this!

Let God be responsible for the outcome;

just commit yourself to the journey of sacred living.

If you do, you will find that you will have not only been a blessing to others,  
but that the synergy of life will have created a blessing for you.

**Postlude**

God Be With You

William G

Tomer

**\*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 — Marinda Jenkins

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:**

Cyndi V.'s Family (mourning brother Steve), the family of Susie Keck, the family of Bunnie Hartswick, the family of JoAnn Edwards, Allen Killpatrick, K. Thompson, Ben and Louise Harris, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot's family.

*Prayer is the best  
wireless connection*

Please help us keep this list up to date. Notify the office of additions or removals.

**Loading**

**2019**

**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.



## January Special Offering



**Centre Safe**, formerly the Centre County Women's Resource Center, provides services for women, men, and children who have experienced dating & domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Center Safe" noted in the memo line or on the offering envelope.

Learn more at: <http://ccwrc.org/>

## Calendar items now listed in Announcements

### 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: [faithucc@comcast.net](mailto:faithucc@comcast.net) Pastor: [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).

Dear Members and Friends of Faith UCC, State College:

It has been my pleasure and privilege to worship with you for the last 22 months. I have been blessed by my time spent getting to know you, engaging in the interim process, preparing and facilitating worship, growing in spirit together, visiting with you who were hospitalized and homebound, and also with you who invited me into your homes. I am thankful for each and every one of you who made me feel welcomed and cared for, and for letting me into your lives. I hope for you all the best as you go forward in faithfulness, and for Rev. Jes Kast who will be your new pastor.

I ask for your prayers as I continue my discernment process in my next position. You will also be in my prayers that your ministries may flourish.

Love and peace,  
Rev. Bret S. Myers