

Faith United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

No Matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey,
You are welcome here!

March 31, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM



"Prodigal Son", a relief sculpture in the Galway Cathedral, Galway, Ireland

*stand as you are able

Prelude

"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"

J. S. Bach

Pastoral Welcome

Come to me, all of you who are weary, and I will give you rest. - Jesus

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: In this place, the community of faith
is reminded of the promise:

People: God's love endures forever!

L: In spite of our impatient grumbling,
despite our attraction to the shadows:

P: Christ's light shines in us!

When we think our hands our empty,
when we have no music in our souls:

**the Spirit fills us with glad songs,
and creates us for good works!**

***Opening Hymn**

I Will Lift the Cloud of Night

#482

Text: Charles P. Jones, 1916 Tune: JONES 1916

1 I will lift the cloud of night before you; what is wrong I'll make it right before you,
All your battles I will fight before you, and the high place I'll bring down. **Rf**

Rf

When you walk and lose the way I'll lead you; on the produce of the land I'll feed you;
and a home within my heart I'll deed you; and the high place I'll bring down.

2 With an everlasting love I'll love you, though with trials I will test and prove you,
still there nothing that can hurt or move you; and the high place I'll bring down. **Rf**

3 Although Satan in a rage would tear you, and with every winning art would snare you,
yet from youth to your old age I'll bear you and the high place I'll bring down. **Rf**

4 I will lift the cloud of night before you, I will make the crooked straight before you,
I will spread my wings protecting o'er you; and the high place I'll bring down. **Rf**

***Call to Confession**

**Come, Holy Spirit, to dwell in us and among us. Make us more than dimly
burning wicks, that we might share enough light to make a difference in your
world. Where there is injustice, help us to change the minds and hearts of
those who benefit from it. Show us again the new possibilities you have in
mind for us. May we reflect your peace amid the frantic busy pace of the
marketplace. Amen.**

Moment of silence

***Assurance of God's Grace**

The prophet Isaiah says:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
 When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
 and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire,
 you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.
 For I am the Lord your God.
 Behold, I am doing a bold new thing!

Thanks be to God!

***Sung Response**

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call

an - s - w e r me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and lis - t e n to me. O

***Sharing Christ's Peace**

L: The Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another greet and welcome those around you and share "the peace of Christ." If you feel more comfortable you are welcome to place your hands on your heart as you greet those around you. This may be a good option for you if you have social anxiety or are more introverted, this is a symbol of goodwill that you may be more comfortable with. Sharing God's peace can be done in many ways!)

A Time for All God's Children

Following the Children's message, the nursery is available for infants and toddlers under 4 years old. The nursery is located through the door at the right front of the sanctuary, and up the stairs. Church

school is available for children and youth (4+ years) in Asendorf Hall (3rd floor). Children are always welcome to remain in the worship service.

Reading of Scripture

Psalm 32

Anthem "Bitter Tears" by Ruth Elaine Schram

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

L: A word from the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: We Belong Together

***Hymn** Pues si Vivimos (In All Our Living) **#499**

S1 Mexican folk hymn, trans anon; S2 Elise S. Eslinger, 1983

1 Pues si vivimos, par Dios vivimos y si morimos, para Dios morimos.
Sea que vivamos o que muramos , somos del buen Dios, somos del buen Dios.

1 In all our living, we belong to God; and in our dying, we are still with God;
So whether living, or whether dying, we belong to God; we belong to God.

2 God sent Christ Jesus to be our shalom, to show us mercy and healing love;
So in our living, and in our dying, Christ is our Shalom; Christ is our Shalom.

Prayers of the People

We invite people to share their joys and/or concerns out loud so we can be praying for each other. We believe that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer.

After each expression, please end your prayer by saying *This is my prayer* and the people may respond: *God, hear our prayer.*

In the strength of the unity of our faith, we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us....

Lord's Prayer

Ever-loving God, 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. And lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Organ Improvisation

***Doxology**

P: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Accept these gifts, we humbly pray O God. Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people. Amen.

ORDER OF BAPTISM

Baptismal Hymn **As the Deer** **#351 see insert**

PASTOR: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

PEOPLE: **“Let the little children come to me, do not hinder them; for to them belongs the treasures of the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

PASTOR: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

PEOPLE: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

PASTOR: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

PARENTS: **We do**

PASTOR: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

PARENTS: **We do**

PASTOR: Will you teach this child that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

PARENTS: **We will, with the help of God.**

PASTOR: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist injustice, to show love and mercy, and to witness to the work and joy of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

PARENTS: **We do, with the help of God.**

PASTOR: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help her to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism?

PARENTS: **We do, with the help of God.**

*QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATION

All are invited to stand, in body or spirit, as the congregation is asked to make promises

PASTOR: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

PEOPLE: **We promise our love, support, and care. We promise to pray for the whole family.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PASTOR: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

PEOPLE: **I believe in God.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE: **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE: **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

(congregation may be seated)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

PASTOR: Let us pray. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the child being baptized this day that she may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

PASTOR: For you, little one, Jesus Christ came into the world, for you he died and for you he conquered death. He did this, though you knew nothing of it yet. We love because God first loved us. With your family at your side we offer these blessings over your life. One from the heart of your mom and the other from the heart of your dad and one from the love of your brother, all this love is from our loving God.

PASTOR: By what name will your child be called?

PARENTS: (full name of child)

Pastor: **Sarina Dee Barnard**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

PASTOR: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all of us for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons, daughters, and children in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

Bless the parents of this child. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PRESENTATION

Pastor: Sisters, brothers, and siblings of God, I present to you **Sarina Dee Barnard**, a beloved child of God! Let us welcome her into the covenant community of God's grace!

***Closing Hymn** The Summons

#317 see insert

***Benediction**

Go in peace and serve God and each other!

Thanks be to God!

Closing Meditation Arietta from Op. 111 L. v. Beethoven, arr. A. Wildman

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 smartphone to be directed to our online donation page.



March Special Offering



One Great Hour
O F S H A R I N G

[One Great Hour of Sharing](http://onegreathourofsharing.org/)

<http://onegreathourofsharing.org/> or
<http://www.ucc.org/oghs>)

One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. Learn more at: <http://onegreathourofsharing.org> Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "OGHS" noted in the memo line, or use the special envelope on Sunday, March 31st.

Calendar items are listed in the Announcements.

Get In Touch with Us!

Faith United Church of Christ 300 E. College Avenue State College, PA 16801

Tel: (814) 237-3904

On the Web: www.faithucc.info

[facebook.com/SCFaithUCC](https://www.facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)

Church Office Email: faithuccsc@gmail.com

Pastor email: PastorJesFaithUCC@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: 9:30 AM– 1:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Pastor Jes' office hours: 9-5 M-Th. Pastor also values community engagement. Please contact the office ahead of visits.

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. Jes Kast
Usher — Jane Lee Childs Liturgist — Jim Welsh
Fellowship — Jean Cole

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Organist—Mark Ferraguto Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

The family of Allen Killpatrick, Patty Bittner (Jean's daughter), Cyndi V.'s Family (loss of brother Steve, and Steve's grandson Christopher Barger), the family of Bunnie Hartswick, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Darlene Ripka, the Piggot family.

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

*O Lord
Hear our prayers*