

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

February 4, 2018

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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**

**Communion**

**A. Guilmant**

**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.*

### **\*Centering Our Souls**

Remind us, O God, that when we leave the place of worship, our ministry of healing begins.

**Whenever we enter another house or presence, inspire us to show gentleness, caring, and respect – remembering that your healing mercies are made possible through our kindness.**

When the fevers of self-interest imprison us, cool us with the tenderness of compassion that keeps us mindful of our mission to serve others.

**When we have an opportunity to lift up others, inspire us to do so; for relationships are built on building each other up rather than tearing down.**

Like Jesus, prod us to go to a place of no distractions to revive our energies, invigorate our spirits, and heal our minds.

**Keep us focused on your will rather than our own; on the values of truth, peace, justice and love and not those of prudence, pragmatism, and self-desire.**

For when we walk in our own ways rather than yours, we infect ourselves with a sickness of the heart and soul.

**When we are tempted by other “good things” we might do, keep us mindful of the still better things to which you call us.**

Urge our actions to accord with our prayers, and our practices with our ideals.

**In faithfulness, may we put your values first in our lives. May it be so now and forever.**

**\*Hymn of Calling**

“I Would Be True”

**#492**

**Our Stories of Random Acts of Kindness & Intentional Deeds of Compassion**

### **WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES**

**Choral Anthem**

Bread of the World by Richard Shephard

**A Time for All God’s Children**

**Prayers**

***Sharing Our Joys and Concerns***

***Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People***

***Pastoral Prayer***

***The Prayer Jesus Taught*** (unison) *Please feel free to do the version you know, or the one below:*

“Our heavenly Creator, sacred be your name: your kin-dom\* come, your will be done, on earth as if 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 yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen”

*\*“Kin-dom” is an inclusive, non-authoritarian, and egalitarian term that reminds us that we are all “kin” as the children of God.*

**\*Hymn for Healing**

“We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness”

**#179**

**Scripture Lessons**

Mark 1.29-39

**Message**

“Keeping Focused on the Call”

**\*Hymn for Staying Focused**

“Guide My Poor Vision”

**see insert**

## **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 affecting 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.

## **Time of Personal Reflection/Confession/Commitment**

### **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**

O God of every nation and all creation: We are grateful for your love and mercy, shown so abundantly to us and to all. We are much more willing to give to those we think are deserving, but we know we need to be more generous than that. For those in need, whether friend, family, or foe, may these tithes and offerings be a blessing to them. Help us to be your voices of peace, your arms of forgiveness, and your heart of love for all peoples and all creatures throughout this wonderful earth. Let our giving be a foundation for the building of friendships throughout the world, in the name of the one who was a friend of all, may it be so.

**\*Encouragement for the Journey (Benediction)**

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**

Short Prelude and Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach

**\*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

Trustee —

Ushers —

Liturgist —

Children's Message —

Acolyte —

Nursery —

Fellowship —

Communion Servers: Tina Aumiller, Sue Doran, June Irvin, Cyndi Vincenti

### Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman

Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Choir Director – Mike Dolan

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:**

Bob Ritzman, the family of June Brown, the family of Jean Weller, Lisa B. (JoAnn's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Bunnie Hartswick, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the Snook family.

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**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!

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**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.



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## February Special Offering

[Mid-Penn Legal Services](http://www.midpenn.org) (<http://www.midpenn.org>)

MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit, public-interest law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice and high quality civil legal services to low-income residents and survivors of domestic violence in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with “MidPenn” noted in the memo line or on the



- February 11                      6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany
- February 13                      Trustees, 7 PM
- February 14                      Ash Wednesday
- February 18                      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent
- February 19                      Consistory, 5:30 PM
- February 25                      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

## 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](http://www.faihucc.info)      [facebook.com/SCFaithUCC](https://facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)  
Church Office Email: [faihucc@comcast.net](mailto:faihucc@comcast.net)      Pastor's Email: [revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com)

Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.      Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays  
Pastor Bret's Office Hours: Tuesday 5-8PM, Wednesday 11 AM-2 PM, Thursday 2-4 PM.  
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).