

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

March 4, 2018

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Sacred Fellowship 10:45AM

*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**

Adagio in C Major

W. A. Mozart

### **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!”

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

“Speak To Us...Let Us Listen”

Speak to us earth, ocean, sun, sky, wind, and rain.

**Speak to us mountain, valley, forest, desert, wetlands, and prairie.**

Speak to us mammals, reptiles, birds, and fish.

**Speak to us insects, plants, fungi, and bacteria.**

Speak to us of your beauty, grandeur, and grace.

**Speak to us of things sublime, mysterious, and awe-inducing.**

Throughout all creation, we are given the book of understanding.

**Teach us to learn from your ways: how to live in harmony, how to give of ourselves in helping one another, and how to see ourselves as part of a sacred whole.**

Let us listen so as to understand.

**Let us listen so as to grow.**

Let us listen for the still small voice, and for the thunderous acclamation.

**Let us listen for the voice of inspiration, and the sound of hope.**

Let us listen that we may learn how better to be just and fair.

**Let us listen that we may come to be more compassionate and kind. May it be so, now and always.**

\*Hymn for Experiencing God in Nature      “God Is Still Speaking”      *see insert*

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

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

**Choral Anthem**      How Great the Love by Mary Kay Beall

**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 Earthly Siblings**                      "O God the Creator"                      **#291; vss. 1-3**

**Scripture Lesson**    Psalm 19

**Message**                      "God's Image Written Everywhere: A Polylogue"

**\*Hymn of Earth's Great Joy**                      "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"                      **#12**

**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.**

## **Invitation**

### **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**

### **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*

When we give thanks, then go to sow;

Our blessings are assured to grow.

We are not known by what we keep;

We're known by deeds that others reap.

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God, whose coming was tender and mild, but whose presence is empowering and passionate: We are thankful for the hope you inspire in our world where poverty is painful and loving-kindness is lacking. Jolt us with justice that the world's prayers for peace may be answered. Jostle us with generosity that we may know the joy of giving. In this season of Lent, enter into our hearts that hope may arise within us to expect that which has been promised: that nourishment will be provided for the hungry...that comfort will call upon the suffering...that freedom will ensue for the imprisoned...that justice will be imparted to the persecuted...that compassion will nurture the oppressed...that peace will pacify the violent...and that love will live in the midst of all peoples and creatures that you have declared good. May this gift of hope that you give

to us be passed on to others by how we give of ourselves through our time, talents, tithes, and offerings. Blessings be.

### **\*Encouragement for the Journey**

**Postlude**

Overture in C Major

W. A. Mozart

### **\*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

Communion Servers: Clovis & Marilyn Morrisson, June Irvin, Mary Jane Wild

### 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:**

Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), the family of Lois Bair, Carlton Miller, Bob Ritzman, the family of June Brown, 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.



## **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 you may place your offerings on the plates the around. If you prefer to give electronically simply **code** with your smartphone to be directed to our page.



in the service, ushers will bring **scan the QR** online donation

## **February Special Offering**

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

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 the special envelope on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.



- **March 11**            **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**
- **March 12**            **OOTC3 Tear Down**
- **March 17**            **St Patrick's Day**
- **March 18**            **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**Welsh Society, 1-5PM**

## **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://facebook.com/SCFaithUCC)

Church Office Email: [faithucc@comcast.net](mailto:faithucc@comcast.net) Pastor's Email: [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).**