

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!

January 5, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

Epiphany



*stand as you are able

Prelude "The Day That is So Full of Joy"

D. Buxtehude

Pastoral Welcome

For Unto Us a Child is Born! - Isaiah 9:6

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

L: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

P: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

L: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

***Opening Hymn**

We Three Kings

see insert

***Prayer of Confession**

God, Every day I forget who I am, who my neighbor is, and who you are. Every day I need the star to lead me back to Christ to remind me again. Please let the light of your love teach me the hope of this present moment and to trust that in the year ahead you will be with me no matter what happens. I will not fear for you are with me.

Moment of Silence for Personal Reflection

***Promise of New Life**

As certain as the dawn follows the night,
So is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all.
Arise and Shine!
Follow the star.
Find the light of the world born in you today.

***Sung Response**

We Three Kings

O, Star of wonder, star of light.
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Lead us to your perfect light.

***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.

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 12:1-12

Sermon

Star Words

***Sermon Hymn**

Love Came Down at Christmas

#165

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 with: **God, hear our prayers.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

PASTORAL INVITATION

No matter who you are or where you are in your journey, Christ invites you to this table of the feast of grace and love!

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: May the God whose light shines in the shadows be with you.

P: And also with you.

Let us offer our hearts to the One who restores us to new life.

We offer our hearts in gratitude and grace.

We give thanks and praise to our God.

By your mercy we are given a new year and so our hearts rejoice.

O God, who has cleared the fogginess of confusion and brought us into the light of understanding, we remember your eternal promise to lead your people from the shadows of bondage to freedom's new dawning. We recall how in the fullness of time you gave us yourself in Christ Jesus to be the light of the world. We thank you that by

the power of the Holy Spirit we are sustained for the journey just like you sustained the Magi.

Together we sing our praise to the God who shines the warmth of light on us:

All: (singing) (#277, stanza 1)

Holy, holy holy, God the Almighty!

All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Words of Institution

L: On the night he was betrayed...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy Spirit, bless these gifts. Take these grapes and take this wheat, may they nourish us in body and soul for the days to come. These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. Come now, for all things are ready.

(Instructions: We will receive communion by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and partake. You may return to your seats by the side aisle. You are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing at this time if you choose not partake in the elements. We will serve communion to you in the pew if you are unable to come forward. Gluten free options are available.)

God of grace and abundance, we have received your word and tasted your truth: Jesus Christ, your very presence is among us.

We pray that Christ will guide us so that we may live with each other in unity, honesty, and love. May we grow in faithful assurance that you are with us until the end of the age.

In the strength of our faith we pray together the prayer Jesus, who loves us and calls us by name, taught us to pray....

The 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



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 Offerings



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 are listed in the Announcements.

If you'd like earphones for hearing assistance, please speak with an usher.

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.

Ministers — All the Congregation
Usher — Jane Lee Childs

Our Ministry

Pastor — Jes Kast
Liturgist - Amy Bowser

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier
Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

The family of Daniel Pfaff, Patty Bittner (Jean's daughter), 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.

Get In Touch with Us!

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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.

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