

Faith United Church of Christ

“An inclusive spiritual family shaping a better you for creating a better world.

A place to make a difference.”

November 5, 2017

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!

All Saints / Remembrance Sunday

POINTS TO PONDER

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly.”
— *Romans 8.22-23b*

“We don’t always understand why things happen as they do – why loved ones die when we needed them most, why injustice continues to be pervasive, why goodness does not always seem to win over evil, why the corrupt are too often successful and the pure are often downtrodden. We see realities that we don’t wish for, and we experience sufferings we’d wish on no one. Our souls groan and our spirits sigh. And yet, we persevere – maybe not because we feel we can or even want to, but because of something inside us, something holy, that prods us forward...that tells us to live...that encourages us to make the best out of what we have while we have it...to share of ourselves with others in trust that maybe we might make a difference; hopefully in them, and perhaps even in us.”
— *Rev. Bret S. Myers, 11/2/2017*

“For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”
— *Romans 8.24-25*

“Paul speaks of us being saved in the past tense, because of our hope. Hope keeps us vital. Paul is not speaking of hope as a whimsical fantasy or wishful thinking, but as a spiritual characteristic, if not discipline, that reminds us that our present reality is not necessarily our future reality. There are times where I admit to not consciously having a lot of hope, believing that things will never get to where I, in my best moments, would hope things would be. But hope wells up inside me even in the darkest hours, like an ever-flowing stream from my soul. It is a reminder that in the midst of banality, darkness, and even evil all around that inspiration, light, and goodness are still possible – if in no other place than right there within our own being. There are positive outcomes, just like negative ones, that I never saw coming. Life has provided vignettes of grace when all seemed hopeless. Paul rightly remarks that we don’t see hope or what is hoped for coming into our lives. And yet there it is. Even if ephemeral, it remains undefeated, unable to be extinguished as long as we don’t let go of it completely. I can’t see the future to know whether things will get better or worse; but the hope inside me waits patiently until life gives me another morsel to eat so that I might continue on – in hope.”

— *Rev. Bret S. Myers, 11/2/2017*

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”
— *Romans 8.26*

“There have been times I’ve been so weak, I thought I would die; and a couple of times so weak and in such suffering that I even wanted to die. Many more times I did not know what to pray for, or whether to pray at all. Yet, I continue to be amazed at the Spirit that Paul speaks of interceding in such times. It is as if I felt a connection with those who have gone before me, or who were presently going through similar ordeals. I saw my own pain and weakness in the context of others who had it just as bad or worse than me. And in sighing on their behalf, my own sighs were lessened.”
— *Rev. Bret S. Myers, 11/2/2017*

“And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”
— *Romans 8.27*

“It is a comfort to know that when I cannot explain my own thoughts and feelings to others so that they will understand, that I can trust that God will understand what only I myself know within my own heart, mind, and soul. When we may not feel we have any other advocate, the Spirit comes and reminds us who we are – and whose we are.”
— *Rev. Bret S. Myers, 11/2/2017*

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”
— *Romans 8.28*

“Paul’s statement here is less about empirical and scientific knowledge, and more about the mytho-poetic ‘knowledge’ of hope and faith. None of us literally knows whether things will work out for those who have the love of God within them. We have seen too many counterfactuals to naively

believe in such claims. But if we trusted only in what we saw, and believed only in what we could know with certainty, then our lives would not only be spiritually bereft but perhaps even unbearable. Wonder, hope, imagination, faith, creativity, and trust are innate within us. We intuitively 'know' there is a higher purpose for our lives than we can ever prove. Might we be living in illusion? Of course, but even so we 'know' that to see it not as an illusion but as a hope and a faith to aspire towards is what gives our life that purpose for which we trust we were created. Perhaps the greatest courage is to keep on living life in accordance with our highest values and what is best in us despite our doubts that it may all be in vain. Perhaps we find meaning, and peace of spirit, in striving to realize what may never be realized. In our inner depths, do we not all know that we are most blessed not by the circumstances of life that we find ourselves in, but rather the integrity to flourish the best we can despite those circumstances?"

— Rev. Bret S. Myers, 11/2/2017

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 on 'Placare Christe Servulis' 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.

Affirming God's Presence in Us All "You Matter!"

***Hymn of Gratitude** "God, We Thank You for Our People" #376; vss. 1, 2, 4

***Centering Our Souls**

O God who has been the source of strength, encouragement, and resolve of the saints of the church who have gone before us, inspire in us the commitment to be the saints of the present age.

Let us not forget the examples and sacrifices of those who have preceded us, but may we draw from their faithfulness the courage to be the lights of love and peace in a world where too much darkness abides.

We honor the memory of the saints and of the faithful on this day, not as a means of indulging our sorrow but as an impetus to carry on what they have begun.

May your Holy Spirit come and fill us so that where they failed, we may succeed; and where they succeeded, we may bring their successes to their proper fulfillment.

Let us be witnesses not only by our memories of the past, but witnesses by the deeds we carry out in the present age.

Connect our spirits to the future, even as we feel our souls connected to the past. May your mission march on through our actions and practices so that we will be participants in that eternal legacy of the faithful who have striven to create a more just, peaceful, compassionate, and harmonious world. May it be so, now and always.

Remembrance of Church Members and Those Recently Passed

(In remembrance of the lives of members of Faith UCC who have passed on in the last year, we ask a family member/relative/friend of each of the following persons to come forward and light a candle on the altar table as their name is called and a bell is rung.)

Robin Renee Smith	June 15, 1956	November 21, 2016
Cecil Johnson Irvin, Jr.	February 3, 1928	December 15, 2016
Jean May Dreese	June 18, 1928	February 20, 2017
Ruth M. Tressler	March 5, 1925	April 7, 2017
Linda Hamer Merchant	May 15, 1937	July 6, 2017
Clara Jane Pletcher	May 26, 1930	September 2, 2017
Jean Weller	July 12, 1928	October 5, 2017

(Others who have lost loved ones in the past year are now welcome to come forward to announce their name and light a candle in their remembrance.)

Let us pray:

O Sacred One from whom we all come, and to whom we all return: You have been a blessing to those of every time and culture, to those of every religious tradition that has inspired the saints of the world, and to those we have loved who have passed on into life eternal.

Bless the memory of these persons who have gone to be with you in this past year. May we claim their virtues as our own, and may we by learning from their mistakes improve upon their example as we carry on the prayer of peace...the flame of

faithfulness...the candle of compassion...the light of love from one generation to the next. May it be so.

***Hymn of the Saints** "For All the Saints" #299; vss. 1, 2, 4

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Why I Love Faith UCC: A Stewardship Moment *Emily Reiss*

Choral Anthem

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 of Aspiration** "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" #295

Scripture Lessons Romans 8.22-28

Message "Sighs Too Deep for Words"

***Hymn for Living as Saints** "Live Life in Peace" *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 effecting 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 who prods us to be earnest in caring, dutiful in sharing, joyful in giving, and abundant in gratitude: We pray that these tithes of our income, and offerings of our spirit, will be blessed for your purposes near and far. We are doubly blessed in our giving – being able to, and doing so freely from our hearts. Remind us not to be prideful in giving, nor ashamed in receiving; for we are here for each other – sowing seeds of compassion that will feed the world, and together reaping a harvest of peace. May it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

When life brings you loss, sadness, or suffering,
may the hope within you rise like a cool, refreshing stream.

When circumstances are disillusioning, painful, or despairing,
may the faith by which you sail be persevering and bring you back safely to the harbor of peace. In all your life, remember that you are born to give wings to love.

Be thankful for the love you have received, and be generous in the love that you give.
May your life be laced with grace.

Postlude Short Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 557 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 — Larry Bair

Ushers —

Liturgist — Lois Bair

Children's Message —

Acolyte —

Nursery —

Fellowship —

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:

The family of Jean Weller, The Family of Linda Merchant, 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 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 smart phone to be directed to our online donation page.



November Special Offering



Lancaster Seminary (UCC) is a vibrant, diverse learning community known for academic excellence, celebration of differences across Christian traditions, and creative engagement on issues of importance to our world.

Your generous gifts help to provide scholarships for seminarians. Make checks payable to Faith UCC with “Lancaster Seminary”



- November 5 Movie & Discussion: “Denial” 5 PM
November 10 PSU Homecoming Parade (College Ave closed 5p)
November 11 Veteran’s Day
November 12 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- November 14 Trustees Meeting 7 PM
November 19 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Thanksgiving Dinner after service
November 20 Consistory Meeting 5:30 PM
November 23 Thanksgiving Day

Get In Touch with Us!

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Church Office Email: faithucc@comcast.net Pastor’s Email: revbmyers@yahoo.com
Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

Please make an appointment with Rev. Myers if you would like to meet with the pastor. You may call the church office, or his cell at 608-370-9472.

Nourishment for the Journey

“The difference between ordinary people and saints is not that saints fulfill the plain duties which ordinary (people) neglect. The things saints do have not usually occurred to ordinary people at all.” --- A.D. Lindsay, Two Moralities, 1940

To be a saint means that you will take on tyrant and any empire in the name of justice. It means you will take on any judiciary or police force that does not liberate those who are oppressed. It means you will take on your employer or local government, or any organization that has power over you, for the sake of fairness for all. It means you will take on the bully at school, or even the teachers or principal, whenever you see another student mistreated. It means you will take on your own family and friends when they have been unkind or unloving. If you are not willing to risk rejection, penalties, a bloody nose, loss of income, housing, and other necessities of life, yes, even life itself, for the sake of love, peace, and justice, then you cannot be a saint. --- Rev. Bret S. Myers, 10/30/2008

“The saints differ from us in their exuberance, the excess of our human talents. Moderation is not their secret. It is in the wildness of their dreams, the desperate vitality of their ambitions, that they stand apart from ordinary people of good will.” — Phyllis McGinley

“Though they are always peaceful in their methods, saints are the greatest threat to society and the status quo. They will take on anyone and anything, using only the weapons of words and the army of

conscience, as they wage their peace. Their higher ethic requires a transformation – not just of themselves, but of others and society itself. This is why the most virtuous in history have often been martyred. The powerful have always found it easier to tolerate criminals who injure the social fabric than to endure the ideas of saints that threaten to unweave it completely and offer a wholly different cloth.”
--- Rev. Bret S. Myers, 10/30/2008

“A saint has to be a misfit. A person who embodies what his culture considers typical or normal cannot be exemplary.” – Martin E. Marty

“It is far more dangerous to be a saint than to be a conqueror.”

--- George Bernard Shaw, Preface, *Saint Joan*, 1923

“I have met many good people in my life, but I’m not sure I have ever met a saint. A saint, to me, is someone who is always working for justice through peaceful methods and with a loving attitude...who lays fear aside to always do what is right, no matter the risk to oneself physically, legally, financially, and emotionally...and who never considers self-interest when deciding how to act and behave in helping others. Judged by this standard I see how terribly far away from sainthood I am, as well as those I most love and revere. Nevertheless, the very idea of a saint inspires my humble aspirations – even as it gives me perspective on how low I have set my expectations.

If I get to the point where I can offer my home, rather than my tent, to the homeless...my bank account, rather than a handout, to the hungry...my heart, rather than comforting words, to the bereaved...my face to face protests against persons of power and systems of abuse that can imprison, torture, or kill me, rather than letters and emails from my safe office, as I advocate for the oppressed...and my unceasing efforts to educate, heal, and inspire the masses who have fallen into the chasms of social injustice and apathetic unkindness, rather than to go on about my business day to day by turning a blind eye, an empty hand, a prudent mind, and a cool heart, **then** perhaps I will be able to reevaluate my proximity to sainthood. Until then, I simply pray that I do not find myself in a situation of needing a saint rather than someone like me.”
--- Rev. Bret S. Myers, 10/30/2008

“A saint is like a tree. He does not call anyone, neither does he send anyone away. He gives shelter to whoever cares to come, be it a man, woman, child or an animal. If you sit under a tree it will protect you from the weather, from the scorching sun as well as from the pouring rain, and it will give you flowers and fruit. Whether a human being enjoys them or a bird tastes of them matters little to the tree; its produce is there for anyone who comes and takes it.”

--- Anandamayi Ma, *As the Flower Sheds Its Fragrance*, 1983

“A minor saint is capable of loving minor sinners. A great saint loves great sinners.”

--- Rabbi Israel Baal Shem-Tov, (1700-60), *Judaism*

*“To err is human. To forgive takes restraint;
To forget you forgave is the mark of a saint.” — Suzanne Douglas*

“The true way to worship the saints is to imitate their virtues.”

--- Desiderius Erasmus, *Handbook of the Christian Knight*, 1503

*“Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.
Happy are those who keep God’s decrees, who seek God with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong, but walk in God’s ways.” — Psalm 119.1-3*

“Perhaps when and if we get to heaven we may find that some of the brightest jewels in (God’s) crown are obscure husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, that nobody paid any attention to here on earth.”
--- John C. Cort, *The Grail*, August 1957

I WILL REMEMBER YOU

I will remember you
Will you remember me?
Don't let your life pass you by
Weep not for the memories

I'm so tired but I can't sleep
Standin' on the edge of something much too deep
It's funny how we feel so much but we cannot say a word
Though we are screaming inside oh we can't be heard

I will remember you
Will you remember me?
Don't let your life pass you by
Weep not for the memories

I'm so afraid to love you, but more afraid to lose
Clinging to a past that doesn't let me choose
But once there was a darkness, deep and endless night
You gave me everything you had, oh you gave me light

That I will remember you
Will you remember me?
Don't let your life pass you by
Weep not for the memories

I will remember you
Will you remember me?
Don't let your life pass you by
Weep not for the memories

Songwriters: Merenda, Dave / Egan, Seamus Michael / McLachlan, Sarah
Published by: Lyrics © EMI Music Publishing, Warner/Chappell Music, Inc., Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, FOX MUSIC, INC.
Read more: [Sarah McLachlan - I Will Remember You Lyrics | MetroLyrics](#)

Live Life in Peace

Tune: "Go Now In Peace" by Don Besig & Nancy Price; Words: Rev. Bret S. Myers, 11/1/2017

Live life in peace...kind and gentle be.
Say no to vengeance so soul and mind are free.

Do what is just; help the weak and poor.
Caring for others opens their door.

Love from your heart with joy and with grace.
All are your neighbors no matter tribe or place.

Siblings we are all around this earth.
Live life so that compassion is birthed.