

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

*A place to make a difference.”*

April 8, 2018

2nd Sunday of Easter

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**

Festival Fanfare

David Blackwell

**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!”

**Sharing Christ’s Peace**

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, greet and welcome those around you and share “the peace of Christ.”*

**\*Centering Our Souls**

The women had witnessed the risen Christ, but the men were still in disbelief – having not seen with their own eyes.

**How can that which was dead become alive again?**

What would it take for you believe in resurrection?

**We are prone to want the facts, to see the proof, and to have science to validate our beliefs.**

Science and facts are all well and good for that which we can know, but they tell us little about what we should value and how we should live.

**Did it really take Thomas seeing with his own eyes, and touching with his own hands, to recognize that what Jesus taught and practiced should be what we do as well?**

When Jesus appeared, he was not concerned so much with facts as with values. He didn't say when or how he arose;

**But rather he repeated to them, “Peace be with you.”**

He sought not to admonish his disciples for their denials and betrayals, but to send them to continue the work he had begun.

**He wanted them to receive the Holy Spirit for themselves, and to go into the world to love and forgive as he had done.**

We don't need to know the facts to care unconditionally for others. The values of compassion, kindness, gentleness, and peacefulness are our saving grace – resurrecting us to new life so that we may with God build a new creation.

**May we be faithful to Christ's virtues in all of our lives, to all of our world. So be it.**

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

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

Choral Anthem

Lord of the Dance arr. by John Ferguson

**A Time for All God's Children**

**Prayers**

***Sharing Our Joys and Concerns***

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

***\*Song of Dedication***

Our Easter joy triumphant rings! Our resurrection hope does spring!

Christ's love and peace will ever rise, when we see through forgiving eyes!

***Unison Easter Prayer***

***“Prayer for Abundant Living”***

O God of empty tombs and resurrection living:  
 Make us mindful of the pervasiveness of hope,  
 the determination of faith,  
 and the persistence of love.

In a world where suffering is ever near,  
 and where terrorism provokes fear,  
 instill in us a resolve  
 to live peacefully, justly, and compassionately.

May we be the agents of healing and reconciliation  
 when opposed by the forces of destruction and alienation.

May we be the beacons of beneficence  
 when others are the harbingers of hatred.

Call us to be your resurrection people:  
 those who trust in kindness more than might,  
 in forgiveness more than revenge,  
 in gentleness more than harshness,  
 and in virtue more than prudence.

May beauty flow forth from our spirits,  
 truth from our lips,  
 and mercy from our hands.

Help us to live the life that is light,  
 that we may, like Jesus,  
 rise above the shadows of death and despair  
 and shine forth the blessings of love on all of creation.

In the Spirit of the risen and still rising Christ, may it be so.

**\*Hymn of Faith beyond Fact**      “These Things Did Thomas Count”      **#254**

**Scripture Lesson**      John 20.19-29

**Message**      “Believers in Facts or Values?”

**\*Hymn for Peace in Christ**      “Peace I Leave with You, My Friends”      **#249**

**WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD’S SERVICE**  
**THROUGH FAITHFULNESS**

**Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**      Organ improvisation

**\*Song of Dedication**      *Tune: Old Hundredth*

Our Easter joy triumphant rings! Our resurrection hope does spring!

Christ’s love and peace will ever rise, when we see through forgiving eyes!

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

We are a resurrection people! By rising with hope, we overcome apathy. By rising with courage, we overcome fear. By rising with joy, we overcome dejection. By rising with faith, we overcome powerlessness. By rising with perseverance, we overcome pain. By rising with forgiveness, we overcome anger. By rising with kindness, we overcome cruelty. By rising with generosity, we overcome poverty. By rising with Christ, we overcome death. May the tithes, gifts, and offerings we share empty the crosses and open the tombs of our own and others' lives. May we be beautiful like blossoming lilies, and graceful like fluttering butterflies, that we may rise with love for all and proclaim peace forever. Blessings be.

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

Remember that resurrection is more than mere resuscitation! It is life transformed!

It is faith in possibilities, when others are convinced of inevitability.

It is the courage to love others, when they don't love you in return...

to show compassion, when others are heaping judgment...

to live by peace, when others are being violent...

to work for justice, when others are working for wealth...

to respond with gentleness, when others are reacting with rage...

and to trust that life, well-lived, even if short-lived,

is preferable to longevity without virtue.

Don't remain caterpillars when you can become butterflies!

Live beautifully! Birth goodness in all you think, say, and do!

For you are called to life abundant!

God's blessings be with you.

**Postlude**

Choral Song

Samuel Wesley

### **\*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.*



**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.



**April Special Offering**

Hoffman Homes for Youth serves boys and girls ages 6 to 18 with mental health diagnoses by providing behavioral and cognitive therapy, physical health care services, education, spiritual nurturing and a safe and comfortable home for up to 141 children.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Hoffman Homes" noted in the memo line.

More at: <http://hoffmanhomes.com/>



- April 9 Delta Zeta Fundraiser, 5-8
- April 10 Trustees meeting, 7
- April 15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter
- April 16 Consistory meeting, 5:30

**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).

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 — Tom Daubert	Ushers — Tom Daubert
Nursery — Lois Bair	Fellowship — Susan Brandse

### 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:***

Susie Keck, 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.



In loving memory of Thomas B. Brown  
by June Brown