

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

July 8, 2018

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                      Impromptu on "Bringing In the Sheaves"                      Hugh S Livingston, Jr

### **Welcoming the Light of Love in Our Midst**

*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."*

### **\*Hymn of Calling**

"You Have Come down to the Lakeshore"

**#173**

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

You who calls us to purpose and passion:

**You ask us to get up and stand for your truths.**

When you call us, it is for tasks that are not easy. You call us to speak of our own people's rebellion from your ways.

**Whether they listen to us or not, you still call on us to speak – to let them know of your prophetic voice.**

You call us not to change them, but to speak to them; not to transform them, but to tell them of what is right and what is wrong in your sight.

**For it is up to them to listen and heed your ways. We are only called to let them know your truths.**

Our task will be difficult, and perhaps be met with persecution. But whatever contempt and scorn we receive, it is only ours to let your wisdom be known.

**Jesus, too, was met with rejection – even in his own home town.**

They took offense at him, for they thought they knew him; and they saw him as lesser of a person than they were themselves.

**Pride and ego can keep us from seeing your truths. Preconceptions can keep us from wisdom.**

When they could not honor the blessings that were in Jesus, they themselves lost out on the opportunity for their own healing and spiritual nourishment.

**Like you sent out the twelve, send us too. May we, like them, accept and speak the message you would place within us.**

It is not what we have, but whose we are, that readies us for your call and empowers us to do great deeds and speak great truths.

**May your Spirit go with us as we follow Christ's example.**

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

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

### 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 for Following Christ**      "You Walk along Our Shoreline"      **#504**

**Scripture Lessons**      Ezekiel 2.1-7      Psalm 123      Mark 6.1-13

**Message**      "When God's Word Is Unheeded"

**\*Hymn of Responding to the Spirit**      "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"      **#286**

## 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**      There Is a Balm in Gilead      Robert W Thygerson

Based on the traditional spiritual

**\*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***

By the Spirit's inspiration, we give of what we have that your blessings may abound and that goodness may flourish. Instill in us a spirit of generosity that we may do our part to help all who are in need. Pour out your Spirit upon us that we may envision one world, the world of all of Your children. Let our lives be a testimony of the unifying nature of your love to all that we meet along our life's way. May it be so.

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

**Postlude**

God Be with You

William G Tomer

### **\*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

Ushers — Larry Bair

Nursery — Lois Bair

Fellowship — Wayne & Edna Bicehouse

## Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier      Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman  
Organist—Mark Ferraguto      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), Lisa B. (JoAnn's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the Snook family.

*God Answers  
Knee Mail*



**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.



### **July Special Offering**

Out of the Cold: Centre County (OOTC<sup>3</sup>-<http://www.ootc3.org/>) provides the homeless in our community with a warm and safe overnight accommodation and nourishment within a welcoming atmosphere as a supplemental option to locally established shelters.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and financial support!



- July **NO Trustee's Meeting this month!**
- July 11-15 **Arts Fest/People's Choice**
- July 15 **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**
- July 22 **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **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://www.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).