

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

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

December 9, 2018      **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**      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**      Introit (Veni Emmanuel) from *Advent Suite*

Pietro Yon

**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 for Faithful Praise**

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

**#119**

## **\*Centering Our Souls**

We are called to have faith and to prepare for the coming of Christ in our world.

**But we too often imagine a babe in a manger than a true commitment to repenting of our lifestyles of wanting and having more than enough.**

You would have us to make a path that we may not want to walk on – one that leads us out of the deserts of delight and the wildernesses of waywardness.

**In this season of consumerism and extravagance, we too often prefer luxuries over love, jewelry over justice, and parties over peace.**

Goad us to true faithfulness, where we forgive those who have wronged us, restore those who we've alienated, and give to those whom we don't think have earned it.

**Help us to clear a path for you to come into our hearts and souls.**

Transform our spirits to abide by your virtues and values in all we think, say, and do.

**May we unlearn the rules of our society as we welcome in your ways of loveliness and grace.**

Remove from our way the boulders of apathy, the briars of self-centeredness, and the quagmires of acquisitiveness.

**Inspire us to imagine your better world, and to live in the way that would make it real; as did the Prince of Peace whose coming we honor. Blessings be.**

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

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

**Advent Wreath Ceremony**

The Candle of Faith & Preparation

*The Reed Family: Seann, Cindy, Jordan, Abby*

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Ellie Mae Knarr

**see insert**

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

"Faith & Preparation"

## **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.*

**Choral Cantata** “Sing a Song of Christmas” *by Michael Barrett & Joseph M. Martin*  
*Flute: Megan Laush Trumpet: Jacob Shoener*  
*Percussion: Joe Greeby Narrator: Timothy Lewis*

## **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*

The advent of the Christ draws near.

With hope and faith we conquer fear.

Let love and peace in us be found.

Let joy within our hearts abound.

**\*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 Advent, 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. May it be so.

**\*Hymn of Mary’s Faith**

“My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise”

**#106**

## \*Encouragement for the Journey

**Postlude** Toccata on "Creator of the Stars of Night" from *Advent Suite*  
Pietro Yon

## \*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  
Trustee — Tom Daubert  
Fellowship — Sue Doran

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers  
Ushers — Tom Daubert, Jane Lee Childs

#### Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier  
Organist — Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman  
Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins  
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 Susie Keck, the family of Bunnie Hartswick, the family of JoAnn Edwards, Allen Killpatrick, K. Thompson, Ben and Louise Harris, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot's family.

*God Answers  
Knee Mail*

Please help us keep this list up to date. Notify the office of additions or removals.



**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.



**December Special Offering**

**Christmas Fund** (UCC) Provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received annually on the Sunday before Christmas.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Christmas Fund" noted in the memo line or on the offering envelope.

**Calendar items now listed in Announcements**

## **Get In Touch with Us!**

Faith United Church of Christ 300 E. College Avenue State College, PA 16801  
Tel: (814) 237-3904 www.faithucc.info 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).