

Faith United Church of Christ

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

September 9, 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

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here, BWV 731

J. S. Bach

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."

***Hymn for Equality Achieved**

"O for a World"

#575

***Centering Our Souls**

Remind us again, O God, pure religion is to care for 'the least of these.'

When we would rather rest and be comfortable, teach us to not be complacent but to help those most in need.

Teach us the value of being impartial in our judgements concerning others; never treating some better because they may be able to repay us, and never treating others worse because they can't.

We know that your ways are not those of favoritism. You judge the heart, not the outward appearance; and the action, not the belief.

In all the ways we make distinctions about the worthiness of others, remind us again and again that this is not your way.

For you have chosen the poor, oppressed, weak, and afflicted to be the heirs of your ways.

So may we never dishonor anyone, or see them as less than your beloved child.

Grant us courage to defend those who are poor from those who are rich, to aid those who are persecuted and oppose their afflictors, and to counteract all injustices so that all may live in parity.

If we love others as we love ourselves, we will not show partiality towards those who might benefit us.

Let our works be those of justice and compassion for those most in need, those struggling to live on low or no incomes...those who have been ostracized by society...and those who are may seem dangerous to us.

For faith without works is dead, and prayers without actions is hypocrisy.

May we by our good works show the genuineness of our faith, now and always.

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Choral Anthem

With a Voice of Singing by Martin Shaw

A Time for All God's Children

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer

“Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer”

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. May it be so.

***Hymn for Works that Reveal Faith** “O God of Earth and Altar” **#582**

Scripture Lesson James 1.27-2-18

Message “A Faith That Sides with the Poor”

***Hymn for a Life of Compassion** “Lead Us from Death to Life” **#581**

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 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**

We are called to be a generous people, always building up the Body of Christ. Let us not forget our calling, but to humbly, patiently, and gently live it day by day. Let us help bear with love the burdens of the weak, the poor, and the oppressed – coming to their aid in word, in action, and by sharing what we have with them. Let us all make every effort to build unity between ourselves and our brothers and

sisters throughout the world, letting your Spirit lead and strengthen us so that we may create the bond of peace with justice that makes us all one. Let these gifts we offer today aid this calling we have from you, and so also aid those most in need. May it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

Postlude

Short Prelude and Fugue in G Major.

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

Trustee — Tom Daubert

Fellowship — The Choir

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers

Ushers — Larry Bair, Tom Daubert

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:

K. Thompson, Cyndy (Marilyn's daughter-in-law), June Irvin, Ben and Louise Harris, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, 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 Dad), the Piggot's 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.



September Special Offering

Park Forest PreSchool is dedicated to providing low income families with a comprehensive preschool program that includes education, social skills, and developmental motor skills taught by qualified teachers in a friendly, safe environment. The preschool continues their mission of assisting at-risk children to grow and thrive while preparing them for a successful start in public school. You can learn more about them on their website: <http://www.parkforestpreschool.org>.



- Sep 9 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sep 11 Trustees 7PM
- Sep 15 Kent State Noon
- Sep 16 24th 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.faihucc.info
facebook.com/SCFaithUCC

Church Office Email: faihucc@comcast.net Pastor's Email:
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.