

The Values, Vision, and Mission of Faith United Church of Christ

The Core Values of Faith United Church of Christ

Inclusiveness/open and affirming/welcoming

Fostering outreach to the younger community (PSU et al) and serving the wider community

Justice to those who don't receive it (social, environmental, etc.)

Volunteerism with in the church's programs, ministries, Mission Teams, etc.

Valuing and honoring tradition in worship with progressive theology, values, and language (recognition that "tradition" at Faith Church, as in Biblical tradition, is evolving and flexible)

Communally caring, loving, and nurturing of each other

Education (all ages)—religious, cultural, societal, etc.)

Spiritual growth (all ages)—connecting generations, breadth and depth, guidance (mentoring), support groups, intellectually stimulating

The Vision Statement of Faith United Church of Christ

Faith United Church of Christ is a progressive community or faith that seeks to:

Live out an extravagantly welcoming, radically inclusive, and open and affirming faith in which we embrace the wonderful diversity of God's people, all of whom we see as our siblings regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, dis/ability, and circumstance of life.

Foster outreach and relationship with people of all ages, with emphasis on younger members and families in the State College area and those in the Penn State University community, in order to heed God's call to us to serve locally and beyond.

Advocate for justice wherever there is injustice, and both speak and work for changes in local, regional, national, and world attitudes and laws that will address both systematic and personal injustices to groups and individuals.

Embody an ethos of service and volunteerism through the church programs, ministries and Ministry Teams by which our church responds to God's call by aiding one another and the wider community.

Kindle and sustain a set of values, theology, and language that is innovatively progressive, while doing so in a structure of worship that respects tradition without being constrained by it.

Cultivate compassion, kindness, and caring concern within our congregation and wider community so as to nurture a spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and mutual support.

Edify our minds, hearts, and souls by educating ourselves and others about other faiths, cultures, and societies and human endeavors so as to further mutual understanding in the hope for peaceful relations.

Nurture spiritual growth in each person at every level of development so as to make wise our God-given consciences, deepen our resolve to follow Christ's call to love one another as ourselves, and broaden the Spirit's influence by doing our part in making the world a better place.

The Mission Statement of Faith United Church of Christ

We, the congregation of Faith United Church of Christ, live out our mission by faithfully,

Welcoming, befriending, and empowering all persons who seek a haven of spiritual sustenance and inspiration.

Providing an outreach of invitation and inclusion to the wider community, with an emphasis on children young persons and the Penn State community.

Speaking, writing, and acting in our personal, social, political, and religious lives in defense of those for whom justice is denied.

Investing and committing our time, talents, and efforts to create, nourish, support, and invigorate the ministries, programs, and leadership of our church to carry out our vision through volunteerism as well as requested and appointed service.

Affirming both creative and traditional elements within worship that are compatible with our progressive Christian values, and encouraging our pastor staff, and congregation to appreciate the diversity of liturgy and interpretation in which we are uniquely blessed while in sacred fellowship.

Practicing kindness and displaying compassion in all of our relationships within our church to facilitate a community of healing, encouragement, nurture, and peace.

Learning, teaching, and interacting with one another with the intent of fostering understanding, building relationships, and developing networks that expand our minds inspire our spirits, and uplift our souls.

Engaging our sense of wonder and awe, inquisitively acknowledging our doubts and questions, planting seeds of sacred mystery, cultivating the crops of faithfulness, and reaping a harvest of blessing so that God's light might shine on us and through us to the world.