FOCUS ON FAITH

Volume 49, Number 3
2020

9:00 am —SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:15 am—WORSHIP

LEAD PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: Dennis J. Duda

Faith United Church of Christ
5992 Route 378
Center Valley, PA 18034
610-282-3939
faithchurchcv@gmail.com
www.faithchurchucc.org

Thank you to the newsletter crew for their help in mailing the newsletters each month -

Ruth Cressman, LaVerna Diehl, Joan Hassler, Evelyn Hovis, and Sue Walter

OUR VISION STATEMENT

United with Christ, we are committed to sharing the transformative love of God's grace and peace through service to our neighbors.

2020 Consistory

Officers:

President: Kevin Long
Vice President: Becky Hite
Secretary: Mary Ellen Long

Elders:	**Deacons:**	
Kevin Long	Mary Ellen Long	Tracy Adams
Jane Van Horn	Tom Berghold	Kim Ritter
Mike Ford	Justin Koser	Ken Koehnlein
Jerry Trexler	Becky Hite	Brenda Hovis

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine

Liaisons:

Christian Ed: Mike Ford
Fellowship/Outreach: Kevin Long
Enduring /Mem. Gifts: Mary Ellen Long
Property: Ken Koehnlein
Staff Relations: Jane Van Horn
Worship: Kim Ritter
Budget/Finance: Jerry Trexler
Mission: Tracy Adams
Youth Group: Becky Hite
Day Care: Pastor Bruce
Fundraising: Brenda Hovis
Choir: Tom Berghold

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I have recently been re-introduced to the world of Twitter. To be honest with you I never really understood the point of Twitter. I know it is a way to stay connected with people who are important to us but why publish intimate details of my life on the internet for all the world to see? I understand that our president uses Twitter to make public statements that he considers to be important as do other public officials and that makes some sense to me but why do I need with a Twitter account? Who cares that much about what I think or have to say beyond my family, friends, and you; my congregation? Want to know how I feel about something? Come to church and listen to a sermon. Better yet, pick up the phone and give me a call. Even better still, let's meet at Starbucks and we can talk there. I'll even pay!

Patience and I both opened up Twitter accounts when our son Ethan ran the Boston Marathon in 2011. Ethan would have run 20 miles before he ran past the point where we were watching the marathon and we were concerned that if something went wrong on the way, let's say the 15-mile mark, how would he notify anyone that he needed help? He told us to open up Twitter accounts (Which we did) and he would tweet us every 5 miles or so (Which he did). Along the marathon he did send some amusing tweets but he had no problems, he crossed the finish line, and I shut my Twitter account off; until just recently.

One thing about social media is that you find yourself getting connected with unknown and unheard of people.

Yesterday I went on Twitter and there was a tweet from a very frustrated young man who couldn't get his car started. He recorded a video of himself in the car, showed the indicator lights on his dash, turned the key, and could not understand why his car would not start. Now I don't know why he thought sending a tweet out was going to solve his problem but I was pretty sure that his battery had died during the night and instead of tweeting random people in the "twittervers" he should be calling AAA. So, I tweeted back that I thought his battery was dead, that just happens sometimes, and that if had a AAA membership he should call them and they could 1) give him a jump and/or 2) sell him a new battery. Yes, I've been down that road myself more than a few times.

I didn't expect anything to happen but shortly after my tweet approximately 100 people responded, agreeing with my diagnosis of the problem! Later in the day the young man who made the original tweet replied that it was indeed the battery and he thanked all who had guided him to find that solution.

My mechanic father would have been proud of me!

I'm still not sold on social media as the best way to stay connected … for myself. Perhaps it's my age or just what I need to feel connected but I DO believe that staying connected is extremely important especially in order to maintain community.

Jesus taught His disciples to live in community, to find closeness, trust, and dependability in that community and then he instructed them to build that same community outside the boundaries of the region of their world. He taught them about community and how to build and broaden community and at the heart of

community is connectedness.

And so, stay connected. Meet in a coffee shop, have lunch, gather for worship, partner on a church committee, email, and use whatever social media that works for you! Just stay connected and the Body of Christ will do more than help a frustrated young man figure out that he needs a new battery in his car. People will discover the love of Christ that is only experienced among the company of believers.

Peace,

Pastor Bruce

We've Lost Some Friends

Please keep the families of the following
Faith members in your thoughts and prayers…

Robert Campbell, Jr., 28, passed away on February 1st.
Miriam Beck, 94, passed away on February 16th.
Jon Marie Miller, 44, passed away on February 20th.

Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories. *~ Author Unknown*

A LOOK AHEAD AT LENT AT FAITH CHURCH

This year during Lent we will be returning to an old tradition of our Wednesday evening covered dish dinners followed by a program but here at Faith. The dinner will start at 6:00, program at 6:45, and we'll try and end at 7:30 so our choir members can get to practice!

This year's program is video/study series entitled *Vanishing Grace* by Philip Yancey.

"Why does the church stir up such negative feelings?" Philip Yancey has been asking this all his life as a journalist. His perennial question is more relevant now than ever: research shows that favorable opinions of Christianity have plummeted drastically - and opinions of Evangelicals have taken even deeper dives. Yet while opinions about Christianity are dropping, interest in spirituality is rising. Why the disconnect? Why are so many asking, "What's so good about the Good News?" In Vanishing Grace, Yancey shows the desperate need our world has for grace, and how Christians can truly make the gospel good news again.

This is a five-week series. The Worship Committee invites you to make this time of fellowship and study a part of your Lenten Journey.

March 4: *We've Got Problems*
March 11: *What Can We Do About It?*
March 18: *Who Are the Grace Dispensers*
April 1: *Is it Really Good News?*
April 8: *Holy Subversives*

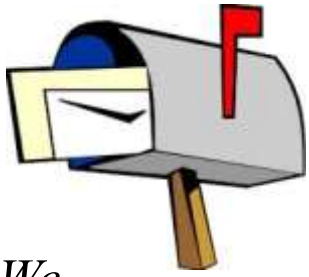
2020 Annual Faith Church Talent Auction

Our Annual On-Line Talent Auction is up and running through March 15th! You can help to make this one of our top fundraisers of the year!! If you can provide an item or talent to auction off, please email the details to Wes Koser at **koser1@yahoo.com**. Items will be added throughout the auction so check back often! If you realize you have something to offer mid-month—please let Wes know!

Share the website with your friends and neighbors!

www.32auctions.com/fucc2020

All items or services are intended for local pick up and not to be extended outside of the Lehigh Valley, PA.



Dear Friends,

It has been a difficult time for us with my sister, Judy and Chuck's brother, Art passing within the same week. We know they are both in the arms of our Loving God. We want to thank everyone for your many prayers, comforting hugs, and kind words. We appreciate Pastor Bruce visiting and encouraging us when sometimes it seemed like we couldn't get moving.

These acts of kindness have all helped to make this an easier time for us. Peace and Blessings to all.

Chuck and Karen

Tails of Valor Fundraiser

Saturday February 29

9am-3pm

Walk South Mall for a good cause!

While you're here enter to win prizes in our Tricky Tray Raffle

All proceeds go to Tails of Valor

How Can You Help

Donate an item or Basket for the Tricky Tray Raffle

Donating Businesses will receive

- 1- 8ft table space to showcase your business during the even
- Business name added to socia media marketing efforts
- Business on a sign next to donated item on prize table

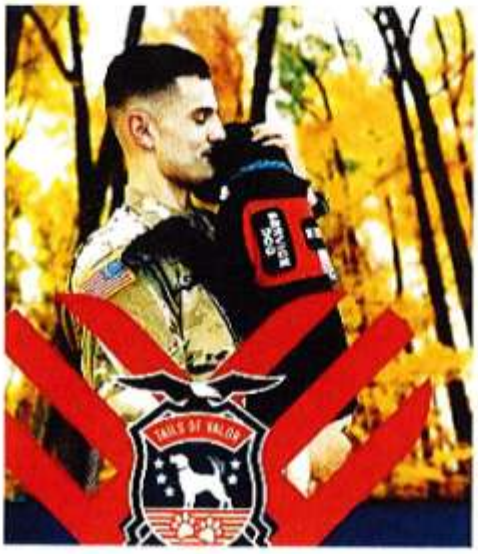
Secure an 8ft table without a Tricky Tray Donation for $15

- $15 will be donated directly to Tails of Valor

Sponser a Dog

- Call (267) 733-7294

Invite your friends, family and employees to Walk for a Cause!



TAILS OF VALOR

PAWS OF HONOR

Angel Mission Blood Drive ~ Sunday, March 29th

Lily Adams will be hosting a blood drive at Faith on March 29th from 11AM-4PM, for her Angel Mission project to honor Makayla Becker. Makayla is a 13-year-old girl from Boyertown who was diagnosed with leukemia in October. She requires frequent blood transfusions. We are looking for volunteers to donate blood. If you are not eligible to donate blood, we hope you will still join us after church to enjoy food & fellowship.

Please register to donate online at:
https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/81225

Or contact Tracy Adams to schedule a time at 267-738-1645 or ttadams21@gmail.com.

Come hear more about Lily's project during Mission Sunday on March 15th.

Thank you for your support!

2020 Annual Faith Church Talent Auction

Our Annual On-Line Talent Auction will begin in mid February and run through mid March! Watch the weekly email and Sunday bulletins for exact dates. You can help to make this one of our top fundraisers of the year!! If you can provide an item or talent to auction off, please email the details to Wes Koser at **koser1@yahoo.com**. Items may be added throughout the auction so if you realize you have something to offer mid-month—please let Wes know!

Share the website with your friends and neighbors!

www.32auctions.com/fucc2020

All items or services are intended for local pick up and not to be extended outside of the Lehigh Valley, PA.

Daylight Savings Time
begins
Sunday, March 8, 2020

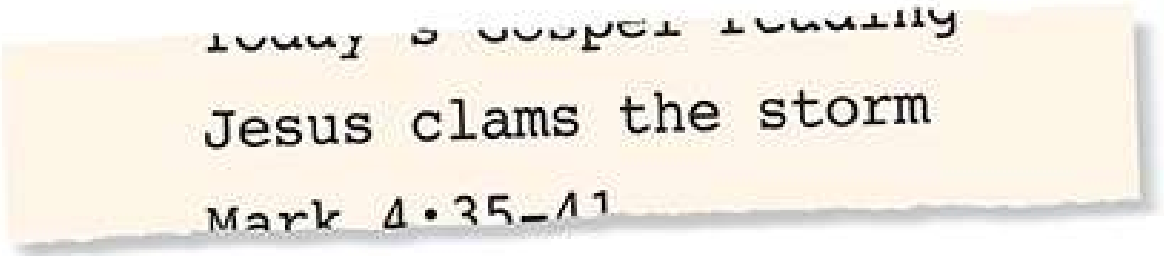
Puzzle Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6, NIV

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE IN MARCH

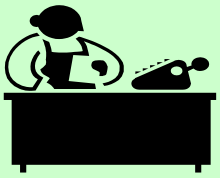
Head Usher: Kim Ritter **Nursery: Diane Talaber**
Financial Secretary: Tony DiSanto

	3/1/20	3/8/20	3/15/20	3/22/20	3/29/20
Greeter	Faye Tirpak	Marge Kichline	Diane Neidermeier	Bonnie Stenroos	Jane Van Horn
Ushers	John Barone Tom Hovis Kevin Long George Rau	Steve & Sandy Sosnowsky Joe & Deb Orach	Bob & Patti Shelly Linda Torrence Heather Koser	Cindy Talaber Tracy Adams Mike Ford Donna Schoenberger	Brenda Hovis Deb Herstine Barb Scattergood Sue Walter
Lay Reader	Kevin Long	Sandy Sosnowsky	Cindy Talaber	Mim Allison	Brenda Hovis
Acolytes			Avery Koser	Kanes	
Flowers	Scholl	Walter	Ritter	Tirpak	Talboo

From a church bulletin:



That's one way to *calm* the waves!



FROM THE TREASURER—
JANUARY FINANCIALS

	JANUARY	YTD
Receipts	$21,735	$21,735
Disbursements	$22,303	$22,303
	($568)	($568)

	Attendance	Offering	over/under $3500 goal
1/5	66	$ 2,813	($687)
1/12	97	$ 4,032	$532
1/19	53	$ 1,227	($2,273)
1/26	84	$ 1,988	($1,512)
Tithe.ly		$ 800	
Total	300	$10,860	($3,940)

Special Offerings

OCWM—$25

Blankets—$50

Fundraising Income

Penny Party—$3697

Dan Schantz Cards—$260

Yard Sale—$70

5 Below—$45

From the Secretary:

The **deadline** for **April Newsletter** articles and information is ***March 10th*****.** Please email to faitchurchcv@gmail.com or place them in the Secretary's mailbox in the conference room or on her desk.

Interested in sponsoring 2020 ALTAR FLOWERS? The following dates are open: May 3 & 31, July 12, 19, 26, August 2, November 29. Please call the church office to reserve your date. The cost is $35.

Many thanks for your support of Betty Lou's Pantry! For the last two Sundays of January and the first two Sundays of February, our regular donations included 306 items and $295. The monetary donation includes a generous donation from several members of the congregation in memory of Chuck Talboo's brother Art and Karen Talboo's sister Judy.

Please remember that this month we are collecting cans of hearty soups, chili, ravioli and stew for Betty Lou's Pantry. Our goal is to collect 150 cans. Please help us to attain it.

MOST CURRENTLY NEEDED ITEMS:

MEAT HELPERS • CANNED RAVIOLI • BOXED POTATOES

Items stocked at the Pantry include:

Pork & Beans
Canned Pasta
Canned Tomatoes
Kidney Beans
Canned fruit
Canned Vegetables
Beef Stew
Spaghetti Sauce
Chili
Peanut Butter
Canned Sauce
Chunky Soups
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Chicken & Salmon
Dry Pasta & Spaghetti

Monetary Donations are a particularly effective way to help the Pantry. A donation of $10 will buy over 60 lbs of food through Second Harvest. If you are in need or know of someone in the area who is, please call **610-282-2838** and leave a message, or email **bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com** *—Mike Ford*

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated soup to Betty Lou's Pantry during our **Souper Bowl of Caring Soup Drive.** We challenged the congregation to donate 150 cans of Hearty Soup. You exceeded that goal with a donation of 201 cans of soup!! These donations will go a long way to keep our Pantry families warm and full in the upcoming months.

After worship we were able to sample a variety of wonderful soups prepared by the great chefs of Faith Church. The participants were able to "stuff the ballot boxes" for their favorite soups. They were all delicious and the winners of **Best Faith Soups** are:

First Place: Sara Hovis - Sausage Tortillini
Runners Up:
Linda Torrence - Chicken Rice Soup
Faye Tirpak - Sweet Potato Soup
Dee Hutchinson - Oyster Stew

A donation of $50 will be made to the SLA Samaritan Fund as a result of the soup voting. Thank you to all!

Angel Mission Sunday
March 15, 2020

There is still time to participate in ***Angel Mission Sunday***. *The Mission Team will give you $25 as seed money to fund your own Mission Project. If interested, please see Chuck or Karen Talboo.*

On **Sunday March 15,** the Mission Team

will be leading worship. Instead of a traditional Sunday message, everyone who has participated in the **"Angel Mission"** will be sharing a brief story about their own mission. You may do either or **BOTH** of the following:

-Create a poster to share your project
-Send pictures of your mission to Pastor Bruce for display on the wall for all to see by March 1.

Following worship you are invited to join us **in Fellowship Hall** for **Make-Your-Own Salad & Pie Sunday! We'll provide the salad fixin's and YOU bring your favorite PIE!**

PLEASE PLAN TO CELEBRATE ALL OF FAITH'S MISSIONS.

Mark Your Calendar...

<u>Spring Bingo</u>
Sunday, April 26, 2020

Tickets Go on Sale: Sunday, March 22, 2019
Ticket Price: $25 for 25 Regular Games
Play to Win: Vera Bradley Purses
Thirty One Bags,
Pampered Chef Treasures

Look for more details on how you can help in next month's Focus on Faith!

NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who helped make **the Penny Party a huge success again this year**! When everything was finished and tallied, we raised $3696.67 for the general fund of our church. Wow! The next Penny Party is already on the Church Calendar for 2021.

The Fundraising committee would like to give special thanks to Caroline Frantz, for spear heading all of the donations, Cindy Talaber, for helping with basket auction, and everyone that baked, donated baskets and door prizes, helped in the kitchen and cleaning up. When we all come together we make a great team!

Upcoming Dates:

Talent Auction: February 16 through March 15

Don't forget to bid often!

Five Below Fund Raiser: March 22nd - 28th

Pick up a flyer in the Church Narthex, so the Church gets a percentage of your purchase. Easter is just around the corner.

Faith UCC Yard Sale: September 12, 2020

Details to follow for donated items to be dropped off. The Fund raising committee is requesting that if you plan to donate items, that they are in good shape and sellable. We would like to concen trate our time on sorting and pricing, so if you think it is worth something then donate it, but if it is bordering on trash, then please dispose of it and save us time. Thank you ahead of time for your help with this part of the yard sale.

Penny Party: January 31st, 2021

Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts to raise money for the general fund. We appreciate your willingness to donate and participate.

The Fundraising Committee

MARCH BIBLE READINGS

March 1
Dan. 9:3–10
Heb. 2:10–18
John 12:44–50

March 2
Gen. 37:1–11
1 Cor. 1:1–19
Mark 1:1–13

March 3
Gen. 37:12–24
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Mark 1:14–28

March 4
Gen. 37:25–36
1 Cor. 2:1–13
Mark 1:29–45

March 5
Gen. 39:1–23
1 Cor. 2:14—3:15
Mark 2:1–12

March 6
Gen. 40:1–23
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Mark 2:13–22

March 7
Gen. 41:1–13
1 Cor. 4:1–7
Mark 2:23—3:6

March 8
Gen. 41:14–45
Rom. 6:3–14
John 5:19–24

March 9
Gen. 41:46–57
1 Cor. 4:8–20 (21)
Mark 3:7–19a

March 10
Gen. 42:1–17
1 Cor. 5:1–8
Mark 3:19b–35

March 11
Gen. 42:18–28
1 Cor. 5:9—6:11
Mark 4:1–20

March 12
Gen. 42:29–38
1 Cor. 6:12–20
Mark 4:21–34

March 13
Gen. 43:1–15
1 Cor. 7:1–9
Mark 4:35–41

March 14
Gen. 43:16–34
1 Cor. 7:10–24
Mark 5:1–20

March 15
Gen. 44:1–17
Rom. 8:1–10
John 5:25–29

March 16
Gen. 44:18–34
1 Cor. 7:25–31
Mark 5:21–43

March 17
Gen. 45:1–15
1 Cor. 7:32–40
Mark 6:1–13

March 18
Gen. 45:16–28
1 Cor. 8:1–13
Mark 6:13–29

March 19
Gen. 46:1–7, 28–34
1 Cor. 9:1–15
Mark 6:30–46

March 20
Gen. 47:1–26
1 Cor. 9:16–27
Mark 6:47–56

March 21
Gen. 47:27–48:7
1 Cor. 10:1–13
Mark 7:1–23

March 22
Gen. 48:8–22
Rom. 8:11–25
John 6:27–40

March 23
Gen. 49:1–28
1 Cor. 10:14–11:1
Mark 7:24–37

March 24
Gen. 49:29–50:14
1 Cor. 11:2–34
Mark 8:1–10

March 25
Gen. 50:15–26
1 Cor. 12:1–11
Mark 8:11–26

March 26
Exod. 1:6–22
1 Cor. 12:12–26
Mark 8:27–9:1

March 27
Exod. 2:1–22
1 Cor. 12:27–13:3
Mark 9:2–13

March 28
Exod. 2:23–3:15
1 Cor. 13:1–13
Mark 9:14–29

March 29
Exod. 3:16–4:12
Rom. 12:1–21
John 8:46–59

March 30
Exod. 4:10–31
1 Cor. 14:1–19
Mark 9:30–41

March 31
Exod. 5:1–6:1
1 Cor. 14:20–33a, 39–40
Mark 9:42–50

Joyful noise

Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

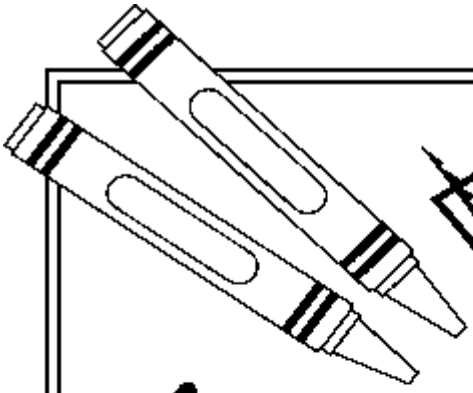
What you need:
- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:
1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

March

02 Carolee Glickman
02 Gabrielle Koehnlein
03 Tony DiSanto
03 Matthew Long
04 Glenn Scholl
05 Gail Nagy
07 Dan Schaffer
07 Weiland Hite
07 Isabel Hovis
08 Charlotte Gasda
11 Tom Davis
12 Joan Demkee
12 Jennifer Amato
12 Tim Hovis
13 Roy Slekovac
15 Dalton Biery
16 Joan Jones
20 James Tilley
22 Colin Recke
23 Lisa Koch
24 Katie Y
26 Andrew Miller
26 Thomas Miller
28 Barbara Strimple
30 Tom Herstine
31 Patricia Babos

Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



PUZZLE

MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.

A type of horn	_ _ _ _ _ _ ☐	MURTETP
Played by King David	☐ _ _ _	PRHA
Plucked to make sound	_ ☐ _ _ _ _ _	IGSNSTR
Similar to a tambourine	_ _ _ ☐ _ _ _	MRBELIT
A type of harp	_ _ _ ☐	ELRY
Blown through to make sound	_ _ ☐ _	EPPI
A percussion instrument	_ _ _ _ _ ☐ _	YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath _raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV