

FOCUS



ON

FAITH

Volume 49, Number 8
2020



Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:15 am
You'll find us at www.faithchurchucc.org and at www.facebook.com/faithchurchucc/

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

We are an Open & Affirming Congregation



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

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.*

2020-21 Consistory

Officers:

President: Becky Hite

Vice President: Mike Ford

Secretary: Mary Ellen Long

Elders:

Mike Ford

Jerry Trexler

Becky Hite

Kim Ritter

Deacons:

Tom Berghold

Mary Ellen Long

Brenda Hovis

Ken Koehnlein

Tracy Adams

Justin Koser

Matt Long

Joan Hassler

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine

Liaisons:

To be determined at September's Consistory Meeting



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I am sure that you have heard the old expression “Two, is better than one.” I’m not sure that is true in ever circumstance but I get the point. As long as we are talking about good things then two IS better than one!

I have to be honest with you (Not that I wouldn’t!), this COVID-19 Pandemic is really starting to get to me. Actually, it started to get to me quite a while ago and I know that I am not alone. I am tired of leading worship in an empty sanctuary in front of a camera. I’m tired of not being able to greet you every Sunday. I’m tired of Zoom meetings. I’m tired of trying to re-invent every single wheel that I have been using since I began my ministry 35 years ago. I’m tired of not being able to gather with friends and celebrate simple things like a birthday or an anniversary. Okay, I will stop the whining. As I said, I know that I am not alone in all of this and as your pastor I am not supposed to drag you down. I’m supposed to lift you up!

Due to the pandemic my daughter was not able to find a summer job. She did find a few odd jobs to do on some online job search. One job that she found was to sanitize a small house. The house was for sale, the owners had two small children and they were going to be out of town for the weekend. During this time there was going to be a number of showings of their home. They wanted someone to go into their home and wipe down every door knob, water facet, appliance handle, and surface in the house with

household disinfectant before they arrived home. I can't say that I blame them. Covid-19 Pandemic. Two young children. Countless people walking through their home. I would want to make sure that the house was clean and safe from the virus myself. So, that was one job that Catherine had.

It was late in the afternoon when I dropped her off and it had been raining but the sun was coming out. I looked up and saw this:



A Spectacular Double Rainbow! It took up the entire sky. It was magnificent.

For a moment, I forgot about everything. I even forgot that Catherine was in a house about a block or two away disinfecting surfaces! But mainly, I forgot about the COVID-19 Pandemic and how it had inconvenienced ALL of our lives.

For Christians, a rainbow is a symbol of God's grace. It is to remind us that no matter how dark life might seem at times light will return bringing life and color. A rainbow reminds us of God's promise, God's Covenant, never to forsake us to any trouble or danger.

I needed to be reminded of God's Covenant that day and I still do at times. And when I do, I look to this rainbow. I have seen many rainbows in my life, some more vivid and spectacular than this. But this one took up the entire sky and it was a DOUBLE rainbow! See, two is better than one. As a complete bow I was reminded that there isn't an ounce of God's creation that falls outside of His protection and as a double bow I was reminded that when necessary, God gives us a double dose of his grace.

I forgot about COVID-19 for a moment and focused on the protective shelter of God's grace for truly that is more powerful than the most destructive force of any virus. Continue to be cautious but do not forget the one who walks and travels with you.

Peace,



Pastor Bruce



Dear Friends,

We continue to monitor and consider how we should proceed our worship schedule during this time of Pandemic. While the Lehigh Valley has moved into the “Green Zone” and most of us have been able to return to normal routines there are still risks and we must act with care and caution.

On Monday, August 24 the Consistory met to discuss a recommendation regarding re-opening our building. We had been visiting this issue on a monthly basis but this time the Worship Committee recommended keeping the building closed and re-evaluating the first week of November. The Consistory agreed to this recommendation and voted to affirm it. And so this means that there will be no activities in the building; worship, Sunday school, or confirmation classes until we re-evaluate in November.

We know that this news will be disappointing to many of you. We all miss each other and our worshiping community. We are aware of the fact that some churches have started to open. And so, we had a spirited discussion about ways in which we could gather and maintain safety. The Worship Committee continues to examine ways in which we can reach out with the use of technology. We will continue to explore options that will work for us and the particular needs of our congregation. While we have considered many options, we do not claim to possess all the wisdom and creativity out there and so we invite you to email me (pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org) your ideas. I will share them with the Worship Committee, Consistory, and any committee best suited to consider it.

May God's daily blessings be upon you for excellent physical and spiritual health!

Blessings,

Mr. Kevin Long, Consistory President

Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevenson, Lead Pastor

Coming Soon: Listen to Our Services on Your Phone!

Within a few weeks we will be offering another way you can participate in our weekly worship services. Simply call the church on a special phone number and you can listen to the service. To make it even more simple we can set things up so that you will receive the phone call from our system. It will take a few weeks to set this all up but I wanted you to know of this new service as soon as possible. Some of you don't have computers or smart phones. Some of you do have computers or a smart phone and just don't like to be bothered with navigating the internet. However, we ALL have telephones and we ALL know how to dial them! If you would like us to set this up so that you receive a phone call on Sunday at 10:15 indicating that the service is ready for you to listen please let me know. This is just one more way for us to remain connected.



Pastor Bruce

Puzzle Answers: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

A NOTE FROM OUR CONFERENCE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Hope is a wonderful thing. It is a gift. Hope restored and renewed strengthens us and helps us face the challenges of the days we are facing.

Between a pandemic which has claimed more than 174,000 lives in the US; the pandemic of systemic racism, white supremacy and white privilege that continues to plague our siblings of color; the political, spiritual, and emotional divides which seek to separate us, natural disasters plaguing our nation and others, there is much which drains our hope. Yet, we are called to be people of hope. Paul's letter to the Ephesians reminds us: "I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power (Ephesians 1:17-19).

In all these challenges, there is good news. Churches are continuing to worship and celebrate their faith. Communities of faith continue to do the work of mission and ministry in communities addressing the needs of those around them. Ministers are finding new ways to provide pastoral care and leadership. Worship attendance, at least virtually, have increased. Safe church practices have been recreated and redesigned to include social distancing, wearing masks, taking temperatures, avoiding congregational singing, changing greeting, offering and communion practice, and following CDC guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing.

I continue to be so proud of the worship and work taking place in our

churches, the leadership of our pastors and the covenantal commitments being honored. You are each and all a blessing to me.

I have one more reason to hope in these days. Those of you who have been following my husband Steve's health issues. I am so happy to share with you that he is in a COVID step down unit following three asymptomatic weeks and a negative COVID test. We are making progress and I am thrilled to be sharing this with you. Thank you for your continued prayers. I am so grateful for your support.

Friends keep the faith. Hang on to hope. Feel the presence of God. Walk together.

Blessings,
Bonnie

Some Words of Wisdom....

Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith. —Henry Ward Beecher

When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure. —Peter Marshall

Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art. —Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow. —Anthony J. D'Angelo



Edison Joel Zehnder was born on May 23, 2020 (on his Uncle Kyle's birthday!) to Rachel (Ritter) and Adam Zehnder. He was also welcomed by his big sister, Gwendolyn who is in love with him and loves being a big sister! Edison weighed 7 lbs and measured in at 18.5 inches.

God's blessings to you all!

Dear Pastor Bruce and Friends of Faith Church,

Thank you very much for the wonderful birthday wishes and all the beautiful birthday cards. I was so surprised at all the birthday cards that came in the mail.



Thank you for making my 90th birthday so special.

LaMar Beck

FROM THE TREASURER— JUNE & JULY FINANCIALS

			Offering	
	JUNE	YTD		
Receipts	\$20,722.89	\$128,020.70	6/7	\$ 4,698
Disbursements	\$20,674.85	\$125,682.80	6/14	\$ 1,510
	\$ 48.04	\$ 2,337.90	6/21	\$ 1,650
			6/28	\$ 950
			Tithe.ly	\$ 4,101
			Total	\$12,909

Special Offerings:

Our Churches Wider Mission—\$85
 SLA Samaritan Fund—\$50
 Betty Lou's Pantry—\$118
 Joyful Noise—\$307

			Offering	
	JULY	YTD		
Receipts	\$16,853.72	\$144,874.42	7/5	\$ 1,575
Disbursements	\$19,452.06	\$145,134.86	7/12	\$ 2,860
	(\$ 2,598.34)	(\$ 260.44)	7/19	\$ 2,235
			7/26	\$ 1,420
			Tithe.ly	\$ 2,061
			Total	\$10,151

Special Offerings:

One Great Hour of Sharing—\$80
 SLA Samaritan Fund—\$625
 Christmas Fund—\$5
 Neighbors in Need—\$5
 Strengthen the Church—\$5

Thank you for your continued support during this time. To support the ministry of your church you can simply mail your gift to the church at 5992 Route 378, Center Valley, PA 18034 (*please don't place it in the church mailbox*) or use one of two online giving programs: Tithe.ly which is on our website or your own bank's bill pay. Your church depends upon your generous and faithful stewardship to maintain this ministry in whatever form it takes!

News from Betty Lou's



The Pantry has continued to serve our neighbors in need during the Covid pandemic. We wish to thank everyone for your support whether it be financially, dropping off foods at the Post Offices and/or participating in St James drive-thru food collections.

Families are able to receive food twice a month and that is making it a challenge to keep the shelves stocked. More than 100 families are served each month. That is over 300 individuals. During the summer months, families with school age children also receive extra foods such as cereal, fruit, ravioli, etc.

St James has had 2 drive-thru food collections that have been extremely helpful in re-stocking some greatly needed items. They include:

Chunky Soup or Chili

Canned Ravioli

Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helpers

Spaghetti Noodles

Boxed Potatoes

Canned Tomato Products

Special thanks goes to Tim Talaber and Bob Shelly for picking up food from Second Harvest each Wednesday morning. Thanks to Cindy Talaber for picking up and helping to shelve the food from the Post Offices.

November was to be our month to assist the families at BLP but that will not happen this year. However, we are still responsible for donating **100 bottles of laundry detergent** for that month. Drop off your detergent donations at the 2 Post Offices or the Library. Food and detergent can also be dropped off on Wednesday mornings between 9-10

am at BLP.

The tradition of Christmas gift-giving to the youth being served by BLP will change this December. To observe safety guidelines **\$25 Gift Cards** will be given to families for each of their children. If you wish to support this mission, a monetary donation can be made to Faith Church, designated for BLP Christmas gifts.

We appreciate Faith Church's continued generous support of our Southern Lehigh neighbors in need.

Chuck & Karen Talboo

Mission News

Hope Chest Shoe Box Ministry

Due to safety concerns, the Hope Chest Shoe Box Ministry will not take place this Christmas. We will not be collecting empty shoe boxes, either wrapped or unwrapped. Feel free to wrap and store shoe boxes in your home until next year's mission.

Fall Bingo

Bingo has been cancelled for this Fall.

Hopefully, Spring Bingo will take place on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

Mission Pledges

The proceeds from Spring Bingo are used to help many organizations here in the Lehigh Valley, as well as internationally. Since this event was unable to take place, we were concerned that we would not be able to make our pledges. Thanks to your generous donations, all of

Faith Church's Mission Pledges have been met for 2020. This includes:

Sponsorship of Robert and Yousef	Phoebe Home
Bethany Children's Home	Pathways
Beyond Borders Schools	Pitt-Hopkins Research

We are currently asking for donations to the **Samaritan's Fund** and **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Donations can be made through Tithely or check to Faith Church designated for either of these missions.

Thank you for supporting Faith's Missions.

Beyond Borders Family Sponsorships

Many thanks to everyone who has sponsored one of the 7 families in Haiti. We are so pleased that you have continued to meet your pledges. Haiti is also dealing with the Covid pandemic and Beyond Borders is helping to educate the families on Covid Safety.

Blessings to you all!

Forget-Me-Nots

During these times of quarantine, it is very important to remember our Forget-Me-Nots who may not be able to receive any guests. Please send a card or give them a phone call just to let them know that their church family has not forgotten them.

We also included a list of those who regularly attend church when we gather but do not use or have access to computers. They, too, might enjoy a card or a call.

Forget-Me-Nots:

Robert Fosbenner - 610-797-2984
800 Hausman Rd Apt 467
Allentown PA 18104

Grace Benner
1320 Mill Road
Quakertown PA 18951

Frank Styer - 610-838-1188
2434 Forest Drive
Coopersburg PA 18036

Dorothy Miller - 610-282-3807
c/o Jane Birks
2841 Whitemarsh Place
Macungie PA 18062

LaMar Beck - 610-282-1456
6596 North Main Street
Coopersburg PA 18036

Marv & Patty Neely - 610-282-4455
225 S. Main St
Coopersburg PA 18036

Shirley Baldwin
943 Long Street #110
Fountain Hill PA 18015

Virginia Haller
4851 Saucon Creek Rd, Rm 315
Center Valley, PA 18034

Timothy Holschwander
1050 Main St #13A
Hellertown PA 18055

Bebe Moyer - 610-691-6068
624 S Bergen St
Fountain Hill PA 18015

Shirley George
350 S Cedarbrook Rd, Rm 311
Allentown, PA 18104

Joan Jones
3164 Flint Hill Road
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Church Attendees:

LaVerna Diehl - 610-282-3670
3417 Jacoby Road
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Ruth Cressman - 610-285-8474
800 Hausman Rd, Apt 380
Allentown, PA 18104

Evelyn Hovis - 610-797-4349
4645 Lanark Rd
Center Valley, PA 18034

Bob Pierson - 352-678-2148
5493 Chestnut Hill Rd
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Anna Breisch - 610-797-3329
4802 Aberdene St
Center Valley, PA 18036

2020 LAWN SCHEDULE

08/31/2020	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
09/07/2020	Dwayne Schantz	610-797-4994
	Roger Erney	610-797-7227
09/14/2020	Bruce Torrence	610-282-4081
	Wes Koser	610-841-7077
09/21/2020	NEED VOLUNTEERS	
09/28/2020	Brian Bross	484-223-5171
10/05/2020	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476

Are you able to help during the week of 9/21? please give Tim a call at 484-223-9476.



From the Secretary:

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

In order to keep Faith's Member & Friend Information up to date, please contact the church office or click [HERE](#) if there is a change to your:

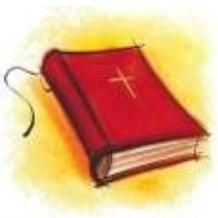
- **Home Address**
- **Email Address**
- **Phone Number**

Thanks, *Sandy*

From a church newsletter:

THE CHURCH IS COULING THIS FALL.
 Can you help hose the visiting
 choir members?
 They need room and board for one night

We hope they each find a hospitable *host!*



SEPTEMBER BIBLE READINGS

September 1

Job 12:1; 13:3–17, 21–27
Acts 12:1–17
John 8:33–47

September 2

Job 12:1; 14:1–22
Acts 12:18–25
John 8:47–59

September 3

Job 16:16–22; 17:1, 13–16
Acts 13:1–12
John 9:1–17

September 4

Job 19:1–7, 14–27
Acts 13:13–25
John 9:18–41

September 5

Job 22:1–4, 21–23:7
Acts 13:26–43
John 10:1–18

September 6

Job 25:1–6; 27:1–6
Rev. 14:1–7, 13
Matt. 5:13–20

September 7

Job 32:1–10, 19—33:1, 19–28
Acts 13:44–52
John 10:19–30

September 8

Job 29:1–20
Acts 14:1–18
John 10:31–42

September 9

Job 29:1; 30:1–2, 16–31
Acts 14:19–28
John 11:1–16

September 10

Job 29:1; 31:1–23
Acts 15:1–11
John 11:17–29

September 11

Job 29:1; 31:24–40
Acts 15:12–21
John 11:30–44

September 12

Job 38:1–17
Acts 15:22–35
John 11:45–54

September 13

Job 38:1, 18–41
Rev. 18:1–8
Matt. 5:21–26

September 14

Job 40:1–24
Acts 15:36–16:5
John 11:55—12:8

September 15

Job 40:1; 41:1–11
Acts 16:6–15
John 12:9–19

September 16

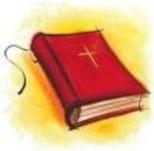
Job 42:1–17
Acts 16:16–24
John 12:20–26

September 17

Job 28:1–28
Acts 16:25–40
John 12:27–36a

September 18

Esther 1:1–4, 10–19
Acts 17:1–15
John 12:36b–43



SEPTEMBER BIBLE READINGS

September 19
Esther 2:5–8, 15–23
Acts 17:16–34
John 12:44–50

September 20
Esther 3:1—4:3
James 1:19–27
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

September 21
Esther 4:4–17
Acts 18:1–11
Luke (1:1–4) 3:1–14

September 22
Esther 5:1–14
Acts 18:12–28
Luke 3:15–22

September 23
Esther 6:1–14
Acts 19:1–10
Luke 4:1–13

September 24
Esther 7:1–10
Acts 19:11–20
Luke 4:14–30

September 25
Esther 8:1–8, 15–17
Acts 19:21–41
Luke 4:31–37

September 26
Esther 9:1–32
Acts 20:1–16
Luke 4:38–44

September 27
Hos. 1:1–2:1
James 3:1–13
Matt. 13:44–52

September 28
Hos. 2:2–15
Acts 20:17–38
Luke 5:1–11

September 29
Hos. 2:16–23
Acts 21:1–14
Luke 5:12–26

September 30
Hos. 3:1–5
Acts 21:15–26
Luke 5:27–39

A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



What you do:

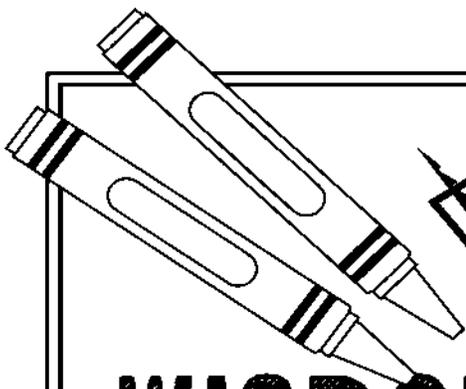
1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school.
Happy reading!

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Anna Tilley | 18 Donna Herndon |
| 01 Dan Thompson | 20 Tam Christman |
| 02 James Tilley | 21 Carrie Fosbenner |
| 03 Iris Shelly | 21 Wendy Thompson |
| 03 John Barone | 22 Romaine Zeiner |
| 03 Greg Thompson | 23 Cathy Wimmer |
| 03 Adriana Muth | 23 Diane Talaber |
| 03 Tim Long | 26 Susan Roberts |
| 05 Evelyn Hovis | 26 Erin Gollie |
| 05 Pauline Kemmerer | 27 Abby Muth |
| 06 Nathan Smith | 28 Michael DiSanto |
| 06 Paul Stebbings | 28 Damyn Allison |
| 09 Tim Holschwander | 29 Ruth Smith |
| 09 Patti Shelly | 29 Eric Fosbenner |
| 10 Carol Beck | |
| 10 Olivia Muth | |
| 14 Howard Barrick | |
| 14 Virginia Haller | |
| 14 Patricia Bley | |
| 14 Gavin Kennedy | |
| 17 Cindy Talaber | |
| 17 Kate Jellison | |



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.

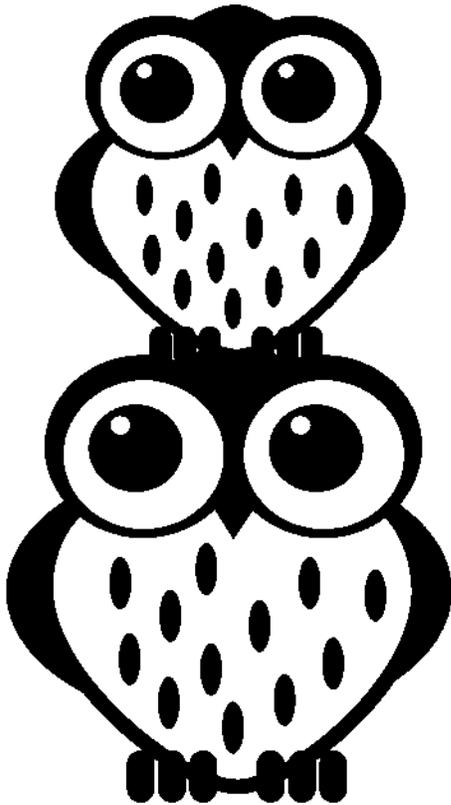


PUZZLE

WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



- school — ○ — — —
- paper — ○ —
- wisdom — — ○ —
- read — — — ○
- play — — — — —
- learn ○ — — — —
- grow — ○ — — — —
- pencils — — — — —
- pray — ○ — —
- art — — — — —
- student — — — ○ — —
- kids — — ○ — — — —
- apple — — ○ — — —

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV