



As for me
and my house,
we will serve
The Lord.

JOSHUA 24:15



**Faith United Church of Christ
5992 Route 378
Center Valley, PA 18034**

Mission Team's Mission Statement

Our mission is to create opportunities for the congregation of Faith United Church of Christ to serve our neighbors in need (locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally) in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Relevant Bible Verse

Matthew 25: 34-40

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for Me."

This booklet has been created to provide a listing and description of Faith's missions. It includes information on each mission, time of year the mission occurs, and how you can serve. We hope this will assist you and your family in reaching out to our neighbors-in-need.

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How money is raised for mission:

Fall / Spring Bingo & Basket Raffle

Joyful Noise Collection

Anonymous Donations

Flag Pole Rental Supports a portion of OCWM

Free-Will Offerings

Special UCC Offerings

Revised October 2020



Betty Lou's Pantry

BLP is a ministry providing food for more than 100 families in need each month. It is administered by 12 churches in the Southern Lehigh area. Each church volunteers one month during the year to assist the families as they pick up their food selections on either the second or fourth Saturday of the month.

Special Dinners are provided during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holidays.

Christmas Gifts, under the leadership of Faith Church, are provided for all children whose families utilize Betty Lou's Pantry.

Special Collection Events

- ~**Every Sunday:** Donated foods are accepted
- ~**November:** Scout Food Drive
- ~**November-December:** Donation of Christmas Gifts
- ~**February:** Soup Collection
- ~**May:** Letter Carrier Food Drive



How Can You Serve?

- ~**Bring** a non-perishable food item each week to church and place in the basket in the Narthex.
- ~ **Donate** personal hygiene items when attending the fall and spring Mission bingo events or leave in the basket in the Narthex.
- ~**Volunteer** to help during Faith's assigned month.
- ~**Make** a financial donation to curtail the cost of the special holiday dinners.
- ~**Participate** in the Scout and Letter Carrier Food Drives by filling a grocery bag with food items and setting it out for pickup on designated dates.
- ~**Say YES** when the cashiers at the local grocery stores ask if you would like to make a donation to your local food pantry.
- ~**Select** a family in need of gifts for their children at Christmas time and provide them with what might be the only gifts they will receive during the holiday.



Church World Services

What is Church World Services and what do they do?

C.W.S has worked for nearly seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for **ALL**. We affirm the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future. That means a refugee family who is able to start a new life or someone rebuilding after disaster finds safety with dignity. CWS meets them right where they are, helping them create solutions they can maintain and build on.



Blanket Month - February

February is the month for collecting the offering to purchase blankets for C.W.S. Each blanket can be purchased for \$10. Faith Church's goal is to purchase at least 100 blankets for a total donation of \$1,000. Your mission dollars go a long way when you purchase one of these heavy durable blankets. The blankets are distributed world-wide during all types of disasters. They can serve as a tent or a softer place to sleep but the most important is to keep a victim warm and dry. The offering will be collected on the last Sunday in February.

Hygiene Kits - As Needed

Simple **Hygiene Kits** are distributed when emergencies arise in countries around the world. In many situations these are the only items available to crisis victims. The kit is easily assembled with some basic hygiene needs. A list of items to be included in the kit will be available as needed. Each kit can be assembled for less than \$10.





The Allentown Rescue Mission

The Allentown Rescue Mission is located at 355 Hamilton Street in Allentown, PA. The non-profit organization makes a real difference in the lives of homeless men who are in need of help in our community. The Mission provides homeless men with emergency shelter, nutritious meals, clean clothing, medical attention and directs them to community resources. Along with all of these essential services, the Mission is faith-based providing chapel services to the men.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for the men who are in need of these services. May they be given the assistance they need to help begin a new life.
- ~ **Join** us as we prepare and serve dinner to the men.
- ~ **Make** personal donations for special meals during holidays such as Easter and Christmas.

Encouraging our College Students

For those of us who have left home for the first time after graduation, whether it be to attend college or service or some other adventure, it can be a difficult and lonely time. Faith Church provides encouragement to our college students and lets them know that they are not forgotten and we are praying for their success. We do this by sending cards and care packages. The post office has boxes for a flat fee that can be jammed as full as you want with treats and fun things. Or send a note with a gift card to any place to eat. Anytime is a good time whether it be right after their arrival at college or during finals. Names and addresses are available. Just ask.

Helping to Protect our Beautiful Planet



Faith Church has begun to work in partnership with TREX, the makers of decking materials. TREX has a recycling program that encourages organizations to collect plastic bags and wrap.

The program gives us 6 months to collect 500 pounds of these materials. In return for collecting these recyclables, we will receive a park bench. After just 2 months we collected enough plastic to receive a lovely bench which is located in the office lobby. It is our hope to continue this process every 6 months.

However, this is not just about getting a Free Bench...it's about beginning the process of helping to save this Planet Earth that God created as our home.

Faith is also beginning to reduce our usage of materials that cannot be recycled, like foam cups and plastic plates.

Dress-A-Child

Every Child Needs Nice Clothes



Each year, whenever possible, Karen Long participates in a Medical Mission Trip to Cap Haitien, Haiti. Karen leads a team comprised of therapists, doctors, nurses, prosthetists and a school nurse. Part of their day is spent **teaching at the Hospital de Baptiste Haiti.** This hospital is an

acute care hospital, a walk in clinic and a rehabilitation hospital all in one. On this property is the **Maison de Benediction**, which is a **respite care center for children** with disabilities. These children stay at the center Monday through Friday and leave with either parents, hospital employees or foster parents on a Friday morning. The teachers at the school dress the children in nice clothes in order to help them feel excited about their weekends with a family that may become their forever family. The girls love their dresses and can't wait to try them on! We also send shorts and shirts for the young boys.

Karen has requested that we fill her duffle bag with **50 dresses** each year. **That's a lot of dresses!** Faith Church has made and donated over 300 dresses to this Dress-A-Child mission. Of these, 100 dresses were hand delivered to Haiti. These special dresses are made from colorful durable cotton fabric. This is an ongoing mission.



We would love to send each boy and girl home with new clothes that they will love.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for the children of Maison de Benediction that they may all find a forever family and will become strong and healthy.
- ~**Volunteer** your skills of cutting, ironing, and sewing to help make the dresses.
- ~**Donate** materials such as fabric, bias tape, and elastic.
- ~**Purchase** shorts and shirts for the young boys.

Faith's Faithful Knitters

Each Tuesday evening a group of ladies who call themselves *Faith in Stitches* gather together in the Memorial Room to knit and crochet scarves, hats, mittens, lap robes, and vests. They create lovely items that are donated where the need is greatest such as Betty Lou's Pantry, Pathways, Holiday Hope Chests and the Lehigh Valley homeless.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Join** the group on Tuesday evenings.
- ~**Use** your knitting and crocheting talents to provide warm hats and scarves.
- ~**Donate** Yarn.



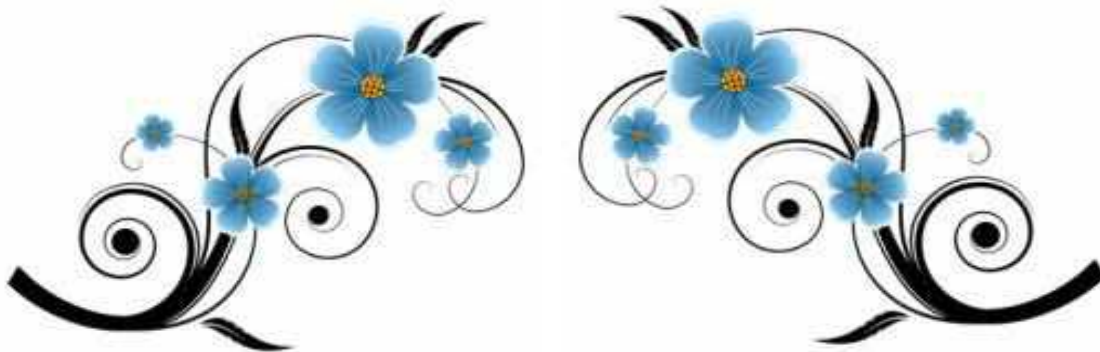
Forget-Me-Nots

Our **Forget-Me-Nots** are those members of our church that can no longer attend worship on a regular basis. Each Christmas and Easter we pack gift bags and deliver them to these longtime faithful members of Faith Church. Donation suggestions will be available in mid-November.

Birthdays are recognized by “showering” each of them with cards from Faith to let them know they are not forgotten.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for the well-being of each of our Forget-Me-Nots.
- ~**Donate** items to be placed in the Christmas Gift bags.
- ~**Send** them cards on their birthdays and other holidays.
- ~**Visit** them when you are able.





Heifer International

The children of **Faith Church's Sunday School** classes have been challenged to raise enough money to purchase animals through **Heifer International**. Each Sunday morning as they enter church for Sunday School they place their offering in a special bank. Over the years, Faith Church has been successful at raising enough to purchase **over \$7,800 worth of animals** and are well on our way to purchasing many more animals.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for the families that are receiving these animals that they may have a better life.
- ~**Encourage** your children to save or earn a little extra money or change to add to this very special mission.



Helping Hands

This fund is a Pastor's Discretionary Fund used to help individuals or families when they have nowhere else to turn. Sometimes this is a member of our church that may need help with a utility bill or medication. Or it may be a family passing through our area in need of gasoline and a meal. The recipient will remain anonymous and there will be no report on this activity.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for these individuals that they may be blessed by the Helping Hands donation.
- ~Use the “**Helping Hands Fund**” envelope to make a generous donation.



~Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
Hebrews 13:1-2

Joyful Noise Offering



On the **second Sunday** of each **month**, the children collect a special offering during worship that is to be used for children's missions only. The three missions supported by the **Joyful Noise** offering include:

Global Ministries GM is a Child Sponsorship program that is committed to aiding children at risk by providing a practical way for individuals and churches to extend a helping hand. Since the 1950's, this global ministry has been working to safeguard the future of children around the world. Our commitment helps to provide housing, clothing, food, education and basic health care until age eighteen.

Faith Church is currently sponsoring two children. We have pledged **\$660** a year to support these children.

Robert Clive was an orphan who now lives on the **Family Village Farm in Tamilnadu, India**. Robert was born Oct 10, 2002.

Our second child is **Yousef Ashraf Nihad** who lives with his family. He attends the **Rawdat El-Zuhur School in Jerusalem, Israel**. Yousef was born March 24, 2009.

Bethany Children's Home

The Shelter Program, near Reading, PA, is a licensed 24 hour emergency placement for youth ages 10-18. The youth are identified as being in need of a stable environment while a more permanent plan for their child care is developed.

Faith Church has pledged **\$480** to the **Brighter Future Annual Fund**. It not only provides for their basic needs but also for special programs such as Birthday Parties, Christmas Gifts, Spiritual Life, Cottage Trips, Arts, Music and Recreation. These programs provide residents with many “first time” and memorable experiences they would not have had with their families.

Beyond Borders

Faith Church has pledged **\$480** yearly to a **Schools Not Slavery** movement that is growing throughout Haiti. Many areas in Haiti are lacking quality schools or may have no school at all. Beyond Borders is attempting to eradicate child slavery by providing all children with an education.

The **Light of Light Foundation** is working with Beyond Borders in rural areas in Haiti to train adults to take responsibility in their communities and to ensure that every child in their region will have access to quality education.

How Can You Serve?

~**Pray** for the success of all these missions.

~**Save** your **loose change** because it really can make a difference in a child's life.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Our Church's Wider Mission

Sharing is an essential part of what God calls us to do as the people of God's Church. We are called to share our joys and concerns. We are called to share our time and talents. The church was founded with sharing at its core.

In the United Church of Christ, one of the ways we are invited to share is through our offerings to **Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**. OCWM is the way that the United Church of Christ helps distribute services, resources, and expertise to all within our faith community who have need.

The Financial support your church shares, through OCWM, gives us the opportunity to have a common funding source that helps us all to do those things that we could not do as effectively by ourselves.

OCWM helps OUR church BE the Church.

UCC Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing - Palm Sunday

Giving Help, Hope and Life

Supports partners in more than 70 countries with ministries that fund development projects, feed the victims of famine, provide services for displaced people, and respond to natural disasters. These ministries are the responsibility of Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Strengthen the Church - April

As part of the OCWM, the United Church of Christ collects offerings for four special causes throughout the year. Along with other UCC churches across the country, Faith Church participates in these special offerings, setting a goal of being 4-for-4 each year.

Neighbors in Need - October

Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, including ministry carried out by the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) and by the national offices of Justice and Witness Ministries

The Christmas Fund - December

Remembering Those Who Serve Our Church

Provides financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and children who face overwhelming financial demands, this ministry is carried out by the Pension Boards.

How Can You Serve?

~**Pray** for all who benefit from these missions.

~**Make** a generous donation to each Special Mission.

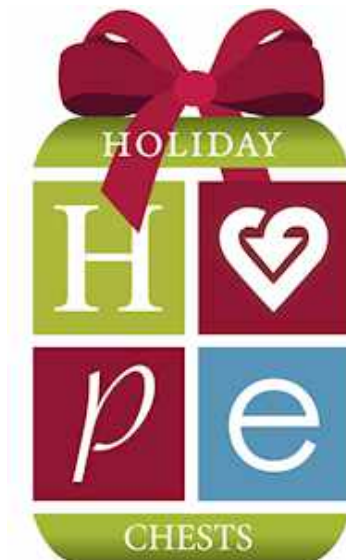
HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS

Organized Through the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley

Faith Church participates in a Christmas shoe box ministry that gives less fortunate children a special gift during the holiday season. Wrapped shoe boxes and specific directions are provided in October. All packed shoe boxes are delivered the week after Thanksgiving to a local drop-off center for processing during the Christmas Season. **All *Holiday Hope Chests* are delivered in the Lehigh Valley.** Please join the fun and make the holiday season a little brighter for children right here!

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for the children and their families that they may have a bright future
- ~**Save** Shoe Boxes
- ~**Wrap** Shoe boxes
- ~**Pack** as many Holiday Hope Chests as possible



Sponsorship of Haiti Families

In September, 2019 Dr. Tony Campolo, the founder of Beyond Borders, was a guest speaker at Faith Church. In his inspirational and entertaining message he encouraged us to become sponsors of impoverished Haitian families. By receiving sponsorship, a family will receive a new home, education for their children, training for a sustainable income and much more. As a result of Dr. Campolo's message, Faith Church is currently sponsoring 7 families directly and another family is being sponsored by a mission oriented group outside of Faith.



The Caring Place

Under the guidance of founder and executive director, Mary Griffin, The Caring Place is a center city Allentown program that is helping to take care of kids. The After-School Program is a year-round program designed to assist children with their schoolwork and build their math and reading skills. The After-School Tutoring program uses volunteers, including many college students, who work to help children improve their performance in school and show them they can achieve their goals at their highest potential.

Faith Church provides school supplies as needed and supports the catering service/restaurant that helps support this much needed program.

The Angel Mission Sunday

Beginning in January the Mission Team offers the youth of Faith Church the opportunity to create their own mission. If there are any remaining funds, it is then offered to the adults of the congregation. They each receive \$25 in seed money to make their mission happen. On a selected Sunday in March the participants present a short summary during worship of their mission projects followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

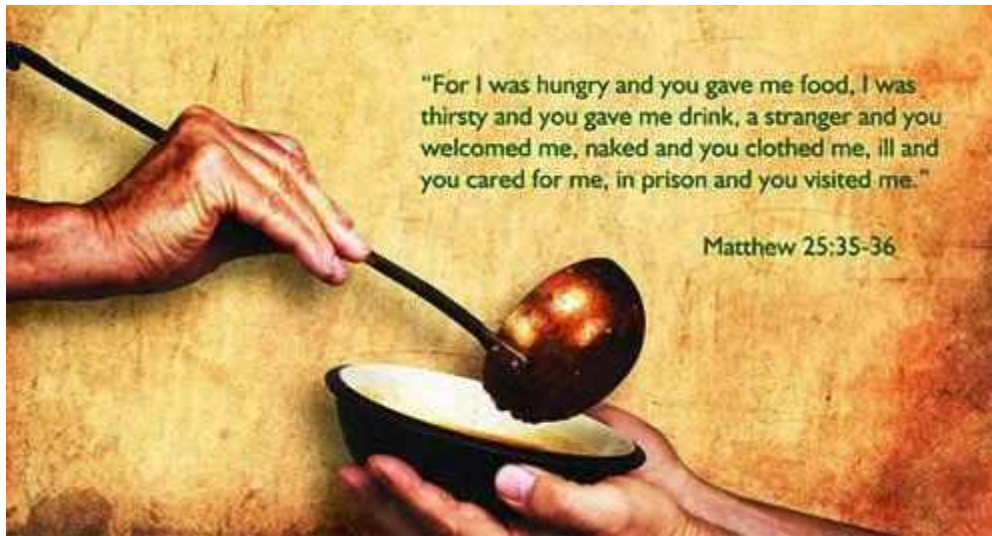
Examples of missions selected include:

- ~ Baking for Betty Lou's Pantry families and/or our local first responders
- ~ Visiting our Forget-Me-Nots and delivering gifts and cards
- ~ Baking and holding a bake sale to raise money for Pitt Hopkins Syndrome
- ~ Preparing and serving a meal for the Allentown Rescue Mission
- ~ Buying supplies for local animal shelters and walking the dogs
- ~ Making dresses for an orphanage in Haiti
- ~ Providing supplies to foster children
- ~ Organizing a Blood Drive
- ~ Participating in Walk-a-thons
- ~ Providing Easter Baskets for hospitalized children
- ~ Cleaning up the local park and sports fields
- ~ Creating supply boxes for the Lehigh Valley homeless

Angel Missions



Southern Lehigh Area ***Samaritan Fund***



Southern Lehigh Area Samaritan Fund

The Samaritan Fund has enabled our area churches to address the needs of hurting people in our community with God's grace, love, and compassion. Partnered with other faith based organizations, together we have been able to provide food for the hungry, keep people in their homes, maintain services of gas, oil, water, and electric, and advise people as to how to avoid these circumstances from happening again.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for all who benefit from these missions.
- ~**Make** a monetary donation. (*contributions are tax deductible*)
- ~**Volunteer** your time and talents

Pathways

Lehigh County Conference of Churches

Pathways is an ecumenical service that provides basic necessities for the needy in the Lehigh County. Faith Church makes a donation annually to support this mission.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** for the families who benefit from Pathways.
- ~**Support** mission fundraising so that we may make a generous donation to Pathways.

Supporting Other Missions

Frequently opportunities present themselves when we need to reach out to our neighbors-in-need. Listed below are some of these missions:

- ~Allentown Rescue Mission
- ~Blankets for the Homeless
- ~Coat and Clothing Drives
- ~Donations of Gift Cards during Natural Disasters
- ~Supporting our Troops



Phoebe Ministries

Faith Church has pledged **\$600** yearly to the ministries of Phoebe Home. The following services are provided:

Memory Support

Brain Fitness

Adult Day Services

Independent Living

Skilled Nursing Care

Rehab Care

Our donation to Phoebe is extremely important because **NO ONE** is every turned away if their funds run out.

How can you serve?

~**Pray** for the elderly who live in Phoebe facilities.

~**Support** fundraisers like bingo that help provide a donation from Faith Church.



Race for Rylie

Rylie and her family are members of Faith Church. She was diagnosed with Pitt Hopkins Syndrome as an infant. Each year fundraisers are held by the families whose children have been diagnosed with **Pitt Hopkins Syndrome**. The funds raised are donated to the University of Pennsylvania for research to find a cure for this childhood disease.

How Can You Serve?

- ~**Pray** that a cure is found for Rylie and other children with Pitt Hopkins Syndrome.
- ~**Support** mission fundraisers that raise money for this cause.





Thank you for supporting
the mission ministry of
Faith UCC.

Together may we continue to reach out to our Neighbors In Need.