FOCUS ON FAITH

Volume 50, Number 10
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
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We are an Open & Affirming Congregation

DIVERSE
INCLUSIVE
ACCEPTING
WELCOMING
SAFE SPACE
FOR EVERYONE

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:

Christian Ed: Mike Ford
Fellowship/Outreach: Matt Long
Enduring /Mem. Gifts: Mary Ellen Long
Property: Ken Koehnlein
Staff Relations: Joan Hassler
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,

It is election season again. Our phones are ringing off the hook from morning until evening with calls from eager campaign workers encouraging us to get to the polls or to make sure we mail in our ballots on time and correctly. Lawns are littered with signs supporting candidates up and down the ballot for all parties. At this point they are so familiar to me I basically ignore them but I was driving home from the grocery store last week I saw something that I never thought I would see –

"Jesus 2020."

This really caught my eye (at least enough to turn around and take a picture!) and I had many thoughts, not necessarily in this order:

- If ever we needed him, now would be the time!
- Now that's a novel idea!
- How could anyone vote against Jesus?
- Would Jesus really go into politics and if he would what party would he join?

It was that last question that I am still pondering over: Would Jesus ever go into politics and if so what party would he join? Let's deal with the first part of that question.

I don't think Jesus would have gone into politics. Satan tried to tempt him by offering him political power and he rejected it. People thought he came to establish himself as a king and he corrected them by saying that the Kingdom of God, the only realm where he would rule, was not "of this world." I am quite convinced that if Jesus was offered the Presidency, he would turn it down.

And yet, while I don't think Jesus would have entered politics, one cannot deny that he was very political. He fought for justice and peace. He embraced those who were outcast and marginalized of the society in which he lived. He took on the plight of the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the widows, and the orphans. I could go on and on but by taking on this struggle for justice Jesus took on the power and principalities of his day. He spoke the truth to power; to the Romans, the Priests, the Pharisees, and the Seduces. These groups were the Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Green Party, Libertarians, etc. of his day and when he saw injustice, he challenged them all.

A friend of mine once said that he didn't think it was possible to belong to a certain political party and also be a Christian. That lead to a rich conversation since I am a member of that "certain" party. There is nothing wrong with belonging to any political party. As I just said I belong to one and if you know me well you can probably guess which one it is. However, I feel compelled to say that if I could vote in primary elections in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an Independent, I would change my affiliation in a heartbeat. My allegiance is to my convictions more than to any party. Furthermore, there is nothing wrong with a Christian holding an elected office. It's just not what Jesus came here to do so let's stop pretending he's a candidate.

But even though Jesus is not on the ballot there is nothing wrong with voting for the justice to which his life was devoted. Justice

for the poor and hungry who show up every other week at Betty Lou's Pantry. Justice for those who have lost their way and need some assistance from the Samaritans Fund. Justice for the lost, the forgotten, and misunderstood such as those suffering from brain illnesses. Justice for the "strangers in our midst," refugees, "angels unaware." Justice for homeless and dignity for all of God's children.

Jesus is not on the ballot (I'm quite sure he doesn't want to be) but his passions are. If you want to vote for Jesus then vote for justice.

Peace,

Sunday
November 15, 2020

A Congregational Meeting will be held to

•Approve a budget for 2021
•Elect Joan Demkee and Sandy Sosnowsky to the Memorial and Enduring Gifts Committee for a 2nd 3-year term

The Church Building will be closed on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020 , on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 in observance of Veteran's Day, and on Thursday, November 26, 2020 in observance of Thanksgiving.

News from Betty Lou's Pantry

Thank you for your generous response to our laundry detergent request!

Each month every family receives laundry detergent that will last for the entire month. Your donations are greatly appreciated. On behalf of the families that receive food from the Pantry, we wish to thank you for the donations of **112 bottles** of laundry detergent. If you still wish to donate please feel free to drop off at the Pantry from 9-11 on Wednesday mornings.

Boy Scout Food Drive
Saturday, November 14

The Boy Scouts will be holding their annual Food Drive this year. On Saturday, November 7 the Scouts will be leaving a bag at your front door. Attached to this bag will be a list of food items that are given to the families at each pick up. Please make purchases and donations based on the list of requested items. Place your donations in the bag and set it on your front porch by **8 a.m. on Saturday, November 14**. When donating food items please be sure the products are not opened and the labels are attached. Thank you!

Christmas Gifts for Children

Due to the Covid pandemic, the decision has been made to give each child a gift card instead of Christmas gifts. The parents will be given the gift cards to purchase gifts for their children. In the past, Faith Church members have been extremely generous to the children and we are asking that you please support the change for this year. If you decide to make a donation please send your check designated ***Christmas Gift Cards*** to:

Betty Lou's Pantry
PO Box 85
Coopersburg, PA 18036

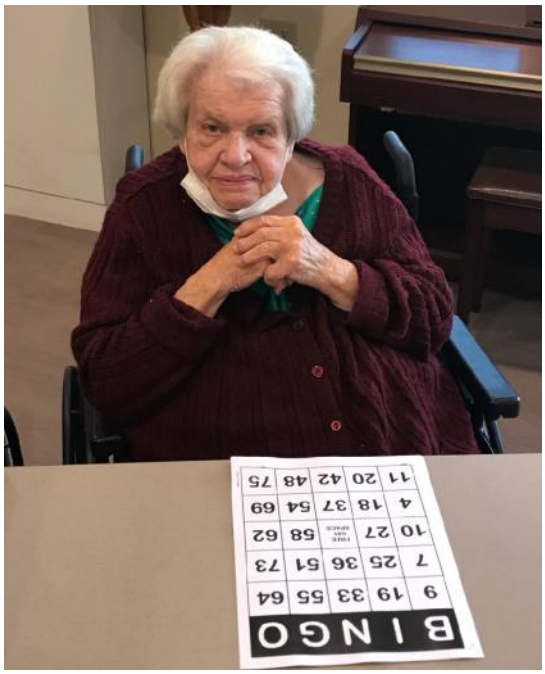
*Any amount is appreciated. Please send your donations **before Thanksgiving**, Thank you.*

Christmas Gift Wrap

Since the families will be purchasing gifts using the gift cards, we are asking for donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, tape, labels, ribbons and bows (***new and unused please***). These donations can be left off in the office lobby at Faith Church from 9 am -5 pm Monday through Friday. There will be a collection box clearly marked for these donations in the lobby.

Donations should be made before Thanksgiving.

Let's catch up and keep in touch with our Forget Me Nots!



Dorothy Miller recently moved from her home in Center Valley to Life Quest Nursing Center in Quakertown. Dorothy's niece, Jane, says she is adjusting well. Dorothy just celebrated her 91st birthday on October 18th! If you would like to drop her a note her address is:

Dorothy Miller C16-B
Life Quest Nursing Center
2450 John Fries Hwy
Quakertown, PA 18951

Or you can give her a call at 215-538-2046. Early evening is the best time to reach her.

Dorothy is allowed visitors each Monday from 1:30-3:30. You must call 215-536-0770 and reserve a visitation time.

Puzzle Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

Listen to Our Services on Your Phone!

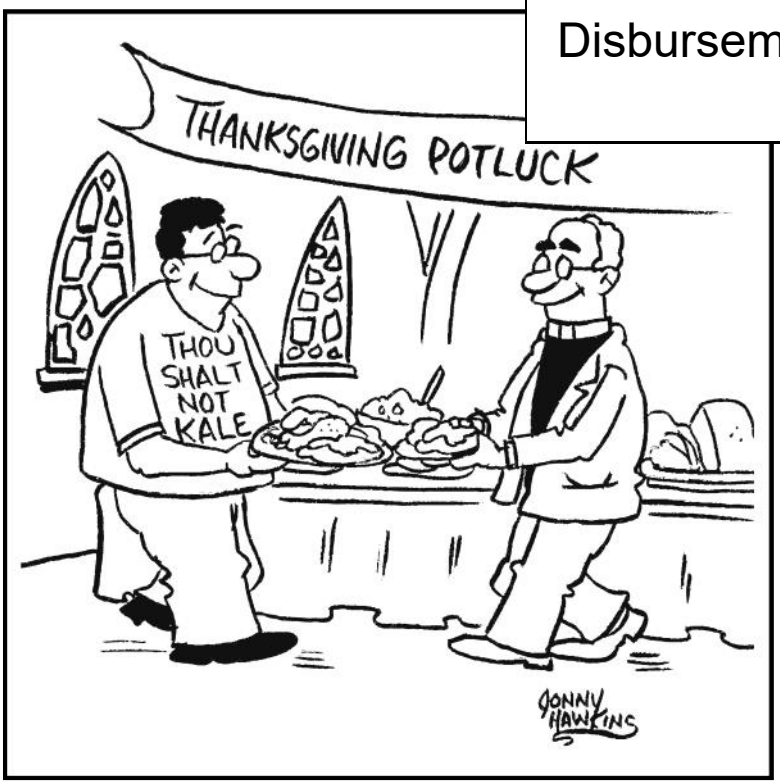
Now you can listen to our Worship Services over your phone! Simply call 855-883-5992 and you can listen to the service. To make it even more simple you can receive a phone call from our system on Sunday morning at 10:15 indicating that the service is ready for you to listen to. To set that up call the number above and follow the prompts.

From the Secretary:

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

September Financials

	SEPTEMBER	YTD
Receipts	$14,480.38	$175,503.04
Disbursements	$19,632.68	$182,963.91
	($5,152.30)	($7,460.87)



	Offering
9/6	$ 800
9/13	$ 2.611
9/20	$ 2,020
9/27	$ 2,220
Tithe.ly	$ 2,057
Total	$9,708

NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS

November 1
Zeph. 1:1–6
1 Cor. 12:27—13:13
Matt. 18:21–35

November 2
Zeph. 1:7–13
Rev. 14:1–13
Luke 12:49–59

November 3
Zeph. 1:14–18
Rev. 14:14—15:8
Luke 13:1–9

November 4
Zeph. 2:1–15
Rev. 16:1–11
Luke 13:10–17

November 5
Zeph. 3:1–7
Rev. 16:12–21
Luke 13:18–30

November 6
Zeph. 3:8–13
Rev. 17:1–18
Luke 13:31–35

November 7
Zeph. 3:14–20
Rev. 18:1–14
Luke 14:1–11

November 8
Joel 1:1–13
1 Cor. 14:1–12
Matt. 20:1–16

November 9
Joel 1:15–2:2
Rev. 18:15–24
Luke 14:12–24

November 10
Joel 2:3–11
Rev. 19:1–10
Luke 14:25–35

November 11
Joel 2:12–19
Rev. 19:11–21
Luke 15:1–10

November 12
Joel 2:21–27
James 1:1–15
Luke 15:1–2, 11–32

November 13
Joel 2:28–3:8
James 1:16–27
Luke 16:1–9

November 14
Joel 3:9–17
James 2:1–13
Luke 16:10–17 (18)

November 15
Hab. 1:1–12—2:1
Phil. 3:13–4:1
Matt. 23:13–24

November 16
Hab. 2:1–4, 9–20
James 2:14–26
Luke 16:19–31

November 17
Hab. 3:1–18
James 3:1–12
Luke 17:1–10

November 18
Mal. 1:1, 6–14
James 3:13–4:12
Luke 17:11–19

November 19
Mal. 2:1–16
James 4:13–5:6
Luke 17:20–37

November 20
Mal. 3:1–12
James 5:7–12
Luke 18:1–8

NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS

November 21
Mal. 3:13–4:6
James 5:13–20
Luke 18:9–14

November 22
Zech. 9:9–16
1 Peter 3:13–22
Matt. 21:1–13

November 23
Zech. 10:1–12
Gal. 6:1–10
Luke 18:15–30

November 24
Zech. 11:4–17
1 Cor. 3:10–23
Luke 18:31–43

November 25
Zech. 12:1–10
Eph. 1:3–14
Luke 19:1–10

November 26
Zech. 13:1–9
Eph. 1:15–23
Luke 19:11–27

November 27
Zech. 14:1–11
Rom. 15:7–13
Luke 19:28–40

November 28
Zech. 14:12–21
Phil. 2:1–11
Luke 19:41–48

November 29
Isa. 1:1–9
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 25:1–13

November 30
Isa. 1:10–20
1 Thess. 1:1–10
Luke 20:1–8

A taste of history

Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.

What you need:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt

What you do:

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.

November

01 Zackery Campbell
02 Russ Shelly
03 Jessica Schaffer
04 Catherine Stevenson
05 Glenn Gunkle
05 Emma Hardy
06 Joseph Orach
08 Bruce Keeler
11 Tootie Koch
11 Steve Sosnowsky
13 Joel Thompson
14 Jonah Ritter
15 Kevin Long
16 Zachary Long
18 Nicole Gasda
19 Marvin Neely
19 Meryl Bixel
22 Nolan Ryan
23 Jeremy Haas
25 Rebecca Hite
26 Eric Koch
26 Noah Ritter
27 Robert Pierson
27 Ryenn Amato

Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

____ _____ _____ __ _____ _____ ___ ___

_____ ____ ____ ___ _____ _____,

_____ ____. ACTS 2:46-47, NIV