

# FOCUS



# ON

# *FAITH*

Volume 51, Number 1  
2021



10:15 am—WORSHIP

Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:15 am

You'll find us on [YouTube](#)  
or call 855-883-5992 to listen.

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.*

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### 2021 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,

2020 is finally over and I, for one, am happy to say goodbye to it. Here are just some of the things that made 2020 a difficult year for me. While many of these things did not affect me *personally*, they did affect the community in which I live and my brothers and sisters in Christ across the globe. Consider just a sampling:

- Tornadoes in the spring
- Midland Michigan Dam breached in May
- Flooding in the Sudan in July as well as the Monsoon Floods.
- The Midwest Derecho in August
- The murder of George Floyd and the civil unrest that followed
- The refugee crisis in Venezuela and Rohingya
- The Beirut Explosion
- COVID-19

And so, given these events and others, I am looking forward to 2021. I know that 2021 will have the same challenges of 2020. COVID-19 will be with us for a long time as well as civil unrest, racial strife, floods, tornadoes, etc. But perhaps we have learned how to deal with such things better.

I have a friend who practices Buddhism. In the midst of one of the most frustrating moments of 2020 he shared this with me:

*Judge nothing, you will be happy  
Forgive everything, you will be happier  
Love everything, you will be happiest*

Happy, happier, happiest. Don't judge. Forgive. Love. What a wonderful recipe for a Happy New Year!

The year ahead of us will have its challenges and there is no guar-

antee that 2021 will be any better than 2020. We may be standing in the same place at the end of 2021 shouting “Good riddance!” But if we approach the challenges in front of us with a lack of judgement, plenty of forgiveness, and an extreme supply of love we will be able to move through each day and be the ... happiest!

Blessings and Happy New Year,



**Sunday**

**January 10, 2021**

**10:15 Worship with Communion**

**Please prepare your  
elements ahead of time  
so you can partake**

### **The Meaning of Epiphany**

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Dear Friends,

Thank  
you 

This was a difficult Advent and Christmas Season for me because while I enjoy worshiping with you and seeing you in person every season of the church's life this is the one that I enjoy the most! I have missed you all terribly. But as you know precautions around COVID-19 kept us away from each other. I know of at least two cases of the virus in our congregation and they are recuperating and regaining their health. Thank you, Lord.

However, during the month of December parcels kept appearing on the Conference Table, the sofa outside of the office, Sandy's desk, or on the office counter as if some invisible elves were delivering them. So many of you were so kind to leave your Christmas gifts for the church staff.

Speaking for myself, with each gift that I opened I felt a special connection to you, something that the distance of COVID-19 had taken away. And so, I thank you not just for your gift but also for your presence in my life that the gift represented.

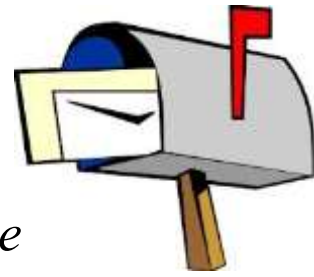
Now, sadly some of the cards became detached from a few of the gifts so there are a few that I don't know who they came from. HOWEVER, I am pretty sure where they came from and I am certain that they came from the kind and generous heart of one of you.

Thank You and Happy New Year,

*Pastor Bruce*

Puzzle Answers: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 13, hand = 17, foot = 20

*Dear Elaine (Trexler),*



*Thank you for delivering the shut-in gift. It is greatly appreciated. (Although maybe not deserving as everyone is now basically a shut-in due to the virus). Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to all of the others responsible for preparing the gifts.*

*We pray that everyone will be well throughout 2021.*

*Joan Jones*

*Dear Faith,  
Thank you for the Christmas gift bag.*

*LaMar Beck*

*Many Thanks for remembering me this Christmas with such kindness. I do appreciate it. Have a blessed 2021!*

*Your Sexton,  
Dorothy Tornetta*

*Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for the Christmas Cards, the Christmas Wishes, and the Christmas Gifts you shared with me this year! I appreciate your kindness and support throughout the year and wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!*

*Sandy*

**Watch** our Live Stream Service each Sunday morning at 10:15 am  
**on YouTube -**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoS4wr4xIyVDTvOakhPAEow/videos>

**OR listen** to the Live Stream Service **on your telephone** by calling  
855-883-5992.



## FROM THE TREASURER— NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

	NOVEMBER	YTD
Receipts	\$17,337.34	\$199,062.62
Disbursements	\$18,418.94	\$207,227.02
	(\$1,041.60)	(\$8,164.40)

	Weekly Offering
11/1	\$ 1,775
11/8	\$ 2,080
11/15	\$ 2,414
11/22	\$ 1,700
11/29	\$ 1,761
tithe.ly	\$ 3,412
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,142</b>

### Special Offerings

Neighbors in Need—\$62  
 Christmas Fund—\$62  
 OGHS—\$2  
 Joyful Noise—\$20  
 OCWM \$2  
 Strengthen the Church—\$2  
 Helping Hands—\$1420  
 Clean Air—\$1470

**Faith's 2020 Closing Date will be Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

Please plan your closing so that your final 2020 remittance will be received in the office by **Tuesday, January 12th**. Offering received after the 12th will be credited to 2021.

**2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the Office Foyer.**

The foyer doors are unlocked Monday—Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

If you don't have envelopes but would like them,

**please contact the church office—610-282-3939.**

If you would like your envelopes mailed to you

**let Sandy know and she will send them out.**



**From the Secretary:**

The **deadline** for **February Newsletter** articles and information is **January 15th**. Please email to [faithchurchcv@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurchcv@gmail.com) or place them in the Secretary's mailbox in the conference room or on her desk.



**Winter Mission for Betty Lou's Pantry**

For the past several winters Faith Church has participated in **The Souper Bowl of Caring** to collect cans of hearty soups. Faith members have been extremely generous with their donations and you have far exceeded our challenge each year. **We thank you for your generous response!**

Since the pantry is well stocked with hearty soups at this time, we are challenging Faith members to show that you care for all their needs by donating some much needed items. This winter the Mission Team would like to prepare **Hygiene Kits** for the families at BLP. When money is tight these much-needed hygiene items cannot be purchased.

It is our goal to assemble **75 Hygiene Kits** to be distributed by the end of February.

Listed below are the items we find are the most needed and when available are the first to be taken by the families:

- Shampoo • Body Soap or Wash
- Antiperspirant for Men & Women
- Toothbrushes • Toothpaste

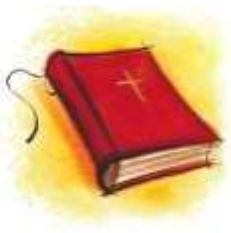
A collection bin can be found inside the church office door from **Sunday, January 10 through Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2021.**

**Let's all work together and meet this challenge to make this a SUPER, CARING gift to the families of Betty Lou's Pantry.**

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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](mailto:bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com)





## ***JANUARY BIBLE READINGS***

### **January 1**

Gen. 17:1–12a, 15–16  
Col. 2:6–12  
John 16:23b–30

### **January 2**

Gen. 12:1–7  
Heb. 11:1–12  
John 6:35–42, 48–51

### **January 3**

Deut. 33:1–5  
1 John 2:12–17  
John 6:41–47

### **January 4**

Exod. 3:1–5  
Heb. 11:23–31  
John 14:6–14

### **January 5**

Josh. 1:1–9  
Heb. 11:32–12:2  
John 15:1–16

### **January 6**

Isa. 52:7–10  
Rev. 21:22–27  
Matt. 12:14–21

### **January 7**

Isa. 52:3–6  
Rev. 2:1–7  
John 2:1–11

### **January 8**

Isa. 59:15b–21  
Rev. 2:8–17  
John 4:46–54

### **January 9**

Isa. 63:1–5  
Rev. 2:18–29  
John 5:1–15

### **January 10**

Isa. 40:1–11  
Heb. 1:1–12  
John 1:1–7, 19–34

### **January 11**

Isa. 40:12–24  
Eph. 1:1–14  
Mark 1:1–13

### **January 12**

Isa. 40:25–31  
Eph. 1:15–23  
Mark 1:14–28

### **January 13**

Isa. 41:1–16  
Eph. 2:1–10  
Mark 1:29–45

### **January 14**

Isa. 41:17–29  
Eph. 2:11–22  
Mark 2:1–12

### **January 15**

Isa. 42:(1–9) 10–17  
Eph. 3:1–13  
Mark 2:13–22

### **January 16**

Isa. (42:18–25) 43:1–13  
Eph. 3:14–21  
Mark 2:23–3:6

### **January 17**

Isa. 43:14–44:5  
Heb. 6:17–7:10  
John 4:27–42

### **January 18**

Isa. 44:6–8, 21–23  
Eph. 4:1–16  
Mark 3:7–19a

### **January 19**

Isa. 44:9–20  
Eph. 4:17–32  
Mark 3:19b–35

### **January 20**

Isa. 44:24–45:7  
Eph. 5:1–14  
Mark 4:1–20

### **January 21**

Isa. 45:5–17  
Eph. 5:15–33  
Mark 4:21–34

### **January 22**

Isa. 45:18–25  
Eph. 6:1–9  
Mark 4:35–41

### **January 23**

Isa. 46:1–13  
Eph. 6:10–24  
Mark 5:1–20

**January 24**

Isa. 47:1–15  
 Heb. 10:19–31  
 John 5:2–18

**January 25**

Isa. 48:1–11  
 Gal. 1:1–17  
 Mark 5:21–43

**January 26**

Isa. 48:12–21 (22)  
 Gal. 1:18–2:10  
 Mark 6:1–13

**January 27**

Isa. 49:1–12  
 Gal. 2:11–21  
 Mark 6:13–29

**January 28**

Isa. 49:13–23 (24–26)  
 Gal. 3:1–14  
 Mark 6:30–46

**January 29**

Isa. 50:1–11  
 Gal. 3:15–22  
 Mark 6:47–56

**January 30**

Isa. 51:1–8  
 Gal. 3:23–29  
 Mark 7:1–23

**January 31**

Isa. 51:9–16  
 Heb. 11:8–16  
 John 7:14–31

# A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.

**What you need:**

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

**What you do:**

1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.

## ?? Bible Quiz ??

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



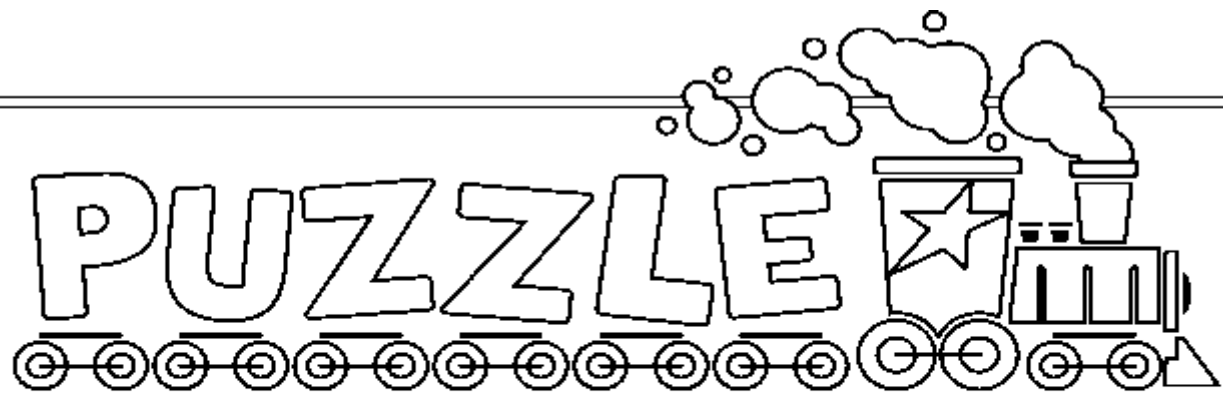
Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

# January

01 Daniel George	22 Chris Thompson
01 Eric Schoenberger	22 Koltin Leh
01 Justin Koser	25 Matthew Talboo
02 Sandra Biery	27 Luke Schafer
04 Jameson Hughes	27 Riley Snyder
04 Liam Shelly	28 Ronald Stoffey
05 John Marple	30 Leah Connors
09 Dennis Eisenhart	31 Gail Clark
10 Jared Gunther	31 Matthew Allison
10 Preston Amato	
13 Joan Hassler	
13 Thomas Heineman	
15 Andrew Sosnowsky	
15 Jerry Trexler	
16 Robin Davis	
19 Dwayne Schantz	
21 Richard J Featherman	
21 Christian Heaps	
22 Christian Miller	



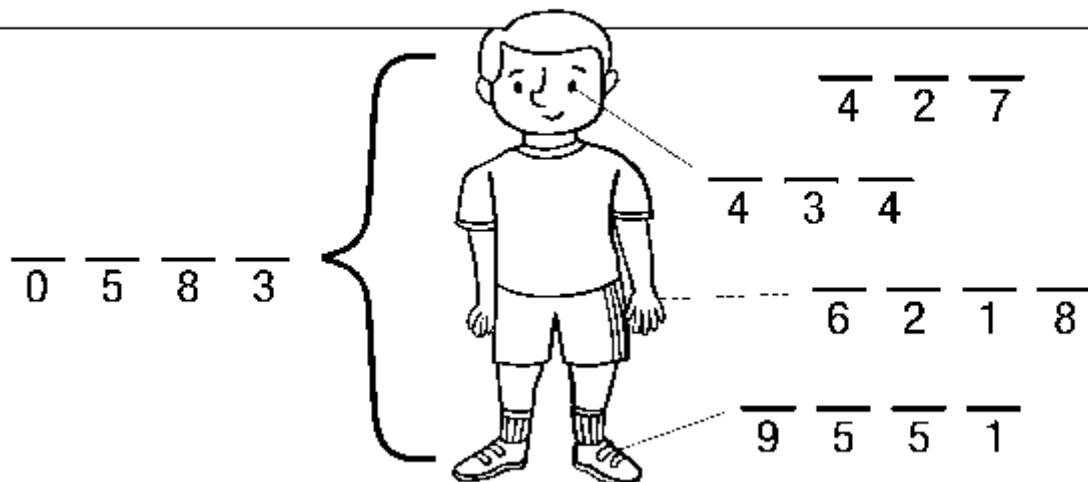
Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



# WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

*Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.*



Now if the  $\frac{\quad}{20}$  should say, “Because I am not a  $\frac{\quad}{17}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ,” ... And if the  $\frac{\quad}{13}$  should say, “Because I am not an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ . If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{13}$ , where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ .

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV