

FOCUS ON



FAITH

Volume 51, Number 8
2021

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.



9:00 am—SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15 am—WORSHIP

Watch 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.

*We are a people
who have come together
through a common faith,
a common love,
and a common covenant
with the triune God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
and together we endeavor
to be a community of
worship,
education,
mission,
fellowship,
and stewardship.*

2021-22 Consistory

Officers:

President: Becky Hite
Vice President: Mike Ford
Secretary:

Elders:

Becky Hite
Kim Ritter
Mike Ford
Jerry Trexler

Deacons:

Tracy Adams
Justin Koser
Matt Long
Joan Hassler

Brenda Hovis
Ken Koehnlein
Caroline Frantz

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine

Liaisons: tbd

Christian Ed:
Fellowship/Outreach:
Enduring /Mem. Gifts:
Property:
Staff Relations:
Worship:

Budget/Finance:
Mission:
Youth Group:
Day Care:
Fundraising:
Choir:



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

My children have both had some interesting summer jobs to get through college. Last summer due to COVID-19 there were few jobs to be found for Catherine but this summer was better. This summer she landed a job at KFC or what was formally called Kentucky Fried Chicken, back in the day.

There's been a lot of changes at KFC since I was Catherine's age. The menu has expanded from a bucket of chicken, coleslaw, mashed potatoes with gravy, and biscuits. Now there is popcorn chicken and different types of chicken sandwiches (spicy or not). ALSO, at the KFC where Catherine works the good old A&W Root Beer drive in menu is available. Now to me, for the most part, a hamburger is just a hamburger but as far as root beer is concerned A&W cannot be beat. Stewarts is a close second but A&W has a smooth creaminess to it that I can't resist. So, this summer I have been driving through the drive through to harass Catherine a little bit and get some of that wonderful A&W root beer that I haven't enjoyed since my youth.



One day Catherine came home from work and told me that I could get a "Senior Soda" for free.

"What's a 'Senior Soda' and why is it free?" I asked.

"KFC gives free sodas to seniors and you're a senior."

"Do I have to show I.D.?"

“No, you just have to look old enough to be a senior.”

“Is there a restriction about what size I can have?”

“Nope.”

“Do I have to buy something else in order to get a free ‘Senior Soda?’”

“Nope. Just tell them that you want a ‘Senior Soda.’”

So, I decided to give it a shot. The first time I went I chickened out (pun intended) and paid for the soda. I can afford a soda. Why not pay for it? It felt somewhat exploitive. The next time I went I decided that if I was going to get a free soda, I should at least pay for something else. “An order of popcorn chicken and a SENIOR SODA – LARGE ROOT BEER please!” I shouted into the speaker. Later at home Catherine asked me why I kept paying for the soda. “Tons of people get ‘Senior Sodas!’” Finally, on my third try I sheepishly asked for my ‘Senior Soda’ and enjoyed it immensely!

Why did I have such a hard time accepting a free “Senior Soda?” Part of it may have been because I was having a hard time acknowledging that I am now a “senior” but I suspect that most of us have a hard time accepting things that we think we haven’t earned or do not deserve and so we refuse them. I am like that myself. It’s hard for

**Puzzle Answers:
pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, find,
fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit.**

me to accept things that I do not think I have earned or deserved even it's a soda that could be a part of someone's pay check.

But what about grace, God's grace? God's grace is so wonderful, so huge, so amazing, so all encompassing, the instrument of complete and total forgiveness. And yet it is free. More valuable than a "Senior Soda," even an A&W root beer and there isn't a thing we can do to earn it. It is God's gift to us.

And so, since it is free do, we reject it? Since we have done nothing to earn it, do we avoid it? Of course not. We receive it and allow it to transform our lives. But how do we respond to this amazing gift of grace? If we can't earn it or pay for it what do we do in response to it?

We respond with gratitude and our gratitude takes on the form of service and with service to God (mission), God is able to show grace throughout the world.

So, when someone offers you a free soda, accept it and respond in kind. I think the expression is "Pay it forward." As God blesses you with grace, do the same. Accept it and respond in kind. Pay it forward. Let grace grow.

Peace,



A NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION
will be held on Sunday, September 12th from 2-3 pm.
If you are interested in joining Faith Church
RSVP to Pastor Bruce—610-282-3939
or email pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

September 19, 2021

*We've been apart for too long!
Let's finally worship together as the COMMUNITY
that God calls us to be!*

Usually, we celebrate Rally Day as the day we begin all of the church's programs after a more relaxed pace of the summer but now we have greater reasons to celebrate ... while COVID-19 isn't totally behind us, with so many vaccinated we have returned to in-person worship and celebrate many of the things that bring us joy. On September 19th we will receive new members, celebrate the sacrament of baptism, and enjoy the fellowship of a church picnic after worship.

Hope to see you all there!

GARDENING CREW NEEDED



Faith Church has been blessed with a property with lovely gardens and bushes. We all know that weeds seem to find a way of turning our beautiful areas into a somewhat wild landscape. Several of you see the need to weed and quietly volunteer your mornings and evenings to pull weeds and trim bushes. Please know that your efforts are noticed and greatly appreciated. But this is not a task for just 2 or 3 individuals. We are looking to gather a group who would be willing to work together to keep up with the unwanted greenery. If you would be willing or are already doing this, let's get together to see how we can organize and coordinate our efforts so that all areas are maintained. If you would be willing to help please email Karen Talboo at cktalboo@gmail.com or call 610-282-1552.



9th ANNUAL FAITH UCC YARD SALE

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 • 8 AM TO 2 PM

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Friday, Sept. 24 – Help move yard sale items and set up tent**
- **Saturday, Sept. 25, 7 am – Help set up**
Help during the day at the sale
Help clean up at 1:30 pm
- **Donate Baked Goods for our Bake Sale**



FALL BINGO

Mark your calendars. Fall Bingo will be returning on **November 7, 2021**. All participants must be vaccinated. Attendance will be limited to 110 guests to allow for more social distancing. Fellowship Hall is equipped with a Halo air purification system. Tickets will go on sale October 3.

BETTY LOU'S PANTRY

The month of October is Faith Church's month to assist at the distribution. The Pantry is still distributing food using pre-packed boxes and a crew has been trained to assist the families at each pickup. As of this time we are unsure if our assistance will be needed. We will keep you posted on this situation. However, we are responsible for providing **100 bottles of laundry detergent**.

Please bring laundry detergent to church anytime. We will see that it is delivered to the pantry. Please do not drop off laundry at the Pantry or post office until October.

HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS

This year we will be packing 75 shoe boxes for children in the Lehigh Valley. Details on this mission will become available sometime in October. If you would like to wrap shoe boxes please contact Karen Talboo.

RALLY FOR RYLIE

In October, Faith Church will be holding a 2 Sunday fundraising event called **Rally for Rylie.**

This year **Rylie Maginn**, who was diagnosed with Pitt Hopkins Syndrome when only a few months old, **will be celebrating her 12th birthday!**

On **October 17** Rylie's mother, Heather Maginn, will be sharing information on Pitt Hopkins Syndrome during worship. Immediately following worship there will be a Coffee Hour where you can register to participate or to make a donation to the PTHS research fundraiser. The actual event will take place on **Sunday, October 24.**



On **October 24** at 1 **pm** there will be a **Hike and Bike** event at **Upper Saucon Park**. Bikers will be able to ride 6 miles south on the Rails to Trails and then return to the Park for a total of 12 miles, one mile for each year of Rylie's life. If you are a walker or hiker you may walk as far or as little as you desire. To participate in this event a \$25 donation will be collected. Our gathering point and registration area will be the Park Pavilion. Food will be available for purchase through a food truck that will be facilitated by **The Caring Place**. Everyone who makes a \$25 donation to PTHS research will be eligible for several prizes.

Please invite all of your hiking and biking friends to join this fun event to help raise funds for Pitt Hopkins Research. Registration can also be completed at the following website:

www.rally4rylie.myevent.com

HAITI EARTHQUAKE AND TROPICAL STORM DISASTER RELIEF

We have received the following letter concerning the current situation in Haiti from David Diggs of Beyond Borders. Please take a moment to read his letter and prayerfully consider making a generous donation so they may help improve the situation. Faith Church has sponsored 7 families in Haiti and are very concerned for their well-being.

If you feel so moved, please kindly make a donation to Beyond Borders through the website mentioned at the end of the letter, through Tithely.com or make a check payable to Faith UCC designated Beyond Borders and drop it in the offering plate or mail to Faith UCC, 5992 Route 378, Center Valley, PA 18034.



I am so thankful for the outpouring of generosity and concern in response to last Saturday's earthquake.

When word of the quake first reached me, I immediately thought of the cataclysmic 2010 quake that killed well over 200,000. It was easily the biggest humanitarian disaster in the history of the western hemisphere.

The human toll from Saturday's quake is extraordinary and heartbreaking too, but, mercifully, it will be significantly less than the 2010 quake. As of yesterday, there were 2,189 confirmed dead, hundreds still missing, and more than 12,000 badly injured. Also, 52,953 homes have been destroyed and nearly 80,000 have been damaged.

The main reason this quake hasn't been as catastrophic as the 2010 quake is because it was centered in a rural part of the country that is much less populated. Beyond this, though, there were important lessons learned from 2010 that have made a difference.

Some of the newer homes, school buildings, and hospitals were

built to be more resistant to earthquakes. The Saint Boniface Hospital in Fond-des-Blancs, for example, stood strong even though it was very close to the epicenter.

Local and national governments and humanitarian organizations are better organized this time, but there are also serious challenges still. The national government is tremendously weak, there is still not nearly enough coordination among many organizations attempting to respond, and hunger and poorly organized distribution is leading to fights among desperate quake victims.

While poorly resourced, there is now a volunteer emergency response structure in places across the country that is much better prepared to respond to natural disasters.

Beyond Borders is also much better prepared.

Shortly after the 2010 earthquake, Beyond Borders co-founded the Haiti Response Coalition (HRC). It took time to get up and running, but now the HRC brings together dozens of local, national, and small international organizations to mount a coordinated response to disasters like the quake.

The HRC-member organizations missed out on the flood of international funding that inundated many larger humanitarian organizations in 2010, but the coalition compensated for this through its deep collective knowledge of Haiti and the local trust it earned.

Just hours after last Saturday's quake, dozens of HRC member-organizations met to begin coordinating response efforts, and those meetings continue.

Beyond Borders is helping coordinate the HRC relief effort that includes more than 30 organizations that are providing expert medical care for the wounded, food, water, hygiene kits, and tarps for temporary shelter in communities across the affected area.

Because Beyond Borders is not a relief organization but is instead focused on promoting sustainable development, our strengths will be more evident in the coming days as the immediate emergency

passes and communities work to recover.

Working closely with local and national governments, churches, schools, and grassroots leaders, the Beyond Borders team is committed to ensuring the protection and prioritization of the most vulnerable -- a commitment that your generosity and solidarity makes possible even in times of crisis like this.

Thank you so much for your continued concern and prayers. I'll continue to share updates in the days to come, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With deep gratitude,

David Diggs

Co-Founder & Executive Director | Beyond Borders

PS - Thank you again to everyone who has given so generously. If you've not yet given and would like to support the earthquake response efforts of Beyond Borders and the HRC, you can make a gift on our website: <https://beyondborders.net/donate/>

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. We are looking for people to sponsor college students. Please contact Sandi DiSanto if you are interested in sending a card or care package to a college student this fall.

Sandi DiSanto · sandidisanto@gmail.com · 610-360-9637

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher: Caroline Frantz
Financial Secretary: Bruce Torrence

Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Lawn Crew (week begins Monday)	
9/5	Brenda Hovis Diane Neidermeier	Joan Hassler	Dwayne Schantz	Roger Erney
9/12	Cindy Talaber	Cindy Talaber	Bruce Torrence	Wes Koser
9/19	George Rau Bob Shelly	Jerry Trexler	NEED VOLUNTEERS	
9/26	Kim Ritter Jane Van Horn	Barbara Maursky	Brian Bross	



From the Secretary:

The **deadline** for **October Newsletter** articles and information is **September 10th**. Please leave them on the secretary's desk or email to faithchurchcv@gmail.com

**FROM THE TREASURER—
JUNE/JULY FINANCIALS**



	JUNE
Receipts	\$17,930
Disbursements	\$18,073
	(\$143.00)

	JULY
Receipts	\$20,944
Disbursements	\$19,625
	\$ 1,319

Special Offering

OCWM—\$156
Strengthen the Church—\$50

Special Offering

OCWM—\$10
Joyful Noise—\$131



Many thanks for your continued support of Betty Lou's Pantry! With the return of the basket to the Narthex, our donations for the last Sunday of June (the 1st Sunday the basket was back), the 4 Sundays of July and the first three Sundays of August, include 386 items.

**ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:
CHUNKY SOUP OR CHILI
HAMBURGER, CHICKEN, AND TUNA HELPERS
BOXED POTATOES OR STOVETOP STUFFING**

Items stocked at the Pantry include:

Pork & Beans	Chili
Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Pasta
Peanut Butter	Canned Tomatoes & Canned Sauce
Kidney Beans	Chunky Soups
Canned Fruit	Macaroni & Cheese
Beef Stew	Canned Chicken and 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](tel:610-282-2838) and leave a message, or email



The Church Office
will be closed
Monday, Sept. 6th
in observance of
Labor Day

WITHIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

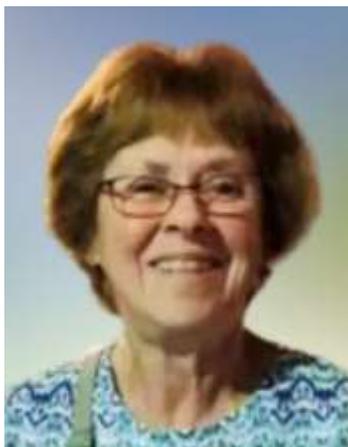


Scott & Elisa Smith and big brother, Nathan, welcomed **Emily Jaye** on July 8, 2021. Emily measured 7 lb 7 oz & 18 inches long. Proud grandparents are Ruth & Joe Smith!



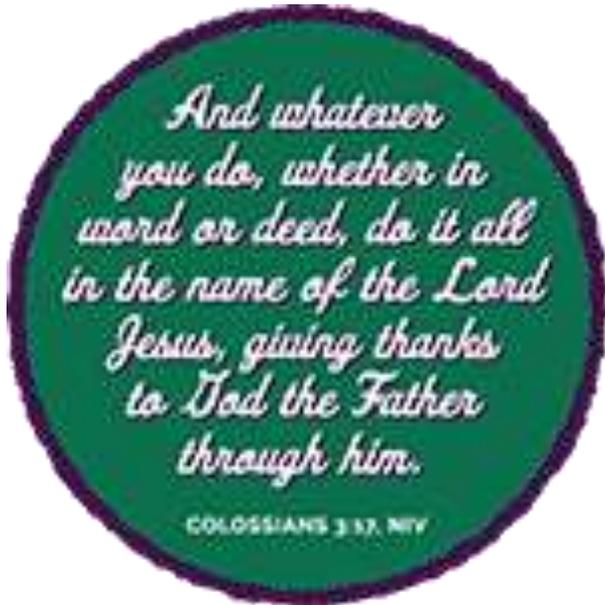
Megan & Vinnie Farino and big sister, Mikayla, welcomed **Giovanni Carmelo** on July 10, 2021. Giovanni measured 8 lb 2.5 oz & 20.25 inches. Proud grandparents are Debby & Tom Herstine!

God's Blessings to all!



Long time Faith member, Sue Walter, passed away on **August 16, 2021**. Sue is survived by her daughters Kendra and Patty and their spouses, six grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. *Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers in the difficult days ahead.*

Laboring for the Lord

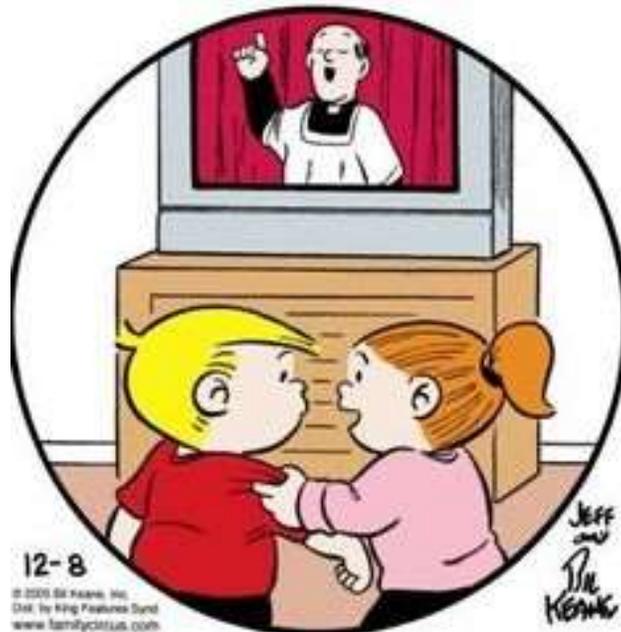


For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.”

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs.

“Whatever your task,” says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — “put yourselves into it as done for the Lord.” Verse 17 tells us to “do everything” in Jesus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, “Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.”



12-8

© 2009 Jeff Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircle.com

“Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life.”



SEPTEMBER BIBLE READINGS

September 1

1 Kings 9:24–10:13
James 3:1–12
Mark 15:1–11

September 2

1 Kings 11:1–13
James 3:13–4:12
Mark 15:12–21

September 3

1 Kings 11:26–43
James 4:13–5:6
Mark 15:22–32

September 4

1 Kings 12:1–20
James 5:7–20
Mark 15:33–39

September 5

1 Kings 12:21–33
Acts 4:18–31
John 10:31–42

September 6

1 Kings 13:1–10
Phil. 1:1–11
Mark 15:40–47

September 7

1 Kings 16:23–34
Phil. 1:12–30
Mark 16:1–8 (9–20)

September 8

1 Kings 17:1–24
Phil. 2:1–11
Matt. 2:1–12

September 9

1 Kings 18:1–19
Phil. 2:12–30
Matt. 2:13–23

September 10

1 Kings 18:20–40
Phil. 3:1–16
Matt. 3:1–12

September 11

1 Kings 18:41–19:8
Phil. 3:17–4:7
Matt. 3:13–17

September 12

1 Kings 19:8–21
Acts 5:34–42
John 11:45–57

September 13

1 Kings 21:1–16
1 Cor. 1:1–19
Matt. 4:1–11

September 14

1 Kings 21:17–29
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Matt. 4:12–17

September 15

1 Kings 22:21–28
1 Cor. 2:1–13
Matt. 4:18–25

September 16

1 Kings 22:29–45
1 Cor. 2:14–3:15
Matt. 5:1–10

September 17

2 Kings 1:2–17
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Matt. 5:11–16

September 18

2 Kings 2:1–18
1 Cor. 4:1–7
Matt. 5:17–20

September 19

2 Kings 4:8–37
Acts 9:10–31
Luke 3:7–18

September 20

2 Kings 5:1–19
1 Cor. 4:8–21
Matt. 5:21–26

September 21

2 Kings 5:19–27
1 Cor. 5:1–8
Matt. 5:27–37

September 22
2 Kings 6:1–23
1 Cor. 5:9–6:11
Matt. 5:38–48

September 23
2 Kings 9:1–16
1 Cor. 6:12–20
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

September 24
2 Kings 9:17–37
1 Cor. 7:1–9
Matt. 6:7–15

September 25
2 Kings 11:1–20a
1 Cor. 7:10–24
Matt. 6:19–24

September 26
2 Kings 17:1–18
Acts 9:36–43
Luke 5:1–11

September 27
2 Kings 17:24–41
1 Cor. 7:25–31
Matt. 6:25–34

September 28
2 Chron. 29:1–3; 30:1
(2–9) 10–27
1 Cor. 7:32–40
Matt. 7:1–12

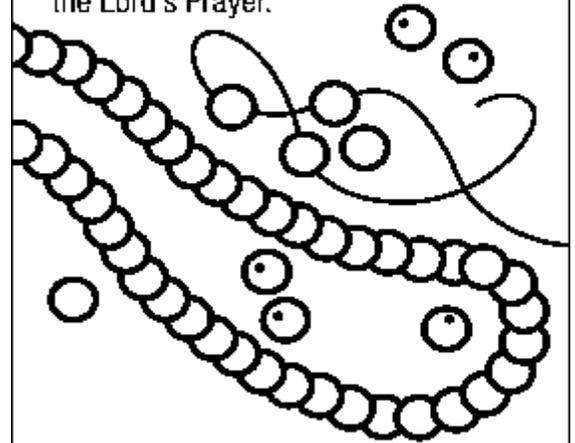
September 29
2 Kings 18:9–25
1 Cor. 8:1–13
Matt. 7:13–21

September 30
2 Kings 18:28–37
1 Cor. 9:1–15
Matt. 7:22–29



Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9–13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver

September

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



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ _ _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ _ _ _ (v. 7)

bask - b = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

keeps - p = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define - ee = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

shift - t = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_____ (v. 13)