

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH
OF
CHRIST**



**5992 Route 378
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
610.282.3939**

**Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Lead Pastor
Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist-Director of Music**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 3, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Hope of all Earth, everywhere we turn, you are there, loving your creation, present in our struggles. You have given us hearts that question and minds that resist easy answers. Be with us now as we ponder the mysteries of existence and the part you have called us to play in your amazing world. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

* **OPENING HYMN: *WHEN LOVE IS FOUND***

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* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: The heavens are telling the glory of God, all creation speaks volumes of God's handiwork.

People: Each sunrise proclaims God's faithfulness and the night reveals the Creator's awe.

Pastor: Without a word being spoken, all creation bears witness to the goodness of the Lord.

People: So, too, may we join in witness with all creation. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be God's signature in the world.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

* **CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

God of compassion and mercy,

We are your wounded and wounding children.

We bring our wounded selves, our divided society, and our

**broken world, seeking your healing and transforming grace;
It is easy for us to point the finger at others,**

Yet we know that we all need your forgiveness;

So we lift into your presence today,

Not only the victims of conflicts,

But also those we have called enemies.

Break down the walls of hatred, distrust and bitterness

And open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love.

Enable us to build a society where all can belong;

To share our gifts in mutual respect

And to seek for the new future which you offer us

Through Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

*** THE KYRIE**

750

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.

*** THE GLORIA PATRI**

759

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen. Amen.*

*** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE - *Based on St. Patrick, facing
each other:***

**Unison: Christ's peace be with you,
Christ's peace within you,**

**Christ's peace behind you,
Christ's peace before you,
Christ's peace beside you,
Christ's peace to win you,
Christ's peace to comfort you and restore you.
Christ's peace be with you.**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Brenda Hovis

Old Testament: Job 1:1; 2:1 – 10

Epistle: Mark 10:2 – 16

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *Between the "Spirit" and the "Letter" of the Law*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *THE NICENE CREED*** **883**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Creator God, we give you thanks for this amazing universe and our lives in it, for friends and loved ones, for this community and the knowledge of your presence in both the good and the bad. We come before you today with deep concerns and many questions about our suffering world.

We have so many questions and concerns about violence between nations and all who suffer because of it.

(silent prayer)

We have so many questions and concerns about
...earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes and all who suffer because of them.

...poverty and all who suffer because of it.

...sickness and disease and all who suffer because of them.

...untimely death and all who suffer because of it.

...prejudice and hatred and all who suffer because of them.

...the squandering of Earth's resources and all who suffer because of it.

Suffering God, you hear our prayers, and you let our cries come unto you. With your help, we will comfort and be comforted, strengthen and be strengthened, feed and be fed, shelter and be sheltered, listen and be heard, in Christ, with Christ and through Christ, we dare to pray. Amen.

(The names of specific people, places, and circumstances may be lifted up at this time)

Pastor: Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass. We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: REDEEMED - Big Daddy Weave *Darin Jellison*

*** OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

Gracious God, we thank you for all your good gifts: the two rivers meeting into one, and this bread and wine, once scattered, now brought together and made one. Keep us faithful to your will. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: *LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER*

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Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor: In the silence of the morning, as the new day dawned around the world, God's people began to gather for worship amid the sounds of drums or pipes, strings or organs. And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus of those who call upon the name of the Lord. On this World Communion Sunday we remember especially that the Scriptures are fulfilled as "People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God."

So come, not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are strong, but because you seek God's strength. All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast that God has prepared.

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: God is with us!

People: We are not alone!

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love, you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description. Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love, you are creative and self-giving, generously moving. In all the near and distant corners of the universe nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, eternal as your love, our bond to one another. We rejoice with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name.

Spirit of the living God, present with us now, breathe in us and these gifts of bread and wine, that sharing your blessing and your broken life we may share in your continual presence and reality, and together, as your body, remain in your love. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Pastor: It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers: loving what He loved, living what He taught, and striving to be His faithful servants in our time and place. In this meal we remember Jesus, His promises, and the price He paid for who He was, what He said, and what He did.

On the night before Jesus died, He took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me." After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying, "This is the new covenant, remember me."

People: We do remember. We remember His life of love, His friendship, His teaching, His dying, and His rising to life again.

Proclaiming The Mystery of Faith

Pastor: In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**Unison: Christ has died
Christ has risen
Christ will come to us again**

The Presentation of the Bread and the Cup

Pastor: The body of Christ,

People: the bread of life.

Pastor: The lifeblood of Christ,

People: the cup of blessing.

Call to the Supper

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Sharing the Elements

Pastor: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ broken for you.

People: Amen!

Pastor: Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

People: Amen!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray.

Unison: Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for our service. God of peace, may this meal, shared in the Spirit with

your son Jesus, strengthen us, your people, to engage in peacemaking, to call for restraint, to plead for diplomacy, to urge the use of international law, to halt the endless, downward spiral of violence in all places. Strengthen us, your people, to raise our voices and to act. Amen.

Commissioning

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. May your light so shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven.

Go in God's Name

- * CLOSING HYMN: GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS 423**
- * BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**
- * MEDITATION**

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted into our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruits of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** POSTLUDE**

*Would those who are able please stand.

Welcome to Faith Church this Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. We are glad to have you worshiping with us. May our time together serve as an inspiration for the days and weeks ahead.

Special thanks to Matt Wehr and Darin Jellison for sharing their musical talents with us this morning.

Pastor Bruce will be on vacation Monday, October 4th through Sunday, October 10th. If you find yourself in need of pastoral care during this time please contact Rev. Teresa Martin from St John's UCC, Coopersburg, at 717-654-4044.



October is **Neighbors In Need Month!** In 2021, Neighbors in Need “**Unfailing Love**” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. NIN funds

support the Council for American Indian Ministry and the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help. *Special offering envelopes are in the narthex.*

Keep those plastic bags coming! *Please take time to look at the lists of what we can accept and what we can NOT accept.* Thanks for your attention to this. Questions?? See Jerry Trexler.



AN EVENT TO BENEFIT THE PITT HOPKINS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Pitt Hopkins Syndrome (or PTHS) is a neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a mutation/deletion in the Tcf4 gene on chromosome 18. Twelve year old Rylie Maginn, a member of Faith United Church of Christ, in Center Valley, PA was diagnosed with this rare genetic disorder when she was just 6 months old.



TO REGISTER:

Join us to BIKE or HIKE 12 miles on the Saucon Valley Rail Trail; one mile for each year of Rylie's life!
The cost is \$25/ticket.
Register online using the event website or email/call the contact below.



TO DONATE:

If you are not able to commit to BIKE or HIKE, you can still help fund groundbreaking research for Pitt Hopkins Syndrome. Donate online using the event website or make arrangements with the contact person below.



TO LEARN MORE:

You can learn more about Pitt Hopkins Syndrome and the research sponsored by the Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation by visiting: www.pitthopkins.org

www.rally4rylie.myevent.com

Contact Faith United Church of Christ - faithchurchcv@gmail.com - (610)282-3939

Event Details:

Start Time: 1:00 pm/ Registration opens at 12:30pm
Upper Saucon Community Park/3231 Preston Lane Center Valley, PA 18034
Report to the pavilion for registration!

CALENDAR

Pastor Bruce is on vacation Monday – Sunday.

TODAY -9:00 Sunday School
-10:15 Worship/World Communion

MONDAY -Sandy works from home

TUESDAY -6:30 – 8 Faith in Stitches
-7 pm Worship Committee

FRIDAY -Office Closed

SUNDAY -9:00 Sunday School
-10:15 Worship

Those Who Will Serve:

October 3

October 10

	October 3	October 10
Head Usher:	Caroline Frantz	Caroline Frantz
Ushers:	Diane Neidermeier Deb Herstine	Chuck & Karen Talboo
Lay Reader:	Brenda Hovis	Cindy Talaber
Fin. Sec.	Bob Shelly	Bob Shelly
Lawn	Tim Hovis	n/a

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