

**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
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
LAITY SUNDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Loving God, we come to this place seeking healing, seeking new life, and seeking wholeness. Help us to throw off the cloaks of our limited imaginations, that we might find ourselves forever in your presence. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

* **OPENING HYMN: DRAW US TO THE SPIRITS TETHER** 337

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: God is our leader.

Laity: Let us focus and follow our leader clearly.

Pastor: God wants us to let go of the past.

Laity: Let's stop being stubborn and set in our ways.

Pastor: God has a new path for us to follow.

Laity: May we let go of the old and embrace the new.

Together, when we follow God, we have nothing to fear. We praise our God, our leader!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to

you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

*** 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.

Laity: 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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Today we welcome Giovanni Carmelo Farino into the company of God's people.

INVITATION

WELCOME

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

BENEDICTION

BAPTISMAL ANTHEM: *CHILD OF BLESS, CHILD OF PROMISE*

325

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Genesis 1:26 – 31

Epistle: I Corinthians 12:4 – 31

Gospel: Matthew 25:14 – 23

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *It's Not Just Up to Me!*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

* A RESPONSIVE READING FOR LAITY SUNDAY:

Pastor: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession.

Laity: We have become this people so that we may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called us out of darkness into God's amazing light.

Pastor: Once you were not a people,

Laity: But now we are God's people.

Pastor: The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.

Laity: These leaders are called to equip us, the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

All: We do this work together until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: We come to you with questions, O God. They can be Why do some people suffer? When will injustice end? Can climate change be stopped? Is there hope for tomorrow? Through all of this, though, we hear you ask us another question: "What do you want me to do for you?" and we are at times hard-pressed to answer. Most of all, O God, we simply want your presence to be made manifest and to be felt in all the corners of our world. For any who wait in frantic hope, may there be assurance that you do not pass by. For any who have needs too great for words, may there be assurance that you hear the sighs that are too deep for words. For any

who are struggling with day-to-day problems, may there be assurance that you are in the struggle. And through it all, O God, may we follow you, in real and certain hope, that you hold the key to new and everlasting life.

(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: WARM WHITE LIGHT *Darin Jellison*

* **OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY** **780**

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:**

Merciful One, we come before you with grateful hearts. There are so many acts of mercy, compassion and love you have lavishly given us. Accept now our tithes and offerings as an expression of our gratitude and as an available resource for serving people in your name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN: *IN THE MIDST OF NEW DIMENSIONS* 391**

* **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 Twenty-Second 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 Darin Jellison for sharing his musical offerings with us this morning.

This morning we celebrate the baptism of Giovanni Carmelo Farino. Giovanni was born July 10th to Megan (Herstine) and Vinnie Farino. *God's blessings to the family on this special day.*

There is still time to Register or just stop by for lunch!

Bike & Hike for Pitt Hopkins - Today at Upper Saucon Community Park; 1 pm start time, registration opens @12:30 pm. Join us to BIKE or HIKE 12 miles on the Saucon Valley Rail Trail – one mile for each year of **Rylie's** life!! Registration costs \$25. **The Caring Place** will have a **FOOD TRUCK** at the Park and there will be lots of fun and prizes! **If you can't participate but wish to donate** please stop the park today or go to www.rally4rylie.myevent.com to donate online.

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. **Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help. *Special offering envelopes are in the narthex.***

CALENDAR

TODAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship/Baptism -11:30 Hall Rental -1:00 BIKE & HIKE
MONDAY	-Sandy works from home
TUESDAY	-6:30 – 8 Faith in Stitches
WEDNESDAY	-5:30 Budget & Finance
THURSDAY	-7:00 Consistory
FRIDAY	-Office Closed
SUNDAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship/Baptism

Those Who Will Serve:

	October 24	October 31
Head Usher:	Becky Hite	Jerry Trexler
Ushers:	Ruth Smith Linda Torrence	Tom Hovis
Lay Reader:	John Barone	Barb Maursky
Fin. Sec.	Bob Shelly	Bob Shelly

Contact Information:

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Faith Church will hold an on-line
Holiday Mini-Talent Auction
November 14-December 5

Can you offer an item or talent to auction off?

Please email the details (description and picture if possible) to Wes Koser at koser1@yahoo.com or fill out the included in the bulletin and drop it in the offering plate or church office.

Items up for bid could include delectable homemade foods, entire meals delivered to your door, household services like HVAC maintenance, gardening, sports certificates, travel bargains, computer technical assistance, specialty services, hand crafted items and more all donated by church members.

Please have your offering details to Wes by November 7th.



Holiday Mini-Talent Auction Offering
Faith United Church of Christ
November 14 – December 5, 2021

Name (s): _____

Contact Info (Phone or E-mail): _____

Business Name (If applies): _____

Describe a talent, service, or homemade item that you would offer up for auction:

Value (per hour, if applicable): _____ Number of Hours: _____

Minimum Bid (Optional): _____ Approximate Face Value: _____

Expiration Date: _____ I can provide photo/sample for display: _____

Place in basket in the Narthex or at Church office. Contact Wes Koser with any questions.

See suggestions on reverse side.

Appraisal of value of antiques	Driver to & from airport	Piano Music for your event
Art work	Financial Advice	Plumbing help
Auto Body Work	Furniture refinishing	Proof read document
Babysit	Gift Buying Advice / assistance	Provide dinner, cuisine? Feed #?
Bake cookie recipe of your choice	Gift Wrapping	Quilting project
Bake A Pie A Month for #? months	Hair Cut	Real Estate Advice
Balance your check book	Hair styling	Secretarial Service
Be my dieting partner	Hang Pictures	Spring lawn clean up
Caning of one chair	H-Vac Servicing	Teach my hobby of _____
Caricature drawing	Instrumental Music for your event	Snuggling Baby / Mom gets break
Child's birthday party helper	Interior Decorating Advice	Target Shooting Outing
Child's birthday party organizer	Jellies, homemade	Teach card game/Board games
Clean House	Karaoke for party	Teach chess, canasta, bridge, etc.
Clean out garage or attic	Knit a scarf or hat	Teach craft of _____
Clean Refrigerator	Launder Curtains, Rehang	Trim Shrubs, fruit trees
Computer help – hardware	Lawn care	Tune Up your car
Computer help – software	Mend clothing	Vocal Music for your event
Computer purchasing advice	Mr. Fix-It	Wallpaper room of your home
Cook favorite Soup	Nurse wound care	Wash & wax vehicle
Cook Specialty Item	Paint one room of your home	Wash Windows
DJ Service	Pet Sitting Service	Weekend at our Pocono Cabin
Do Grocery Shopping	Phone Service Advice	Weekend at a Bed and Breakfast

These are just some of the limitless possibilities... How would you enjoy helping another??

