

# FOCUS ON



# FAITH

Volume 51, Number 10  
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.*



NOVEMBER

9:00 am—SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15 am—WORSHIP

Watch us on [YouTube](#)

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: Mike Ford  
Fellowship/Outreach:  
Enduring /Mem. Gifts:  
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: Joan Hassler



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Boy, am I getting tired of waiting for things. I've lost count of the number of major jobs that should have been done **YESTERDAY** around the "Stevenson Estate," each of which goes beyond my "pay grade." Finding skilled people to do the work at a reasonable price hasn't been the problem. Getting on their schedule is! Then when I do get on their schedule suddenly there is a problem finding the necessary supplies and that becomes an issue. Today I had someone look at my fireplace chimney which needs to be repaired. When I was told how long I would have to wait for the repair to be made I said, "Please fix it before Christmas so Santa is able to visit!"

I know that it wasn't that long ago that I wrote to you about "waiting" and how I just needed to learn to be patient. I mentioned that there are many stories in the Bible about people having to wait for God's timing for Him to act. They became impatient and frustrated with God. I haven't forgotten but recently, in my patience, I have started to think differently and the things that I am waiting for are really quite small when compared to what the people living in Biblical times were waiting for.

This is how my thinking has changed. Prior to his ascension to Heaven, Jesus told his disciples that he would return. However, he did not tell them **WHEN** he would return and so they assumed that Jesus' return would be within their life time. Paul was so certain that Jesus' return was imminent that he suggested those who were considering getting married should cancel their plans!

But as time continued to go on, the disciples were faithful

preaching the good news of the Gospel and Jesus had not yet returned. They were getting old and tired and suddenly they started to realize that it was possible that Jesus would not return prior to their death.

So, if you were in the disciple's position, would you give up on Jesus' promise to return, stop believing and stop doing the work of the Gospel and say, "Hey folks, we've been had!" Or would you hold on to the promise and change your perspective: "I may not live to see this, so I'd better work harder to keep the gospel message alive." The disciples chose to do the later rather than the former. They did not give up on the promise and Mark decided to write an account, the first we believe, of Jesus' life and ministry. That was his effort to keep the message alive, to make a testimony to Jesus, should he not live long enough to witness the return Christ. And thank goodness he and other writers wrote their gospels and epistles, for they are the sacred texts to guide the practice of faith until Jesus returns. We're still waiting ... patiently of course.

In the meantime, we continue the work of the disciples. We fight for justice and mercy. We walk humbly with our God. We worship, we are blessed by each other's presence in this community of faith, and we invite others to join us on our journey. Jesus hasn't returned yet but in God's time he shall, just like my contractors. They're not working on my chimney yet, but in time they will. I'm not giving up hope that it will be repaired by Christmas, nor am I giving up hope that Jesus will return, nor am I neglecting the work that He calls us to do.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor E. J. ...". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Peace,".



**The Children and Communion Program will be offered to children in grades 2 or above.** Parents and their children need to attend classes (via Zoom) from 6-7 pm on **November 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**. Your children will receive their first communion on November 28<sup>th</sup> - the first Sunday in Advent. If you are interested please contact Pastor Bruce at [pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org](mailto:pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org) or speak to him following the service.

---



**Longtime Faith member Virginia (Woodring) Haller, 78, passed away peacefully on October 7th.**

A private service will be held at the convenience of the family. Click [here](#) for more.

*Please keep Virginia's family in your thoughts and prayers.*



**Puzzle Answers:**  
rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

# Congregational Meeting



**Sunday**

**November 21, 2021**

A Congregational Meeting  
will be held to

- Approve a budget for 2022
- Elect Rodney Koch to a second 3-year term & as Steward on the Memorial and Enduring Gifts

Keep an eye out for further Budget information coming your way in time for you to review before the meeting.

We will be voting by ballots which will be available in church the day of the meeting. The ballots will also be made available on our weekly email and will be mailed to those who do not use computers.

---

<b>NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS</b>			
Head Usher: Brenda Hovis			
Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Fin. Sec.
11/7	Jerry & Elaine Trexler	Jerry Trexler	Tony DiSanto
11/14	Caroline Frantz; Joan Hassler	Ron Demkee	Bruce Torrence
11/21	Chuck & Karen Talboo	Karen Talboo	TBD
11/28	Tom & Tim Hovis	Barb Maursky	TBD

Dear members of Faith's congregation,

We are carefully monitoring and following guidelines for healthy attendance at music opportunities at Faith Church. We want to inform you of several music encounters for our congregation in the coming weeks.

November 7 at 3pm, Faith Music Ministry will host the AIZURI STRING QUARTET presenting a splendid music program of contemporaries Tom Morgan and Eleanor Alberta along with Ludwig von Beethoven. This community outreach concert is presented by the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem. TICKETS ARE FREE! First come, first served until limited capacity is reached. No reservations. Doors open at 2:20 pm. All attending must be masked and socially distanced. AIZURI SQ appear in the midst of burgeoning world fame, including a 2019 Grammy nomination for the ensemble's debut album BLUEPRINTING.

December will have several Sunday morning music events including Brass Ensemble, Meistersingers of Southern Lehigh High School, hopefully a church school Advent event and traditional service of carols, brass and organ. Faith's Senior Choir is planning to regroup in the coming weeks if covid conditions improve. It's a work in progress in the coming weeks. SPECIAL THANKS to John Barone, Darin Jellison, Connor Licairac, Kevin Long, Matt Wehr and Eileen Wescoe who have so generously contributed significantly to the music experiences at Faith Church worship services during Covid challenges. Your offerings are deeply appreciated.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at [ddduda@verizon.net](mailto:ddduda@verizon.net) or 215.361.8641. Thanks to everyone for your continuing support of music at Faith Church.

May God bless each of you.

I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Dennis Duda*

Music Director and Organist

---



Music at Faith Church  
Sunday, November 7 at 3:00 pm  
Hosting

## AIZURI STRING QUARTET

A FREE Community Concert

No Tickets Required

Limited Seating First Come – First Served

Masks Required with Social Distancing

Presented by

Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem

Information:

[www.cmsob.org](http://www.cmsob.org)

Dennis Duda@ 215.840.4734

Dear Friends,

Thank you does not begin to express the gratitude that I have for all of you. Last November, we were woken by the sound of Smoke Alarms and a raging fire. My husband, Bob, my son Eric, and I were able to escape our burning home. If Eric was not at home that night, I would not be writing this letter to you now, because I would not have gotten out of the house. We lost EVERYTHING, including our 2 dogs and one of our cats. The dogs were let out one door and somehow got trapped within the flames while searching for us.

Our Faith family rallied behind us and thanks to the encouragement by Caroline Frantz, we put together a list of needs and wants from Target. Many of you started sending things right away. Others gave to the Helping Hands Fund that was turned over to us to purchase other essential items. Some of you sent gift cards for various stores. Some of you dropped items off at the church for us. I am not certain who gave some of the items. I tried to get a name for each donation, but feel I missed a few along the way. It was a blessing to be so well taken care of by so many of you. I wrote many thank you notes. Some are still sitting there waiting for me to get the appropriate address to send them out. Some have not yet been written. I have not forgotten your kindness. I will eventually finish all my notes and get them mailed.

I am deeply grateful for all the acts of kindness that we received this past year. Thank you all for your kind words, your gifts and most importantly your friendship and prayers. It has been an extremely difficult year, made worse by Covid. I believe I would have been more emotionally stable if we had been meeting in person and I could have received real hugs and not just virtual ones. I will always be grateful and thankful for my Faith family.

Thank You all Again and May God Bless every one of you,

The Schoenbergers

*Donna, Bob , Eric and Tori*



Hindsight being 20/20 tells you that creating an event to ride a bike or walk 12 miles for a church family whose average age is older than I want to say, *won't work!* BUT, if it's Faith UCC you're talking about, that's a different story! Every Sunday we say, "I believe in Jesus Christ, I believe in the Holy Spirit," and doing the Bike or Hike for Pitt Hopkins event was just one way those words we repeat truly made the Holy Spirit shine presence on that event.

As I look back I think, "How did I ever think all the people I worship with regularly would jump on their bikes and/or walk down the rail trail?" Through doing the planning for this event I was encouraged by the nurses in our church family all accepting the request to participate and offer their talents to help. The people who did ride asked friends to join them and that included more participation. Walkers did the same. There were people who offered to sponsor door prizes which gave incentive to others to get involved. The Mission Committee, as always, gives 100% in every way of support. Some of you honestly couldn't participate but still offered monetary support.

It truly was a day filled with fun and fellowship with the spirit of a loving God shining on the face of everyone there. A Faith building day! And yes, the Maginn Family felt the love from all for Rylie, who, for the day of the event, wasn't a Forget-Me-Not but was **our STAR!**

With God all things are possible and \$1,606 was raised for Pitt Hopkins research. Praise God from whom all blessings flow and THANK YOU!







## **Betty Lou's Pantry Laundry Detergent**

Thank you to everyone who donated laundry detergent for BLP in October. Unfortunately, Faith Church fell far short of our request of 100 bottles. Please feel free to bring detergent to church on Sunday or deliver to the Pantry  
**Wednesday Mornings between 9-10 AM**

## **Betty Lou's Pantry Christmas Gifts**

Once again this year, the Pantry will be distributing **GIFT CARDS** for each child rather than purchasing gifts. Last year we were able to give the families with children a \$50 Gift Card for each child. There are approximately 150 children who receive food from the Pantry. The parents were then able to purchase gifts for their children. Due to many generous donors we were also able to give each senior citizen a \$50 gift card.

**All donations must be received by  
Sunday, November 21, 2021**

Donations can be sent directly to the Pantry at:

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

Please designate on your check that your donation is for  
Christmas Gifts.



## **Christmas Gift Wrap, Gift Bags, Tags & Tape Needed!**

Since the parents must wrap their children's gifts, they will also need supplies to accomplish this. If you have any extras would you please share? A box will be located in the Narthex to collect these materials. Thanks!

## **Boy Scout Food Drive for BLP**

Saturday Morning, November 13, 2021

The scouts will be leaving a bag and a list of needed foods in early November on your front step. Please leave a filled bag on your front step or near your mailbox by 8 am on Saturday. This is the most important food drive for the pantry. The generous donations from the Southern Lehigh community can provide 5-6 months of much needed food supplies. If your donation is not picked up please drop off at the Center Valley and Coopersburg Post Offices.

## **Holiday Hope Chests**

Wrapped shoe boxes can be picked up in the Narthex during regular church hours and Sunday mornings. Gender and age can be found on the box. Directions and suggested gift items can be found inside the box.

Filled boxes must be returned by Sunday, November 28.  
Boxes must be delivered the week after Thanksgiving.

As November comes, so does thinking of our Faith family forget me-nots. We've asked some friends and family members for ideas for a Forget-Me-Not wish list. You can help by picking something off the list and seeing that a Forget-Me-Not receives it for Christmas! Please see the list below.

- BeBe Moyer - Sugar free candy (favorite- Josh Early)
- Bob Fosbenner - Nonpareils (favorite- Josh Early)
- Shirley Baldwin - Diabetic socks
- Frank Styer - Long sleeved shirt (L)
- Joan Jones - Homemade Christmas cookies
- LaVerna Diehl - Any Josh Early candy
- LaMar Beck - Gift card to Potts or jar of unsalted peanuts
- Marv Neeley - Homemade Christmas cookies (favorite—Chocolate Chip)
- Patti Neeley - Homemade Christmas cookies

## FROM THE TREASURER— SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS



September	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 21,206.37	\$180,699.94
Disbursements	\$ 19,346.50	\$183,404.44
	<b>\$1,859.87</b>	<b>(\$2,704.50)</b>

### Special Offering

Joyful Noise-\$5 OCWM-\$40  
Beyond Borders \$100

### Fundraising Income:

Yardsale—\$3,669.70



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 two Sundays of September and the first two Sundays of October include 238 items.

**ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:  
CHUNKY SOUP OR CHILI  
PACKAGED PASTA & RICE SIDE DISHES  
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** and leave a message, or email [bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com](mailto:bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com) —*Mike Ford*

The **deadline** for **December Newsletter** articles and information is **November 10th**. Please leave them on the secretary's desk or email to [faithchurchcv@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurchcv@gmail.com)



The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 25th in observance of Thanksgiving.



## ***NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS***

### **November 1**

Isa. 26:1–4, 8–9, 12–13, 19–21

Rev. 21:9–11, 22–27 (22:1–5)

Matt. 5:1–12

### **November 2**

Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–47

Rev. 11:1–19

Matt. 13:44–52

### **November 3**

Neh. 13:4–22

Rev. 12:1–12

Matt. 13:53–58

### **November 4**

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26

Rev. 14:1–13

Matt. 14:1–12

### **November 5**

Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36

Rev. 15:1–8

Matt. 14:13–21

### **November 6**

Ezra 9:1–15

Rev. 17:1–14

Matt. 14:22–36

### **November 7**

Ezra 10:1–17

Acts 24:10–21

Luke 14:12–24

### **November 8**

Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)

Rev. 18:1–8

Matt. 15:1–20

### **November 9**

Neh. 9:26–38

Rev. 18:9–20

Matt. 15:21–28

### **November 10**

Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18

Rev. 18:21–24

Matt. 15:29–39

### **November 11**

Neh. 6:1–19

Rev. 19:1–10

Matt. 16:1–12

### **November 12**

Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–47

Rev. 19:11–16

Matt. 16:13–20

### **November 13**

Neh. 13:4–22

Rev. 20:1–6

Matt. 16:21–28

### **November 14**

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26

Acts 28:14b–23

Luke 16:1–13

### **November 15**

Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36

Rev. 20:7–15

Matt. 17:1–13

### **November 16**

Ezra 9:1–15

Rev. 21:1–8

Matt. 17:14–21

### **November 17**

Ezra 10:1–17

Rev. 21:9–21

Matt. 17:22–27

### **November 18**

Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)

Rev. 21:22–22:5

Matt. 18:1–9

### **November 19**

Neh. 9:26–38

Rev. 22:6–13

Matt. 18:10–20

### **November 20**

Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18

Rev. 22:14–21

Matt. 18:21–35

**November 21**  
Isa. 19:19–25  
Rom. 15:5–13  
Luke 19:11–27

**November 22**  
Joel 3:1–2, 9–17  
1 Peter 1:1–12  
Matt. 19:1–12

**November 23**  
Nahum 1:1–13  
1 Peter 1:13–25  
Matt. 19:13–22

**November 24**  
Obad. 15–21  
1 Peter 2:1–10  
Matt. 19:23–30

**November 25**  
Zeph. 3:1–13  
1 Peter 2:11–25  
Matt. 20:1–16

**November 26**  
Isa. 24:14–23  
1 Peter 3:13–4:6  
Matt. 20:17–28

**November 27**  
Micah 7:11–20  
1 Peter 4:7–19  
Matt. 20:29–34

**November 28**  
Amos 1:1–5, 13–2:8  
1 Thess. 5:1–11  
Luke 21:5–19

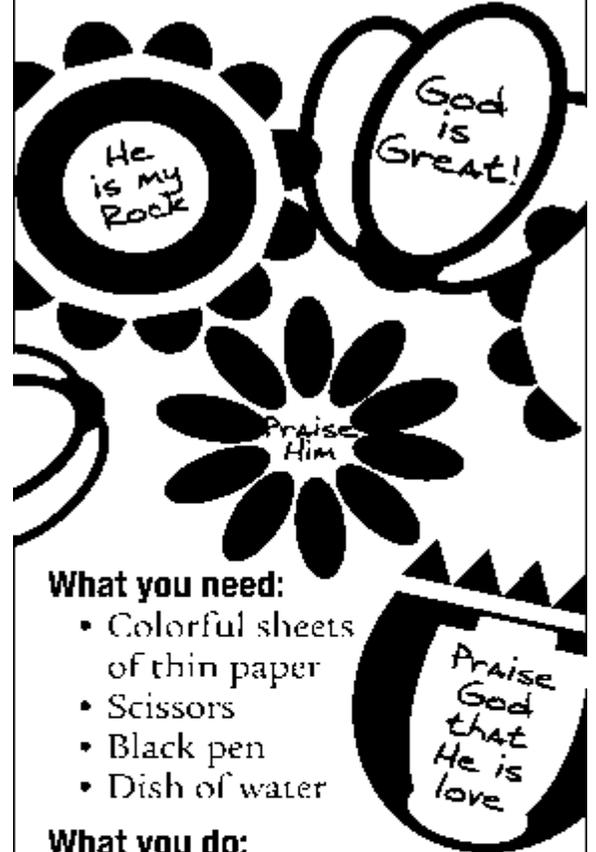
**November 29**  
Amos 2:6–16  
2 Peter 1:1–11  
Matt. 21:1–11

**November 30**  
Amos 3:1–11  
2 Peter 1:12–21



## PRAISE-FILLED petals

Create an interactive display  
of God's provision for a  
Thanksgiving centerpiece.



### What you need:

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

### What you do:

1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.

# November

01 Zackery Campbell

01 Sadie Shafer

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

14 Jonah Ritter

15 Kevin Long

16 Zachary Long

18 Nicole Gasda

19 Marvin Neely

19 Meryl Bixel

22 Nolan Ryan

25 Rebecca Hite

26 Eric Koch

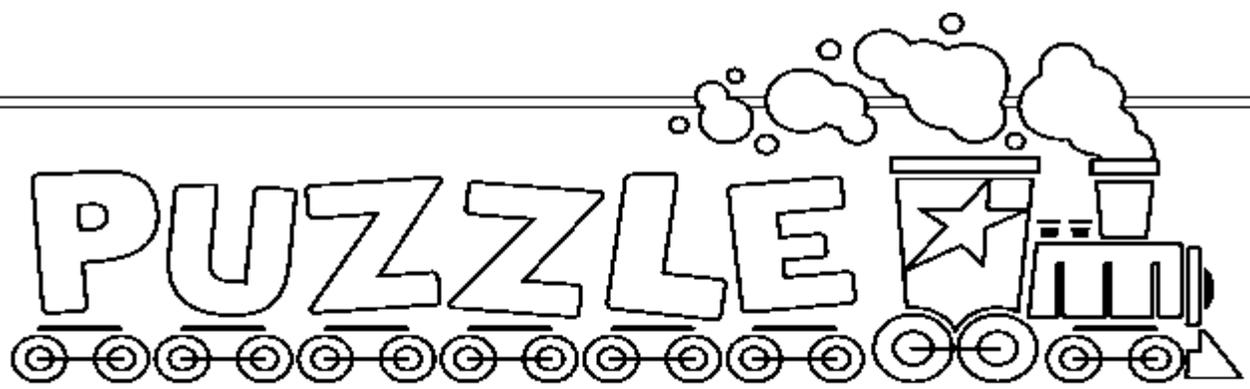
26 Noah Ritter

27 Robert Pierson

27 Ryenn Amato



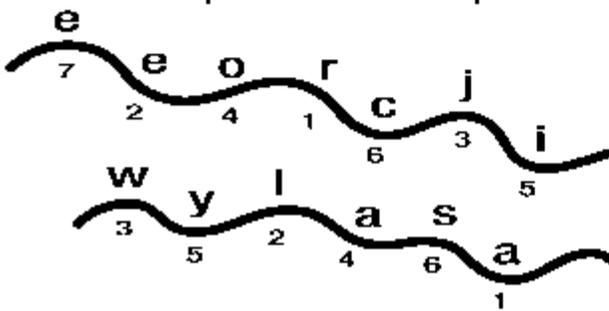
Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



# GOD'S WILL

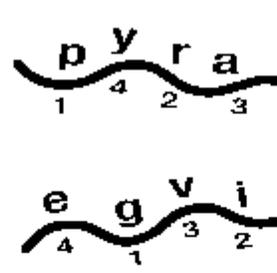
God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

*Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.*



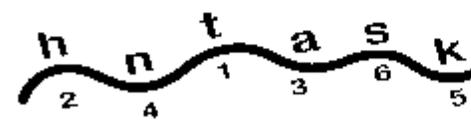
-----  
 -----  
 -----

continually,



-----

in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

