

FOCUS ON



FAITH

Volume 51, Number 11
2021

OUR VISION STATEMENT

United with Christ, we are committed to sharing the transformative love of



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,

Its 11:17 PM on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Confirmation class is over as is worship and even Fall Bingo from this afternoon is over. Its cold outside and dark. Why am I still in my office??

I decided to get some work done and got carried away with myself. The bulletin for next week is done (Sandy is going to be shocked in getting a bulletin from me so early in the week), I have sent all the details to Dennis, Darin, and Ron Demkee who will be the lay reader next Sunday. Pleased that I had gotten all of this work done before I have to hit Monday morning running, I walked out to my car only discover that the battery is dead. I'm stuck. I wondered who I might be able to call in our congregation to get a jump and I am sure there are many but I don't want to bother anyone this time of night. I'll just call AAA BUT I left my AAA card at home. I called home to ask Patience for the number. No answer. She's asleep. Good thing I didn't wake her up. I found the number online and now someone named Andy is on his way to give me a jump and will probably try and sell me a new battery to be sure. Eventually, I will get home.

I'm writing this on November 7th but you won't read this article until after Advent begins — so — this event seems somewhat appropriate for the Christmas season. Different circumstances to be sure, but not unlike Mary and Joseph, I am stranded. I have to wait for help. Mary and Joseph had no idea precisely as to when and where their child was to be born but I am as certain as I can be that they would not have chosen during the circumstance of the census and a dirty drafty barn. I am certain that Mary would have rather been in her own home, her own bed, with loved ones gathered around her than to deal with farm animals and a cranky inn keeper who couldn't be

bothered to take her side or to go to another guest and say, “Hey, I have an emergency here. A young woman just arrived and she’s about to give birth at any time. Give up your room and stay in the stable. It’s not that bad. Give her your room so that this night isn’t a nightmare that will haunt her for the remainder of her life!” Why didn’t he do that? I hope the AAA guy that shows up has more grace and patience with me than the inn keeper had with Mary and Joseph.

Mary and Joseph had to be uncertain about what was about to happen to them and how their lives would be changed forever. In that sense what I’m going through right now is nothing like their plight.

But what is similar is simply this: along our journey in life things happen. Some are big, some are small. Some are miraculous, some are ordinary. Mary and Joseph had to deal with the “big and the miraculous” while I am dealing with the “small and the ordinary.” Perhaps the only real similarity is that God was in their midst just as God is in my midst.

God sent angels to guide, direct, and protect the Holy Family while I have AAA to do the same (well, sort of) for me. Bottom line is, no matter what your plight God does not abandon you to any circumstance in which you may find yourself.

Mary seemed to handle the unusual, and perhaps inconvenient, circumstances in her life quite well. She celebrated when the angel visited her to announce that she would give birth to the Christ Child and again when he told her about her cousin Elizabeth. In the Christmas stories in the Gospels, she seemed to take all of the mystery in, did not panic, but rather just quietly “pondered” the events of that evening in her heart.

I’m trying to ponder this situation in my heart as I wonder what great lesson there is in my particular mystery. Ah, I have it. Turn your car

lights off when you arrive at church on a Sunday morning!!! 😊

Epilogue:

11:00 PM Called AAA
12:30 AM Called AAA back after not receiving any help
1:00 AM After being on hold for 30 minutes, I was told that no one could assist me until 7:00 AM (My office is comfortable but I really wanted to sleep at home)
1:05 AM Called an uber
1:20 AM Gilbert, the uber driver, picked me up
1:45 AM Gilbert drops me off at my home
1:55 AM Collapse and quickly fall asleep
3:00 PM Patience brings me back to the church
3:05 PM I call AAA again
3:30 PM AAA arrives, technician tells me that I need a new battery but tells me that he thinks my battery is still under warranty
4:15 PM Technician calls the dispatcher to make sure that the battery is under warranty
4:45 PM Battery is under warranty, new battery is installed, all is good in the world again!

Peace,



Puzzle Answer:
"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV



Come, Celebrate the Advent Season with
Choirs, Brass and Special Musical Guests

at 10:15 am Worship

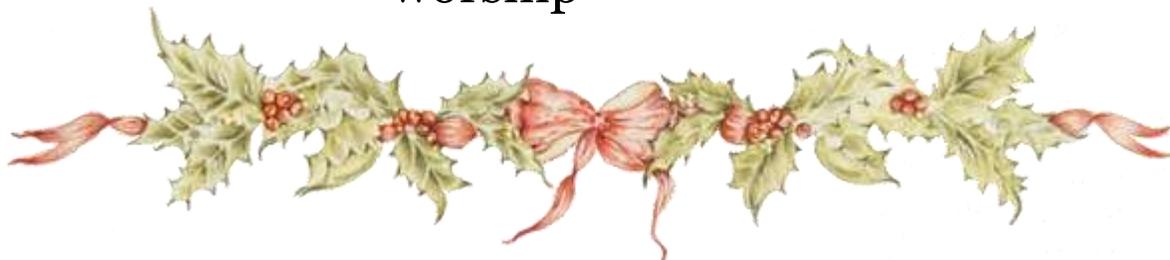
(Come early so you don't miss a note!)

November 28— **Faith's Choir returns for Advent**

December 5— **Main Street Brass**

December 12— **Meistersingers of Southern
Lehigh High School,
Matthew Wehr, Director**

December 19— **Christian Education Program**
Cookies & Hot Chocolate following
worship



December 24

Christmas Eve Services

7:00 pm

Candles, Choirs, and Brass

The services will conclude with the traditional
Candlelight Ceremony.

Communion will be served.

Sunday, December 26

No Sunday School / Worship @ 10:15 am



Dear Members of Faith,

*Thank you for all the get well wishes.
My hip is doing good!*

*It's nice to know so many of you are
thinking of me and praying for me.*

*Sincerely,
Anna Breisch*

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher: Jerry Trexler
Financial Secretary: Tom Hovis

Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Wreath
12/5	Deb Herstine Diane Neiermeier	Joan Hassler	Jellison Family
12/12	Michele & Bruce Keeler	Michele Keeler	Hite Family
12/19	Donna Schoenberger Faye Tirpak	John Barone	Confirmands
12/24	TBD		Stevenson Family
12/26	TBD	TBD	

Faith Church is once again sponsoring families on Laganov Island, Haiti. We currently have enough pledges to assist 2 families. The sponsorship of 1 family is \$100 a month for 18 months. If you wish to pledge a monthly amount or a make a one-time donation, please contact Karen Talboo at cktalboo@gmail.com. Or leave a donation clearly marked for Haiti families in the offering plate. Any amount is appreciated. All 7 of our sponsored families have graduated from the program. We will soon be getting more details on the 7 families we sponsored last year. Thank you so much for your support of this mission.

Betty Lou's Pantry

On behalf of Betty Lou's Pantry we wish to thank you for your contributions to the Boy Scout Food Drive. On Saturday, November 13 the Boy Scouts picked up food donations weighing **over 24,000 pounds**...and still counting... from the Southern Lehigh community. If your donation was not picked up please drop it off at the Center Valley or Coopersburg Post Offices, the SL Library or bring it to Faith Church. These donations will go a long way to give our families a generous amount of food throughout the winter months.

Contributions can still be made to the Pantry for **Christmas gift cards** to help families purchase gifts for their children. Due to the generosity of our community we have also been able to give gift cards to our senior citizens. Send to:

Betty Lou's Pantry
P.O. Box 85
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Since the families will need to wrap their children's gifts, there will be a need for **wrapping supplies**. If you wish to donate supplies please leave items in the food basket in the narthex.

Tally for Recycling Plastic

After exactly 3 months, November 15, 2021, Jerry reports that members have donated: **256 Pound of Plastic** - We can do this!

We have 3 more months to collect another 250 pounds to earn a another new bench! Then we will have a beautiful matched set. Ask your neighbors, co-workers, relatives to help keep unwanted plastic bags out of our oceans, streams, forests, and parks by giving all plastic bags to you to add to our collection.

Joyful Noise Update

We have been able to make our pledges to our Joyful Noise Missions throughout 2021.

August-October Donations	\$ 219.40
November Donations	\$ 259.44

In order to meet our pledges we must receive \$135 monthly or \$1,620 annually. Thank you for supporting these child-related missions:

Global Ministries (Sponsorship of Robert Clive)
Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf, PA
Beyond Borders
(Child Literacy and Family Sponsorship- Haiti)

Christmas Cards for Robert Clive

This year we would like to send our sponsored child, Robert Clive, Christmas cards from as many members of Faith Church as possible. Some of you picked up a card during worship. If you did not receive one, you can still send Robert a card at this address:

Family Village Farm
Attn: Robert Clive
Kasam, Katpadi, Vellore-632 007
Tamilnadu, India

Feel free to send him a short letter telling him about yourself and family. Include a picture of your family and/or pets, if desired.

An international stamp cost \$1.30. Please try to have your card in the mail by December 10.

Graduation Day for Families in Haiti -- thanks to you!



Thank you for your generous sponsorship of the Saint-Germain family. They've graduated, thanks to your sponsorship and their own hard work! Faith UCC -- Thank you for your gener-

ous sponsorship of the Saint-Germain family. Last month they graduated from the program, thanks to your sponsorship and their own hard work and determination. Thank you again for your generosity and your solidarity with them! Your sponsorship pledge is complete now too. In the coming weeks we'll share with you a final report on all that the Saint-Germain family achieved during the 18-months of your sponsorship. And later this month, we hope to launch work with a fifth cohort of 110 of the most vulnerable families on Lagonav Island, to give them the same opportunity to escape extreme poverty that the Saint-Germain family had -- thanks to you. Thank you again for standing with the Saint-Germain family throughout these tumultuous 18 months. Your steady, faithful sponsorship made all the difference for them during some extremely difficult times, and for that I can never thank you enough.

With deep gratitude,

David Diggs

Co-Founder & Executive Director | Beyond Borders

Fall Bingo & Basket Raffle

On Sunday, November 7, 2021 we held our first bingo fundraiser in 2 years. Due to the Covid pandemic, we limited the number of guests and gave everyone plenty of space for social distancing. At this event we kept our kitchen closed to food preparation. However, the Jennifer and Dan Schaffer Family made and donated 75 delicious turkey and ham hoagies. We heard nothing but compliments about this change in menu. Many thanks for their delicious donation!

Our 68 guests not only had a good time but were very generous. We brought in \$4,155 which covered all expenses and even gave mission the ability to cover the remaining pledges for 2021.

Thank you to all who participated, donated, and volunteered their time to make this a fun afternoon for all. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 24, 2022 for Mission's Spring Bingo Fundraiser.



FROM THE TREASURER - OCTOBER FINANCIALS

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$20,255.92	\$200,955.86
Disbursements	\$20,623.91	\$204,028.48
	(\$367.99)	(\$3,072.62)

Special Offering

Joyful Noise-\$20 NIN-\$370 STC - \$25
OGHS- \$50 Christmas Fund- \$25





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 three Sundays of October and the first Sunday of October include 249 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

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



**The Church Office will be closed
December 25th through January 3rd.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



DECEMBER BIBLE READINGS

December 1

Amos 3:12–4:5
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 21:23–32

December 2

Amos 4:6–13
2 Peter 3:11–18
Matt. 21:33–46

December 3

Amos 5:1–17
Jude 1–16
Matt. 22:1–14

December 4

Amos 5:18–27
Jude 17–25
Matt. 22:15–22

December 5

Amos 6:1–14
2 Thess. 1:5–12
Luke 1:57–68

December 6

Amos 7:1–9
Rev. 1:1–8
Matt. 22:23–33

December 7

Amos 7:10–17
Rev. 1:9–16
Matt. 22:34–46

December 8

Amos 8:1–14
Rev. 1:17–2:7
Matt. 23:1–12

December 9

Amos 9:1–10
Rev. 2:8–17
Matt. 23:13–26

December 10

Hag. 1:1–15
Rev. 2:18–29
Matt. 23:27–39

December 11

Hag. 2:1–9
Rev. 3:1–6
Matt. 24:1–14

December 12

Amos 9:11–15
2 Thess. 2:1–3, 13–17
John 5:30–47

December 13

Zech. 1:7–17
Rev. 3:7–13
Matt. 24:15–31

December 14

Zech. 2:1–13
Rev. 3:14–22
Matt. 24:32–44

December 15

Zech. 3:1–10
Rev. 4:1–8
Matt. 24:45–51

December 16

Zech. 4:1–14
Rev. 4:9–5:5
Matt. 25:1–13

December 17

Zech. 7:8–8:8
Rev. 5:6–14
Matt. 25:14–30

December 18

Gen. 3:8–15
Rev. 12:1–10
John 3:16–21

December 19

Zeph. 3:14–20
Titus 1:1–16
Luke 1:1–25

December 20

1 Sam. 2:1b–10
Titus 2:1–10
Luke 1:26–36

December 21

2 Sam. 7:1–17
Titus 2:11–3:8a
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

December 22
2 Sam. 7:18–29
Gal. 3:1–14
Luke 1:57–66

December 23
Jer. 31:10–14
Gal. 3:15–22
Luke 1:67–80 *or*
Matt. 1:1–17

December 24
Isa. 60:1–6
Gal. 3:23–4:7
Matt. 1:18–25

December 25
Micah 4:1–5; 5:2–4
1 John 4:7–16
John 3:31–36

December 26
1 Sam. 1:1–2, 7b–28
Col. 1:9–20
Luke 2:22–40

December 27
Prov. 8:22–30
1 John 5:1–12
John 13:20–35

December 28
Isa. 49:13–23
Isa. 54:1–13
Matt. 18:1–14

December 29
2 Sam. 23:13–17b
2 John 1–13
John 2:1–11

December 30
89:19–52
1 Kings 17:17–24
3 John 1–15
John 4:46–54

December 31
1 Kings 3:5–14
James 4:13–17;
5:7–11
John 5:1–15



SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue “letters” together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

December

01 Wes Koser

16 Sis Scholl

02 Dennis Frantz

18 Cody Schaffer

03 Carol Bouc

20 Ellie Kane

04 Anna Breisch

22 Shirley Baldwin

04 Angela Lender

22 Jordan Koch

04 Nicole Ryan

23 Diane Talaber

11 Christine Leh

24 Donald Koch

11 Allison Grammer

26 Mason Ritter

12 Sherry Meluskey

27 Mike Ford

12 Dana Zsido

30 Ray Foulke

14 Faye Tirpak

14 Bonnie Stenroos

15 John Lenner

16 Harvey Weidner



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S
 H M V S R B O L Y Q O X A V H R T
 A I N G F I P H S C I B E J H A

What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

“S_e w_ll __ve b ir__
 to _ s_n, and __u a_e to
 gi_e _i_ the __me J__us,
 b_c_u__ he _ill s__e his
 __ op_e f_o_ t__ir s_n_.”

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

START HERE

Answer: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21, NIV