

FOCUS ON



FAITH

Volume 52, Number 1
2022

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](#)

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.*

2022 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,

You've all heard stories about me losing things but perhaps not about me *finding* things.

I had a busy Sunday morning at the church followed by a busy Sunday afternoon bringing communion to some of our Forget Me Nots. When I left the church to make these visits, I loaded up the car with everything that I would need because I planned on going straight home after my last visit.

I arrived home, had dinner with Patience, then did my typical Sunday evening routine: watch a little TV, take the trash out to the street, then sit down at my computer and get a little work done trying to get a head start on Monday morning.

However, I could not find my briefcase in which I carry my laptop. I thought I left it in the car. Nope. I thought I might have left it in the bedroom. Nope. I thought I might have left it in the kitchen by the outside door. Nope. I looked in these and several other places about four times. The only other possible place it might be was back in my office but I was *positive* that it wasn't there. However, I've been wrong before and since it wasn't anywhere else I got dressed to head back to the church. Then it hit me ...

I am an "Apple Device Geek." Some call it a "cult." I have a MacBook Pro, I have an iPad, I have an iPhone, I have the Apple Watch, and I have Air Pods. When Apple comes up with a new product, I just know that I will find a reason why I *must* have it even though I may not actually get it. But I digress.

If you are familiar with Apple devices there is a built in “homing device” called *Find My Mac*. If I can’t find one of my devices all I have to do is open the *Find My Mac* application. All of my devices will open up in a menu and I simply press on it and the app will tell me where the device is. So, rather than making an unnecessary trip to the church I grabbed my handy iPhone, opened up the app, pressed on *MacBook Pro* and it indicated that my computer was on my property. But where? I had looked everywhere! Then I pressed a second button on the app instructing the computer to “chime.” Immediately I heard it but ever so slightly. I listened and followed until I realized that the chime was coming from outside! With my arms full of things that I was carrying into the house, fumbling with the keys to unlock the door I had placed my briefcase on the ground and left it there. The lost had been found. Sometimes in order to find something the lost item must do part of the work to be reunited.

The season of Advent is a season of waiting. Epiphany is a season of searching, deep searching. Advent may bring us to the Christ Child but Epiphany enables for this Child to grow within and no matter how old we are or how many times we have journeyed through Epiphany there is more of Christ that needs to grow within us, transforming us to be more and more like Him. And so, we must continue the search for Christ and invite Him into our lives and our living. However, just as I needed to hear my computer chime to find it, we need a signal to find Christ.

The journey of the Magi was not unlike this. They were astronomers who studied the sky. When they saw the star in the sky telling them that the King had been born they recognized it (just as I recognized the ping from my computer) and they followed the star. They followed by sight but I followed by sound.

We are not unlike the Magi. Throughout our entire lives we search for Jesus and find ways to embrace His life and lead in our

lives. We forget about Him at times and we get lost at other times. Sometimes the journey gets frustrating and we want to give up. We aren't sure of the right way to turn as we seek to be faithful. But there are always signals to guide us and in those signals we find new strength, hope, and excitement for the journey.

Look to the heavens, examine the stars to see what can guide you. Listen carefully for the "pings" in your life. I doubt you will actually hear something. It will come to you as a surprise deep in your thoughts. You will slap your forehead and say "HEY, I could have had a V-Eight!" Be quiet and be still and let the voice of God come to you.

An Epiphany is defined as a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way. Look and listen. Do not let the new understandings of this season pass you by.

Blessings,

Pastor [Signature]



Puzzle Answer:
revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless,
case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do



Sunday January 9, 2022

10:15 Worship with Communion

The COVID Task Force and Worship Committees met on 12/21 and in light of COVID-19 transmissions rapidly increasing (approx. 250 cases a day in the Lehigh Valley, 350 cases a day in Bucks County), hospital occupancy increasing, and cases of the Omicron variant being confirmed in the Lehigh Valley, they **have requested, for the safety of our congregation, **that Consistory adopt the following practices be made policy until further notice:****

- **Wearing a mask during worship or public meetings will be mandatory. Should a person show up at worship or a public meeting without a mask one will be provided.**
- **The sanitation station will remain in the narthex and people are encouraged to use it upon entering and leaving the building**
- **Social distancing is encouraged**
- **Our HVAC system provides fresh air**
- **Our HALO system provides protection from viruses**
- **We will continue to monitor CDC guidelines and will follow them**
- **We will continue to monitor COVID Alert PA and follow those guidelines**

Near the end of his earthly life Jesus said: *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* We show our love for each other in many ways but these days loving each other means protecting each other even if it inconveniences us a bit.

Thank you.



Welcome to:
Sutton Marie Connors
 Born Friday,
 November 19th, 2021
 6:12pm 6lbs 7oz 19.5in
 To **Matt and Leah**
 (Herndon) **Connors**

Grandparents **Donna and Gene Herndon**
 Great Grandparents **Donald and Tootie Koch**
God's blessings to the new family!

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS			
Head Usher: Becky Hite			
Financial Secretary: Jerry Trexler (2, 9) & Tom Hovis			
Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Acolytes
1/02	Diane Neidermeier Linda Torrence	Jerry Trexler	
01/09	George Rau Bob Shelly	Barb Maursky	Owen & Izzy Hovis
01/16	Caroline Frantz	Ron Demkee	
01/23	Tim & Sara Hovis	Brenda Hovis	
01/30	Bruce & Michele Keeler	Donna Schoenberger	Owen Hovis Brandon Barone

Martin Luther King Day

On January 16, 2022, the Sunday before MLK Day, we will be hosting several guest speakers from local missions. These missions are supported by Faith Church. Our guests may include Miss Mary from the Caring Place, and representatives from Allentown Rescue Mission and Pathways. There will be a *Meet and Greet* immediately after worship.

Holiday Hope Chests

Many thanks to all who filled a shoe box with Christmas surprises for the recipients of the Holiday Hope Chests. On Thursday, December 2 we delivered 51 boxes overflowing with Christmas love and cheer. I am sure many children had a wonderful holiday due to your generosity. Thank you so much!

Betty Lou's Pantry

Approximately 110 families received either a turkey or lasagna dinner for Thanksgiving.

Hats and scarves, enough to fill 2 big boxes, were delivered and distributed to the families just in time for cold weather. Thank you so much to our *Faith in Stitches* knitting and crocheting group. All items were beautifully made and will be greatly appreciated when the cold weather sets in. Thank you for sharing your talents with the families.

For Christmas all families with children received a \$50 gift card for each child to use toward gifts. Seniors who use the pantry received a gift card also. Wrapping supplies were provided as well. This was all made possible through the generous donations of the community. Along with this, the families received ham or lasagna for their Christmas dinners.

Joyful Noise for December

The total donation for the Joyful Noise offering was **\$122.63**. *Thank you* for supporting our missions that are helped by this special offering: Child Sponsorship, Bethany Children's Home, Haiti School Initiative and Family sponsorship. The goal for each month is \$135.

Beyond Borders Family Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce that we will definitely be sponsoring 2 families for the next cohort on Laganov Island, Haiti. Thank you for your generosity once again. We are very close to sponsoring a third family. A family sponsorship is \$1,800 over an 18 month period. If you would be interested in making a one-time donation drop it in the offering plate clearly marked for Haiti. Or if you are interested in making a monthly pledge please see Karen Talboo.

Plastic Recycling Progress

As of December 19 we have collected over 413 pounds of soft plastic. Great job! We have 2 months to collect 87 more pounds to meet our goal of 500 pounds and to receive another beautiful bench. Keep it coming!

Heifer International

Heifer had another matching donor opportunity that became available right before Christmas. It seemed that this opportunity should not be ignored. As a result of this, Mission donated 1 Flock of Chickens and 1 Hive of Bees for a total of **\$50**. The good news is that our **donation will now be doubled**. That means we have given **2 Flocks of Chickens and 2 Bee Hives!** These gifts not only bring joy to the world, but they also are bringing hope, security, prosperity and comfort to many families. These animals create lasting change for families around the world!



CE Christmas Program, 12/19/21

**FROM THE TREASURER
- NOVEMBER
FINANCIALS**



	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$19,938.97	\$220,894.83
Disbursements	\$17,940.28	\$221,968.63
	\$ 1,998.69	(\$1,073.80)

Special Offering
Joyful Noise-\$2 NIN-\$28
Haiti—\$500

Faith's 2021 Closing Date is Sunday, January 9, 2022. Please plan your closing so that your final 2021 remittance will be received in the office by Sunday, January 9th. Offering received the 9th will be credited to 2022.

2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex. If you don't have envelopes but would like them, please contact the church office—610-282-3939. You do not have to use envelopes to get credit for your contributions. As long as your name is included you will get credit.

*Faith Family,
Thank you so much for all the lovely cards I received during my unexpected hospital "vacation."*

The prayers and well wishes were much appreciated. Glad to be back on the job.

*Your Sexton,
Dorothy*





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 November and the first Sunday of December include 216 items and \$125.

ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:

CEREAL

MEAT HELPERS (TUNA, CHICKEN, HAMBURGER)

TOILET PAPER

Items stocked at the Pantry include:

Pork & Beans

Spaghetti Sauce

Peanut Butter

Kidney Beans

Canned Fruit

Beef Stew

Dry Pasta & Spaghetti

Chili

Canned Pasta

Canned Tomatoes & Canned Sauce

Chunky Soups

Macaroni & Cheese

Canned Chicken and Salmon

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



**The Church Office will be closed
January 3rd and January 17th
in observance of MLK Jr Day.**



JANUARY BIBLE READINGS

January 1
Isa. 62:1–5, 10–12
Rev. 19:11–16
Matt. 1:18–25

January 2
1 Kgs. 3:5–14
Col. 3:12–17
John 6:41–47

January 3
1 Kgs. 19:9–18
Eph. 4:17–32
John 6:15–27

January 4
Josh. 3:14–4:7
Eph. 5:1–20
John 9:1–12, 35–38

January 5
Jonah 2:2–9
Eph. 6:10–20
John 11:17–27, 38–44

January 6
Isa. 49:1–7
Rev. 21:22–27
Matt. 12:14–21

January 7
Deut. 8:1–3
Col. 1:1–14
John 6:30–33, 48–51

January 8
Exod. 17:1–7
Col. 1:15–23
John 7:37–52

January 9
Gen. 1:1—2:3
Eph. 1:3–14
John 1:29–34

January 10
Gen. 2:4–25
Heb. 1:1–14
John 1:1–18

January 11
Gen. 3:1–24
Heb. 2:1–10
John 1:19–28

January 12
Gen. 4:1–16
Heb. 2:11–18
John 1:(29–34) 35–42

January 13
Gen. 4:17–26
Heb. 3:1–11
John 1:43–51

January 14
Gen. 6:1–8
Heb. 3:12–19
John 2:1–12

January 15
Gen. 6:9–22
Heb. 4:1–13
John 2:13–22

January 16
Gen. 7:1–10, 17–23
Eph. 4:1–16
Mark 3:7–19

January 17
Gen. 8:6–22
Heb. 4:14—5:6
John 2:23—3:15

January 18
Gen. 9:1–17
Heb. 5:7–14
John 3:16–21

January 19
Gen. 9:18–29
Heb. 6:1–12
John 3:22–36

January 20
Gen. 11:1–9
Heb. 6:13–20
John 4:1–15

January 21
Gen. 11:27—12:8
Heb. 7:1–17
John 4:16–26

January 22
Gen. 12:9—13:1
Heb. 7:18–28
John 4:27–42

January 23
Gen. 13:2–18
Gal. 2:1–10
Mark 7:31–37

January 24
Gen. 14:(1–7) 8–24
Heb. 8:1–13
John 4:43–54

January 25
Gen. 15:1–11, 17–21
Heb. 9:1–14
John 5:1–18

January 26
Gen. 16:1–14
Heb. 9:15–28
John 5:19–29

January 27
Gen. 16:15—
17:14
Heb. 10:1–10
John 5:30–47

January 28
Gen. 17:15–27
Heb. 10:11–25

John 6:1–15

January 29
Gen. 18:1–16
Heb. 10:26–39
John 6:16–27

January 30
Gen. 18:16–33
Gal. 5:13–25
Mark 8:22–30

January 31
Gen. 19:1–29
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:27–40



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:

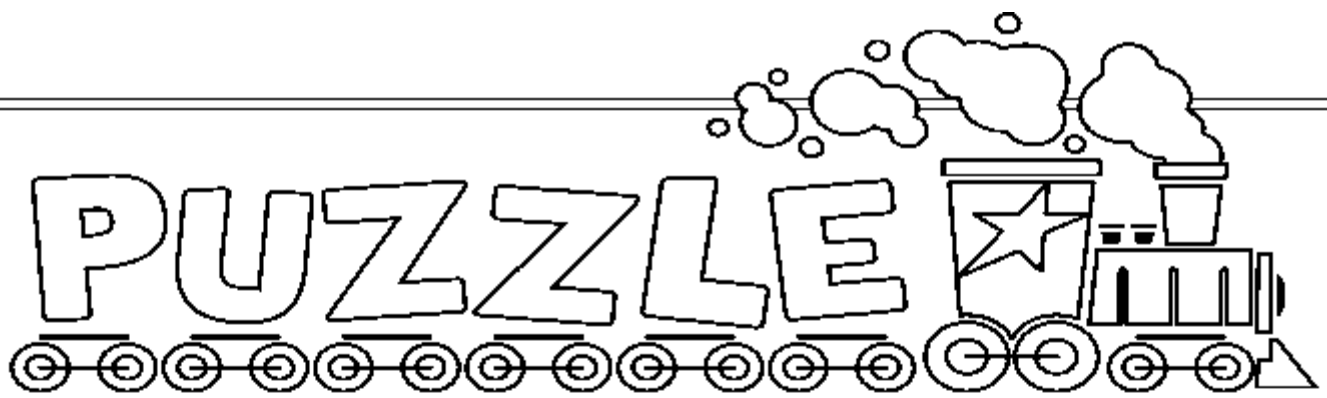
1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue “letters” together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament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

January

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Eric Schoenberger | 22 Christian Miller |
| 01 Justin Koser | 22 Koltin Leh |
| 02 Sandra Biery | 25 Matthew Talboo |
| 04 Jameson Hughes | 27 Luke Schafer |
| 04 Liam Shelly | 27 Riley Snyder |
| 05 John Marple | 28 Ronald Stoffey |
| 09 Dennis Eisenhart | 30 Leah Conners |
| 10 Jared Gunther | 31 Gail Clark |
| 10 Preston Amato | 31 Matthew Allison |
| 11 Larry Leight | |
| 13 Joan Hassler | |
| 13 Thomas Heineman | |
| 15 Andrew Sosnowsky | |
| 15 Jerry Trexler | |
| 16 Robin Davis | |
| 19 Dwayne Schantz | |
| 21 Richard J Featherman | |
| 22 Christian Heaps | |



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek re_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your ___ople, but love your neig_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus_____. Defend the ___pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the ___e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go____. ...
To act **justly** and to love me_____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

- | | |
|---|----------|
| — | father |
| — | pe_____ |
| — | ___venge |
| — | ___od |
| — | ___rcy |
| — | op_____ |
| — | ___hbor |
| — | humb__ |
| — | cas_ |
| — | ___tice |

So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would ___ve them
d ___ to you, for this s ___ms up the ___w and the Proph ___s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV