

FOCUS ON



FAITH

Volume 52, Number 2
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.

 FEBRUARY 2022

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

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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: Brenda Hovis

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:

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,

At this point I'm beginning to wonder if you're growing weary of reading about my "Adventures in Losing Things" but this tale is just too rich not to tell!

It was Christmas Day and we were all sitting to dinner. Ethan was going to enjoy a craft beer with his meal and as he was about to pour it into a glass, I stopped him. I remembered that I had a glass that my father had just for beer and I thought on such a special day Ethan should use it. Now, the glass was located a cupboard deep in our laundry room, a room I dare not enter. There are clothes lines and hangers just waiting to attack me. The room works just fine for Patience but I can't get through it without knocking things over or getting tangled in the clothes line and hangers but this was a special occasion. It was Christmas dinner and I was determined that my son use his grandfather's glass so I dove into the laundry room undeterred by whatever fate would befall me!

I retrieved the glass, washed it, handed it to my son., and rejoined my family for our Christmas feast but I realized that I didn't have my glasses on. "Has anyone seen my glasses?"

"I don't think so" was the reply from everyone.

"Did you see me wearing them today?" I asked.

"I think so"

"Where and when?"

"I don't know."

Big help they were! So, I searched but the food was getting cold so I just grabbed an older pair and figured the missing pair would turn up. Finally, as bed time arrived, I chose to continue the search the next day.

When I got up Patience asked me if I had found my glasses. “No, I haven’t,” I replied.



“Go check your phone.” That was a strange directive but I figured there must be a good reason behind it so I followed it. There was a text message (from Patience) waiting. When I opened it, this was the picture that was awaiting me:

my glasses ...

all tangled up in the clothes-line, grasped by laundry pins, being kept company by a sock.

When I went into the laundry room to get the glass I was attacked by the “Laundry Artillery” and my glasses were the casualty. Why I didn’t notice that they were missing immediately, I will never know.

Sometimes the things that are “missing” in our lives are taken from us and it isn’t until they are gone that we realize that they are gone. The circumstances in which they are taken from us are so ordinary yet so unordinary we have no idea how we lost them. The loss is so quick, immediate, and mysterious. The ordinary way of finding the “lost item” doesn’t work. I asked if people had seen them. I asked people if they had seen me wearing them. I looked in all the typical

places I put them down. I traced my steps throughout the house throughout the day. No luck.

It was an ordinary trip to the laundry room in which an unordinary thing happened. Thank goodness that Patience chose to do an ordinary thing that morning; laundry.

Sometimes we find what we are looking for in life by simply doing our usual routines but we have to look first.

We go through life asking God for answers to the mysteries of our life. Some are simple and easy; others are complicated and painful. Some answers come quickly while others take some time. Many of our questions come when we feel that something has been taken from us and perhaps those are the ones that puzzle the most. I can't promise that answers will come quickly or easily but they do come when we are patient and listen, look, and consider possibilities that we hadn't considered. I NEVER would have looked for my glasses where Patience found them and she certainly wasn't expecting to find them where she found them but God speaks to us in the "unexpected" at times.

Glasses in the clothes-line. Now that's a first!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**Puzzle Answers:
deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve,**



Church World Services Blanket Sunday

February is the month to try to keep warm! It's also the month when we take our annual **Blanket Offering on the last Sunday in February.**

In 2021, congregational gifts provided over 183,000 CWS Blankets and Kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty).

You can show God's love and provide hope to your neighbors by making a donation. Each warm blanket costs only \$10 and enables someone to feel God's love in their lives.

Our annual goal is to purchase at least 100 blankets. We have met our goal for several years and hope to continue this generosity.

Special Blanket offering envelopes are available in the Narthex throughout the month of February. To make a blanket donation with out an envelope please designate your offering "Blanket".


Sending Our
SYMPATHY



Faith member, Romaine Zeiner, passed away on August 16, 2021 at the age of 73. Romaine is survived by her husband Harold (Skip), sons Jason & Travis and their families. *Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers in the difficult days ahead.*

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher: Tracy Adams
Financial Secretary: Bob Shelly

Date	Usher(s)	Lay Reader	Acolytes	Altar Flowers
2/06	Kim Ritter	John Barone	Owen & Izzy Hovis	
2/13	Kim Ritter	Karen Talboo		Talboo
2/20	Donna Schoenberger	Barb Maursky		
2/27	George Rau	Joan Hassler		

If you would like to volunteer to help during worship please contact Joan Hassler @ 610-838-5503.



In 1990 the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a youth group in South Carolina. The prayer was simply this: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat”.

Since then, more than \$110 million has been raised and donated to organizations that provide shelter to the homeless and food for the hungry. Right here in the Southern Lehigh area, Betty Lou’s Pantry provides food for over 100 families and 300 individuals, many of whom are children.

The Mission Team would like to challenge all of you to support the Soup & Cereal Bowl of Caring by bringing several of these food items **EVERY Sunday through Sunday, February 13, 2022.**

**BEEF STEW HEARTY SOUP CHILI RAVIOLI
AND
CEREAL**

We challenge the congregation to donate at least **150** cans of soup and or cereal. Donations can be left in the Narthex on the table labeled for Souper Bowl of Caring.

I am sure that many of you will be gathering with friends and family to watch the Super Bowl. There will more than likely be an abundance of snacks and beverages. As we gather for this event let us not forget our neighbors in need and help to provide a family with a hot bowl of soup on a cold winter's night.

Due to Covid we will not be having our Soup Cook-off this year. Let's hope for next year!

Church World Services **Blanket Sunday**

February is the month to try to keep warm! It's also the month when we take our annual **Blanket Offering on Sunday, February 27.**

Each warm blanket costs only \$10 and our annual goal is to purchase at least 100 blankets. **CWS** uses these blankets around the world, including the US, during emergencies. Each blanket provides victims of natural and man-made disasters with warmth and shelter. We have far exceeded our \$1,000 goal for several years. In February, 2021 Faith Church donated over \$1,500 for blankets. Let us continue with this generosity.

Joyful Noise Offering for January

- * Global Ministries
- * Bethany Children's Home
- * Beyond Borders

Thank you for your generous offerings to the
January Collection.

The amount collected was \$47.

In order to meet our pledges we need to collect
\$135 each month. Thank you for your support!

Dec. 2021



Hi to our Faith Church friends,

At this time of year, our thoughts are always with you and the wonderful memories of our Christmas celebrations in Center Valley.

Although we didn't venture east this year for Christmas, our NYC family came here to Wyoming as well as our Colorado family from Steamboat Springs. It was a lively time here with 10 people, 2 dogs, and much snow and wind. As our guests have returned home, Jan and I are enjoying the peace and quiet.

Our best to all of the members of Faith Church,

Stu & Jan Webster

23 Desperado Buttes Trace

Laramie, WY 82070

Faith Family,

Thank you for once again thinking of me this holiday season by filling my Christmas Stocking.

I always enjoy all the surprises!

Have a blessed 2022.

Your Sexton,

Dorothy

**FROM THE TREASURER
- DECEMBER FINANCIALS**



	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$30,122	\$251,017
Disbursements	\$21,198	\$243,166
	\$8,924	\$7,851

Special Offerings

Joyful Noise-\$105 Christmas Fund-\$280
Samaritan Fund—\$200 Haiti—\$500
Helping Hands—\$175

Dear Friends,

Hoping your Christmas was wonderful! Thanks to all of you for sharing so many different types of Christmas wishes with me and my family this holiday season.

May your New Year be blessed!

Sandy

Dear Friends,

For so many years now, one of my Christmas morning traditions is to find a quiet corner in my home and open my “Faith Church Christmas stocking.” Every year I am delighted by your kindness and thoughtfulness. This year was no different. Thank you so much for your generous expressions.

Peace,

Pastor Bruce



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 December and the first Sunday of January include 115 items.

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 **bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com** —*Mike Ford*

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



The Church Office will be closed Monday, February 21st in observance of President's Day.



FEBRUARY BIBLE READINGS

February 1

Gen. 21:1–21
Heb. 11:13–22
John 6:41–51

February 2

Gen. 22:1–18
Heb. 11:23–31
John 6:52–59

February 3

Gen. 23:1–20
Heb. 11:32–12:2
John 6:60–71

February 4

Gen. 24:1–27
Heb. 12:3–11
John 7:1–13

February 5

Gen. 24:28–38, 49–51
Heb. 12:12–29
John 7:14–36

February 6

Gen. 24:50–67
2 Tim. 2:14–21
Mark 10:13–22

February 7

Gen. 25:19–34
Heb. 13:1–16
John 7:37–52

February 8

Gen. 26:1–6, 12–33
Heb. 13:17–25
John 7:53–8:11

February 9

Gen. 27:1–29
Rom. 12:1–8
John 8:12–20

February 10

Gen. 27:30–45
Rom. 12:9–21
John 8:21–32

February 11

Gen. 27:46–28:4,
10–22
Rom. 13:1–14
John 8:33–47

February 12

Gen. 29:1–20
Rom. 14:1–23
John 8:47–59

February 13

Gen. 29:20–35
1 Tim. 3:14–4:10
Mark 10:23–31

February 14

Gen. 30:1–24
1 John 1:1–10
John 9:1–17

February 15

Gen. 31:1–24
1 John 2:1–11
John 9:18–41

February 16

Gen. 31:25–50
1 John 2:12–17
John 10:1–18

February 17

Gen. 32:3–21
1 John 2:18–29
John 10:19–30

February 18

Gen. 32:22–33:17
1 John 3:1–10
John 10:31–42

February 19

Gen. 35:1–20
1 John 3:11–18
John 11:1–16

February 20

Prov. 1:20–33
2 Cor. 5:11–21
Mark 10:35–45

February 21

Prov. 3:11–20
1 John 3:18–4:6
John 11:17–29

February 22
Prov. 4:1–27
1 John 4:7–21
John 11:30–44

February 23
Prov. 6:1–19
1 John 5:1–12
John 11:45–54

February 24
Prov. 7:1–27
1 John 5:13–21
John 11:55–12:8

February 25
Prov. 8:1–21
Phlm. 1–25
John 12:9–19

February 26
Prov. 8:22–36
2 Tim. 1:1–14
John 12:20–26

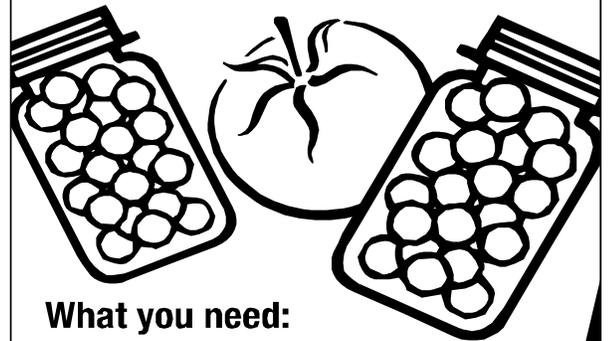
February 27
Mal. 4:1–6
2 Cor. 3:7–18
Luke 9:18–27

February 28
Prov. 27:1–6, 10–12
Phil. 2:1–13
John 18:15–18, 25–27



Friendship SOUP

Make jars of Italian barley soup to share love and warmth with friends.



What you need:

- 1 cup pearled barley
- ½ cup sundried tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp dry minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp dry minced onion
- 1 veggie bouillon cube
- Glass pint jars with lids
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Pen

What you do:

1. In order, layer the first five ingredients into the jar.
2. Trace the outline of the lid onto cardstock. Cut out.
3. On the card, write these directions: Remove wrapper from bouillon cube. Add contents of jar to saucepan. Add 4 cups water and a can of diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce to low. Simmer about 20 minutes, until barley is tender. Serve with parmesan cheese.
4. Place the card atop the lid. Screw on the canning ring to keep it in place.

February

04 Darin Jellison
Griffin Koch

05 Brett Dill
Karlee Allison

06 Tracy Adams
Robert Campbell Sr.

07 Ben Keeler

10 Ethan Stevenson

13 Grace Koch
Susan Hardy

14 Jade Stoffey

15 Joe Smith
Molly Grammer

17 Richard Shelly, Jr

18 Steve Fosbenner
Eric Hite

19 Sandy Sosnowsky

22 Nancy Gollie

Dana Kernick

Monica Gunkle

Elisa Talboo

23 Brenda Hovis

24 Marian Barrick

28 Donald Koch, Jr



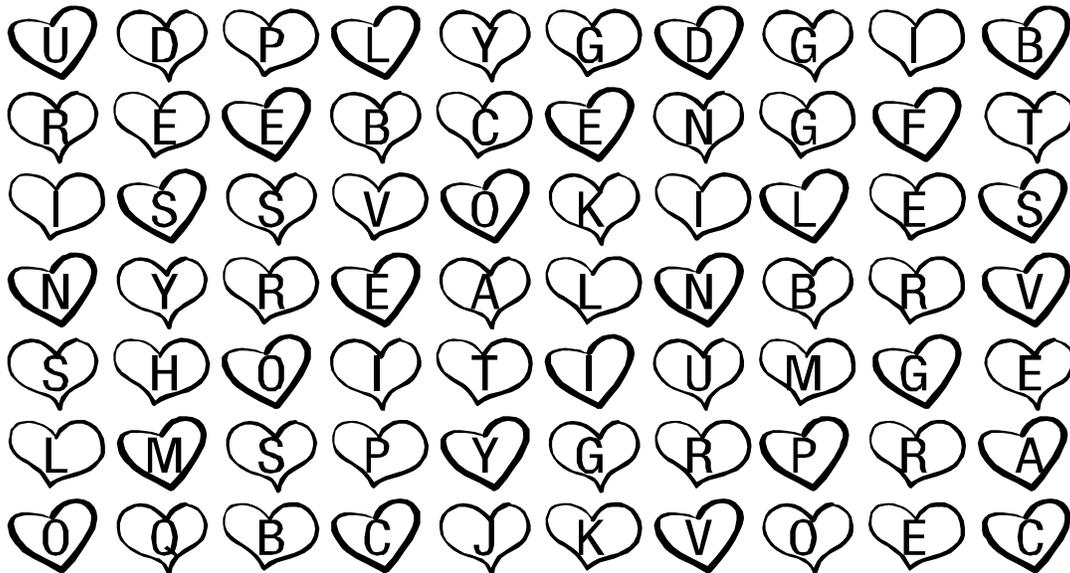
Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D , because love
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV