

FOCUS ON



FAITH

Volume 52, Number 4
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: Joan Hassler

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,

Last month I had a meeting in Annapolis, MD. The journey would be about three hours so I decided to drive down the night before, spend the night, attend the meeting the next morning, meet Ethan and Alissa about half way between Annapolis and Washington, and then head for home.

Some thought I was silly to drive so far for this meeting. Some might have thought that I was silly to stay so late, have dinner with my son and his wife, and then drive back so late. There might have been some truth to all of that but behind all of it I had a sense of purpose. There was a purpose behind everything that I did in that trip and therefore I didn't mind any part of it.

Oddly enough, the issue of purpose came up in the meeting that I attended.

We engage in many activities and projects in our lives and to keep ourselves focused we ask a variety of questions. There are the "How" questions, the "What" questions, and the "When" questions. All of those are important questions but the question that must be asked and answered first, and often, is the "Why" question. The "Why question" will not answer the other questions but it will guide us through the process of discovery that will keep us focused on our purpose. Purpose is found in these questions. We need to ask them - otherwise we will simply fall adrift and accomplish very little.

Without purpose we also lose our identity and authenticity as children of God, servants of Christ, and are left blind to the Holy Spirit. Want to see how this works? It's easy:

WHY - The answer to this question is the first step in establishing purpose. Why do anything? Why should the practice of faith be anything more than a “spectator sport? There are many scripture passages that can answer the “Why question” but one of my favorites is this:

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8

Couldn't put it any simpler than that. Purpose is grounded in this and other passages.

WHEN - When is a little bit more difficult but not that difficult. When is determined by timing, need, and resources. I could add to this list but I'm sure you get the idea.

HOW - This question is answered by the “arsenal” of resources that we gather. It determines our strategy. Yes, part of that arsenal is funds but just as important is skill, determination, compassion. Once we have taken inventory of resources we identify that purpose even closer. We know what we can and cannot accomplish.

WHAT - Never ask the “What question.” You see, if you do that you run the risk of focusing on your own desires and strategies more than you do on God's. Quick example. At my last church I came up with a plan for a program. I thought it was the best idea that anyone had EVER had! And yet no one saw it my way and the program never happened. The program was the “What” question but I asked it before I answered the “why,” the “when,” and the “how.” God has other plans than mine.

Since the war in Ukraine broke out, I have been eager to respond as a Christian. But I realized that I shouldn't be so quick to get to the “What question.” I had to ask **why, how, and when** first. By doing this I remained connected to my purpose which in this case is my identify as a follower of Christ.

WHY: Would God have us respond to what is happening in Ukraine? Would God have us show acts of mercy, justice, and peace? Politics aside, there are innocent people being slaughtered and God is always on the side of the innocent. Of course, we must respond.

WHEN: What is stopping us from responding immediately?

HOW: Hope, prayer, letters to congress, your financial resources.

WHAT: There are many good and trustworthy relief agencies that you can partner with but my money will support the efforts of our “Mother and Sister Churches.” Join me if you wish. Our beloved United Church of Christ has “Boots on the Ground” offering relief for Ukrainians.

<https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>

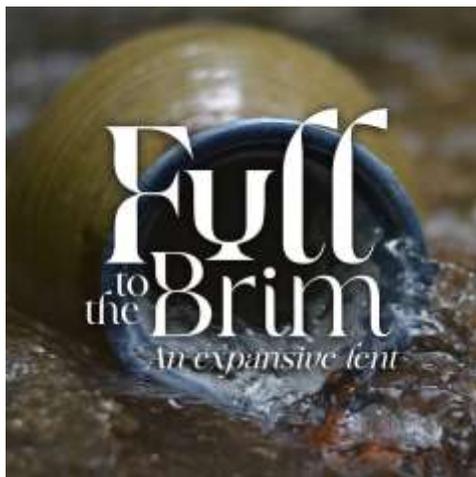
It doesn't have to stop there. Imagine if Faith Church, just as we put Haitian families in a new home and gave them a new life, helped support a family of Ukrainian refugees to a new safe home? Now, I'm getting ahead of myself. We need to ask why, when, how, and what first but there is an exciting possibility in front of us.

Pray for Ukraine and support mercy and justice for them.

Peace,



Puzzle Answers: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen; DOWN 1. gardener, 3. earth-quake, 6. Salome, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” John 20:17, NIV



Full to the Brim

- [Daily Meditations](#)
- [A Seasonal Devotional](#)

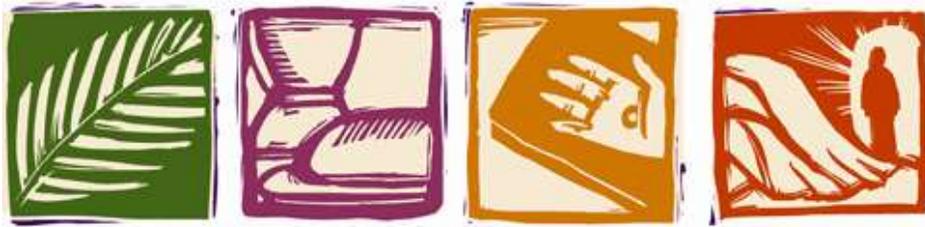
Our Lenten theme, **Full to the Brim**, continues as we begin the 4th week of Lent. Click on Daily Meditations above to enjoy the thought provoking meditations throughout the days ahead.

Page through the Seasonal Devotional Booklet and enjoy artwork, poetry, and more for each week in Lent.

Printed copies of both the Daily meditations and the Seasonal Devotional are available in the Narthex.

Full to the Brim reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 10TH

10:15 AM WORSHIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

APRIL 14TH

7:30 PM WORSHIP

COMMUNION

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 18TH

8:00 AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL W/EGG HUNT

10:15 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

*BOTH EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES WILL INCLUDE
COMMUNION*



The Christian Ed Committee is asking for individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs for our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt during the Sunday School hour. We will be collecting donations through April 10th. Please make sure the individually wrapped candy pieces are small enough to place inside the plastic eggs. Thank you in advance for your help!

Why Christ calls us to worship

Easter services are usually well attended, but what about other weeks? What draws you to worship on an “average” Sunday, and what might Jesus have in store for people in the pews?

Consider this from Pastor Charles Aaron: “Did we come to church this morning thinking it was a safe thing to do? Did we come with some expectation of receiving a blessing, a bit of comfort, but no real challenge? Did we think about the possibility that encountering Jesus would rearrange our lives, explode our priorities, cause us to give more than we ever expected? Did we think we could get a little something from Jesus, a dose of grace to help us through the week? Did we come for the fellowship, the music, the spiritual boost? No one can argue with those reasons.”

He continues: “The risen Christ, however, may have had other plans for this worship service. Christ may want to come under our skins and transform us. Christ may see through us so that something we have well hidden comes to the surface. Christ may kick out from under us the things we use to prop ourselves up but that we don’t really need. Are we ready for that? Did we bargain on that when we walked through the door today?” —from *The Wired Word*



**TO a
FUNDRAISING
SHOPPING
EVENT FOR**

organization name Faith UCC

date 04/04/22 - 04/10/22

time M - Th 10am-7pm; Fri & Sat. 10am-8pm; Sun. 11am-6pm

where 210 N West End Blvd, Quakertown, PA 18951

it's simple! 10% of the purchases made by members of your group will be donated back to your organization.

simply present this flyer to a member of our **WOW CREW** at the time of purchase. please note that we do not allow flyers to be handed out in our store or shopping center at any time before, during or after your event.

this section to be completed by five below associate

purchase amount (pre-tax) \$ _____

register (circle one) **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6**

associate name _____

Spring Bingo

With Basket Raffle



Faith UCC

Route 378
Center Valley, PA

Sunday, April 24, 2022

1:00 p.m. (Doors Open at Noon)

25 games for \$25

2 specials for \$5

Tickets go on sale April 1, 2022

Tickets are sold by reserved seating only.

Tickets go fast so get yours now!!

Call Karen Talboo at 610-282-1552

Or Email: cktalboo@gmail.com

Or Faith Church Office at 610-282-3939

Mon-Thurs 9 am-4 pm

Please make all checks payable to **Faith UCC Mission**

Mail Payment to: Karen Talboo

SPECIAL MISSION COLLECTION

We will be collecting personal hygiene items for Betty Lou's Pantry. Betty Lou's Pantry is our local food pantry that serves our neighbors in need by providing food on a monthly basis. It is facilitated by 12 Southern Lehigh Area Churches.

For every item you donate you will receive a ticket to be placed in a special raffle. The requested items are:

Toothpaste

Shampoo

Deodorant

Toothbrush

Soap

\$2 Donation/ticket

Only regular sized items will be accepted. No hotel sized bottles please.

If you would prefer to donate a food item, the most needed items are:

Canned Ravioli

Grape Jelly

Meal Helpers

Ticket Information

Your \$25 ticket includes 25 regular games. The 2 special games can be played by purchasing extra tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. You may also purchase extra games on the floor. These may be purchased for \$1 for regular games and \$2 for special games.

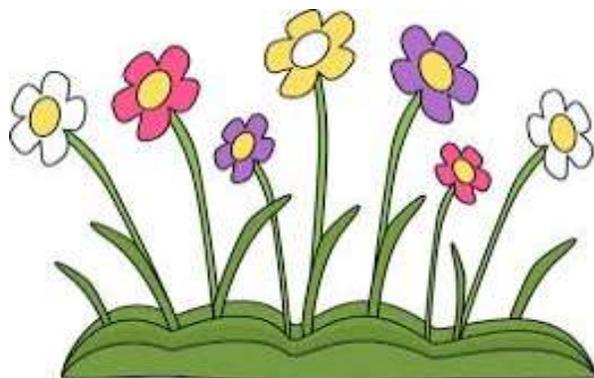
Game Prizes

The prizes for Spring Bingo regular games will include
ThirtyOne products and Vera Bradley bags.

The Specials for this bingo will be 2 Gift Card Baskets.

Masking Policy

Unless we receive a revised directive from the CDC, masks will be optional unless you are not vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated we ask that you wear a mask at all times.



Spring Bingo—Annual Mission Fundraiser
Sunday, April 24, 2022

How can you help?

~**Invite** your friends, relatives, and neighbors to join the fun!

Price is \$25 for 25 regular games.

Prizes are Vera Bradley and ThirtyOne Items.

Specials are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and will be Gift Cards.

Donate any of the following:

~**Gift Cards of any Amount.** These will be used for our Specials and Basket Raffle.

~ **Baked Goods** like cookies, brownies, Rice Krispie treats that are bagged with 2 or 3 in a bag. We will not be able to plate any baked goods such as pies or cakes.

~**Water**

~**Sodas-** Diet Coke, Regular Coke, Gingerale, Sprite

~**Chips or Pretzels-** Individual Bags

~**Basket Raffle Prizes-** Value of \$20 or more

~**Door Prizes- Value of \$5-\$10**

Volunteer to:

~ **Setup** in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 23. Time to be announced.

~**Work the Floor** during Bingo

~**Clean up** after Bingo starting at 3:30 PM

Thank you for helping to make this fundraiser a great success each year! The profits made during this event are used to help Faith Church support a variety of missions- locally, nationally, and internationally.

To donate any items or volunteer your time

Please contact Karen Talboo at cktalboo@gmail.com or 610-282-1552



Church World Services
Blanket Sunday

Thanks to you we have collected \$1,303 for blankets!!!

Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday has been moved from April 3 to May 1, 2022. We will be sharing the success of the 7 families that we sponsored in Haiti from November 2019-April 2021. At that time we will also introduce the 3 families we are currently sponsoring. It will also be a time to celebrate the success of other Faith Missions.

Joyful Noise Offering

Global Ministries * Bethany Children's Home * Beyond Borders

Thank you for your generous offerings to the
February Collection.

The amount collected was: \$141.03
(In order to meet our pledges we should collect \$135)

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for 2022

Our goal for this year is \$1,000.
At this time the offering has reached:
\$ 195

If you have not made your offering yet for OGHS please remember that this is a worldwide mission that helps our neighbors in need around the world including the United States.

Faith United Church of Christ 143 2
5992 Route 378
Center Valley, PA 18034-9455



Dear Rev. Stevenson,

Thank you for remembering the Allentown Rescue Mission – and those we serve – with your gift of **\$100.00** on **1/21/2022!** Your compassion for our homeless and disadvantaged neighbors is in keeping with the command set forth in Micah 6:8 (NLT):

*...and this is what He requires of you:
to do what is right, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.*

As we begin this new year, I'm grateful for friends like you who reach out to those who are suffering – who show kindness for strangers you may never even meet – because it's the right and godly thing to do. When you and others demonstrate your concern for the poor through your gifts and prayers, our entire community is lifted up and made stronger.

Because of your support, we can continue to offer those in need the basics of food and shelter, life-changing guidance, Christian encouragement... and unwavering hope for new life in the new year ahead. Plus, you can double the impact of your gift! Visit AllentownRescueMission.org/matching-gifts to find out more.

Sincerely,

Erik Fuqua
Development Director

For gifts of \$250 or more, the Internal Revenue Service requires the following statement:
No goods or services were provided to the donor in return for this donation. This correspondence is funded by private donations, not government money.



"Thank you for donating! Your donations keep the Allentown Rescue Mission open for men like me. I used to work in flooring, but due to the pandemic, people didn't want strangers coming into their homes to work. Work dried up, and I burned through my savings going from hotel to hotel. Finally, I decided to come to the Mission, where I was welcomed with open arms. Now I have a rewarding job as the Clean Team Workforce Foreman!
- Dan

P.S. Be part of our Facebook community! You'll see our urgent needs and read amazing stories about the everyday miracles happening in lives because of good friends like you. We'd be honored if you shared a post on why you've chosen to be our partner in ministering to our community's homeless. Thank you!

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher: Matt Long
Financial Secretary: Scott Christman

Date	Usher(s)	Lay Reader	Altar Flowers
4/3	Bob & Patti Shelly	Joan Hassler	Keelers
4/10	Donna Schoenberger Diane Neidermeier	Barb Maursky	Tirpak
4/14	George Rau	Readers tbd	n/a
4/17 10:15	Chuck & Karen Talboo	Jerry Trexler	Easter Flowers
4/24	Donna Schoenberger Diane Neidermeier	John Barone	Available

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

FROM THE TREASURER - FEBRUARY FINANCIALS



	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$20,055	\$37,817
Disbursements	\$21,705	\$42,385
	(\$1,650)	(\$4,568)

Special Offerings

Joyful Noise-\$105 Blankets-\$1,093
Haiti—\$150 OCWM—\$145



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 February and the first Sunday of March included 107 items.

Independently of these donations, a grand total of 344 items (cereal, stew, hearty soup, chili, and canned ravioli) were donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Congratulations on exceeding our initial goal of 150 servings, as well as the new goal of 200 items that was set during the service on February 6th!

ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:

CEREAL

MEAT HELPERS (TUNA, CHICKEN, HAMBURGER)

TOILET PAPER

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** —*Mike Ford*



APRIL BIBLE READINGS

April 1

Exod. 2:1–22
1 Cor. 12:27–13:3
Mark 9:2–13

April 2

Exod. 2:23–3:15
1 Cor. 13:1–13
Mark 9:14–29

April 3

Exod. 3:16–4:12
Rom. 12:1–21
John 8:46–59

April 4

Exod. 4:10–20 (21–26)
27–31
1 Cor. 14:1–19
Mark 9:30–41

April 5

Exod. 5:1–6:1
1 Cor. 14:20–33a, 39–
40
Mark 9:42–50

April 6

Exod. 7:8–24
2 Cor. 2:14–3:6
Mark 10:1–16

April 7

Exod. 7:25–8:19
2 Cor. 3:7–18
Mark 10:17–31

April 8

Exod. 9:13–35
2 Cor. 4:1–12
Mark 10:32–45

April 9

Exod. 10:21–11:8
2 Cor. 4:13–18
Mark 10:46–52

April 10

Zech. 9:9–12
1 Tim. 6:12–16
Luke 19:41–48

April 11

Lam. 1:1–2, 6–12
2 Cor. 1:1–7
Mark 11:12–25

April 12

Lam. 1:17–22
2 Cor. 1:8–22
Mark 11:27–33

April 13

Lam. 2:1–9
2 Cor. 1:23–2:11
Mark 12:1–11

April 14

Lam. 2:10–18
1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–32
Mark 14:12–25

April 15

Lam. 3:1–9, 19–33
1 Pet. 1:10–20
John 13:36–38

April 16

Lam. 3:37–58
Heb. 4:1–16
Rom. 8:1–11

April 17

Exod. 12:1–14
John 1:1–18
Luke 24:13–35

April 18

Exod. 12:14–27
1 Cor. 15:1–11
Mark 16:1–8

April 19

Exod. 12:28–39
1 Cor. 15:12–28
Mark 16:9–20

April 20

Exod. 12:40–51
1 Cor. 15:(29) 30–41
Matt. 28:1–16

April 21

Exod. 13:3–10
1 Cor. 15:41–50
Matt. 28:16–20

April 22

Exod. 13:1–2, 11–16
1 Cor. 15:51–58
Luke 24:1–12

April 23

Exod. 13:17–14:4
2 Cor. 4:16–5:10
Mark 12:18–27

April 24

Exod. 14:5–22
1 John 1:1–7
John 14:1–7

April 25

Exod. 14:21–31
1 Pet. 1:1–12
John 14:(1–7) 8–17

April 26

Exod. 15:1–21
1 Pet. 1:13–25
John 14:18–31

April 27

Exod. 15:22–16:10
1 Pet. 2:1–10
John 15:1–11

April 28

Exod. 16:10–22
1 Pet. 2:11–3:12
John 15:12–27

April 29

Exod. 16:23–36
1 Pet. 3:13–4:6
John 16:1–15

April 30

Exod. 17:1–16
1 Pet. 4:7–19
John 16:16–33

HOLY WEEK

i-SPY

Create this craft to share the events of Holy Week with a younger sibling or friend.

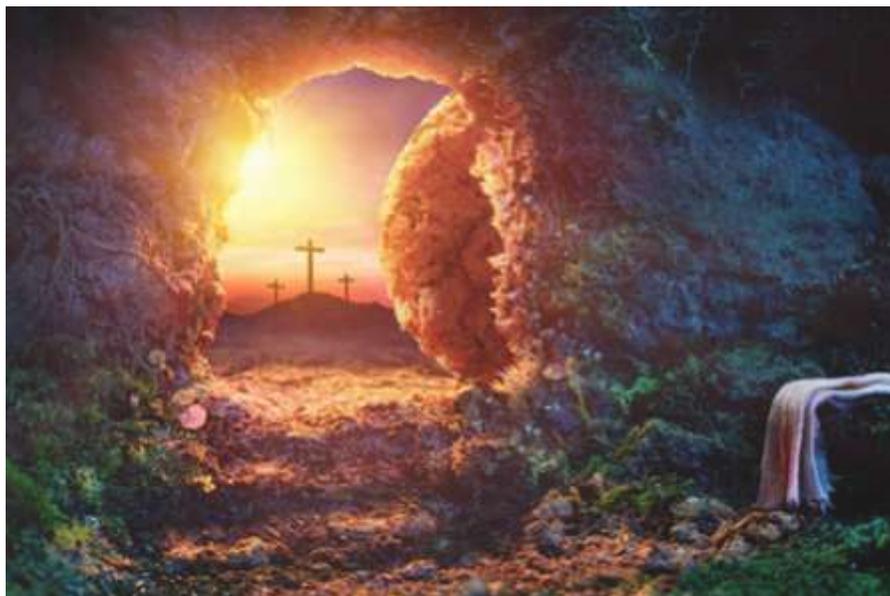


What you need:

- Clear bottle or jar with lid
- White rice
- Small items that symbolize Holy Week events

What you do:

1. Pour rice into bottle or jar so it's about two-thirds full.
2. Add the small items. Ideas: leaf, donkey, cup, towel square, praying hands, coin, bird, nails, thorn, cross, dice, stick, lamb, stone, white fabric.
3. Fasten the lid. Then shake and turn the bottle to "spy" each item.



April

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|----------------|
| 2 | Marge Kichline | 23 | Dee Hutchinson |
| 3 | Rylie Maginn | 25 | Nancy Schantz |
| 5 | Lisa Allison | | Vaughn Stoffey |
| 6 | Mary Ellen Long | 27. | Tyler Schaffer |
| | Bonnie Leight | | Karli Hieter |
| 7 | Jill Heineman | 28 | Tom Hovis |
| 10 | Kay Ruser | | Kevin Gollie |
| 11 | Adam Heineman | 29 | Adam Weidner |
| | Avery Koser | | |
| 12 | James Snyder | | |
| | Chris Miller | | |
| 13 | Corinne Gunkle | | |
| 16 | Ryan Schoenberger | | |
| 22 | Jan Hughes | | |
| | Sonya Dill | | |



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.

PUZZLE



Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection, and each one offers important details.

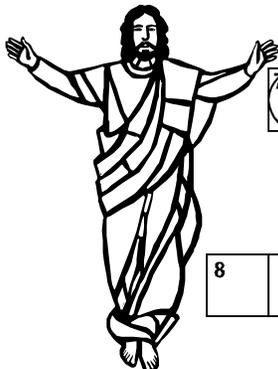
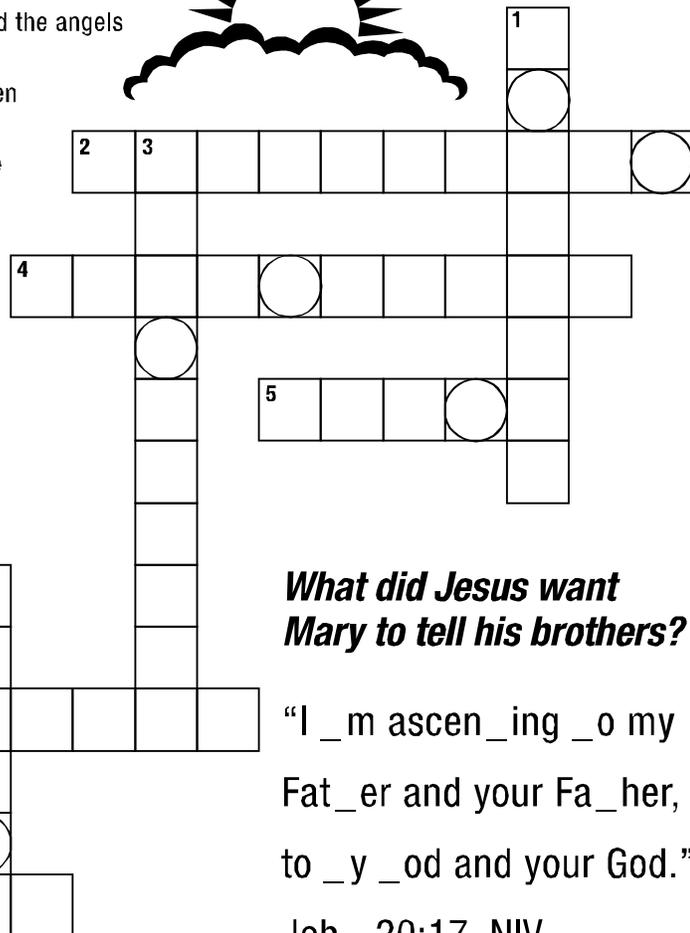
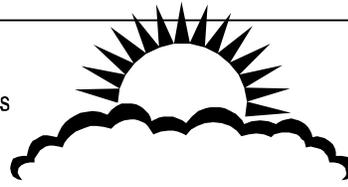
Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN

1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

"I _ m ascen _ ing _ o my
 Fat _ er and your Fa _ her,
 to _ y _ od and your God."
 Joh _ 20:17, NIV