

# FOCUS ON



# FAITH

Volume 52, Number 5  
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

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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.*

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## 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,

Easter Sunday has passed but now we enter the Season of Easter. During this season I often ask myself this simple question: *How did Jesus die?* I am not asking by what method did he die. The answer to that question is by crucifixion. Nor is my question *why* did Jesus die. My theology answers that question: to pay the price of the sins of humanity. My question is what were the circumstances that led Jesus' execution? Did those in society not see the benefits of such a remarkable leader? Someone who could heal the sick, feed the hunger, clothe the naked, home the homeless, comfort the afflicted, unite the disenfranchised, and replace the powerful with the humble? Why did the society of his day reject him and be so threatened by him that the only answer to their "Jesus Problem" was to execute him?

Over many years of asking that question and pondering over many possibilities I think I have come to the answer. For some reason a perfect storm of insanity consumed those in power in Jesus' day that convinced them that Jesus was a threat and he must be destroyed.

I have been given these threefold of insanity. Put them together and we have "the perfect storm" of madness:

1. An inability to relate to anyone whose views are different from your own
2. Unceasingly trying to convert others to your views
3. Interfering in the relationships of others

It is my conclusion that these three qualities of madness were present in the society of Jesus' time which led to his death.

**An inability to relate to anyone who's views are different from your own.** Under the best of circumstances, we are able to understand the views of others. We may not agree with them but we can at least understand why someone else might think or believe differently than we do. We agree to disagree and then we move on. Not during the time of Jesus. You had the Romans, the Priests, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and countless other groups vying for power and not caring in the least to understand each other. The first element of a “perfect storm of madness.”

**Unceasingly trying to convert others to your views.** Without getting into any detail, that was precisely what was happening between the groups that I have already mentioned. However, some tried to persuade with power and fear while others tried to do it with bribery and extortion. All of this was present in Jesus' day. The second element of a “perfect storm of madness.”

**Interfering in the relationships of others.** Judas. Need I say more? The third element of a “perfect storm of madness.”

I cannot throw Jesus into this mix. He sat down with the woman at the well and shared a drink. He sat down for dinner with tax collectors and sinners. He reached out to the disenfranchised of his time and embraced them and he didn't pursue anyone. People pursued him. He didn't demand anything of anyone. To those he healed he said, “Your faith has made you well.”

Perhaps Jesus and his followers were the sanest people in Palestine during this time and that is why they weren't strong enough to stand up to the insanity of the day.

The Romans are gone as are the Priests, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians, and the countless number of others who made up that “perfect storm of insanity” that demanded the death of Jesus.

But Jesus is still here. Through you and through me the Church of Jesus Christ remains as strong as ever feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, giving comfort to the afflicted, and welcoming the stranger into our midst. Why have we survived? We survive out of humility. Humility keeps us sane.

Easter Season Blessings,



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**Mother's Day**  
**May 8, 2022**

**Scott Brooks-Cope,**  
Regional Director of Pastoral Care and Education  
at Phoebe Ministries will join us to share the message  
and special music.

**Donna Schudel Barone** will also  
share about Phoebe Ministries



## Mission News-May 2022

### Betty Lou's Pantry—Letter Carrier Food Drive Saturday, May 14, 2022



The letter carriers will be holding their annual food drive on **Saturday, May 14, 2022**. The food supply that was donated during the Boy Scout Food Drive in November, 2021 has been depleted. It is important that we have as much participation as possible. The letter carriers will be leaving a bag at your mailbox sometime the week before the Food Drive. Please fill it up and leave it near your mailbox by 8 am, Saturday, May 14.

Thanks to everyone who responded to the request for jams & jellies. At this time we are well-stocked due to your donation. Your donations can include any of the much needed items listed.

The most needed items at this time are:

Cereal                      Boxed Potatoes                      Stove Top Stuffing  
Canned Pasta              Spaghetti Sauce                      Pasta  
Side Dishes (Rice-a-Roni, Knorr's flavored rice)  
Meal Helpers (Ground Beef, Chicken or Tuna)

Much **help is needed** to gather and organize all of the food donations. You will be scheduled for a time period. You will not be expected to be there all day. If you wish to help on Saturday, May 14 please contact Chris Page 610-360-2730.

### Mission Fundraiser Spring Bingo & Raffle

What a great time everyone had at Spring Bingo and Raffle! We entertained 107 guests and saw a net profit of \$3,692. Special thanks to everyone who worked at making everything go smoothly. Many of

our volunteers showed up at 8:30 am to make hoagies and stayed until after cleanup was done. Each of the following individuals played an important part in the success of this fundraiser:

Brenda & Tom Hovis

Sandi & Tony DiSanto

Cindy & Tim Talaber

Elaine & Jerry Trexler

Pastor Bruce

John & Donna Barone

Debby Herstine

Doris Horwath

Thanks to John & Donna Barone for organizing the making of the hoagies. Please know that the **Lusitania Bakery** in Bethlehem donated 10 dozen freshly baked hoagie rolls. Please support their business when shopping in Bethlehem. Giant donated \$50 toward the lunch meat and cheese. Due to alert shopping by John, he was able to save additional money on the lunch meats using coupons. All will agree they were delicious!

The profit from this fundraiser will be used to help Mission meet Faith's pledges for the upcoming year.

Mark your calendar for our next bingo fundraiser scheduled for  
**Sunday, April 23, 2023.**

*Please note that there will not be a Fall Bingo in November, 2022.*

**Mission Sunday**

May 22, 2022

Please join us on **Sunday May 22** as the Mission Team leads worship. At that time we will celebrate the success of the 7 Haitian families sponsored from November 2018 through April 2021. You will also meet the 3 families that Faith is currently sponsored along with updates on other Faith Missions.



A community music event will be hosted by Music Ministry of Faith UCC on **Friday, May 6 at 7:30 pm**. [The JUPITER STRING QUARTET](#) will present music of Haydn, Wiancko and Tchaikovsky. A presale of **\$15 adult tickets** (instead of \$30 at door) will be available to Faith congregation members **until Sunday, May 1**. See Dennis Duda before then to make an early purchase. It promises to be an extraordinary evening of music!

<b>MAY VOLUNTEERS</b>			
Head Usher: Mike Ford Financial Secretary: Jerry Trexler			
Date	Usher(s)	Lay Reader	Altar Flowers
5/1	Heather Koser	Brenda Hovis	Ritter
5/8	Faye Tirpak	Donna Barone	Talboo
5/15	Doris Horwath	Donna Schoenberger	Trexler
5/22	Ruth Smith	N/A	Roberts
5/29	Diane Neidemeier	Jerry Trexler	Keelers

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





# All Together!

**C**onferences in the UCC work to support leaders, connect congregations, engage youth and young adults, and to imagine together a just world for all. And the **Strengthen the Church** offering makes this revitalizing work possible.

In the Penn Northeast Conference, we utilized Strengthen the Church Offering Funds to coach and teach a congregation how to manage conflict and disagreement proactively. People learned how to speak up against bullying and how to lead effectively. The congregation regained a positive approach to ministry and mission. Strengthen the Church Funds helped train coaches like the Rev. Dr. Jo Marchetto and the Rev. Heather Kurtz for this conflict intervention. Because of your gifts to Strengthen the Church, the coaches will be ready to help the next congregation struggling with conflict. Benefits upon benefit from our partnerships.

Spring seems to (finally) be on its way, and perhaps it is time to gather our yarns and needles again! **“Faith in Stitches” will soon be waking from its winter break!**

We will be trying an afternoon schedule beginning May 10th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in our Memorial Room. I have spoken to some of our members, and this seems to work for most of us. As usual, we would be flexible for holidays etc..

We welcome any and all interested members, friends and neighbors !!!

See you on May 10th !!

Jane Van Horn

484-274-3774



**Puzzle Answers:**  
1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.



**The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, March 30th  
in observance of Memorial Day.**

*Dear Faith UCC,*

*Thank you for thinking about me and my upcoming graduation. Time has been flying and it feels like yesterday Spencer and I were in the balcony during the services or hanging out in the confirmation room. Thank you also for the gift card. It will definitely come in handy with the next chapter of my life coming up.*

*Thanks again,  
Ben Muth*

**FROM THE TREASURER  
- MARCH FINANCIALS**



	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Receipts	\$18,155	\$55,972
Disbursements	\$22,015	\$64,399
	<b>(\$3,860)</b>	<b>(\$8,427)</b>

**Special Offerings**

One Great Hour of Sharing—\$450  
Haiti—\$100      Helping Hands—\$175  
Blankets—\$210 (total blankets \$1,303)



**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 March and the first Sunday of April included 337 items.**

**ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:**

Cereal                      Boxed Potatoes                      Stove Top Stuffing  
Canned Pasta              Spaghetti Sauce                      Pasta  
Side Dishes (Rice-a-Roni, Knorr's flavored rice)  
Meal Helpers (Ground Beef, Chicken or Tuna)

**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*



## ***MAY BIBLE READINGS***

### **Sunday, May 1**

Exod. 18:1–12  
1 John 2:7–17  
Mark 16:9–20

### **Monday, May 2**

Exod. 18:13–27  
1 Pet. 5:1–14  
Matt. (1:1–17) 3:1–6

### **Tuesday, May 3**

Exod. 19:1–16  
Col. 1:1–14  
Matt. 3:7–12

### **Wednesday, May 4**

Exod. 19:16–25  
Col. 1:15–23  
Matt. 3:13–17

### **Thursday, May 5**

Exod. 20:1–21  
Col. 1:24–2:7  
Matt. 4:1–11

### **Friday, May 6**

Exod. 24:1–18  
Col. 2:8–23  
Matt. 4:12–17

### **Saturday, May 7**

Exod. 25:1–22  
Col. 3:1–17  
Matt. 4:18–25

### **Sunday, May 8**

Exod. 28:1–4, 30–38  
1 John 2:18–29  
Mark 6:30–44

### **Monday, May 9**

Exod. 32:1–20  
Col. 3:18–4:6 (7–18)  
Matt. 5:1–10

### **Tuesday, May 10**

Exod. 32:21–34  
1 Thess. 1:1–10  
Matt. 5:11–16

### **Wednesday, May 11**

Exod. 33:1–23  
1 Thess. 2:1–12  
Matt. 5:17–20

### **Thursday, May 12**

Exod. 34:1–17  
1 Thess. 2:13–20  
Matt. 5:21–26

### **Friday, May 13**

Exod. 34:18–35  
1 Thess. 3:1–13  
Matt. 5:27–37

### **Saturday, May 14**

Exod. 40:18–38  
1 Thess. 4:1–12  
Matt. 5:38–48

### **Sunday, May 15**

Lev. 8:1–13, 30–36  
Heb. 12:1–14  
Luke 4:16–30

### **Monday, May 16**

Lev. 16:1–19  
1 Thess. 4:13–18  
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

### **Tuesday, May 17**

Lev. 16:20–34  
1 Thess. 5:1–11  
Matt. 6:7–15

### **Wednesday, May 18**

Lev. 19:1–18  
1 Thess. 5:12–28  
Matt. 6:19–24

### **Thursday, May 19**

Lev. 19:26–37  
2 Thess. 1:1–12  
Matt. 6:25–34

### **Friday, May 20**

Lev. 23:1–22  
2 Thess. 2:1–17  
Matt. 7:1–12

### **Saturday, May 21**

Lev. 23:23–44  
2 Thess. 3:1–18  
Matt. 7:13–21

### **Sunday, May 22**

Lev. 25:1–17  
Jas. 1:2–8, 16–18  
Luke 12:13–21

### **Monday, May 23**

Lev. 25:35–55  
Col. 1:9–14  
Matt. 13:1–16

### **Tuesday, May 24**

Lev. 26:1–20  
1 Tim. 2:1–6  
Matt. 13:18–23

### Wednesday, May 25

Lev. 26:27-42  
Eph. 1:1-10  
Matt. 22:41-46

### Thursday, May 26

Dan. 7:9-14  
Heb. 2:5-18  
Matt. 28:16-20

### Friday, May 27

1 Sam. 2:1-10  
Eph. 2:1-10  
Matt. 7:22-27

### Saturday, May 28

Num. 11:16-17, 24-29  
Eph. 2:11-22  
Matt. 7:28-8:4

### Sunday, May 29

Exod. 3:1-12  
Heb. 12:18-29  
Luke 10:17-24

### Monday, May 30

Josh. 1:1-9  
Eph. 3:1-13  
Matt. 8:5-17

### Tuesday, May 31

1 Sam. 16:1-13a  
Eph. 3:14-21  
Matt. 8:18-27



*Happy Mother's Day*

*Sunday, May 8, 2022*

# mother

moth-er - mōthər - *noun*

A person who loves unconditionally. The maker and keeper of precious memories. A person much loved and greatly admired.



Transform an egg carton into a Mother's Day keepsake.

#### What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Flat cardboard
- Photo, drawing or note
- Small pom-poms
- Hot glue
- Adult help

#### What you do:

1. Bend, stretch and cut the carton cups to make 3-D flower shapes. Also cut leaf shapes from the carton top.
2. Paint the flowers and leaves. Let dry.
3. Cut the flat cardboard to a size and shape you desire. Leave a border at least 2 inches larger than your photo, drawing or note.
4. With hot glue, attach the photo, drawing or note to the cardboard.
5. Arrange and glue flowers and leaves around the border. Attach pom-poms for more color and texture.
6. Present the gift to your mom or a special woman in your life.

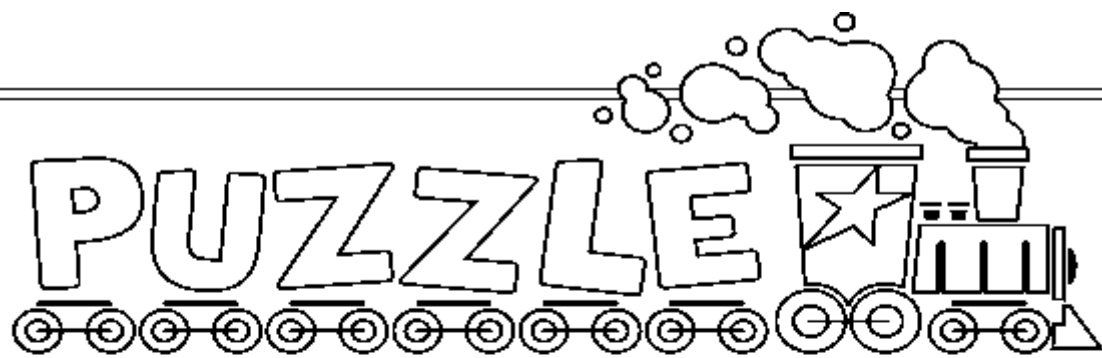
# May

01 Tom Berghold  
01 Sadie Schaffer  
02 Linda Koch  
02 Owen Hovis  
03 Noah Jellison  
03 Philip Greger  
04 Samantha Ritter  
04 J Bittenbender  
05 Wayne Gollie  
05 Byun Miller  
06 Linda Torrence  
07 Ainsley Dill  
09 Linda Erney  
09 Richard Featherman  
09 Sarah Frech  
09 Alex Weidner  
10 Caroline Frantz  
10 Scott Smith  
11 Barbara Scattergood  
12 Layne Frech  
12 Elaine Trexler  
13 Lily Frech  
15 Mia Miller

16 Ken Ritter  
17 Autumn Kandt  
19 Sandi DiSanto  
19 Kim Ritter  
19 Brian Bross  
20 Meagan Santoro  
20 Brandon Barone  
21 Michele Keeler  
22 Megan Farino  
23 Dennis Duda  
23 Edison Zehnder  
24 Heather Koser  
24 Spencer Gunkle  
25 Ezekiel Sosnowsky  
27 Alex K  
29 Darcie Greger  
31 Gavin Gunkle  
31 Kristen Jellison



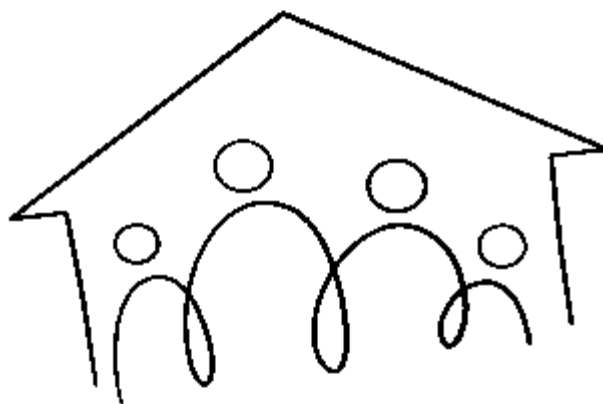
Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



# A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

*Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.*



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
2.  \_ \_ \_ \_
3. \_ \_  \_  \_
4.  \_ \_ \_
5. \_ \_ \_  \_
6.  \_  \_
7. \_  \_  \_ \_
8.  \_ \_
9.  \_  \_ \_ \_ \_
10. \_ \_

\_ \_ono\_ \_ your \_ \_ather and \_ \_our mo\_ \_h\_ \_r,  
 so t\_ \_at y\_ \_u may \_ \_i\_ \_e l\_ \_ng in t\_ \_e land  
 the L\_ \_RD \_ \_ou\_ \_ God i\_ \_ givi\_ \_g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.