

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**5992 Route 378
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
610.282.3939**

**Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Lead Pastor
Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist-Director of Music**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 31, 2022**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

OPENING MEDITATION

**What if you woke up today and all that you had was
what you thanked God for yesterday?**

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: *JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU* 4**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Come, we gather to meet our God this day.

People: Even when we might be at home searching the
internet...

Even when there is an endless amount of housework
to do...

Even when our work beckons us...

Even when our bodies ache with pain...

Even when it would be easier to sleep in...

Unison: We choose to accept God's invitation to be in His
house today. Amen.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

*** CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Leader: Please take a moment for silent confession and
reflection.

Leader: Father in heaven, we need to be obedient.

People: We know you have chosen us to be your people, but
we find it easier to follow rules and laws than to

follow your command to love everyone unconditionally.

Leader: Father in heaven, we need to be believing.

People: We have tried to heal ourselves instead of trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Leader: Father in heaven, we need peace.

People: We have tried to work off our own guilt. We try so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins, but when that doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction.

Leader: Father in heaven, we need to surrender.

People: Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left us arrogant and self-righteous, aimless and wandering. Forgive us for neglecting the invitation of your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*** THE KYRIE**

750

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Christ died for our sins. He made full atonement for us. Listen for his message today, feel his love in your heart. Friends, hear the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we have the promise of eternal life. We are his children! We are his disciples! We are chosen! We are forgiven!

Leader: O Lord open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.

* **THE GLORIA PATRI**

759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

* **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1-3

New Testament: Colossians 3:12-15

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

* **HYMN: WE WORSHIP YOU GOD**

26

THE MESSAGE: Chosen

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

Leader: We are chosen by God to do His will on Earth.

Unison: We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all goodness, truth and love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, redeemer, and savior.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in a life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need.

We believe the Bible is a lens to help us more

clearly focus on gospel principles and teachings.

We believe in the church, believers united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service.

We believe in the reign of God in human society, where we are all brothers and sisters and deserve to live with justice, freedom and peace.

We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Gracious and Holy God, we give you thanks for your love for each one of us and for all creation.

People: We give you thanks for teaching us, through nature, stories and song, and through other believers who have lived lives of courage and power, love and self-discipline, whose teaching and modeling have nurtured our faith, and enabled us to live lives of gratitude, hope and joy.

For those among us who are sick, we pray for your healing.

For those in pain, we pray for relief from their discomfort.

For those who are lost, we pray for guidance.

For those who grieve, we pray for comfort.

For those who are afraid, we pray for courage.

For those who feel hopeless, we pray for possibilities.

We remember our neighbors in prison, those who hunger, and those without a safe place to call home.

(The names of specific people, places and circumstances, may be lifted up at this time)

Leader: Pour your spirit into all the troubled areas of our world so in need of your good news, your creativity, and your peace. All this we pray in the name of your son, our Lord, and pray now as he taught us, saying:

Unison: Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *PERFECT COLOR*

Darin Jellison

*** OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY 780**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

Leader: Lord of heaven and Earth, we long to be faithful givers, we return a small portion back to You the one who has given everything to us.

People: May your Spirit of abundance, grace these gifts and may they be of use in the world in service of your love for all people. In this hour of worship,

help us to grasp the freedom that comes from seeing you more clearly, loving you more dearly, and following you more nearly. Day by day, give us strength and courage to be your people in this time, in this place. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** THE SENDING FORTH**

Leader: It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

People: We have been given a new week to make His kingdom a reality among us and to share the Good News with our neighbors by our words and actions. We do this by first making time in our lives to listen to the special message His spirit has for each of us, and then by living as He lived: for others in love and service.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and give shape to His kingdom.

Unison: Amen

*** CLOSING HYMN: LORD I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN 454**

*** BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

*** MEDITATION**

God could not have chosen anyone less qualified, or more of a sinner than myself. And so, for this wonderful work he intends to perform through us, he selected me - for God always chooses the weak and the absurd, and those who count for nothing. ~ FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*** POSTLUDE**

*Would those who are able please stand.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *PERFECT COLOR* - *SafetySuit*

Yellow nice to meet you
Do you know that you just blue my mind?
It was the perfect conversation, I think that I red about one time
And I told a white lie when I told you, I've never been green with envy
you
You are the perfect color

Ooh, ooh, ooh
Ooh, ooh, ooh
Ooh, ooh, ooh
Ooh, ooh, ooh

To the misfits and the freaks
To the outcasts and the geeks
To the weird kids that don't care
Cause you feel like you're not there
To the ones who won't look in
To the mirror cause you're scared
Don't let the hater's hate become your own, oh, no, no

Now there's always gonna be someone who thinks art has no meaning
Who looks up at the Sistine Chapel and only sees a ceiling
But you, you you
Well you know what I would say to you?
You know what I would say to you?

Yellow nice to meet you
Do you know that you just blue my mind?
It was the perfect conversation, I think that I red about one time
And I told a white lie when I told you, I've never been green with envy
you
You are the perfect color

Ooh, ooh, ooh
Ooh, ooh, ooh
Ooh, ooh, ooh
Ooh, ooh, ooh

And in a perfect world
I'd get to say
It's just black and white
There's no room for grey
And there's a color scheme inside every heart
Ours won't be complete until we have yours
So yellow nice to meet you

Yellow nice to meet you
Do you know that you just blue my mind?
It was the perfect conversation, I think that I red about one time
And I told a white lie when I told you, I've never been green with envy
you

You are the perfect color
Ooh, ooh, ooh

Written by: Douglas Hamilton Brown

Album: Perfect Color

Released: 2017

Welcome to Faith Church this Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.

We are glad to have you worshiping with us. May our time together serve as an inspiration for the days and weeks ahead. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads provided for you in the pews.

The altar flowers this morning are presented by Colleen Kandt in honor of Noah Kandt & Katie Carter's Wedding.

Special thanks to the Talboos for leading worship and to Darin Jellison for sharing special music this morning.

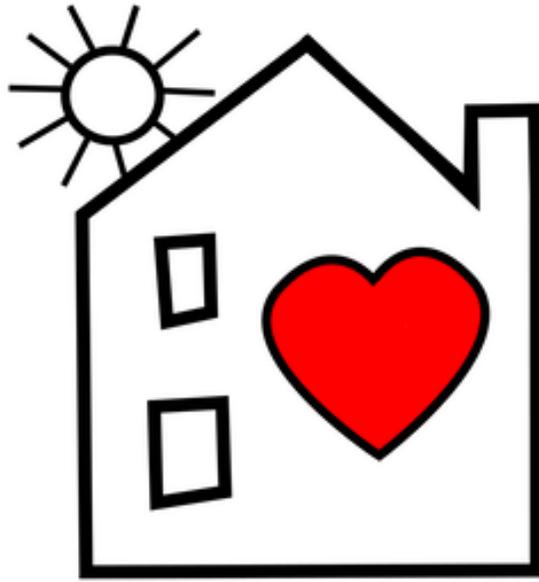
Pastor Bruce will be on vacation through Sunday, August 14th. If you find yourself in need of pastoral care during this time please contact **Rev. Teresa Martin at 717-654-4044.**



During the remainder of the summer we will be accepting donations for Strengthen the Church, one of the 5 special offerings for UCC. Special envelopes are in the Narthex and for those of you who donate through our online program - Tithe.ly - you will find a *Strengthen the Church* designation.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



The Caring Place

Let's not forget our friends at **The Caring Place in Allentown.** This is the organization that holds an afternoon program for school children of all ages.

They need all types of school supplies such as:
July 31st

Poster Board
Markers
Pens & Pencils
Lined Paper
Crayons
Folders
Notebooks

Any and all school supplies are needed and appreciated. A collection bin will be available in the Narthex beginning **TODAY.** Thanks in advance for your support!

CALENDAR

Regular Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm; Closed on Fridays

TODAY	-10:15 Worship
MONDAY	-9-4 Sandy works from home
TUES - THURS	-9-1 Sandy in Office; 1-4 working at home
FRIDAY	-Office Closed
SUNDAY	-10:15 Worship

Those Who Will Serve:

	July 31	August 7
Head Usher:	Jerry Trexler	Joan Hassler
Usher(s):	Michele Keeler	Diane Neidemeier
Lay Reader:	Cindy Talaber	Joan Hassler
Flowers:	Kandt	
Fin. Sec.:	Jerry Trexler	Tony DiSanto
Lawn Crew:	Brett Dill/Jack Maginn	Tom Hovis/George Rau

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm - Closed Fridays

Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com

When Sandy works from home: Leave a message on the office phone or if you need immediate help call 610-967-6232

Pastor: 484-893-0698; pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org

Director of Music: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net