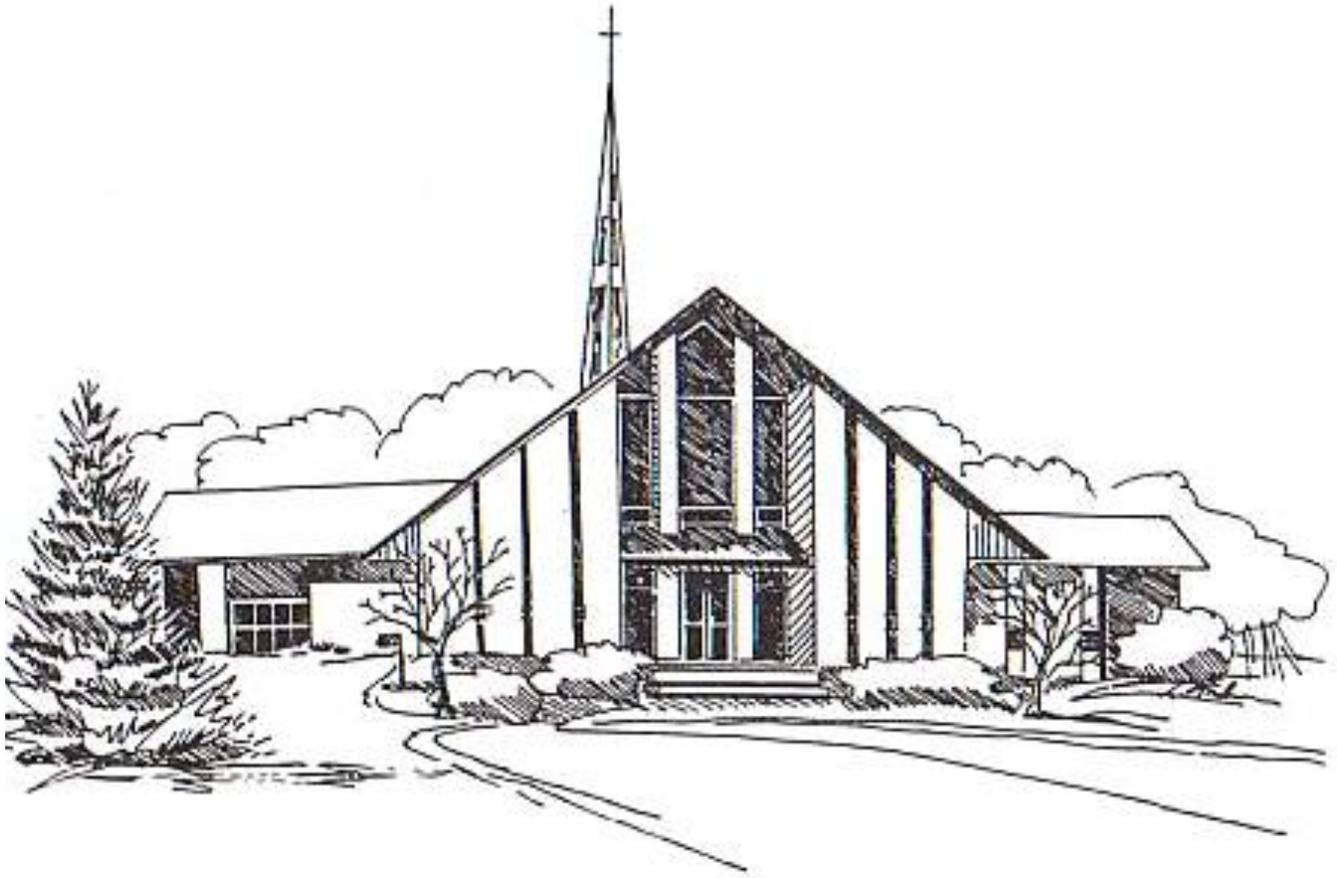


# **FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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

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

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HARVEST HOME CELEBRATION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2022**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE: *PRECIOUS LORD TAKE MY HAND*** – *arr. by Mark Hayes*  
– *Eileen Wescoe, pianist; Grace Spruiell, soloist*

**A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE**

*God of light and God of night, Creator of seed and mountain,  
raindrop and fountain – We bring our offering of praise. God of  
right and God of might, Love of child and childless, rich and  
homeless – We bring our offering of praise.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**SENTENCES OF ADORATION**

\* **OPENING HYMN: *COME, O THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME***      **422**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of our God, who made heaven  
and earth.

**People: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving. Make music upon the  
harp. How good it is to celebrate God's presence and sing  
praise throughout each day!

**People: How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our  
God!**

**Pastor:** Our God rebuilds the people of earth. The wandering  
ones are gathered together, the brokenhearted are healed,  
the hungry are fed, the prisoners are freed, the blind are  
given sight, the lonely are befriended.

**People: How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our  
God!**

**Pastor:** All of nature sings aloud God's goodness—clouds, rain,  
grass, creatures great and small. Our God creates and

sustains our world with his ever-growing, never-ending love.

**People: How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our God!**

Pastor: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Pastor: Loving God, we gather today rich in blessing, somehow believing that we merit the wealth and comforts that we enjoy. Forgive us, our God, for comfortably closing our eyes to the faces of the poor that stare blankly in our direction.

**People: Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: With bellies full of grain and meat, we offer token gestures to the hungry in our world and we feel we have done enough. Forgive us, God, for keeping a distance between "us" and "them," for closing our ears to the cries of the hungry.

**People: Christ, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: With hands tightly clasping our treasures on earth, we cannot reach out to our oppressed brothers and sisters around this world. Forgive us for clinging to our own possessions rather than to you. Unite us with hearts of thanksgiving that we may work to insure freedom and justice for all.

**People: Lord, have mercy on us.**

#### \* 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**

**Pastor:** O Lord, open our lips.

**People:** And our mouths shall show forth your praise.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of three staves each. The top staff is the vocal line, the middle is the right-hand piano accompaniment, and the bottom is the left-hand piano accompaniment. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last three lines. Chord symbols (F, C, F7, Bb, F, C, F) are placed above the vocal line.

God is so good, God is so good,  
Mun - gu yu mwe - ma. Mun - gu yu mwe - ma,

God is so good, so good to me.  
Mun - gu yu mwe - ma, Yu mwe - ma kwan - gu.

**\* WE SHARE PEACE: I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER 478**

**I've got peace like a river,**

**I've got peace like a river,**

**I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**I've got peace like a river,**

**I've got peace like a river,**

**I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**LEARNING ABOUT GOD**

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

Old Testament: I Thessalonians 5:14 – 28

New Testament: Luke 17:11 – 19

**DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL**

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

Pastor: Creator God, In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you fashioned a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe you positioned the earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a place of beauty.

**People: Creator God, we thank you.**

Pastor: In the beginning there was just potential; the seed within the packet, soil's nutrients, sunshine's warmth, rain clouds gathering. And within the tiny seed all that is our daily bread encoded, primed and ready should it be planted and allowed to grow.

**People: Thank you.**

Pastor: In the beginning there was humankind, placed within your garden, made steward, gardener and caretaker of this place of beauty, given responsibilities and the capacity to enjoy. And yet among the seeds we have sown have been weeds and crops of our own choosing, which have not shown fruit or have spread and choked the earth.

**People: Creator God, forgive us.**

**Unison: God of harvest, gardener supreme you place us at the center feed us, equip us and having provided for us look to a different harvest a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of harvest, feed us prune us harvest us that our lives might bring glory to you.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the blessings we share this day. For all of those who have gone before, people strong and brave, willing to put their lives on the line for the causes they believe in, we give you thanks.

**People: Grant us, our God, the courage to step out in faith for that which is true and right.**

Pastor: For freedom of speech and of the press, for the avenues open to express ourselves, and for opportunities to effect change, we give you thanks.

**People: We pray for those who are voiceless victims of unjust governments.**

Pastor: For fertile soil, abundant rain, and seasons of refreshment, we give you thanks.

**People: We pray for those whose land is parched and whose wells are dry.**

Pastor: For our families, friends, and the church, who provide us with food and drink for our journey, we give you thanks.

**People: We pray for those who are hungry and tired, hopeless and wandering, finding no place to rest.**

Pastor: For strong bodies and minds, for opportunities that encourage us to grow and become more the servants of thanksgiving you call us to be, we give you thanks.

**People: We pray for the sick, for the stagnant who are unwilling to dream or change.**

Pastor: Help us, O God, to be responsible stewards of your blessings, people who care for the earth and all its people. Keep us connected with all humanity, even though miles and cultures tend to separate us. May we always respond to your call with a true spirit of thanksgiving.

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

Pastor: Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass. We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

**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**

**OFFERTORY – *HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW* - arr. by Mark Hayes**

**\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY 780**

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the center, feed us, equip us, and having provided for us look to a different harvest - a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you. Amen.**

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\* THE SENDING FORTH**

Pastor: May God the creator, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide us with all we need for life in its fullness.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May God the Redeemer, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine, feed us with his life and transform us in his love.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May God the Sustainer, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the

likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth.

**People: Amen.**

**Pastor:** And the blessing of God almighty, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer, be among you and remain with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. The service has ended. Go in the peace of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\* CLOSING HYMN: NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD**

**419**

**\* BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

**\* MEDITATION**

*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted into our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruits of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**\* POSTLUDE: IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL – arr. by Mark Hayes**

\*Would those who are able please stand.

**Welcome to Faith Church this Sixteenth 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 in celebration of Doris & Ray Horwath's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**Please welcome and thank today's guest musicians: Grace Spruiell, vocalist and Eileen Wescoe, piano.**

**Today is Harvest Home Sunday. Special thanks to Debby Biery for decorating the altar.**

**Parish Administrator Sandy David will be out of the office tomorrow. She'll return on Tuesday.**

**Next Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will celebrate World Communion.**

**October 9<sup>th</sup> is Children's Sabbath Sunday. We hope to have a guest speaker from Bethany Children's Home with us that morning.**

**Be sure to join us on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> when our guest speaker will be PNEC Conference Minister The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates. We will be welcoming our sister churches in the area to join us. You'll find more details in the upcoming October Focus on Faith.**

**Betty Lou's Pantry is currently in need of Baked Beans and Boxed Potatoes/Stuffing Mix.**

**Interested in sponsoring altar flowers? We have some open dates for the remainder of the year beginning with the next 3 Sundays. If interested please call the church office or sign up on the schedule in the narthex.**

## **CALENDAR**

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

<b>TODAY</b>	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship
<b>MONDAY</b>	-Sandy Out of Office
<b>TUESDAY</b>	-10:00 Samaritan Fund Mtg (Conf Rm) -1:30 Faith in Stitches (Mem Rm)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	-Office Closed
<b>SUNDAY</b>	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship -World Communion

*Special thanks to our volunteers each Sunday.*

***Those Who Will Serve:***

	<b>September 25</b>	<b>October 2</b>
Head Usher:	Kim Ritter	tbd
Usher(s):	Faye Tirpak	Bob & Patti Shelly
Lay Reader:	Barb Maursky	Joan Hassler
Flowers:	Horwath	AVAILABLE
Fin. Sec.:	Bruce Torrence	Bob Shelly
Lawn Crew:	Brian Bross	Tim Hovis

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm;

**Closed Fridays**

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

**Sandy on Mondays:** 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