

# FOCUS ON



# FAITH

Volume 52, Number 9  
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.*



10:15 a.m.—WORSHIP

9:00 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.*

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## 2022-23 Consistory

### Officers:

**President:** Tom Hovis  
**Vice President:** Jerry Trexler  
**Secretary:** Joan Hassler

### Elders:

Mike Ford  
Jerry Trexler  
Tom Hovis

### Deacons:

Ken Koehnlein  
Cindy Talaber  
Avery Koser

Kim Ritter  
Joan Hassler  
Donna Schudel-Barone  
Melissa Shafer

**Church Treasurer:** Deb Herstine

### Liaisons:

Christian Ed: Kim Ritter  
Fellowship/Outreach: Tom Hovis  
Enduring /Mem. Gifts:  
Property: Ken Koehnlein  
Staff Relations: Joan Hassler  
Worship: Joan Hassler

Mission: Cindy Talaber  
Budget/Finance: Jerry Trexler  
Day Care: tbd  
Fundraising: tbd  
Choir: tbd



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I don't keep official records of such things but it seems that this past summer has been one of the hottest and driest that we have had in a long time. The temperature has returned to what feels "normal" to me and we have had a fair amount of rain and with the rain my lawn has returned to green from brown and needs regular mowing.

I don't know if this summer was extreme or not but it sure felt that way to me and I don't know if we have returned to a normal weather pattern or not but there has been a change lately and frankly, I welcome it. Things run in cycles and I would assume that we are moving into a new one.

I like fall more than I used to. I used to love spring as a time of rejuvenation and the summer as a time with a slower more relaxing pace. However, I have come to appreciate the fall more than ever. My wife has a few tomato plants in our yard and right now there are some wonderfully ripe tomatoes ready to be picked. They look so big and red, as if I could eat them like an apple!

The leaves on the trees are starting to turn their bright colors, acorns are starting to fall, and the squirrels are dashing about to stash them for the winter.

Everywhere I look I see reminders of the changing of the seasons and it is a beautiful site. It is beautiful because these changes do not come by chance but rather by design; God's design for creation. God's design for us.

God's creative work has not ended. God's creative work did not end on the "sixth day." God's creative work continues, and we are wrong to think that there are not new things to learn about God's nature or God's desire for us. To quote a phrase that I'm sure you have heard:

“God is still speaking.” This is not to say that He hasn’t spoken in the past for He has but He continues to speak to us in this time and in this age.

What is God saying to us as individuals? What is God saying to us as a Church? What is God saying to our communities, our cities, or our nation? We probably all have different opinions about such things. It would be interesting to sit down and share such thoughts.

Regardless, just as seasons bring something new so does our God. These days I have been considering how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church. I doubt it will be the same but that does not mean that it will be worse off.

We will worship differently, but not worse. We will do education differently, but not worse. We will do mission differently, but not worse. We will sing with less voices perhaps but just as joyfully. God will still speak.

I don’t know what the future will hold but perhaps that is not such a bad thing because it will push me to think creatively. You see, with God’s faithfulness we can create something new. I’d rather create something new than resist a change that I cannot stop.

Things have changed but God still awakens us into every new day. Of that we can be sure. Let’s meet Him at the beginning of every new day and accept the challenge He places before us.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor [Name]", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Puzzle Answers: creation, invisible, eternal, divine, clearly, understood, people, Romans**



OCTOBER 2, 2022

The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations.

### **CHILDREN'S SABBATH—OCTOBER 9TH**

**The Chaplain from Bethany Children's Home will be speaking to our congregation.** This will be Joyful Noise Sunday and Mission will be sharing information on those who benefit from this special offering.

### **OCTOBER 16TH**

**Sunday, October 16 will be a special day here at Faith Church. Our Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates will join us for worship and will preach the sermon.** We have also extended an invitation to our sister congregations in the area to join us for worship that day, St. John's United Church of Christ from Coopersburg and Chestnut Hill Church. We welcome additional singers from former choirs and instrumentalists of all 3 congregations to join in this special service of worship. Simply notify Dennis Duda by Wednesday, September 28 at [ddduda@verizon.net](mailto:ddduda@verizon.net) or call 215.840.4734. Following worship there will be a Coffee Hour for all to enjoy! Please plan to stay to enjoy cake and punch with your friends. Gluten free options will be available. We hope this will be a wonderful day to celebrate the ministry of the U.C.C. in our area. Mark your calendars!



## FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Greetings,

We are now three years into the COVID-19 pandemic which has changed how we do church in so many ways. Basically, we have had to keep our distance from each other which seems so antithetical to how we build and establish community. Everything that we do as a church is done to create and build Christian Community. How well can we do that when we have been forced to be apart?

In some respects, we have done remarkably well! We have found ways to worship in person and virtually. We have found ways to bring our choir back. Our committees have found ways to stay in touch and meet together via Zoom. Technology has kept us together.

The mission of our church has never been stronger. The Mission Team continues to dream and implement new possibilities and through your generous support the possibilities have become new realities. Last Pentecost Sunday we celebrated the Confirmation of three young people and we will do so again next spring. During the early spring gardens were planted with native plants to attract native insects, birds, and butterflies to our property. We also planted our vegetable garden again and the fresh produce was distributed to recipients at Betty Lou's Pantry.

In spite of this pandemic, Faith Church has done very well for itself. Thank you for your faithful and generous support.

However (you just had to know that there was a "However" coming in this tale), during the first year of the pandemic, due to your generosity, it was not necessary to use any of our emergency reserves to make budgeted expenses. During the second year we did have to use a small portion to meet our budget. During the third year we have

had to use a considerable sum of our emergency reserve and at the current rate it will be nearly depleted by year's end.

There are a variety of reasons for this that we can easily see. The cost of electricity has skyrocketed and we have lost some members who had been considerably generous with the church. We incurred maintenance expenses due to our aging building, some of which were required by our insurance provider. Also, we have not been able to do the amount of fund raising that we have done in the past. We can also assume that the current rate of inflation has made it difficult to be more generous with the church at this time.

Going into this year we hoped to capitalize on renting the fellowship hall to increase income. Unfortunately, we did not find individuals who were willing to monitor potential events and had to decline potential rental opportunities.

We want to make everyone aware of this situation so that those who may be in a position to be more generous, know that this would be the time to do so! We know that everyone loves this church; its members, its faith service to the community and God's Kingdom. The Budget and Finance Committee is considering ways to cut costs but that will not be enough if revenue does not increase. So, please considering giving more if you can. Second, please consider how you can assist with fund raising or fellowship hall rentals. If you can please speak to Brenda Hovis, Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee.

While this letter may end on a "dark note" let us remind you of the "bright note" upon which it started: The Life and Mission of Faith Church continues to thrive! Things are different but they are not over and with your support it will continue to thrive into a healthy and hopeful future.

Peace,

*The Budget and Finance Committee*

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## *Within Our Faith Family*



Newborn



10 months

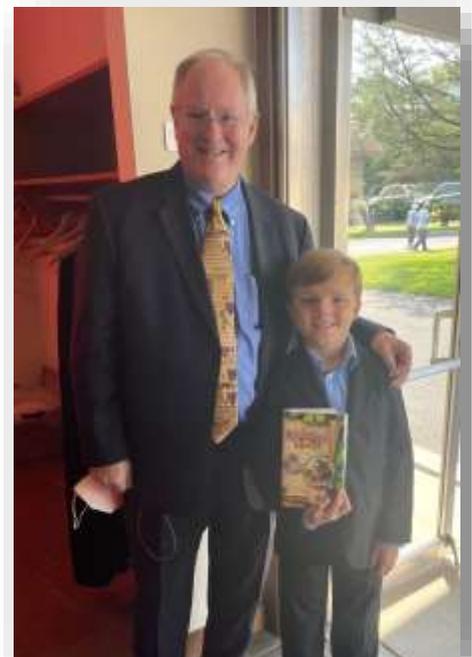
**Randy & Margo Hughes  
(and big sister McKayla)  
welcomed their daughter  
Alexandra on  
November 18, 2021.**

Alexandra will be  
baptized here at Faith on  
Sunday, October 23rd.

**Vicky (Jenny) & William Steele  
(and big brother Hunter)  
welcomed their son  
Cade Emerich  
on August 19, 2022.**



**Bradley Shafer  
was presented a  
bible and did  
a great job  
reading the  
scriptures  
on Bible Sunday  
(9/18/22).**



***God's Blessings to All!***



Clockwise from Left: Sue R., Faye T., Barb S., Kay R., Karen T., Chuck T.



Clockwise from Left - Sara H., Izzy H., Dennis D., Tim H., Owen H., Sarah D.

Back to Church Sunday - September 11th



Clockwise from Left - Cindy T., Tracy A., Lily A., Heather K., Linda T., Wes K., Darrin J.



Clockwise from Left - Doris H., Sue B., Tom B., Ray F., Wilhel F.

# Behold!

*Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you... James 5:4*

## **Ephesians 6:12 (NRSV) and/or James 5:4 (NRSV)**

Start by reading above passage(s), before you begin with study questions.  
Take a moment to pray the “Prayer of Illumination” \* – (repeat 3X)

How does the wage gap impact us today? Racial wealth gap? Digital divide?  
How are families doing in rural, urban, and even the global economies?  
How are workers and other groups joining together to affect change and establish worker justice?

- a. **Wage Theft/fraud** – Unfortunately it is quite common for employers to steal wages from workers, that is to fail to pay employees all they earn. Up to two-thirds of workers in low-wage industries are victims of wage theft each week. Failure to pay for all hours worked or for overtime are just some examples of the ways employers steal wages. View and discuss the [Warrior Met Coal Miners Strike](#)
- b. **Work to end wage theft in your community.** Learn more. Low-wage workers are high-value people, created in the image of God. All jobs must provide fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. Workers must be able to support themselves and their families and live with dignity the life of wholeness that God intends for all. God’s reign does not stop at the door to the workplace but extends to all aspects of life including our work lives. View and discuss [Virtual Pray In to Protect Consumers](#)

What is God calling you and your faith community to do?

What are your goals and timeline for completion?

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Union efforts for Starbucks Workers

**\*Prayer of Illumination**

Creator God,

We welcome you in this space

May your liberating spirit

Saturate and transform this physical/virtual space and enliven our Covenant

Open our hearts and minds to receive, reflect, and redress

Engage our senses

Engage our bodies

Engage our souls

We are yours.

Transform us together now and always

In community we prayer,

Amen.

**Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering**

**Please donate today!**

For more resources and to share and learn best practices for economic justice/change, join the UCC Economic Justice Champions, click [here](#).





**HELP WANTED!** We are looking for a volunteer or a group of volunteers to take over our

## **TREX PLASTIC RECYCLING MISSION**

We wish to thank Jerry Trexler for helping us to receive 2 benches that can be found in our church's office lobby. He has decided to retire from this mission but is very willing to train any or all who may be interested in taking over this project. To sum up this mission, Faith Church has 6 months to collect 500 pounds of soft plastic. If we manage to do this we will earn a bench from TREX. This project is not just about getting a bench. It is Faith's efforts to help protect our oceans from tons of plastic debris that collects every year in Earth's oceans. This plastic debris causes injury and death to sea creatures and pollutes our once beautiful beaches. If you or your family would be interested in taking over this project please contact or Karen Talboo at [cktalboo@gmail.com](mailto:cktalboo@gmail.com)

## **THE CARING PLACE**

The Mission Team wishes to thank everyone who showed such wonderful generosity by donating several boxes of school supplies to The Caring Place in Allentown. TCP conducts an after school program to provide a safe place for school children to go for help with homework and worry-free socialization. Mission also presented \$100 to TCP to purchase supplies or snacks for the children. Thank you.

## **BETTY LOU'S PANTRY**

The month of September was Faith Church's month to assist the families at BLP. Much thanks is sent out to those who spent from 8 am to noon on September 10 & 24. Some volunteers worked to help the families select their food items and then packed their grocery bags. Others handed the food off to a group that was located outside. The loaded grocery bags were then packed into the cars. We know we can always count on the members of Faith Church to



give their time and energy to help our neighbors in need. The families appreciate your assistance and we thank you on their behalf.

### **SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

Mark your calendars for the **Boy Scout Food Drive** scheduled for Saturday, November 12. Please set your donations on your front steps by 8 am that morning so the Scouts can gather them. If your donations are not picked up, they can be left at the Center Valley or Coopersburg Post Offices or the SL Library. The pantry is also open for drop offs between 9 am to 10 am Wednesday mornings.

### **FORGET-ME-NOTS**

Faith Church has several members who can no longer attend worship in person on Sunday mornings. These are our Forget-Me-Nots and all have been “adopted” by another Faith member. We want them to know that we still consider them to be part of the Faith Church family. If you wish to send a Birthday or Christmas card or a Thinking of You note please check the Thursday message or call the church office for their names and addresses.

### **HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS**

We will be once again be filling shoe boxes for needy children in the Lehigh Valley. **The wrapped shoe boxes will be in the Narthex beginning October 30.** Filled boxes will need to be returned by Sunday, November 27. Details and suggestions will be included with each box. Our goal will be to provide 75 Holiday Hope Chests. Hope you can help us with this special mission.

### **Wrapping Help Needed for Holiday Hope Chest Gift Boxes**

If you like to wrap gift boxes we have just the opportunity for you. We need to have 40 boxes wrapped for HHC by Sunday, October 23. Boxes must be prepared for pickup on October 30. Boxes can be found in the Narthex. If you need wrapping paper please let Karen know. Our supplies have run out and we are waiting for Christmas wrap to show up on the shelves somewhere soon. Thanks.



## **COATS \* HATS \* SCARVES \* MITTENS**

Please set aside winter coats that you or your children no longer wear. We will be collecting and distributing these much needed items to a place to be determined. More details to follow. We will be taking **NEW or GENTLY USED** items only. Be sure all items are cleaned.

## **GIFT CARDS FOR BLP CHILDREN AND SENIORS**

For the last few years we have collected money from the 12 churches to purchase gift cards for the children of the families who come to the pantry. Last year we collected close to \$10,000 which gave us enough money to give every child and senior a \$50 gift card and everyone else a \$25 gift card.

There are 3 ways that you are able to make a donation:

- ~Make a check out to **Faith UCC Mission** clearly marked for BLP Gift Cards.
- ~Use **PayPal** to donate through **bettylouspantry.com**.
- ~Write a **check** with **2022 Christmas** on the memo line and send to:

Betty Lou's Pantry  
PO Box 85  
Coopersburg, PA 18036

**The last date to make a donation is November 21.**

Thank you for your previous donations and blessings to all.

# OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

**Financial Sec: Bob Shelly**

| Date  | Head Usher | Usher              | Lay Reader     | Altar Flowers |
|-------|------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 10/2  | Mike Ford  | Bob & Patti Shelly | Joan Hassler   | n/a           |
| 10/9  | Mike Ford  | George Rau         | Cindy Talaber  | n/a           |
| 10/16 | Mike Ford  | Chuck Talboo       | Karen Talboo   | Available     |
| 10/23 | Mike Ford  | Bruce Keeler       | Michele Keeler | Keelers       |
| 10/30 | Mike Ford  | Doris Horwath      | John Barone    | Available     |

## FROM THE TREASURER - AUGUST FINANCIALS



|               | Month          | YTD              |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Receipts      | \$23,951       | \$159,127        |
| Disbursements | \$19,091       | \$164,746        |
|               | <b>\$4,860</b> | <b>(\$5,619)</b> |

**\*Note: Receipts include a savings transfer of \$9,322**

**Special Offerings**  
**Strengthen the Church—\$90**  
**Joyful Noise—\$10**



**Many thanks for your continued support of Betty Lou's Pantry! Our donations for the last three Sundays of August and the first Sunday of September included 254 items.**

**ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:**

**Baked Beans**

**Boxed Potatoes**

**Stove Top Stuffing**

**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*

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**Parish Administrator Sandy David will be on vacation the week of October 3rd.**

**The church office will be closed on Monday, October 10th in observance of Columbus Day.**



## ***OCTOBER BIBLE READINGS***

### **October 1**

Hos. 5:1–7  
Acts 22:17–29  
Luke 6:27–38

### **October 2**

Hos. 5:8–6:6  
1 Cor. 2:6–16  
Matt. 14:1–12

### **October 3**

Hos. 6:7–7:7  
Acts 22:30–23:11  
Luke 6:39–49

### **October 4**

Hos. 7:8–16  
Acts 23:12–24  
Luke 7:1–17

### **October 5**

Hos. 8:1–14  
Acts 23:23–35  
Luke 7:18–35

### **October 6**

Hos. 9:1–9  
Acts 24:1–23  
Luke 7:36–50

### **October 7**

Hos. 9:10–17  
Acts 24:24–25:12  
Luke 8:1–15

### **October 8**

Hos. 10:1–15  
Acts 25:13–27  
Luke 8:16–25

### **October 9**

Hos. 11:1–11  
1 Cor. 4:9–16  
Matt. 15:21–28

### **October 10**

Hos. 11:12–12:1  
Acts 26:1–23  
Luke 8:26–39

### **October 11**

Hos. 12:2–14  
Acts 26:24–27:8  
Luke 8:40–56

### **October 12**

Hos. 13:1–3  
Acts 27:9–26  
Luke 9:1–17

### **October 13**

Hos. 13:4–8  
Acts 27:27–44  
Luke 9:18–27

### **October 14**

Hos. 13:9–16  
Acts 28:1–16  
Luke 9:28–36

### **October 15**

Hos. 14:1–9  
Acts 28:17–31  
Luke 9:37–50

### **October 16**

Micah 1:1–9  
1 Cor. 10:1–13  
Matt. 16:13–20

### **October 17**

Micah 2:1–13  
Rev. 7:1–8  
Luke 9:51–62

### **October 18**

Micah 3:1–8  
Rev. 7:9–17  
Luke 10:1–16

### **October 19**

Micah 3:9–4:5  
Rev. 8:1–13  
Luke 10:17–24

### **October 20**

Micah 5:1–4, 10–15  
Rev. 9:1–12  
Luke 10:25–37

### **October 21**

Micah 6:1–8  
Rev. 9:13–21  
Luke 10:38–42

## October 22

Micah 7:1–7  
Rev. 10:1–11  
Luke 11:1–13

## October 23

Jonah 1:1–17a  
1 Cor. 10:15–24  
Matt. 18:15–20

## October 24

Jonah 1:17–2:10  
Rev. 11:1–14  
Luke 11:14–26

## October 25

Jonah 3:1–4:11  
Rev. 11:14–19  
Luke 11:27–36

## October 26

Nahum 1:1–14  
Rev. 12:1–6  
Luke 11:37–52

## October 27

Nahum 1:15–2:12  
Rev. 12:7–17  
Luke 11:53–12:12

## October 28

Nahum 2:13–3:7  
Rev. 13:1–10  
Luke 12:13–31

## October 29

Nah. 3:8–19  
Rev. 13:11–18  
Luke 12:32–48

## October 30

Zeph. 1:1–6  
1 Cor. 12:27–13:13  
Matt. 18:21–35

## October 31

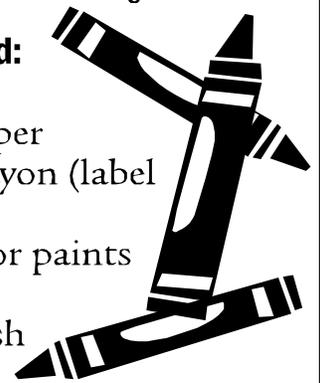
Zeph. 1:7–13  
Rev. 14:1–13  
Luke 12:49–59



Create some invisible art and then reveal the seasonal design.

### What you need:

- Leaves
- White paper
- White crayon (label removed)
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Paintbrush



### What you do:

1. Gather leaves of different shapes and sizes. On a table, arrange them flat without overlaps. Set the paper over them.
2. Hold the crayon sideways and use the long edge to color over the leaves. You'll make an invisible rubbing of them.
3. Then paint over the paper with watercolors. The areas with crayon will resist the paint and reveal the hidden leaf designs.



# October

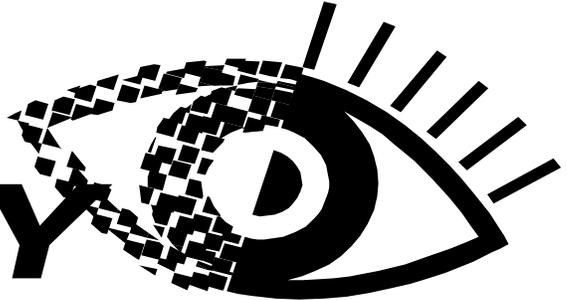
|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 04 Brittney Campbell       | 24 Addison Dill       |
| 06 Bob Grammer             | 25 Jane Lenner        |
| 07 Amanda Gunkle           | 25 Deb Biery          |
| 08 Karen Long              | 26 Hunter Steele      |
| 08 Ashley Arnold           | 27 Ron Demkee         |
| 12 Doris Horwath           | 27 Charles Castetter  |
| 12 Brylie Kepner           | 27 Anthony DiSanto Jr |
| 16 Kellan Maginn           | 28 Susanna Berghold   |
| 16 Patience Stevenson      | 28 Tyshonn Barone     |
| 16 Duane Jones             | 28 Trevor Campbell    |
| 16 Grace Uninsky           | 29 Zina Sosnowsky     |
| 17 Kraig Koehnlein         | 30 Debra Miller       |
| 18 Larry Weidner           | 31 Mim Allison        |
| 19 Ben Muth                |                       |
| 20 Joyce Butz              |                       |
| 21 Doug Jenny              |                       |
| 21 Logan Koch              |                       |
| 22 Debby Herstine          |                       |
| 22 Susan Angstadt-Sullivan |                       |
| 23 Jean Rau                |                       |
| 24 Wayne Biery             |                       |



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



# SEEING CLEARLY



God's character is evident through what he made.

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*Directions: Hold up the puzzle to a mirror. Then write the backward words correctly to complete Romans 1:20, NIV.*

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FOR SINCE THE NOITAEƆ OF THE WORLD

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GOD'S EIBIVNI QUALITIES — HIS JARRETE

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POWER AND EIVID NATURE — HAVE BEEN

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YJRAEJC SEEN, BEING DOOTƆRDNU FROM

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WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT EPOE ARE

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WITHOUT EXCUSE. 2NAMOR 1:20, NIV

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