

FOCUS ON



FAITH

Volume 53, Number 4
2023

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.*

2023 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

Mission: Cindy Talaber

Budget/Finance: Jerry Trexler

Day Care: Pastor Bruce

Fundraising: Tom Hovis

Worship: Joan Hassler



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Growing up in New England, during the winter months my father taught me to keep a blanket, a coffee can, a candle, a collapsible shovel, and a bag of kitty litter in the trunk of my car in case I ever got stuck in snow. I've learned some more things to keep in the care in case of emergencies; potatoes. There are three uses for potatoes.

1. On rainy days, water easily accumulates on the side view mirrors of your car which effects the vision and can be very dangerous. Slice a potato open and slide it back and forth over the mirror two times. Rinse the mirror and the water will be gone and will not accumulate again!
2. The metal parts on the front of your car are prone to rust in time and the rust cannot be wiped off. All you need to do is to slice a potato and slide it back and forth over the rusty area and then rinse it with water and the rest will be one!
3. After driving your car for a long time, a thick oil film will accumulate on the glass, effecting vision. Slice a potato and wipe it back and forth on the glass, rinse with water, and the glass will become perfectly translucent.

Did you ever know how useful a potato could be as you are driving around?

How do I know these things? Well, I certainly have had water accumulate on my side view mirrors making it difficult to see but no rust on the front of the car and if there is an oily film on the glass, I haven't noticed it. I'm just one of those "geeks" that likes to look up handy helpful tips and the internet has made this a very simple pastime!

Now, I do have some helpful things in the back of my car but no potatoes. This is new discovery (the potatoes) but this reminded me of

how helpful ordinary things can be. I can think of many things to do with a potato in the culinary world but not in the automobile detailing world.

This may seem strange but when I stumbled across this story about potatoes and cars it did make me think about how everything in God's creation was put here for a purpose and as time goes on, we discover more purposes. We were eating potatoes long before we discovered that we could use them to replace our squeegees and shammies!

I don't think God create potatoes to take care of our cars but isn't it interesting that one of His creations has purposes that we had never imagined? I think that is how creation work. In creation are the answers to all of our needs.

Peace,



The 2023 Altar Flower Schedule is hanging in the Narthex. Upcoming open dates include April 30 and June 4th & 11th. Please check the schedule, give the office a call, or click [HERE](#) for other available dates.



The cost is \$40 for 2 arrangements which are yours to take with you after worship.

Puzzle Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2

10:15 AM WORSHIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

APRIL 6

7:30 PM WORSHIP

COMMUNION

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL

APRIL 7

6 PM—12 AM

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 9

8:00 AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

(WEATHER PERMITTING)

9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

*BOTH EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES WILL INCLUDE
COMMUNION*

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED

LIGHT LUNCH & PIE SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

We are asking all of our wonderful bakers, to please bring along one of your **favorite pies** to share with everyone. If you are not a pie maker, please come anyway as there is always plenty of food.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL

APRIL 7, 6 PM—12 AM

Objective: The intention is to draw us individually and collectively closer to the Lord, to share a common experience as congregation, and to create an unbroken prayer chain that binds us together as worshippers.

When: The vigil will go from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. Member of our congregation to each take a 15-minute period of time to pray, holding silent vigil until the next person's time.

Where: Participants can pray in the sanctuary, or from home. Those who feel called to pray at church, whether for 15 minutes or even all evening, are welcome to come by the church. There will be individuals present to open and close the church and to simply be present to support the you during your prayer time. It is fine if more than one person signs up for the same prayer time.

Prayer Focus: There will be no formal materials or format involved. The intention is to be spiritually simple before the Lord Jesus, thanking Him for dying on the Cross for us, as we fill our minds and hearts with Holy Scriptures, prayers or hymn verses to be lifted up to Him from the Bible or related sacred texts. Worshipers are invited to make this their own. (a list of suggestions will be provided).

How do I sign up: There will be a sign-up sheet on a clipboard in the narthex from now until Maundy Thursday. You can also use this [Sign-Up Genius link](#). Please do consider participating, and, if you cannot or choose not to formally sign up, please join us in prayer and meditation during the 6-hour period. The event will be streaming live on YouTube.



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all for your kind wishes and congratulations on the arrival of our new grand daughter! I'm sorry I wasn't watching church with you on the morning of March 12th but I did catch the service at a later date and loved seeing all of your smiling faces and hearing your "Congratulations!"

Thanks again for sharing in our excitement! ~ *Sandy*

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Faith United Church of Christ, Pastor Stevenson, Sandy, and Congregation,

This enclosed gift is long overdue since I have been worshipping with you all each Sunday via video church. Your weekly ministry is one of Gods blessings to me since I can still worship at Faith from afar, yet still feel so close in prayer and song.

As you can tell I am still very homesick for Coopersburg/Center Valley and so many of the good people I know there.

Last year, the first year I had strength to come "home" since Mom's passing, we were stranded in Newark over the weekend NOT AS PLANNED!

This year I plan to come home in September for my class reunion and look forward to worshipping in person with all of you at Faith UCC.

Love in Christ and Blessings to All,  
*Diane Beck Glatz*

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# APRIL VOLUNTEERS

## Head Usher: Melissa Shafer

| Date                | Ushers                                           | Lay Reader              | Fin. Sec.     | Altar          |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 4/2                 | Bob & Patti Shelly                               | Barb Maursky            | Tirpak        | Tirpak         |
| 4/6 Maundy Thursday | TBD                                              | TBD                     | N/A           | N/A            |
| 4/9 Easter          | Mike Ford, Tom Hovis,<br>Wes Koser, Chuck Talboo | Brenda Hovis            | TBD           | Easter Flowers |
| 4/16                | Diane Neidermeier<br>Linda Torrence              | Donna Schudel-<br>Baron | Tom Hovis     | Mirth          |
| 4/23                | Kim Ritter<br>Faye Tirpak                        | Rose Mirth              | Jerry Trexler | Talaber        |
| 4/30                | Deb Herstine<br>Catherine Stevenson              | Patience<br>Stevenson   | TBD           | Available      |



## FAITH FINANCIALS

| February      | Month               | YTD                 |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Receipts      | \$17,377.72         | \$34,101.13         |
| Disbursements | \$21,779.75         | \$40,404.70         |
|               | <b>(\$4,402.03)</b> | <b>(\$6,303.57)</b> |

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

Joyful Noise—\$10

OCWM—\$0

CWS Blankets—\$1448





**Many thanks for your continued generous support of Betty Lou's Pantry! Our donations for the last two Sundays of February and the first two Sundays of March included 174 items. In addition to these, total donations to the Super**

**Bowl of Caring were 462 cans of soup / canned pasts, 112 jars of peanut butter, and 97 jars of assorted jams and jellies.**

### **ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:**

**Baked Beans**

**Cereal**

**Canned Fruit**

#### **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



**The Church Office will be  
closed  
Easter Monday, April 10th.**



# Purse & Bag Bingo and Basket Raffle

Faith United Church of Christ  
Center Valley, PA

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**

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

**25 games for \$25                      2 specials for \$5**  
**Tickets are on Sale Now**

All Proceeds will benefit Faith's Missions  
*Seating is limited. Tickets go fast so get yours now!*

Call Karen Talboo at 610-282-1552  
Or Email: [cktalboo@gmail.com](mailto:cktalboo@gmail.com)  
Or Faith Church Office at 610-282-3939

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

Mail Payment to:

Karen Talboo    6472 Walnut Drive    Coopersburg, PA 18036

## **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 per 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:

Baked Beans

Canned Ravioli

Cereal

Hamburger/Tuna Helpers

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### **Ticket Information**

Your \$25 ticket includes 25 regular games. The 2 special games can be played by purchasing games 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.

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### **Game Prizes**

The prizes for Spring Bingo regular games **may** include products from:

ThirtyOne

Vera Bradley

Liz Claiborne

Stone Mountain

**IF YOU WIN...YOU CHOOSE!**

You will be able to select your prize from a lovely assortment of purses, bags, and totes.

The **Specials** will be **2 Gift Card Baskets** valued at \$100 each.

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### **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.

## **Purse Bingo—How Can You Help?**

This is Mission's only fundraiser for the year.  
Won't you please help us make this a big success?

**~Invite** Family, Friends, and Neighbors (See Flyer for Details)

-The best way to help is to buy a ticket and bring a friend!

### **~Food Items Needed:**

Desserts to be Delivered Sunday Morning

Cases of Water

Cases of Regular Soda (Coke & Diet Coke & Gingerale)

### **~Volunteers Needed:**

To Set up Tables and Chairs Saturday Morning at 9:30 am

2-3 Kitchen Volunteers

1 Volunteer to Serve as Food Purchase Cashier

(Before Bingo and during Intermission only)

2-3 Volunteers at Door to Collect Hygiene Item Donations

### **~Prize Donations Needed:**

Basket Raffle Items- Value \$20 or More

(We can wrap if you need assistance)

Door Prize Donations- Value \$5 or More

Gift Card Donations for Specials- Value \$10-\$25

Monetary Donations are always appreciated

**~Contact:** Karen Talboo 610-282-1552 [cktalboo@gmail.com](mailto:cktalboo@gmail.com)

Thank you to all who have contributed so far and to those who plan  
to help at our fundraiser.

**We hope to see you on Sunday, April 23, 2023.**

**Doors open at NOON.**



## ***APRIL BIBLE READINGS***

### **April 1**

Jer. 31:27–34  
Rom. 11:25–36  
John 11:28–44  
*or* John 12:37–50

### **April 2**

Zech. 9:9–12  
1 Tim. 6:12–16 *or* Zech.  
12:9–11; 13:1, 7–9  
Matt. 21:12–1

### **April 3**

Jer. 11:18–20;  
12:1–16 (17)  
Phil. 3:1–14  
John 12:9–19

### **April 4**

Jer. 15:10–21  
Phil. 3:15–21  
John 12:20–26

### **April 5**

Jer. 17:5–10, 14–17 (18)  
Phil. 4:1–13  
John 12:27–36

### **April 6**

Jer. 20:7–11 (12–13)  
14–18  
1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–  
32  
John 17:1–11 (12–26)

### **April 7**

Gen. 22:1–14  
1 Peter 1:10–20  
John 13:36–38 *or* John  
19:38–42

### **April 8**

Job 19:21–27a  
Heb. 4:1–16  
Rom. 8:1–11

### **April 9**

Exod. 12:1–14  
John 1:1–18  
*or* Isa. 51:9–11  
Luke 24:13–35 *or* John  
20:19–23

### **April 10**

Jonah 2:1–10  
Acts 2:14, 22–32  
John 14:1–14

### **April 11**

Isa. 30:18–26  
Acts 2:36–41 (42–47)  
John 14:15–31

### **April 12**

Micah 7:7–15  
Acts 3:1–10  
John 15:1–11

### **April 13**

Ezek. 37:1–14  
Acts 3:11–26  
John 15:12–27

### **April 14**

Dan. 12:1–4, 13  
Acts 4:1–12  
John 16:1–15

### **April 15**

Isa. 25:1–9  
Acts 4:13–21 (22–31)  
John 16:16–33

### **April 16**

Isa. 43:8–13  
1 Peter 2:2–10  
John 14:1–7

### **April 17**

Dan. 1:1–21  
1 John 1:1–10  
John 17:1–11

### **April 18**

Dan. 2:1–16  
1 John 2:1–11  
John 17:12–19

### **April 19**

Dan. 2:17–30  
1 John 2:12–17  
John 17:20–26



**April 20**

Dan. 2:31–49  
 1 John 2:18–29  
 Luke 3:1–14

**April 21**

Dan. 3:1–18  
 1 John 3:1–10  
 Luke 3:15–22

**April 22**

Dan. 3:19–30  
 1 John 3:11–18  
 Luke 4:1–13

**April 23**

Dan. 4:1–18  
 1 Peter 4:7–11  
 John 21:15–25

**April 24**

Dan. 4:19–27  
 1 John 3:19–4:6  
 Luke 4:14–30

**April 25**

Dan. 4:28–37  
 1 John 4:7–21  
 Luke 4:31–37

**April 26**

Dan. 5:1–12  
 1 John 5:1–12  
 Luke 4:38–44

**April 27**

Dan. 5:13–30  
 1 John 5:13–20 (21)  
 Luke 5:1–11

**April 28**

Dan. 6:1–15  
 2 John 1–13  
 Luke 5:12–26

**April 29**

Dan. 6:16–28  
 3 John 1–15  
 Luke 5:27–39

**April 30**

Gen. 18:22–33  
 1 Peter 5:1–11  
 Matt. 7:15–29

SAVE THE  
 DATE....  
 SUNDAY  
 APRIL 16TH  
 following worship

FAMILY  
 FUN TIME

Bring the kids  
 for fun &  
 games &  
 snacks, too!

# Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.

**What you need:**

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

**What you do:**

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

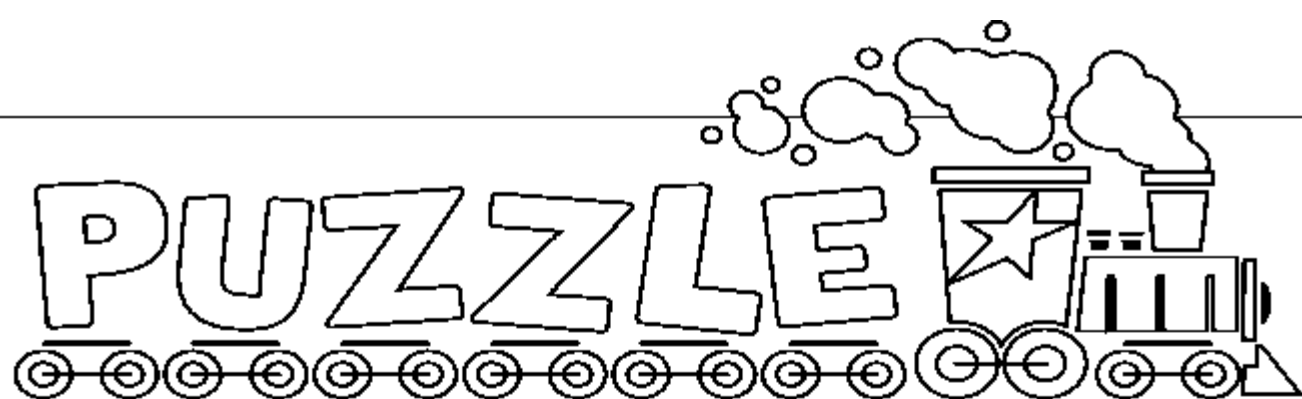


# April

|    |                   |    |                |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 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.

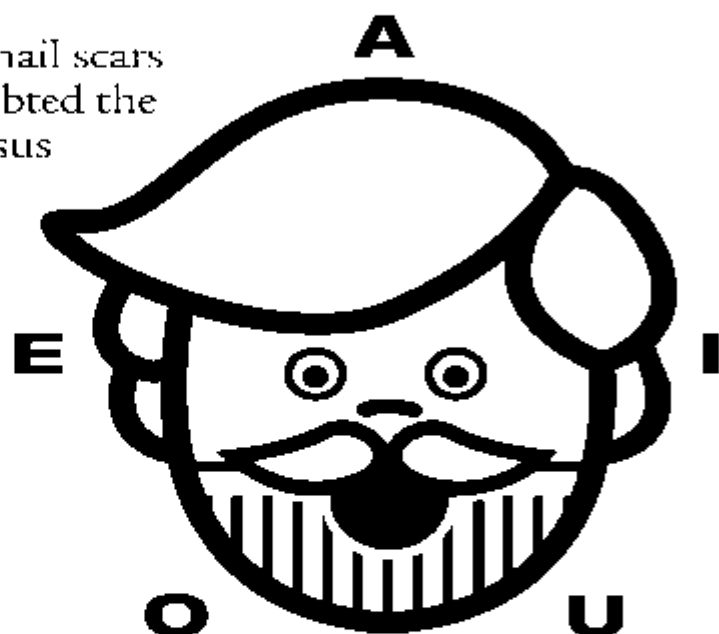


# SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

**Directions:**

Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B \_ c \_ \_ s \_ y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ s \_ \_ n m \_ ,

y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d;

bl \_ ss \_ d \_ r \_ th \_ s \_ wh \_ h \_ v \_ n \_ t

s \_ \_ n \_ nd y \_ t h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d."

JOHN 20:29, NIV