

FOCUS ON



FAITH

Volume 53, Number 5
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

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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,

About a year and a half my dentist informed me that he was concerned about something. I have had a variety of root canals done and deep beneath one of these teeth an infection had started. He decided to keep an eye on it but eventually he told me that “all the antibiotics in the world will not kill that infection, it’s time to remove the tooth.” Gasp!

He gave me three choices. Since the offending tooth was a molar deep in the back of my mouth, he said I could just have it removed and leave it as that. “No one will notice that it’s missing,” he said. Then he said that my other two options were a bridge or an implant. I chose to go with the implant and the process began late last May.

I know that many of you have gone through this process with several more than just one of your teeth so I’m not going to complain. I will simply say that this has been more of an ordeal than I anticipated and nearly after a year it’s still not over. However, I’m at a point where I can see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel and I am happy that I have had the care of an excellent general dentist and oral surgeon. I’m also grateful for the U.C.C. Dental Plan! ☺

Never having had an implant done before I didn’t know of all the details. But six months after the tooth had been extracted and the oral surgeon was ready to insert the implant, he informed me that he was concerned that my jaw was not deep enough for the implant to remain securely in place. Now he tells me! So, after going through all of this, it’s possible that this may not work?

Good news. Four months later he tells me that the implant is indeed

firm and secure and I am now ready for the new crown to be installed. I asked the oral surgeon if my jaw was indeed large enough for the implant. He told me that because he was concerned about the depth of my jaw, he decided to use a wider implant to make sure it was secure. So, deep enough and wide enough to do the job.

This adventure, among others in my life, reminds me how important it is that a variety of factors must come together in order for things to succeed. I still don't have the new tooth in my mouth but I sure am glad to know that my jaw was deep enough and the oral surgeon could create an implant that was wide enough. Deep and wide ... sort of reminds me of that old Sunday school song. *Deep and wide, deep and wide there's a fountain flowing deep and wide.*

The church does not function with just "deep people" or with "wide people." The church needs everyone to use all of their diverse gifts. Furthermore, it is not enough for the "deep people" to do their part and the "wide people" to do their part. All of us are called to work together and combine our respective gifts for the sake of Christ's Kingdom. All of us are called to share what we have to transform the world and make miracles happen. Let's include everyone with all of their gifts to create the world worthy of our God.

Peace,



Puzzle Answers: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of
Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7.
rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind.

Betty Lou's Pantry Letter Carrier Food Drive Saturday, May 13, 2023

Keep watch for a shopping bag in your mailbox in the next week or so. The letter carriers will be leaving a bag in your mailbox that you can fill with food items for Betty Lou's Pantry. Please leave by your mailbox by 8 am Saturday morning, May 13th. If no one picks up your donation, please bring it to Faith Church on Sunday or deliver to the Pantry on any Wednesday from 9-10 am. Items can also be dropped off at the Center Valley or Coopersburg Post Offices or the Southern Lehigh Library. Thank you for your generous support of our neighbors in need.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 14, 2023



*"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV



Pentecost Sunday
May 28, 2023

Worship will include communion
and the **Confirmation of**

Brandon Barone
Owen Hovis
and
Kate Jellison.

**Please join us to share
in this special day.**

You Can Make a Difference!



Do you feel hopeless and helpless when you hear the daily disasters about our planet? Take heart, because you can do something about it. Just as we did during Vacation Bible School last summer at the church, you can plant native plants in your gardens, in pots on your balconies, with your children in their schoolyards. You can support the wildlife you love and make a difference in preserving our planet.

Thanks to the tireless work of many conservation advocates, there are many resources available. The National Wildlife Foundation has a program called Garden for Wildlife. They also have a Native Plant Finder by zip code to find the best native plants for your area, and regional native plant kits to order at [Garden for Wildlife](#).

Dr. Doug Tallamy, an entomologist, ecologist and conservationist and professor at the University of Delaware has written several wonderful books about how we can take action to help the cause of conservation including *Bringing Nature Home* and *The Nature of Oaks*. He has a wonderful website, [Homegrown National Park](#), where you can find lots of information on planting native plants in your garden.

Fabulous news! Dr. Doug Tallamy is coming to the Lehigh Valley on May 9. He will be speaking at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown from 7-9. The event is free, but registration is required. Please register on the [Wildland Conservancy's website](#).

We are also blessed to have a local native plant nursery in Orefield, [Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery](#) 2415 PA-100, Orefield, PA 18069 (610-395-2570).



~ Patience Stevenson



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!

We would like to share your accomplishments
in the June Focus on Faith.

Please send your graduation info, your future
plans, and a picture to
faithchurchcv@gmail.com
no later than May 15th.

MAY VOLUNTEERS Head Usher & Financial Secretary: Jerry Trexler				
Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers	Lawn
5/7	Donna Schoenberger tdb	Brenda Hovis	T & B Hovis	Muth/Gunkle
5/14	Karen & Chuck Talboo	Rose Mirth	RoseMirth	Need Volunteer
5/21	Tom & Brenda Hovis	Cindy Talaber	Sue Roberts	Steve Sosnowsky
5/28	Tbd	Joan Hassler	T & S Hovis	Long/DiSantos



FAITH FINANCIALS

MARCH	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$18,465.74	\$52,566.87
Disbursements	\$20,866.69	\$61,271.39
	(\$2,400.95)	(\$8,704.52)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

Joyful Noise—\$10 OGHS—\$337
CWS Blankets—\$90 Helping Hands—\$67



Many thanks for your continued generous support of Betty Lou's Pantry! Our donations for the last two Sundays of March and the first two Sundays of April included 217 items.

ITEMS CURRENTLY MOST NEEDED:

Baked Beans

Cereal

Canned Fruit

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's UCC Special Offering is Strengthen the Church.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering,
we help support the work of conferences and the
national setting as we become a multi-racial/
multi-cultural church.**



Spring Bingo Thank You!

What a great time we had at bingo on Sunday, April 23rd! This would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers and generous donors. **Thank you to all** who gave of their time, talent, and treasures to create an entertaining afternoon for 135 guests.

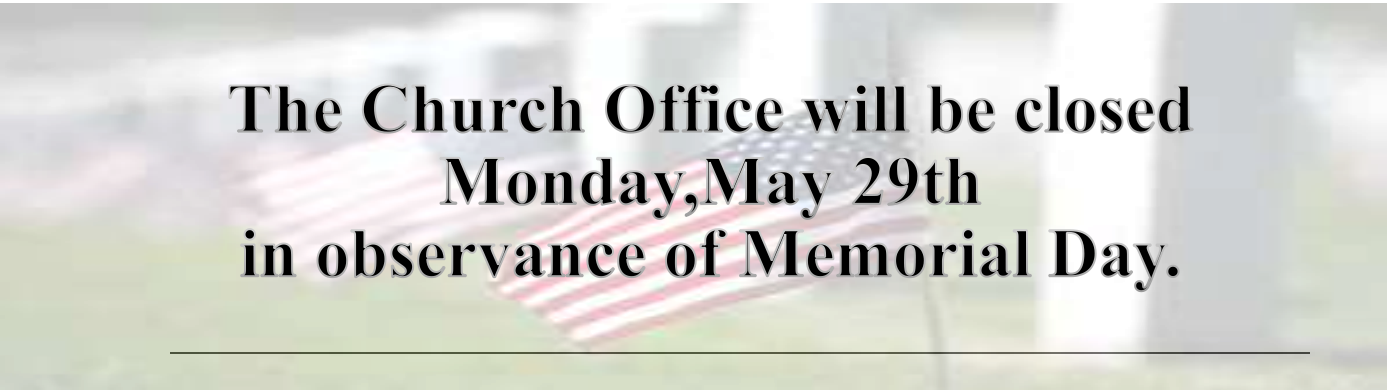
With your help we raised over \$4,800 to be used to support Faith's Missions such as The Caring Place, Phoebe Home, The Allentown Rescue Mission, Pathways, Haiti Family Sponsorship and many more. Along with the monetary earnings, over 350 hygiene and food items were donated to Betty Lou's Pantry.

Special thanks to those who volunteered their time and hard work to the event:

Tom & Brenda	Cindy & Tim	Mim & Debby	Linda & Rose
Jerry & Elaine	Pastor Bruce	Kim & Louise	Diane & Brylie
Sonya	Susan	Diane	Sadie
		Sandi	Jean

And the entire Clean-Up Crew. In less than 45 minutes you could not tell there had been a big event in fellowship hall. Trash was cleared, the floors had been swept and mopped and the kitchen was spotless.

THANK YOU!



**The Church Office will be closed
Monday, May 29th
in observance of Memorial Day.**

FAITH IN STITCHES

To all Knitters, Crocheters and anyone interested in learning either of these or would just like to spend some time together with us !!!!

I see our “Winter Break” has extended into the SpringTime to get going and gather our “Stuff” !!

We thought we would continue with our meeting pattern of the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 1:30 in the afternoon, and wandering out about 3:00. We never take attendance, so stop by anytime !!!

We met in our “Youth” location earlier, found it quite comfortable, and thought we might relocate there for our time together. So, join us May 9th, and Please bring any interested neighbor or friend !!!!

Any questionsmy # is 484-274-3774

See you soon, Jane



PHOTO GALLERY

click on the links below to see slide shows of each event

Pie Sunday

Maundy Thursday/Easter Sunday

Bingo

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL



Special thanks to John Barone for coordinating Faith's first Good Friday Prayer Vigil that took place on April 7th from 6 pm to 12 midnight.

20 people filled all 24 time slots (15 minutes each) to serve as a link in this very strong chain of unbroken prayer. See what those who took part had to say...

Bob & Patti Shelly—

Thanks John for your initiative in coordinating the prayer vigil. I missed the experience of praying in the quietness and darkened sanctuary that I was looking forward to. But as we all know meaningful prayer can take place anytime and any place. My experience took place at 30,000 feet flying over the Pacific Ocean.

Perhaps this becomes an annual event helping to enrich us all and shows that we as a congregation are not stagnant but open to doing many new things.

*Blessings and Happy Easter!
Aloha!*

Cindy Talaber—

Thank you John for putting the prayer vigil together. Hoping we do it again next year.

Barbara Maursky—

Thank you John for organizing the prayer chain and allowing me to be part of it. It was moving to take the time, slow down and focus.

Chuck & Karen Talboo—

Thank you John for your leadership in coordinating the prayer vigil.

Karen and I found it moving to be in the sanctuary at night alone with our prayers to God under the glow of the cross.

The whole experience brought a new perspective to Good Friday.

Blessings!

Melissa Shafer—

Thank you for coordinating the vigil, John! And for being at church for 6 hours to mark the time. Being able to sit in the dark quiet church with just the light of the cross was such a peaceful experience. My 30 minutes flew by so quickly! Hope we can do it again next year.

Dennis Duda—

Hi John - I quietly read the Lenten hymn texts in our red hymnal that dated as early as 1100 through 1970 AD. I viewed the darkened sanctuary intermittently. The texts were very powerful and timeless. Very spiritual and uplifting. Thank you for this opportunity to sit and take stock of personal, reflective faith.

Please WELCOME the newest members of our FAITH FAMILY!



Left to right: Jean Hanville, Donna Kuhns, and Rose Mirth were received into membership on Sunday, April 2nd. Barbara Maursky was received last year but was unable to attend the service.



MAY BIBLE READINGS

May 1

Jer. 30:1–9
Col. 1:1–14
Luke 6:1–11

May 2

Jer. 30:10–17
Col. 1:15–23
Luke 6:12–26

May 3

Jer. 30:18–22
Col. 1:24–2:7
Luke 6:27–38

May 4

Jer. 31:1–14
Col. 2:8–23
Luke 6:39–49

May 5

Jer. 31:15–22
Col. 3:1–11
Luke 7:1–17

May 6

Jer. 31:23–25
Col. 3:12–17
Luke 7:18–35

May 7

Isa. 32:1–8
2 Thess. 2:13–17
Matt. 7:7–14

May 8

Jer. 32:1–15
Col. 3:18–4:18
Luke 7:36–50

May 9

Jer. 32:16–25
Rom. 12:1–21
Luke 8:1–15

May 10

Jer. 32:36–44
Rom. 13:1–14
Luke 8:16–25

May 11

Jer. 33:1–13
Rom. 14:1–12
Luke 8:26–39

May 12

Deut. 31:30–32:14
Rom. 14:13–23
Luke 8:40–56

May 13

Deut. 32:34–41 (42) 43
Rom. 15:1–13
Luke 9:1–17

May 14

Deut. 15:1–11
1 Tim. 3:14–4:5
Matt. 13:24–34a

May 15

Deut. 8:1–10
or Deut. 18:9–14
James 1:1–15
Luke 9:18–27

May 16

Deut. 8:11–20
or Deut. 18:15–22
James 1:16–27
Luke 11:1–13

May 17

Deut. 19:1–7
James 5:13–18
Luke 12:22–31

May 18

Ezek. 1:1–14, 24–28b
Heb. 2:5–18
Matt. 28:16–20

May 19

Ezek. 1:28–3:3
Heb. 4:14–5:6
Luke 9:28–36

May 20

Ezek. 3:4–17
Heb. 5:7–14
Luke 9:37–50

May 21

Ezek. 3:16–27

Eph. 2:1–10

Matt. 10:24–33, 40–42

May 27

Ezek. 43:1–12

Heb. 9:1–14

Luke 11:14–23

May 22

Ezek. 4:1–17

Heb. 6:1–12

Luke 9:51–62

May 28

Isa. 11:1–9

1 Cor. 2:1–13

John 14:21–29

May 23

Ezek. 7:10–15, 23b–27

Heb. 6:13–20

Luke 10:1–17

May 29

Deut. 4:9–14

2 Cor. 1:1–11

Luke 14:25–35

May 24

Ezek. 11:14–25

Heb. 7:1–17

Luke 10:17–24

May 30

Deut. 4:15–24

2 Cor. 1:12–22

Luke 15:1–10

May 25

Ezek. 18:1–4, 19–32

Heb. 7:18–28

Luke 10:25–37

May 31

Deut. 4:25–31

2 Cor. 1:23–2:17

Luke 15:1–2, 11–32

May 26

Ezek. 34:17–31

Heb. 8:1–13

Luke 10:38–42

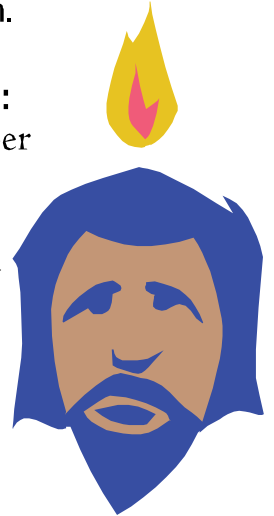


Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue

**What you do:**

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.

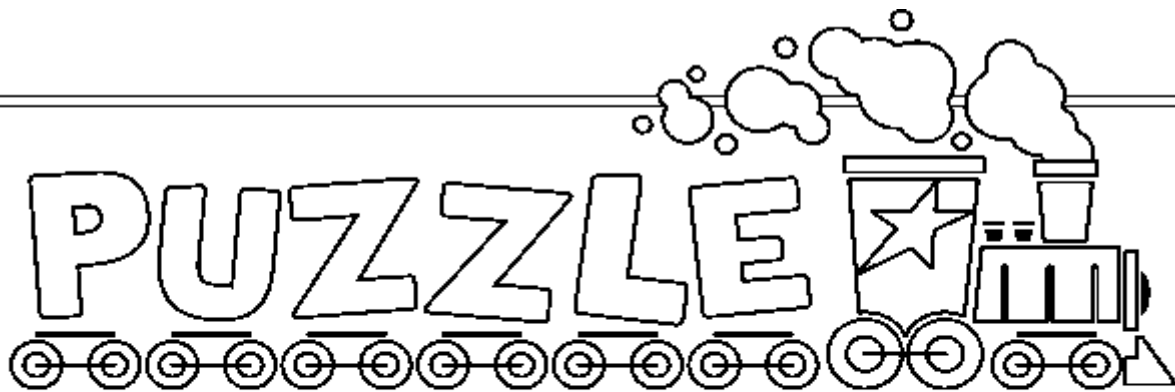
May

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
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.



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. H E A V

2. A B L E

3. A Y O F P E N T E C O S

4. O N G U E

5. P I R I

6. O G E T H E

7. E S

8. O N G U E

9. A

10. I N D



“When the _____ came, they were all
 _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a
 violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole
 house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be
 _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each
 of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began
 to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV