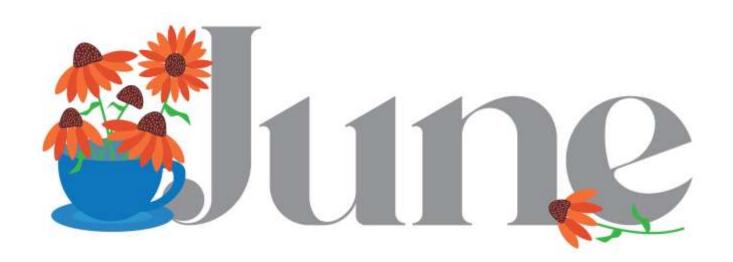
FOCUS ON



Volume 53, Number 6 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 Watch us on <u>YouTube</u>

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

(through September)

Officers:

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

Elders: Deacons:

Mike Ford Ken Koehnlein Kim Ritter Jerry Trexler Cindy Talaber Joan Hassler

Tom Hovis Avery Koser Donna Schudel-Barone

Melissa Shafer

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine

Liaisons:

Christian Ed: Kim Ritter Mission: Cindy Talaber

Fellowship/Outreach: Tom Hovis Budget/Finance: Jerry Trexler

Enduring /Mem. Gifts:

Property: Ken Koehnlein

Staff Relations: Joan Hassler

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 most 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.

MGSt.

Puzzle Answer: As far as the east is from the

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS

Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 4th immediately following worship

Please plan to attend this important meeting following worship.

There will be 2 items on the agenda:

1. Change of By Laws to reconfigure membership of

Consistory: Due to the change of the size of the congregation and the needs of leadership, the Consistory is recommending the following changes to the make-up of Consistory.

COMPOSITION OF THE CONSISTORY

- 1. Consistory will be comprised of 6 Elders
- 2. The Spiritual Counsel will be four elders, elected by the Consistory annually, and chaired by the Pastor
- 3. There will be 3 term groups of Elders, each serving 3 years
- 4. After an elder's term has expired and one year has passed, they are eligible to serve another term.
- 5. In the event of tie the pastor will provide the deciding vote
- 6. The Consistory officers will be comprised of a President, Vice President, and a Secretary elected annually.

2. Election of Consistory Member - Bruce Torrence

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY June 18, 2023



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

It is always an honor to share the accomplishments of those we've watched grow up in Faith Church! Join us for worship on June 18th as we celebrate our graduates!





Kraig Koehnlein graduated from Bloomsburg University in December of 2022 with a Major in Communications and a Minor in Political Science. He is currently working at Stauffer Glove and Safety in Red Hill, PA, where he is an Inside Sales Representative.

Justin Koser graduated on May 6th from Penn State University with a degree in Management Information Systems. His future plan is to complete his 3 month summer internship with Talen Energy at their Allentown office.





Avery Koser will graduate from Southern Lehigh High School on June 2nd. He plans to attend Moravian University to major in Marketing or Management while also playing on their football team.

William Kane will graduate from Southern Lehigh High School on June 2, 2023. He plans to attend Dickinson College to double major in Biochemistry and Quantitative Economics. He intends to run cross country and track.



God's Blessings to All!

JUNE VOLUNTEERS Financial Secretary: Bruce Torrence

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Date	Head Usher	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers	Lawn		
6/4	Melissa Shaffer	Mim Allison Joan Hassler	Donna Schudel Barone	Keeler	D wayne Schantz Bob Shelly		
6/11	Mike Ford	Bob & Patti Shelly	Karen Talboo	Mirth	Tim Hovis		
6/19	Wes Koser	Jerry & Elaine Trexler	Rose Mirth	Mirth	Steve Sosnowsky		
6/26	Joan Hassler	Donna Schoenberger Faye Tirpak	Donna Schoenberger	Ritter	Need Volunteers		

LAY READERS AND USHERS

You will find a sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up for the summer months. Please check your schedules and fill in where you can help.

Thanks in advance for your help! We couldn't do it without YOU!



FAITH FINANCIALS

APRIL	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$21,576.64	\$74,143.51
Disbursements	21,175.28	\$82,446.67
	\$401.46	(\$8,303.16)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

OGHS—\$282 Haiti—\$100



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 217items.

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

Heifer Donation Opportunity

The Faith Mission Team recently received a request for a donation to Heifer International. In the past we have matched the Sunday School Youth's donations that were made each Sunday morning. With the Covid interruption to Sunday School, no donation has been made for a couple years. One time they had generous donors that made our donation increase from \$500 to \$1,500. Instead of donating 1 heifer we were able to donate 3 heifers. The youth were very excited to be able to turn their offerings into many animals.

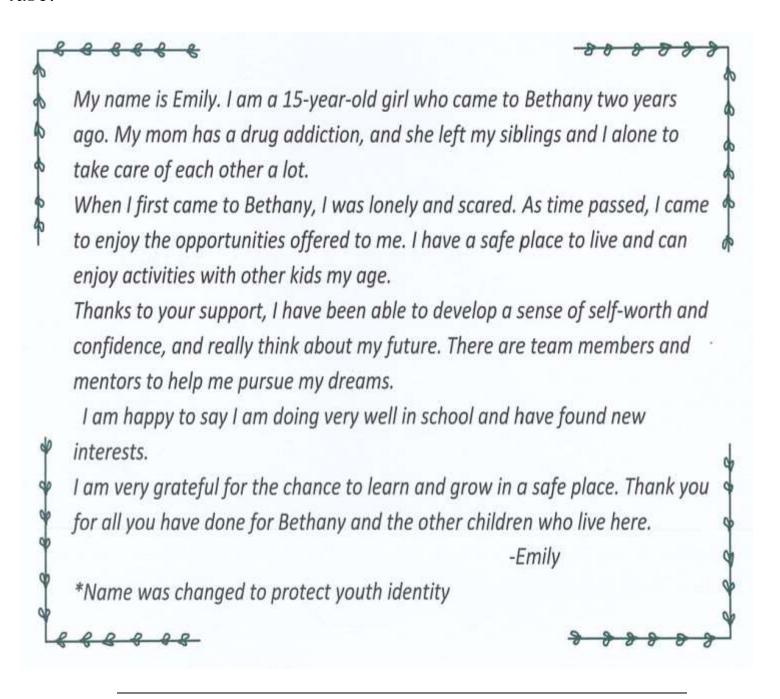
This request from Heifer was one that we could not let slip by us. Heifer currently has several generous supporters who will turn our \$500 donation into a \$5,000 donation. This is a 10 times matching event. What a wonderful opportunity to stop hunger for children and their families around the world.

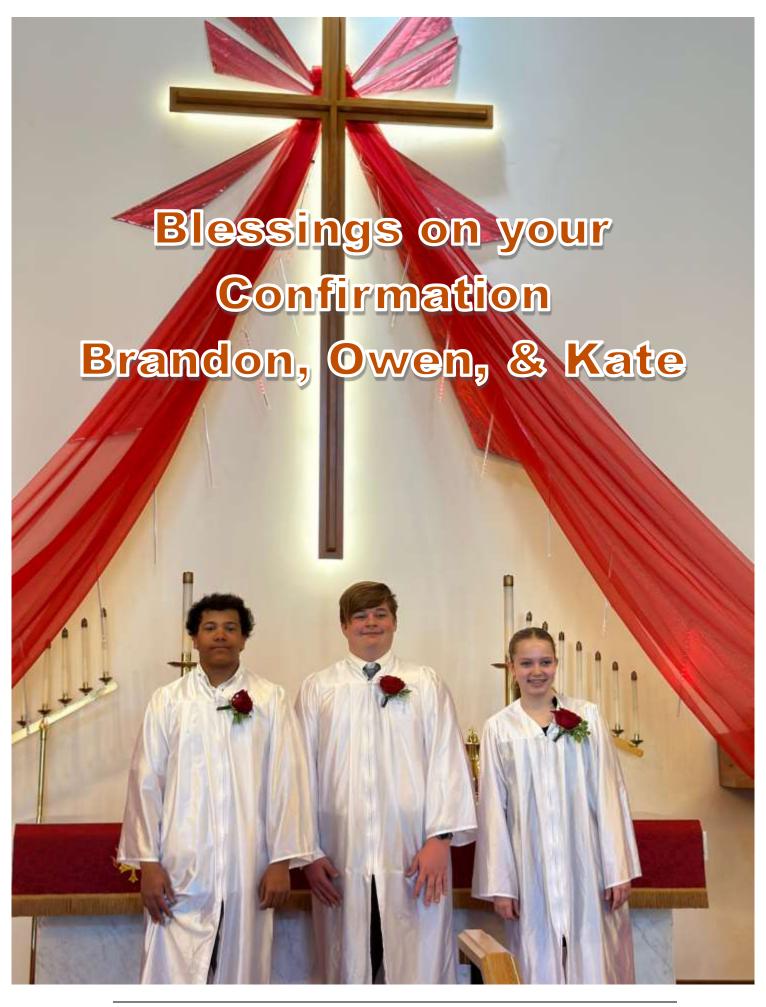
Your support of our Spring Bingo has made this generous donation possibile.

Bethany Children's Home

Bethany Children's Home is one of the three missions that are supported by our Joyful Noise collection. Our Joyful Noise collection is taken the second Sunday of the each month. It also helps to support a sponsored child and families in Haiti.

Please take a moment to read the following story of how BCH has helped to provide one young lady with a more promising and safe future.



















Come glorify God together

Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship.

First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you'll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshiping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come.

—Monica L. Wilkinson



Don't forget to take us along on vacation!!

Watch Faith's Sunday Services at anytime from anywhere!

https://www.youtube.com/ @faithchurchucccentervalley2191



June 1

Deut. 4:32–40 2 Cor. 3:1–18 Luke 16:1–9

June 2

Deut. 5:1–22 2 Cor. 4:1–12 Luke 16:10–18

June 3

Deut. 5:22–33 2 Cor. 4:13–5:10 Luke 16:19–31

June 4

Deut. 6:1–9 (10–15) Eph. 4:1–16 John 1:1–18

June 5

Deut. 11:13–19 2 Cor. 5:11–6:2 Luke 17:1–10

June 6

Deut. 12:1–12 2 Cor. 6:3–13 (14–7:1) Luke 17:11–19

June 7

Deut. 13:1–11 2 Cor. 7:2–16 Luke 17:20–37

JUNE BIBLE READINGS

June 8

Deut. 16:18–20; 17:14–20 2 Cor. 8:1–16 Luke 18:1–8

June 9

Deut. 26:1–11 2 Cor. 8:16–24 Luke 18:9–14

June 10

Deut. 29:2–15 2 Cor. 9:1–15 Luke 18:15–30

June 11

Deut. 29:16–29 Rev. 12:1–12 Matt. 15:29–39

June 12

Deut. 30:1–10 2 Cor. 10:1–18 Luke 18:31–43

June 13

Deut. 30:11–20 2 Cor. 11:1–21a Luke 19:1–10

June 14

Deut. 31:30–32:14 2 Cor. 11:21b–33 Luke 19:11–27

June 15

Song of Sol. 1:1–3, 9–11, 15–16a; 2:1–3a 2 Cor. 12:1–10 Luke 19:28–40

June 16

Song of Sol. 2:8–13; 4:1–4a, 5–7, 9–11 2 Cor. 12:11–21 Luke 19:41–48

June 17

Song of Sol. 5:10–16; 7:1– 2 (3–5) 6–7a (9); 8:6–7 2 Cor. 13:1–13 Luke 20:1–8

June 18

Exod. 6:2–13; 7:1–6 Rev. 15:1–8 Matt. 18:1–14

June 19

1 Sam. 1:1–20 Acts 1:1–14 Luke 20:9–19

June 20

1 Sam. 1:21–2:11 Acts 1:15–26 Luke 20:19–26

June 21

1 Sam. 2:12-26 Acts 2:1-21 Luke 20:27–40

June 22

1 Sam. 2:27–36 Acts 2:22–36 Luke 20:41–21:4

June 23

1 Sam. 3:1–21 Acts 2:37–47 Luke 21:5–19

June 24

1 Sam. 4:1b-11 Acts 4:32-5:11 Luke 21:20–28

June 25

1 Sam. 4:12–22 James 1:1–18 Matt. 19:23-30

June 26

1 Sam. 5:1–12 Acts 5:12-26 Luke 21:29-36

June 27

1 Sam. 6:1–16 Acts 5:27-42 Luke 21:37–22:13

June 28

1 Sam. 7:2–17 Acts 6:1–15 Luke 22:14-23

June 29

1 Sam. 8:1–22 Acts 6:15-7:16 Luke 22:24–30

June 30

1 Sam. 9:1–14 Acts 7:17-29 Luke 22:31–38



A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- · Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

- 1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
- 2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
- 3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
- 4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
- 5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.

JUDe

- 01 Amy Schafer
- 02 Amy Grammer
- 02 Joel Ritter
- 03 Ruth Cressman
- 05 Alyce Featherman
- 05 Roger Erney
- 05 Alison Stebbings
- 05 Miles Stebbings
- 06 Adele Gasda
- 08 Jean Cambiotti
- 08 Carol Eisenhart
- 09 Ellen Stetler
- 09 Sara Hovis
- 09 Morrison Hite
- 12 William Steele
- 12 Brooke Bittenbender
- 13 Nicole Schaffer
- 16 Gertrude Steinbach
- 17 LaVerna Diehl

- 18 Diane Jenny
- 18 Brenda Snyder
- 19 Amanda Y
- 24 Karen Talboo
- 25 Jennifer Schaffer
- 26 Monica Campbell
- 27 Deb Orach
- 27 Adam Bouc
- 27 Andrew Weidner
- 28 Rodney Koch
- 30 Damon Eltz



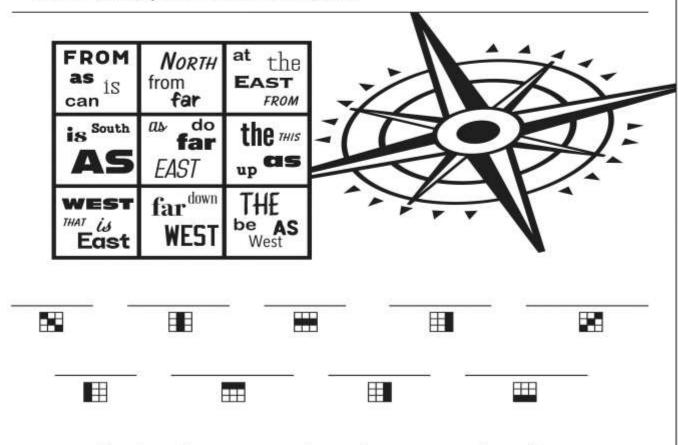
Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.



SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion. What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV