



FAITH

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.

 September 

10:15 a.m.—WORSHIP

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—2024 Consistory

Officers will be elected at meeting.

Elders

Kim Ritter
Joan Hassler

Melissa Shafer
Donna Schudel-Barone

Tom Hovis
Bruce torrence

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

There is no surprise in recognizing that attendance and participation in worship and church functions are declining over the years and certainly since the COVID pandemic. Your Consistory has been having a variety of conversations about addressing these realities.

I personally have done a lot of reading and research about church attendance across the denomination and throughout the country and participation among younger adults. While this is not true of every young adult, many are not interested in the traditional church programs. They are not moved by traditional hymns, organ music, or choir anthems. They are not even interested in Sunday School. They are not interested in finding a place to “belong.” They have found this need in community organizations. If they do have children their children’s activities and organizations (sports, dance, scouts) have taken up all of their time and energy to “belong.”

Not looking for more places to “belong,” they are moved by **causes** to support.

A Pew Research Poll showed that many millennials are turned off by the church because they perceive it as being:

- a. Too homophobic
- b. Overly concerned about money
- c. Ineffective in helping the poor
- d. Not caring enough about the environment

With all of this in mind, the Consistory established a new Committee and named it the Justice Committee (as all of these are issues of Justice) to address these issues in a very bold and public way. Members of this committee are:

- a. John Barone
- b. Donna Schudel Barone
- c. Melissa Shaffer
- d. Kevin Long
- e. Karen Long
- f. Patience Stevenson
- g. Heather Maginn
- h. Rose Mirth

At the first meeting the Justice Committee chose to tackle two issues for now:

- a. Increase Faith Church's visibility in the Community as an Open and Affirming Congregation. A new banner and frame has been purchased for the front of the church although it has not been set up yet.
- b. To continue planting native plants which are beneficial to the environment on church property.

The Committee felt that this addressed items A and D in their charge.

So, we are doing what we can to make our church more relevant to items that matter the most to a younger generation. It means that the future of the church will look different but it is not bleak. You are welcome to join the Justice Committee in their work! We hope this will be many new adventures as we re-define what it means to be God's Community.

Peace,

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!!

This year Sunday School will be held during the worship hour. Children will attend worship with parents then be dismissed for Sunday School following the Children's Sermon

CONFIRMATION IS COMING!

Another Class of Confirmands is about to begin this fall. Things have changed a bit and will continue to change as to how the Confirmation Program will take place.

What will not change is that Confirmation is a two-year program, students must be in the 7th grade to begin, and the Rite of Confirmation will take place on Pentecost Sunday in the Confirmands second year. Also, what will not change is that students will have a mentor during their second year to coach them to design and execute a Confirmation Project.

What will change is that rather than having a Sunday morning class during their first year the students will have a monthly class on Sunday evenings. Students will be required to attend weekly worship.

I want to talk to parents before I choose precisely which Sunday evening the class will meet. Youth have such busy schedules I want to hear from them first. Please plan on attending a short meeting after worship on **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY** on September 17th.

Peace,
Pastor Bruce

MISSION NEWS:

TREX BENCH PLASTIC COLLECTION

**After our first 2 months of collecting plastic for bench #3
we have a total of**

188 pounds.

We have until December 31 to collect another 312 pounds.

Keep that plastic coming!



Behold!

*“God saw everything God made
and behold, it was very good.”*

Genesis 1:31

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2023
ucc.org/nin

We will be taken up an offering for Neighbors in Need during September.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS
Head Usher : Kim Ritter Fin Sec: Bruce Torrence

Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers	Lawn
9/3	Cindy Talaber	Cindy Talaber	Tom Hovis	Schantz/Erney
9/10	Rose Mirth	Rose Mirth	Koch	Torrence/Koser
9/17	Sara & Tim Hovis	Barb Maursky	Talboo	Kevin Long
9/24	Rose Mirth		Horwath	Mirth Crew



FAITH FINANCIALS

June	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$15,664.13	\$107,204.66
Disbursements	\$21,716.18	\$120,393.73
	(\$6,052.05)	(\$13,153.07)

July	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$26,238.43	\$133,479.09
Disbursements	\$26,176.09	\$146,569.82
	\$62.34	(\$13,090.73)

MISSION NEWS

School Supplies for The Caring Place

**Thank you for you generous donations of school supplies.
They will be delivered to the Caring Place the first week in
September.**

Many thanks for your continued generous support of Betty Lou's Pantry! Our donations for the last two Sundays of June, the five Sundays of July and the first Sunday of August included 526 items.



ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

Hamburger, Chicken, or Tuna Helper
Chunky/Hearty Soup
Beef stew

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	Meat Helpers (Beef, Chicken, Tuna)
Pasta Side Dishes (Rice-A-Roni, Knorr's Rice)	

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](tel:610-282-2838) and leave a message, or email bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com —Mike Ford

Answer to Puzzle:
I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.—Philippians 1:3-4, NIV



SEPTEMBER BIBLE READINGS

September 1

1 Kings 5:1–6:1, 7
Acts 28:1–16
Mark 14:27–42

September 2

1 Kings 7:51–8:21
Acts 28:17–31
Mark 14:43–52

September 3

1 Kings 8:22–30 (31–
40)
1 Tim. 4:7b–16
John 8:47–59

September 4

2 Chron. 6:32–7:7
James 2:1–13
Mark 14:53–65

September 5

1 Kings 8:65–9:9
James 2:14–26
Mark 14:66–72

September 6

1 Kings 9:24–10:13
James 3:1–12
Mark 15:1–11

September 7

1 Kings 11:1–13
James 3:13–4:12
Mark 15:12–21

September 8

1 Kings 11:26–43
James 4:13–5:6
Mark 15:22–32

September 9

1 Kings 12:1–20
James 5:7–20
Mark 15:33–39

September 10

1 Kings 12:21–33
Acts 4:18–31
John 10:31–42

September 11

1 Kings 13:1–10
Phil. 1:1–11
Mark 15:40–47

September 12

1 Kings 16:23–34
Phil. 1:12–30
Mark 16:1–8 (9–20)

September 13

1 Kings 17:1–24
Phil. 2:1–11
Matt. 2:1–12

September 14

1 Kings 18:1–19
Phil. 2:12–30
Matt. 2:13–23

September 15

1 Kings 18:20–40
Phil. 3:1–16
Matt. 3:1–12

September 16

1 Kings 18:41–19:8
Phil. 3:17–4:7
Matt. 3:13–17

September 17

1 Kings 19:8–21
Acts 5:34–42
John 11:45–57

September 18

1 Kings 21:1–16
1 Cor. 1:1–19
Matt. 4:1–11

September 19

1 Kings 21:17–29
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Matt. 4:12–17

September 20

1 Kings 22:1–28
1 Cor. 2:1–13
Matt. 4:18–25

September 21

1 Kings 22:29–
45
1 Cor. 2:14–3:15
Matt. 5:1–10

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September 22
2 Kings 1:2–17
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Matt. 5:11–16

September 23
2 Kings 2:1–18
1 Cor. 4:1–7
Matt. 5:17–20

September 24
2 Kings 4:8–37
Acts 9:10–31
Luke 3:7–18

September 25
2 Kings 5:1–19
1 Cor. 4:8–21
Matt. 5:21–26

September 26
2 Kings 5:19–27
1 Cor. 5:1–8
Matt. 5:27–37

September 27
2 Kings 6:1–23
1 Cor. 5:9–6:11
Matt. 5:38–48

September 28
2 Kings 9:1–16
1 Cor. 6:12–20
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

September 29
2 Kings 9:17–37
1 Cor. 7:1–9
Matt. 6:7–15

September 30
2 Kings 11:1–20a
1 Cor. 7:10–24
Matt. 6:19–24



Mission News: A Special shout out goes to all the volunteers that assisted the families at the pantry during August distributions. Each Saturday there were 44 families served by these Faith Members: **Doris, Sandi, Rose, Elaine, Kim, Faye, Sue, Jean, Cindy, Jerry, Bob, Tim, & Tony!** It was a day helping all of these families fill their food needs. They are very appreciative of the help they received! Thank you for giving of your time and yourself to serve our neighbors in need.



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

September Birthdays

01 Anna Tilley

03 Iris Shelly

03 John Barone

03 Adriana Muth

03 Tim Long

05 Pauline Kemmerer

06 Nathan Smith

06 Paul Stebbings

09 Patti Shelly

10 Carol Beck

10 Olivia Muth

12 Donna Schudel-Barone

14 Howard Barrick

14 Patricia Bley

17 Cindy Talaber

17 Kate Jellison

18 Donna Herndon

21 Carrie Fosbenner

23 Cathy Wimmer

23 Diane Talaber

26 Susan Roberts

26 Erin Gollie

27 Abby Muth

28 Michael DiSanto

28 Damyn Allison

29 Ruth Smith

29 Eric Fosbenner

Please let Sandy know
of any omissions or
corrections.





A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA



— R — G — S — Z — M — P — N — B — T — L — W —

— V — E — V — I — B — G — R — N — V — R —

— I — V — N — V — N — Y — V — I — B — L — F —

— R — M — Z — O — O — N — B —

— K — I — Z — B — V — I — H — U — L — I — Z — O — O —

— L — U — B — L — F — , — R — Z — O — D — Z — B — H —

— K — I — Z — B — D — R — G — S — Q — L — B —

— K — S — R — O — R — K — K — R — Z — M — H —

1:3-4, NIV