



# *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.*



10:15 a.m.—WORSHIP

Sunday School is held during a portion of church.

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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## **2023—2024 Consistory**

President—Tom Hovis, Vice President—Bruce Torrence

Secretary- Joan Hassler

### **Elders**

Kim Ritter

Melissa Shafer

Tom Hovis

Joan Hassler

Donna Schudel-Barone

Bruce Torrence

**Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine**

### **Liaisons:**

Worship & Music—Joan Hassler

Christian Ed—Donna Schudel Barone

Fundraising—Tom Hovis

Budget & Finance—Bruce Torrence

Memorial & Enduring Gifts—Bruce Torrence

Property—Tom Hovis

Mission—Kim Ritter

Justice—Melissa Shafer



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

We're about to enter November; the first month of three in which we celebrate three of the biggest holidays of the year; Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. November is Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving, as any holiday, has certain traditions but every person who celebrates it has different traditions. Perhaps the only thing that remains constant is a big meal that includes turkey. Where it is shared, with whom it is shared, when it is shared, and/or what the sides are on the table are anyone's guess. Growing up there was always squash on the table. After meeting Patience and spending Thanksgiving with her family by the insistence of her father turnips were always on the table ... until which time we realized that it was parsnips that he wanted on the menu (or was it the other way around?).

Holidays are about traditions and not only are our traditions different, they often change. My traditions changed each time someone in my family went through a life change; college, job, marriage, etc. Traditions changed again as our children got older and now that Ethan is married there aren't any firm traditions. It seems that every year we celebrate differently. However, we continue to celebrate.

The church has its own traditions; how we do communion, baptism, confirmation, Sunday School, youth groups, etc. etc. etc. Sometimes traditions serve us well as they remind us of the meanings behind what we do. But there are other times when they fail us, keep us stuck in the past or present, and unable to prepare for the future.

I recently attended the PNEC Ministry Day, an annual workshop for the authorized ministers in the PNEC. Long story short, a lot of information/statistics were presented about how society has changed over the last 10 years but the church has not. What we once thought was essential to make a church relevant, vibrant, exciting, and a meaningful community has changed. It has changed because the world has changed and the church must change with it. Please consider this: Why should the church focus so much energy on programs that were so exciting in the past that people seem to have little interest in the present? The church cannot compete with programs in the community that people have decided are more meaningful or important to their lives. So, let's stop competing and learn how to do ministry differently.

I'm still mulling over the information that was shared with me on Ministry Day and in time I will share it with you at committee meetings and through these articles but perhaps the bottom line is the church must take a hard look at who is living in our neighborhood and what will meet their needs. Maybe it's not traditional things like a Sunday School, a youth group, a choir, organ music, or even church weddings. Maybe it's a way to engage in mission. We have a lot to figure out — like it or not, our community has changed.

Peace,

*Pastor Emma*



# ***PENNY PARTY***

***Faith UCC  
5992 Route 378  
Center Valley, PA 18034***

***Sunday, November 5, 2023***

***12 pm Doors Open***

***Lunch & Desserts available for purchase***

***1 pm Games Begin***

***\$5/bag of 70 tickets***

***Over 300 items auctioned  
all priced from 1¢ - 25¢***



***Bring your coins!***

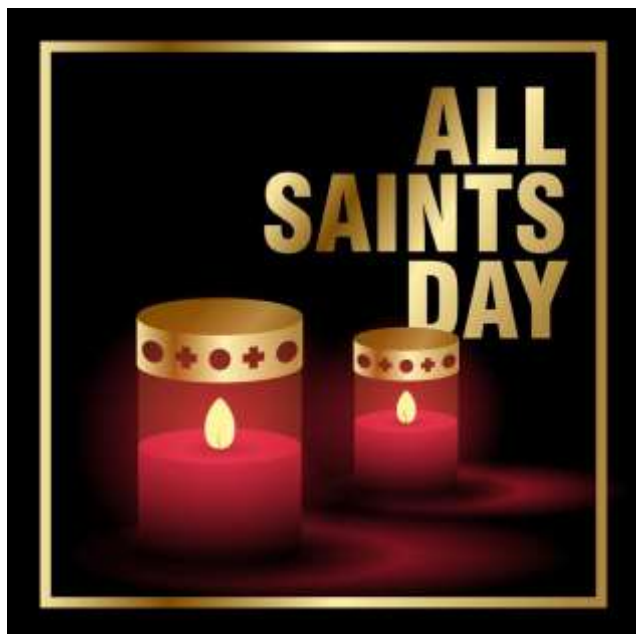
***Door Prizes  
Basket Raffles***

# ALL SAINTS DAY

## Sunday, November 5, 2022

On All Saints Sunday we honor our members and friends who have gone to their eternal rest during this past year.

During the All Saints Service of Worship we take time to celebrate the life that has gone on. We pay homage by naming them and sounding a chime.



## SOUP & BAKE GOODS SALE

The Fundraising Committee will sell soup and baked goods on Election Day, November 7<sup>th</sup> during voting. We are asking for donations of individually wrapped baked goods that the voters can take along with them. If you are able to donate baked goods or help to man the kitchen anytime throughout the day please see Michele Keeler or call her at 610-653-6845.

Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.)

Puzzle Answers:  
seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving



## Youth, Come to the Table!

Once again, we are offering the Children and Communion Program for children in grades 2 and above.

Recognizing that appropriate training and education is vital to grasping an understanding of the sacrament, a course of instruction will be offered on the following dates; **November 12, 19, and 26<sup>th</sup>**. Each class will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be one hour.

The following are required:

- Children must be in the second grade or older to participate in the preparation program.
- At least one parent, preferably both, must participate with their child.
- Children must attend all 3 preparations sessions.

If you are interested in having your children participate, please fill out a registration form available from Pastor Bruce or [click here](#) to complete it online by November 5th.

Youth will receive their First Communion the first Sunday of Advent, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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# Congregational Meeting



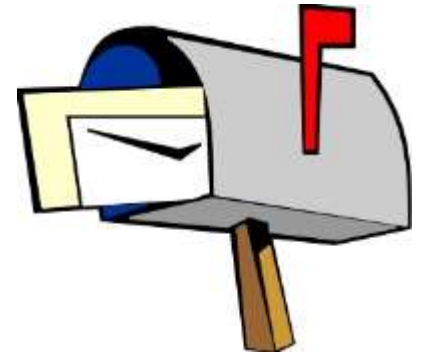
**Sunday  
November 19, 2023**

A Congregational Meeting  
will be held to

- Approve a budget for 2024
  - Elect **Scott Christman & Tara Koehnlein** to a second 3-year term as members of the Memorial and Enduring Gifts Committee
  - Elect **Deb Herstine** to a second 3-year term as Treasurer
- 

**To My Church Family,**

**Thank you all for your kind words and condolences during this difficult time. Your support has been a source of comfort and strength for me and my family. I am deeply touched by your expressions of sympathy.**



**Bonnie Stenroos**

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## Thanksgiving Humor

Why did the turkey decline dessert? **Because it was stuffed.**

Why didn't the chef season the turkey? **There wasn't enough thyme.**

Why did the turkey leave the band? **People were fighting over the drumsticks.**

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner? **Your nose.**

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## **Boy Scout Food Drive**

**Saturday,  
November 11, 2023**

**The Boy Scout  
Food Drive  
is right  
around the corner.**

Keep watching for a shopping bag on your front steps next week.

The Boy Scouts will be leaving a bag on your step that you can fill with food items for Betty Lou's Pantry. Please leave on your steps by 8 am Saturday morning, Nov 11. If no one picks up your donation, please bring it to Faith Church on Sunday or deliver it 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.

This is our most important Food Drive. We depend on your generosity in order to provide food for our neighbors in need.

All foods on the list attached to the shopping bag are needed. But the main food needs at this time include:

Spaghetti Sauce

Tuna Fish

Side Dishes

Baked Beans

Meal Helpers/Manwich

Soups

**Thank you for your generous support of  
Betty Lou's Pantry.**



I hope you have all been enjoying our pollinator gardens this past spring, summer and fall. (Thanks again for those who've helped water and weed.) I have exciting news about our next native plant project - a Native Plant Demonstration Garden! Over the next year we hope to transform the grassy area between the side door to the sanctuary and

the parking lot into a Native Plant Demonstration Garden. With a generous donation from the Memorial and Enduring Gifts Fund in memory of Evelyn Hovis we will begin Stage 1 in early November. The landscaper from Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery will be planting 3 new trees during the week of November 6th (weather permitting.) Stage 2 will be preparing the site for spring planting by employing sheet mulching this fall once the trees are in place. Stage 3 will be planting native trees and shrubs in the spring. We have applied for a grant from the Penn Northeast Conference to fund Stage 3. We won't know the exact amount of the grant we will receive until after their October 25th meeting. However, if we employ sheet mulching instead of having the landscaper remove the grass we can save a substantial amount of money and demonstrate how to transform our own lawns into gardens!

We need your help to collect and save newspaper, (free of glossy inserts and magazines) large pieces of brown cardboard (free of staples and tape), leaves, leaf mulch and compost to use once the landscaper has planted the trees early next month. If you are interested, please plan on joining us for the "Sheet Mulching Party" November 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>. During this event we will lay down the cardboard, wet it and top it with leaves, leaf mulch and compost. Please contact Patience Stevenson at 610-248-5587 or [patiencestevenson@rcn.com](mailto:patiencestevenson@rcn.com) if you have questions or wish to help with the Sheet Mulching Party. Watch this space for more updates.



# Faith UCC Jewelry Fundraiser

Time to clean out your jewelry box!

Donate your unwanted, broken and unused Jewelry to  
Faith UCC, Center Valley.

Proceeds benefit our church's ministry.

The following items will be accepted:

Necklaces

Bracelets

Pins

Watches

Cufflinks

Broken Pieces

Earrings (Including Singles)

Costume Jewelry

Any Gold or Silver Jewelry Items

Place all donations in a ziplock bag with your name &  
phone #. A collection box will be in the Narthex  
beginning November 19 through December 17.

Please share this fundraiser with family,  
friends and neighbors.

Questions: Contact Karen Talboo at [cktalboo@gmail.com](mailto:cktalboo@gmail.com)

## TREX Bench Plastic Recycling Update

The following amounts of plastic have been reported to TREX.  
All plastic has been dropped off at Giant in Coopersburg.

August:	188 pounds
September:	68 pounds
October:	<u>105 pounds</u>
Total:	<b>361 pounds</b>

We Still Need **139 pounds** to reach our Goal of **500 pounds**.



This goal must be met by December 31, 2023. It is amazing the amount of plastic it takes to fill just 1 large garbage bag. It's difficult to imagine the thousands of pounds that are currently floating in our oceans. Let us continue to work together to keep our oceans free of this pollution and keep our ocean friends safe.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**The Church Office is CLOSED  
on Thursday, November 23rd  
in observance of Thanksgiving.**





## **Holiday Hope Chests** **Organized by the Volunteer Center of the** **Lehigh Valley**

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 29. Our goal is to provide 50 Holiday Hope Chests. Hope you can help us with this special mission.

**Filled boxes will need to be returned by Sunday, November 26.**  
**Details and suggestions are included with each box mission.**

### **Information for Youth 13+**

If you prefer to give items for a child that is 13 or older the Volunteer Center suggests \$25 gift cards from the following stores:

**Amazon      VISA/Mastercard      Walmart      Target**

Gift cards of \$5-10 can be included in the HHC for younger children as well. All ages can benefit from new toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo, etc.

Check out other donation suggestions at: [www.volunteerlv.org/holiday-hope-chests](http://www.volunteerlv.org/holiday-hope-chests)

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## **Gift Cards Needed for BLP Children and Seniors**

For the last few years we have collected money from the community to purchase gift cards for the families who receive supplemental food from the pantry. Last year we received enough donations 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 **2023 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 December 11.**

Thank you for your previous donations and blessings to all.

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**Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!**

**Poinsettias can be purchased for \$10 a plant.**

**Call the church office with your order by November 26th!**

## NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

### Head Usher: Mike Ford

| Date  | Ushers                        | Lay Reader              | Flowers  | Fin. Sec.     |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 11/05 | Bob and Patti Shelly          | Joan Hassler            | Roberts  | Bob Shelly    |
| 11/12 | George Rau<br>Cindy Talaber   | Cindy Talaber           | Berghold | Tom Hovis     |
| 11/19 | Chuck & Karen<br>Talboo       | Karen Talboo            | Trexler  | Tony DiSanto  |
| 11/26 | Faye Tirpak<br>Linda Torrence | Donna Schudel<br>Barone | Mirth    | Jerry Trexler |

## FAITH FINANCIALS



| September     | Month               | YTD                  |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Receipts      | \$16,005.65         | \$165,387.64         |
| Disbursements | \$22,098.09         | \$186,516.57         |
|               | <b>(\$6,092.44)</b> | <b>(\$21,137.93)</b> |

### Special Offerings:

Neighbors in Need—\$85      Maui Fires—\$120  
 OCWM—\$10      Samaritan Fund—\$280  
 Betty Lou's Pantry—\$25



**Many thanks for your continued generous support of Betty Lou's Pantry! Our donations for the last two Sundays of September and the first two Sundays of October included 277 items.**

**ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:**

**CANNED TUNA  
KNORR'S OR RICE-A-RONI  
JELLY (NOT GRAPE)**

**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](mailto:bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com) —Mike Ford



## ***NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS***

### **November 1**

Isa. 26:1–4, 8–9,  
12–13, 19–21  
Rev. 21:9–11, 22–27  
(22:1–5)  
Matt. 5:1–12

### **November 2**

Neh. 1:1–11  
Rev. 5:11–6:11  
Matt. 13:18–23

### **November 3**

Neh. 2:1–20  
Rev. 6:12–7:4  
Matt. 13:24–30

### **November 4**

Neh. 4:1–23  
Rev. 7:(4–8) 9–17  
Matt. 13:31–35

### **November 5**

Neh. 5:1–9  
Acts 20:7–12  
Luke 12:22–31

### **November 6**

Neh. 6:1–19  
Rev. 10:1–11  
Matt. 13:36–43

### **November 7**

Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–  
47  
Rev. 11:1–19  
Matt. 13:44–52

### **November 8**

Neh. 13:4–22  
Rev. 12:1–12  
Matt. 13:53–58

### **November 9**

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26  
Rev. 14:1–13  
Matt. 14:1–12

### **November 10**

Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36  
Rev. 15:1–8  
Matt. 14:13–21

### **November 11**

Ezra 9:1–15  
Rev. 17:1–14  
Matt. 14:22–36

### **November 12**

Ezra 10:1–17  
Acts 24:10–21  
Luke 14:12–24

### **November 13**

Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)  
Rev. 18:1–8  
Matt. 15:1–20

### **November 14**

Neh. 9:26–38  
Rev. 18:9–20  
Matt. 15:21–28

### **November 15**

Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18  
Rev. 18:21–24  
Matt. 15:29–39

### **November 16**

Neh. 6:1–19  
Rev. 19:1–10  
Matt. 16:1–12

### **November 17**

Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–  
47  
Rev. 19:11–16  
Matt. 16:13–20

### **November 18**

Neh. 13:4–22  
Rev. 20:1–6  
Matt. 16:21–28

### **November 19**

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26  
Acts 28:14b–23  
Luke 16:1–13

### **November 20**

Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36  
Rev. 20:7–15  
Matt. 17:1–13

## November 21

Ezra 9:1–15  
Rev. 21:1–8  
Matt. 17:14–21

## November 22

Ezra 10:1–17  
Rev. 21:9–21  
Matt. 17:22–27

## November 23

Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)  
Rev. 21:22–22:5  
Matt. 18:1–9

## November 24

Neh. 9:26–38  
Rev. 22:6–13  
Matt. 18:10–20

## November 25

Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18  
Rev. 22:14–21  
Matt. 18:21–35

## November 26

Isa. 19:19–25  
Rom. 15:5–13  
Luke 19:11–27

## November 27

Joel 3:1–2, 9–17  
1 Peter 1:1–12  
Matt. 19:1–12

## November 28

Nahum 1:1–13  
1 Peter 1:13–25  
Matt. 19:13–22

## November 29

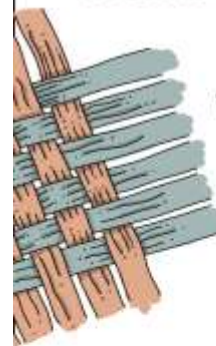
Obad. 15–21  
1 Peter 2:1–10  
Matt. 19:23–30

## November 30

Zeph. 3:1–13  
1 Peter 2:11–25  
Matt. 20:1–16



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

### What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!

# November Birthdays

01 Zackery Campbell

11 Steve Sosnowsky

01 Sadie Shafer

15 Kevin Long

02 Russ Shelly

16 Zachary Long

03 Jessica Schaffer

18 Nicole Gasda

04 Catherine Stevenson

22 Nolan Ryan

05 Glenn Gunkle

25 Rebecca Hite

05 Emma Hardy

26 Eric Koch

06 Joseph Orach

27 Ryenn Amato

08 Bruce Keeler

11 Tootie Koch

Please contact us about corrections  
or omissions to the list.



Fill in the blank: “Rejoice always,  
pray continually, give \_\_\_\_\_ in all  
circumstances; for this is God’s will  
for you in Christ Jesus.”

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings

# PUZZLE THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected.  
 When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow  
 generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the  
 words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_



Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_



The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_



Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also



supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

\_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

