



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

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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.*

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,

Jigsaw puzzles come in a variety of designs, sizes, and number of pieces but one thing that they all have in common is that no matter how complex the design or how many pieces there are, if just one piece is missing it is *incomplete*.

Many of you know that I like to cook and just recently produced the yearly Stevenson Thanksgiving Feast. To me there are some items that simply *must* be on the menu. If one item is missing, then it is *not* Thanksgiving. Now it's okay to alter some items. For example, trying a new stuffing recipe is okay providing there is stuffing on the menu. Every year people in the family say, "You don't need to make so much food!" but without each item it simply wouldn't be Thanksgiving. The meal would *be incomplete*. By the way, all the food gets eaten. It may take a week's worth of leftover dishes, but nothing goes to waste! J

I think the practice of faith is like a jigsaw puzzle or that big traditional holiday meal; many essential pieces in order for it to be complete. I am writing to you in the middle of the Advent Season, a season of preparation, and it is likely that you will read this just before or after Christmas. Advent will be over. Advent has four essential elements, represented by a candle, and a fifth candle to represent Christ. Those four advent candles represent hope, peace, love, and joy. These are the four essential ingredients to fully prepare for the arrival of Christ. In other words, the Christ Candle does not get lit unless the hope, peace, love, and joy candles are lit first.

Where do you find hope? Where do you find peace? Where do you find love? Where do you find joy? Will you allow those four in-

redients to help you to find the Christ child?

Many times, I find it difficult to find hope, experience peace, know love, or express joy. As a result, my Christmas experience which I should celebrate daily is denied. Perhaps it is too much to find hope, peace, love, and joy every single day. Perhaps it is enough to find just two out of four?

WRONG! Never settle for 50% of what Christ brings when 100% is always available!

I will acknowledge that there are days when it is hard to hope let alone find hope. There are days when it is hard to feel at peace, loved, or joy. We all have days or moments like that. When they come, we simply have to change how we approach the issue.

“I don’t see any hope.” Maybe you’ve forgotten what hope looks like. Where did you last see hope? When did you last feel hope?

“I don’t feel at peace.” When did you last experience peace? Under what circumstances did peace come to you?

“I don’t feel love. I’m neither loved or able to love. I am an empty vessel when it comes to love.” Who or what made you feel loved and/or empowered you to love in the past?

“Life stinks. I am completely and utterly sad. There is no joy in me.” What gave you joy in the past?

Go back to the sources of hope, peace, love, and joy in your life and keep them alive throughout the days, weeks, and months in a

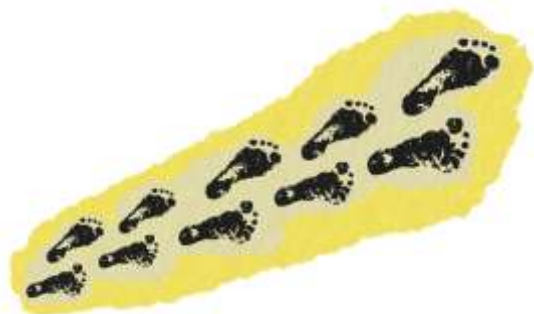
year. Then you can live with the Christ candle burning brightly, all 5 candles of this recent advent season. Then you will be *complete!*

Peace,



RESOLVE TO GO MICRO

Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.



Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!

Puzzle Answer:
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

To my Church Family,

Thank you all for the cards and prayers I've received. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

I miss you all and wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

Sherry Meluskey



Bingo Correction:

Spring Bingo will be held on the original date of April 28, 2024. Please disregard the previous date change.

*January 7, 2024
1st Sunday after Epiphany
Communion*

*January 9, 2024
Closing date for 2023 offering.*

FAITH FINANCIALS



November	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$24,699.14	\$217,878.38
Disbursements	\$20,715.38	\$233,888.16
	\$3,983.76	(\$16,009.78)

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS
Head Usher & Financial Secretary: Tom Hovis

Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers
1/07	Donna Schoenberger Brenda Hovis Deb Herstine Rose Mirth	Donna Schoenberger	tbd
1/14	Brett & Sonya Dill	Cindy Talaber	tbd
1/21	Catherine Stevenson Kim Ritter	Patience Stevenson	tbd
1/28	Tim & Sara Hovis	Karen Talboo	tbd

The Souper Bowl of Sharing has a new name -
The “Cereal” Bowl of Sharing!

Betty Lou’s Pantry is in desperate need of cereal!!
 Instead of collecting soup this month, we are going to be
 collecting boxes of CEREAL!

Let’s see how many boxes of CEREAL we can get to help out
 our neighbors in need from **January 14th to February 11th.**





Many **thanks for your continued generous support of Betty Lou's Pantry!** Our donations for the last two Sundays of November and the first two Sundays of December included **319 items.**

ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

**CEREAL
SPAGHETTI SAUCE
MEAT HELPERS
JAM, JELLY (NO 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 —*Mike Ford*



DECEMBER BIBLE READINGS

January 1

Isa. 62:1–5, 10–12

Rev. 19:11–16

Matt. 1:18–25

January 2

1 Kgs. 19:1–8

Eph. 4:1–16

John 6:1–14

January 3

1 Kgs. 19:9–18

Eph. 4:17–32

John 6:15–27

January 4

Josh. 3:14–4:7

Eph. 5:1–20

John 9:1–12, 35–38

January 5

Jonah 2:2–9

Eph. 6:10–20

John 11:17–27, 38–44

January 6

Isa. 49:1–7

Rev. 21:22–27

Matt. 12:14–21

January 7

Gen. 1:1–2:3

Eph. 1:3–14

John 1:29–34

January 8

Gen. 2:4–25

Heb. 1:1–14

John 1:1–18

January 9

Gen. 3:1–24

Heb. 2:1–10

John 1:19–28

January 10

Gen. 4:1–16

Heb. 2:11–18

John 1:(29–34) 35–42

January 11

Gen. 4:17–26

Heb. 3:1–11

John 1:43–51

January 12

Gen. 6:1–8

Heb. 3:12–19

John 2:1–12

January 13

Gen. 6:9–22

Heb. 4:1–13

John 2:13–22

January 14

Gen. 7:1–10, 17–23

Eph. 4:1–16

Mark 3:7–19

January 15

Gen. 8:6–22

Heb. 4:14—5:6

John 2:23—3:15

January 16

Gen. 9:1–17

Heb. 5:7–14

John 3:16–21

January 17

Gen. 9:18–29

Heb. 6:1–12

John 3:22–36

January 18

Gen. 11:1–9

Heb. 6:13–20

John 4:1–15

January 19

Gen. 11:27—12:8

Heb. 7:1–17

John 4:16–26

January 20

Gen. 12:9—13:1

Heb. 7:18–28

John 4:27–42

January 21

Gen. 13:2–18

Gal. 2:1–10

Mark 7:31–37

January 22
Gen. 14:(1-7) 8
-24
Heb. 8:1-13
John 4:43-54

January 23
Gen. 15:1-11,
17-21
Heb. 9:1-14
John 5:1-18

January 24
Gen. 16:1-14
Heb. 9:15-28
John 5:19-29

January 25
Gen. 16:15-
17:14
Heb. 10:1-10
John 5:30-47

January 26
Gen. 17:15-27
Heb. 10:11-25
John 6:1-15

January 27
Gen. 18:1-16
Heb. 10:26-39
John 6:16-27

January 28
Gen. 18:16-33
Gal. 5:13-25
Mark 8:22-30

January 29
Gen. 19:1-17
(18-23) 24-29
Heb. 11:1-12
John 6:27-40

January 30
Gen. 21:1-21
Heb. 11:13-22
John 6:41-51

January 31
Gen. 22:1-18
Heb. 11:23-31
John 6:52-59

Sprinkle and split

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.



January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Eric Schoenberger | 22 Koltin Leh |
| 01 Justin Koser | 25 Matthew Talboo |
| 04 Jameson Hughes | 27 Luke Schafer |
| 04 Liam Shelly | 27 Riley Snyder |
| 05 Rose Mirth | 28 Ronald Stoffey |
| 05 John Marple | 30 Leah Connors |
| 09 Dennis Eisenhart | 31 Gail Clark |
| 10 Jared Gunther | 31 Matthew Allison |
| 10 Preston Amato | |
| 13 Joan Hassler | |
| 13 Thomas Heineman | |
| 15 Andrew Sosnowsky | |
| 15 Jerry Trexler | |
| 16 Robin Davis | |
| 19 Dwayne Schantz | |
| 21 Richard J Featherman | |
| 22 Christian Heaps | |
| 22 Christian Miller | |



Please contact with corrections or omissions to the list.



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			



- The second Monday _____
- The last Monday _ _
- The 16th _____
- One day before the 20th _ _
- The day before the first Friday _ _
- The last weekday of the second week _____
- The day after the 20th _ _
- The day after 18th _ _
- The first day of the second weekend _
- The last Sunday _ _ _
- The last day of the month _____

