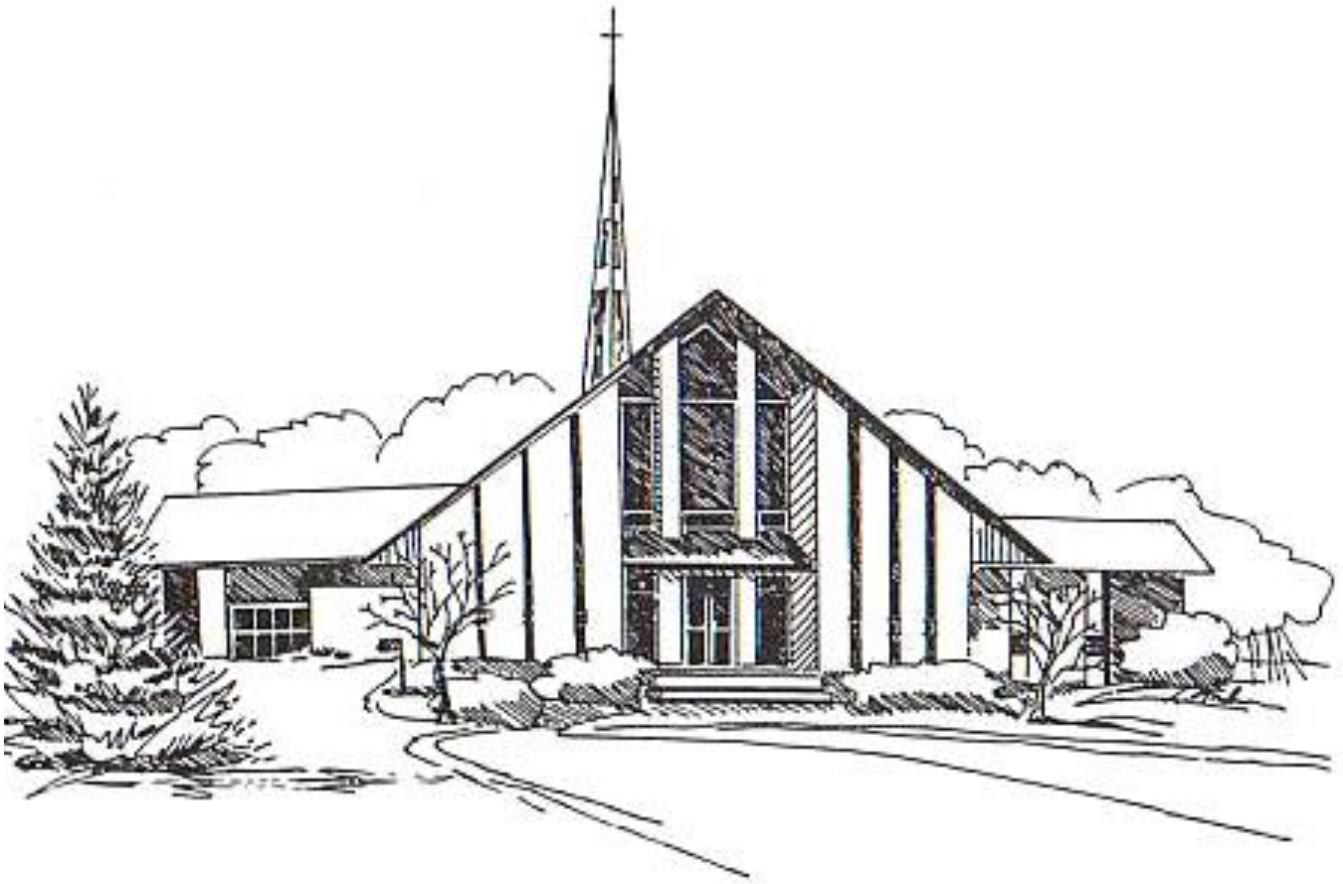


# **FAITH**

## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**5992 Route 378**  
**Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034**  
**610.282.3939**

**Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Lead Pastor**  
**Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist-Director of Music**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 14, 2024**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

**A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE**

*Risen Christ, create in us a clean heart so that we can meditate in your peace; abide in your mercy; be filled with your justice; and be made new by your love. In your name, we pray. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP**

\* **OPENING HYMN: *I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD* 12**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.

**People: "Peace be with you."**

Pastor: When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.

**People: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"**

Pastor: Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells within us.

**People: Let our lives be witnesses of these things.**

Pastor: Help us to be instruments of Christ's peace to all in need of God's healing love.

**REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

\* **CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new. Where there is hate, show your love.**

**Where there is war, bring your peace. Where there is despair, bring your hope. Where there is fear, bring your understanding. Where there is scarcity, bring your abundance. Where there is systemic oppression, bring equal justice for all. By your perfect grace and mercy, make us new. May it be so. Amen.**

**\* THE KYRIE 750**

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips.

**People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.**

**\* THE GLORIA PATRI 759**

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\* WE SHARE PEACE: I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER 478**

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,**

**I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,**

**I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**LEARNING ABOUT GOD**

**THE CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

Old Testament: Psalm 4

New Testament: Luke 24:36b – 48

**DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL**

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**We believe in God above us,  
Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in Christ beside us,  
Companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of  
our universe.**

**We believe in Spirit deep within us,  
Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.**

**We believe in God's resurrection created world,  
Where all things are fixed, and all creation fits together in  
vibrant harmonies.**

**We believe in God above, beside, within,  
God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in  
three,**

**We believe in God.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION**

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy:

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in Christ you taught us to pray, and  
promised that we would receive all that we ask in his  
name.

**People: Hear now our prayers:**

Pastor: for the church universal ...  
for this congregation, its mission and ministry ...  
for the healing of the earth ...  
for peace and justice in the world ...  
for nations and leaders ...

for our local community ...  
for the poor and oppressed ...  
for the bereaved and lonely ...

*Other special needs may be mentioned here.*

Guide us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, that all of our prayers and all of our lives may serve your will and show your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

**Unison: Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

### **THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING**

Pastor: All are invited to give joyously to the church that bears witness to Christ's love.

**People: Let us give with a joyful heart.**

Pastor: God's loving generous love has given us every good and gracious gift.

**People: We offer our gratitude for God's abundant blessings in our lives.**

Pastor: Now, let us be a blessing to others in the ways that God has faithfully and generously blessed us.

### **OFFERTORY**

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM: UNTO THEE, O LORD**

#### **\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY**

**780**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

\* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful witnesses to your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation.

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* **CLOSING HYMN: *CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE  
FOUNDATION***

400

\* **BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

\* **MEDITATION**

*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted into our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruits of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

\* **POSTLUDE**

\*Would those who are able please stand.

**CHOIR ANTHEM: UNTO THEE, O LORD - V. Ford**

Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul, do I lift up my soul, O my God, I trust in Thee. Show me Thy ways, lead me in Thy truth, Teach me Thy paths for Thou art the God of my salvation, Thou art the God of my salvation. Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul, O my God, I trust in Thee.

**Welcome to Faith Church this Third Sunday of Easter.** We are glad to have you worshiping with us. May our time together serve as an inspiration for the days and weeks ahead. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads provided for you in the pews.

**The altar flowers this morning are presented by Rose Mirth in memory of Genevieve McAndrew on her birthday.**

**Please join us in Fellowship Hall for Make Your Own Salad and PIE Sunday! A free will offering will be taken for One Great Hour of Sharing.**

**Spring Bingo tickets are available!**

**Next Sunday our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Katharine, Executive Director of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. Following worship she will conduct a workshop on financial stewardship. Everyone is invited to attend! We will enjoy lunch before the workshop. Please bring a covered dish to share. If you plan to attend, please let the pastor know so we can plan accordingly.**

## **CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 pm**

**Apollo Piano Trio with guest violist, Misha Amory.**

**Tickets may be purchased in advance after worship from music director Dennis Duda TODAY for a special reduced price of \$20 for church members. Single tickets on April 21 will be available at the door for \$35. All students may attend free of charge.**

# CALENDAR

Office Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 9 am to 4 pm; Friday Closed

- Today**           - **10:15 am Worship/Sunday School**
- **Joyful Noise Collection**
- **Make Your Own Salad/Pie Sunday**
- Monday**         - **Sandy works remotely**
- **7:00 pm Budget & Finance Meeting**
- Tuesday**       - **9:00 am Pastor’s Meeting**
- **2:00 pm Faith in Stitches**
- Thursday**      - **7:00 Consistory Meeting**
- Friday**          - **Office Closed; Pastor’s Day Off**
- Sunday**         - **9:30 Choir Rehearsal**
- **10:15 am Worship/Sunday School**
- **Guest Speaker Katharine Yarnell**
- **Stewardship Workshop**
- **3:00 pm Chamber Music Concert**

*Thanks to our volunteers:*

	<b>April 14</b>	<b>April 21</b>
Head Usher:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Ushers:	Kim Ritter Deb Herstine	Bob & Patti Shelly
Lay Reader:	Barb Maursky	Brenda Hovis
Sunday School:	Rose Mirth Catherine Stevenson	No Sunday School
Financial Sec:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Altar Flowers:	Rose Mirth	Bob & Patti Shelly

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 Sandy on Mondays: 610-967-6232  
 Pastor: 610-248-5586; [Pastor@faithchurchucc.org](mailto:Pastor@faithchurchucc.org)  
 Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; [ddduda@verizon.net](mailto:ddduda@verizon.net)