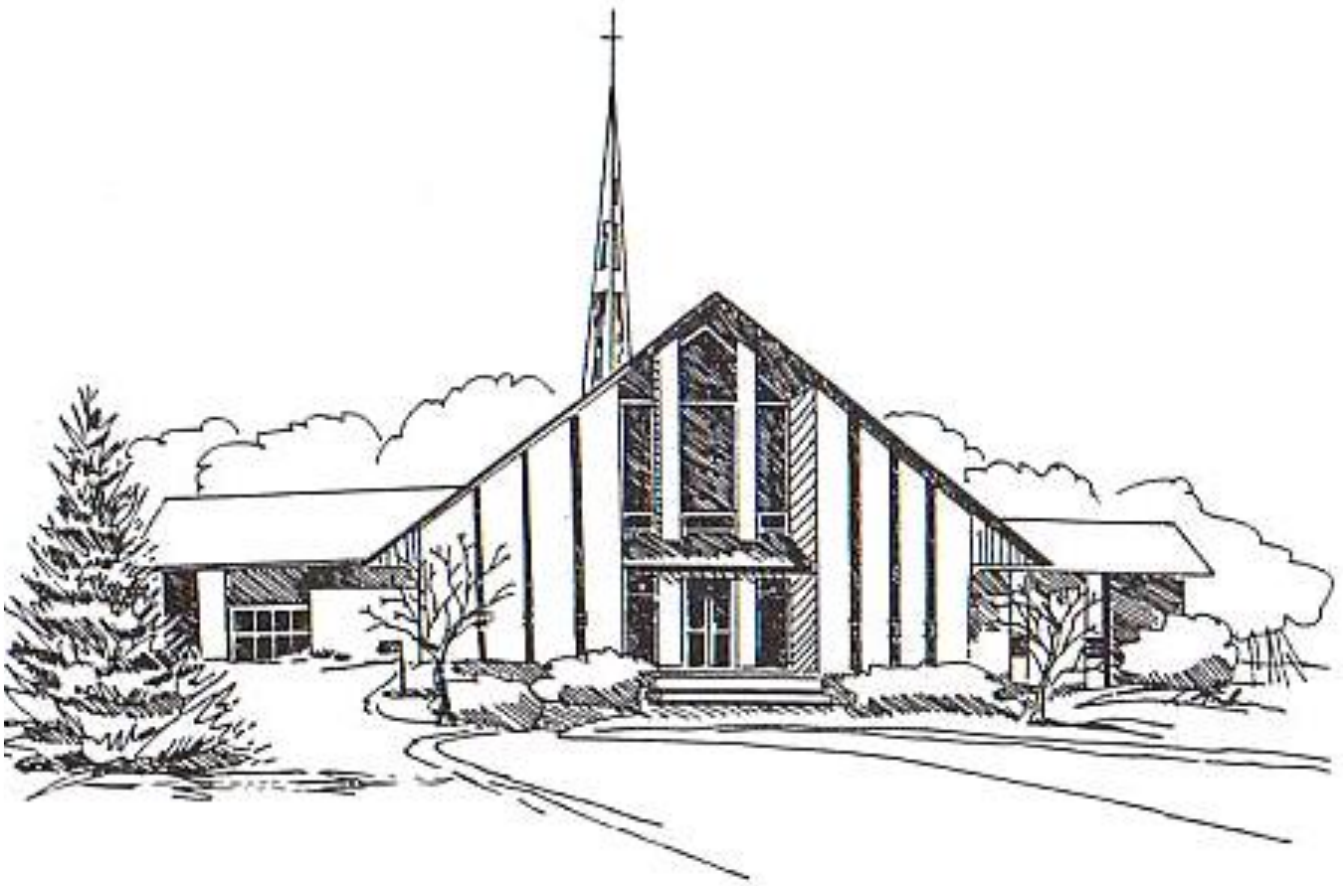


FAITH

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
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 21, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Holy God, you sent us Jesus as our comforter and guide. We give you thanks for the ways he cares for us. Help us be empowered to join him in protecting the oppressed and marginalized. We pray this in gratitude for your provision. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: AH, HOLY JESUS**

218

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.

People: When we are lost and lonely, we can depend on Christ's love.

Pastor: When we are oppressed, Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for us.

People: When we are threatened because of who we are, we can depend on Christ's protection.

Pastor: We know Christ, because Christ's tenderness has guided us for generations.

People: Christ knows us by name. Christ will lay down his very life for our sake.

Pastor: Let us worship our Good Shepherd, who cares for all of us with fierce love.

People: Let us give thanks for Christ's presence with us.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Shepherding Christ, even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren't always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you. 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: Beloved of God, receive this comfort. It is impossible to respond to every need in this complicated world. A full life of faith gives us the grace to lay down our work, take the rest we need, then refocus our energy toward the cause of the oppressed. Rest in the shelter of your Good Shepherd, knowing you can take up the cause again with restored souls.

People: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

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: Haggai 2:9

New Testament: John 10:11 – 18

HYMN: SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

252

SERMON: *What Motivates Different Generations in the Church*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**Your light is the only light we need
as we travel through life's mystery
Your word the only voice we hear
that still small voice that leads us
to the place where we should be
Your presence is the only company we need
as we walk this narrow road
Your fellowship the warmth we crave
to help us on our way
May the truth of Easter
The joy of Easter
And the blessings of Easter
Be with us this day and all days
Amen**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: O God, with faces touched by the light of a new day,

and hearts warmed by our prayers and praises, we come before you to pray for the needs of our world.

Into the light of Easter morning we raise those who are struggling with illness, with despair over their lives, or with the breakdown of relationships. May the light of Christ shine upon them. May the light of Christ shine upon them.

Into the light of Easter morning, we bring those places in our world where war, violence, poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life.

(These places may be named)

May the light of Christ shine upon them. May the light of Christ shine upon them.

Into the light of this Easter season, we bring the headline news of this weekend: we hold in our hearts the pain of those suffering violence, bereavement or conflict. May the light of Christ shine upon them. May the light of Christ shine upon them.

And into the light of this Easter season we bring ourselves, the private struggles, the heart's yearnings, the hidden dreams, the unfulfilled potential. May the light of Christ shine upon us. May the light of Christ shine upon us.

(The names of specific people, places, and circumstances may be lifted up at this time)

Pastor: Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass. 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 OFFERTORY

CHOIR ANTHEM: *POWER OF THE CROSS*

*** 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:**

Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who cares for us and protects us. With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: *YOURS IS THE GLORY* 253**

*** 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: *POWER OF THE CROSS*

- L. King quoting I. Watts and L. Mason

A dying man hung on a cross to set us free, He paid the cost. God sacrificed His holy Lamb, His precious Son, the great I AM! O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss O the power of the cross! There was a cross that bore Your name, scarred by sin and stained with shame. But, on that cross, if eyes could see, He took your place on Calvary. O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss. O the power of the cross. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride, my pride. O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss O the power of the cross, the cross! O the power, the mighty power of the cross!

Welcome to Faith Church this Fourth 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 Bob & Patti Shelly in loving memory of Bob's sister, Myra Wilsey.

This morning we welcome and thank the Rev. Dr. Katharine Yarnell for sharing the sermon with us. Katharine is Executive Director of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. Following worship and lunch, she will conduct a workshop on financial stewardship. Everyone is invited to attend!

Thank you for your donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are halfway to our goal of \$600. Please prayerfully consider how you can help.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT - this afternoon at 3:00 pm

Apollo Piano Trio with guest violist, Misha Amory.

Single tickets will be available at the door for \$35. All students may attend free of charge.

Next Sunday is Spring Bingo!!! We will need lots of desserts so if you can drop some off on Sunday, please let Karen Talboo know. We are still accepting Gift Cards, Door Prizes valued at \$10, and Basket Raffle items valued at \$25.

CALENDAR

- Office Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 9 am to 4 pm; Friday Closed
- Today** - 10:15 am Worship/NO Sunday School
 - Guest Speaker Katharine Yarnell
 - Light Luncheon
 - Stewardship Workshop
 - 3:00 pm Chamber Music Concert
- Monday** - Sandy works remotely
- Tuesday** - 2:00 pm Faith in Stitches
 - 7:00 pm Memorial & Enduring Gifts
- Friday** - Office Closed; Pastor’s Day Off
- Saturday** - 10:00 am Bingo Set Up
- Sunday** - 9:30 Choir Rehearsal
 - 10:15 am Worship/Sunday School
 - Spring Bingo – Doors open @ noon
 - Games begin @ 1:00 pm

Thanks to our volunteers:

	April 21	April 28
Head Usher:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Ushers:	Bob & Patti Shelly	Rose Mirth Donna Schoenberger
Lay Reader:	Brenda Hovis	Rose Mirth
Sunday School:	No Sunday School	Kim Ritter Catherine Stevenson
Financial Sec:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Altar Flowers:	Bob & Patti Shelly	Tom & Brenda Hovis

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