

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH
OF
CHRIST**



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Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
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**Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Lead Pastor
Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist-Director of Music**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES
FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 16, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Oh God, creator of heaven and earth, who grants us life, may the seeds of wisdom from the ancient sacred texts grow within us so that we may bear good fruit that nourishes a hungry world. May the Holy Spirit of Pentecost descend upon us this day as we give thanks to you Holy One, in Jesus's most precious name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: SING PRAISE TO GOD, WHO HAS SHAPED 22**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Holy One, to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

People: To declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night,

Pastor: To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

People: For you, O God, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Pastor: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

People: They are planted in the house of the Holy One; they flourish in the courts of our God.

Pastor: In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of nectar,

People: Showing that the Divine One is upright; God is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in the Holy One.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Dear God, the creator of all things based on love. You created us in your image of love and there have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. I ask for your forgiveness and from you, present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace in all I do. In Jesus' name I pray. 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 out lips.

People: And our mouths will show forth our 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 – LET THERE BE PEACE OF EARTH**

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me

Let There Be Peace on Earth The peace that was meant to be

*With God our Creator, we are Family
Let us walk with each other In perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow*

*To take each moment and live Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me*

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: I Samuel 15:24 – 16:13

Gospel: Mark 4:26 – 34

HYMN: *JESUS THE VERY THOUGHT TO ME*

507

SERMON: *It's Possible*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** A LITANY FOR FATHER'S DAY:**

Pastor: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

People: **For some of us, our father's love is like God's love—
too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.**

Pastor: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

People: **For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces
our fathers left behind.**

Pastor: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of
relationship with our fathers.

People: **On this day when we remember what it means to have
a father or be a father, we recognize the importance
of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a
congregation to love and nurture the fathers among**

us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Almighty God of all creation, we join our voices to praise you today, singing of your wonders, giving thanks for your grace and care, and celebrating the joys of life you have blessed us with: family and friends; new relationships and deeper relationships; new life and transformed lives; reconciliation and restoration.

On this day we are especially grateful for the gifts of fathers, the gifts of being a father. and fathers that we miss.

We thank you for the many ways that our fathers have shaped us, for their example and their love. Yet we also pray for those who have painful relationships with their fathers; those who are estranged from their fathers and fathers who are estranged from their children. And, God, we pray for those who are unwilling or unable to accept the responsibilities of fatherhood.

Gracious God, all of our prayers are summed up in the longing for your kingdom, that wonderful, amazing, and new reality that is emerging all around 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

*** 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:**

O Holy One, with gratefulness we offer and dedicate these gifts for the continuation of our work in Christ's Name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING 43**

*** 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.*

Welcome to Faith Church this Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

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 Kim Ritter and Rachel & Adam Zender in loving memory of Andy Kukura and John H. Siwert.

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers – past, present, and future!

We honor our graduates during worship this morning. Congratulations to Amanda Gunkle, Noah Jellison, Connor Licairac, and Sadie Schaffer. *May God bless you in your future endeavors.*

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting to elect members of Consistory.

There will be a Memorial Service on Saturday, June 29 at 2 pm in memory of our dear friend Mike Ford. Mike's nieces are planning a simple reception following the Service and are looking for a "head count" to plan. If you are planning to attend call or email Sandy by June 17th.

The Summer Volunteer Schedule is hanging in the Narthex. Please fill in where you can help in July, August, or September. Thank you.

Share your special musical talents with the congregation over the summer. Whether you are a vocalist or play any instrument, speak with Dennis Duda to get a Sunday slot just for you! Thank you!

Pastor Bruce has a new email address effective immediately – pastorbruce.faithucc@outlook.com

CALENDAR

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

Today - 10:15 am Worship

**Monday - Sandy works remotely
- 7 pm Budget & Finance Mtg**

**Tuesday - 1 pm Pastor's Meeting
- 2 pm Faith in Stitches**

Thursday - 7 pm Consistory

Friday - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off

Sunday - 10:15 am Worship

Thanks to our volunteers:

	June 16th	June 23rd
Head Usher:	Melissa Shafer	Melissa Shafer
Ushers:	Karen & Chuck Talboo	Cindy Talaber Rose Mirth
Lay Reader:	Karen Talboo	Cindy Talaber
Financial Sec:	Wes Koser	Wes Koser
Altar Flowers:	Kim Ritter	Talaber
Lawn Crew:	Owen/Tom Hovis	Mirth Crew

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Pastor: 610-248-5586; pastorbruce.faithucc@outlook.com

Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net