

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
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 7, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Powerful One, we come into this gathering humbled by your presence among us, grateful for the companionship of your people, and eager to worship your name. As we tell your story anew, we enter your story as the objects of your attention, love, and care. May we know you more deeply and clearly. May we be transformed and transfixed by the mystery of you. May we be inspired by your deeds of power to be instruments of your reign in the world. Empower us, O Holy One. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: *ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE***

(red) 273

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: We gather this morning appreciating our freedom to worship God.

People: **May God continue to bless the Church of Christ in this land.**

Pastor: We draw near to the God who rules over all nations.

People: **May God continue to bless our country and all the countries in the world.**

Pastor: We seek to live in harmony and peace together with all peoples on the earth.

People: **May God continue to establish peace on earth and help us understand that it begins in our hearts.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

* CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Gracious and Loving God, have mercy on us. We confess our own forms of rebellion and stubbornness. We seek our own way and fail to wait for your counsel, wisdom, and insight. We hold fast to hopes and dreams that do not include your kingdom or our neighbors. We choose comfort over holy confrontation, doctrine over faithful discipleship and position over spiritual power. Awaken in us hunger and thirst for righteousness. Amen.

* THE KYRIE

(red) 333

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

(red) 338

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: II Samuel 5:1 – 5. 9 – 10

New Testament: Mark 6:1 – 13

HYMN: *MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF ME*

(red) 65

SERMON: *Crazy Like a Fox or Just Plain Crazy?*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.**

**In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
We acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the church,
the Head over all things,
the beginning of a new creation.**

**We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things
which he will bring.**

**We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards the promised goal;
on the way, Christ feeds us with word and sacrament,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.**

**We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,**

**bearing witness to that unity
which is both Christ's gift and his will.
We affirm that every member of the church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died,
and we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

**Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have
committed the responsibility of government and leadership
in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth
and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may
work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for
justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our
liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Forgive our
shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the
truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ.**

*(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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY (red) 356

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:

Creator, all we have emanates from you and your creation. Receive these gifts we give with thanksgiving and hope for a shared future without lack, disparities, and unmet needs. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING HYMN: *O BEAUTIFUL OF SPACIOUS SKIES*

(red) 68

* 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 Seventh 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 Jean Hanville in loving memory of her husband.

Pastor Bruce will be on vacation August 8th through the 14th. If you find yourself in need of pastoral care during this time please call Rev. Teresa Martin at 717-654-4044.

Summer Office Hours for Parish Administrator Sandy David are in effect through Labor Day. Sandy will be working from home Mondays & Wednesdays, and in the office on Tuesdays & Thursdays. On the days she's not working in the office she will check voice mail hourly and return your call. If you need immediate help she can be reached at 610-967-6232.

Open Altar Flower dates are July 28, August 4, November 24, December 1 & 15. If you would like to reserve a date please call the church office. Thank you.

The Summer Volunteer Schedule is hanging in the Narthex. We are still in need of some volunteers for July (two more ushers for Summer Communion), August (2nd usher), and September (2nd usher). Thank you.

CALENDAR

Sandy's Office Hours:

Remotely - Mondays & Wednesdays 9 – 4

In Office - Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 - 3

- Today - 10:15 am Worship**
- Tuesday - 2 pm Faith in Stitches**
- Friday - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off**
- Sunday - 10:15 am Worship**
- Rev. Linda Lennon preaching

Thanks to our volunteers:

	July 7	July 14
Head Usher:	Joan Hassler	Joan Hassler
Ushers:	Kim Ritter	Jean Hanville Joan Hassler
Lay Reader:	Rose Mirth	Joan Hassler
Financial Sec:	Jerry Trexler	Jerry Trexler
Altar Flowers:	Jean Hanville	Joan Hassler
Lawn Crew:	Chuck Talboo Randy Hughes	Bruce Torrence

Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com

Sandy works remotely on Mondays & Wednesdays.

You can text or call her at 610-967-6232.

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

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