



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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Center Valley, PA 18034
610-282-3939
faithchurchcv@gmail.com
www.faithchurchucc.org

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
Joan Hassler

Melissa Shafer
Jean Hanville

Tom Hovis
Bruce Torrence

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine

Liaisons:

Worship & Music—Joan Hassler
Christian Ed—Tom Hovis
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,

When I was young, I remember watching the movie, *The Swiss Family Robinson*. I don't remember all the details of that story, but I do remember that they built themselves a tree house on a deserted island for their home and I thought it was magical! I often imagined how “cool” it would be to live in a tree house.

One day I noticed four trees in our back yard that struck me as perfect posts for a tree house. And so, for a period of time I nagged my father to build me a tree house. I dreamed of having a personal sanctuary from my three sisters, a place to think, dream, and read, bomb the boys next door with snowballs, and having summer sleep overs with friends. My father did build me that tree house but not the tree house of my dreams. Basically, he built me a “Platform in The Sky.” There was a floor but no walls, no windows, no ceiling, not even a railing to prevent me from falling from the platform. There weren't many activities that I listed above that I could safely do on the platform.

Oh well. My father made many dreams come true for me and probably dreams much more important than having a tree house so I really can't, nor should I, complain.

Lately I've been spending time “watching” stories on Instagram. Actually, I've been spending *too much time* on Instagram! One story is of a group of high school students who converted an old school bus into a camper and traveled cross country in it for the summer and the other is a man in Georgia who is building a huge two-story tree house he plans to make his home. It's quite spectacular!

On their way across the country the “Boy’s Bus” broke down twice (I kind of saw that coming) but they were able to get the bus repaired and then were able to continue on their journey.

The man (who is a very skilled carpenter and builder) has also had his share of challenges which has slowed his progress. Slowed his progress but has not stopped him. He found solutions and then pressed on.

In both stories, challenges did not stop progress. Different plans had to be made but the ultimate plan is being fulfilled. They haven’t given up, they adjusted the plan and they are moving on to the goal.

I think this is what happened with my father also. One day he asked me if I would agree to give up on the tree house plan if he would build me a “club house” instead. I agreed. Maybe my father just didn’t like working 12’ off the air but he found a different way to provide me with a childhood dream.

I know that I’ve said this to you before but I’m going to say it again—times are changing in the church, and I don’t know where things are going to go. While strategies and styles may change the church will continue to progress. But we have to stop defining what progress is and allow the Holy Spirit to determine it and guide us. We may take a while to get used to the future but slowly adjust to it and see that the promises of God are just as real in the future as they have been in the present.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor [Name]", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



The Church Office will be closed on **September 2nd** in observance of Labor Day.

Parish Administrator Sandy David will be on vacation on **Thursday, September 5th.**

**BACK TO[®]
CHURCH**
SUNDAY

September 15, 2024

**9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship**

**Welcome Back to Church!!
We will be receiving new members and collecting
the water you bring in for communion.
Be sure to join us!**

Puzzle Answer:
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path; wisdom

MISSION NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER



Join our Team!

On **Thursday, September 12 at 3 pm** in the Memorial Room the **Mission Team** will be holding our first meeting of the Fall to plan events for the next few months. **YOU** are invited to join our team. Much work is to be done and we could use your ideas on new projects and how we can best serve our community... locally, nationally, and internationally.

THE CARING PLACE

The Caring Place is in the heart of Allentown on Hamilton Street. This is an after school program that students of all ages attend in a safe environment. Many children would be going home to an empty house until their parents get home from work. But when they attend TCP they receive nutritious after school snacks and help with their school work in a supervised, safe place.

Many thanks to those who have already generously donated school supplies.

We will continue to collect school supplies for TCP through September 15.

Dress A Girl Dresses

The Mission Team has partnered with St James Church to deliver 65 dresses to an orphanage in Africa. A team from St James Church

visited an orphanage in August that they have helped sponsor for the past several years. We were given the opportunity to have these hand-made dresses delivered to young girls in Kenya along with the clothing items and shoes that they were sharing with the children in the orphanage. It is our prayer that every girl is blessed by her new dress. We wish to thank the St James team and send blessings to them as well as the orphanage.

Forget-Me-Nots Birthdays

If you are a Forget-Me-Not Sponsor please remember to send a birthday wish during their birthday month. Birthday cards and stamps can be found in the Narthex if you wish to send a card to one of our FMN.

Joyful Noise / Child Sponsorship

On the second Sunday of each month the youth gather a special offering called Joyful Noise. This offering is used to sponsor 2 children and to support schools on Laganov Island, Haiti. These donations are used only toward helping children in need. In order to accomplish this, we are striving for \$135 each Joyful Noise Sunday. If you miss the Joyful Noise collection Sunday, you can still contribute by leaving your donation in the collection bucket in the Narthex. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and goes a long way to improve the lives of these 2 special children.

We will be introducing you to our 2 new sponsored children during worship one Sunday in October. We are looking forward to sharing their stories with you.

Beyond Borders Family Sponsorship Update

Dear Faith Church,

I am so grateful for your generous and faithful sponsorship of the Remy and Simon families in Beyond Borders' Family Graduation Program.

One of the ways that sponsors like you are making a difference for families is by helping parents like Marijo and Erwine keep their children healthy and well-nourished.

That's because your generous sponsorship makes it possible to conduct baseline health screenings when families join the program. These screenings -- conducted by the Family Graduation Program's project nurse -- identify any children suffering from malnutrition.

The program nurse looks for children who are lethargic, show signs of dehydration, or are covered with a rash. Children suspected of being severely malnourished are referred to the island's only hospital where they can get treated by a doctor. Those with less severe cases are given fortified milk or ready-to-use therapeutic food to help them overcome their malnutrition.

Children continue to receive therapeutic food, fortified milk, and follow-up visits from the project nurse until they have fully recovered. It's this kind of care, concern, and close accompaniment that sponsors like you make possible for children and their families.

Thank you again for your generosity and your solidarity with the Remy and Simon families. They will escape extreme poverty for good and live healthier lives because of you!

With deep gratitude,

David Diggs

NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Everybody Mark your Calendars for the PENNY PARTY!
Join us **Sunday, November 3rd** for Faith's **Penny Party!** Bring your change! There will be FUN and PRIZES for the whole family! **Doors will open at 12 noon** - lunch and desserts will be available for purchase. **Games begin at 1:00.**

Penny Party Planning Meeting

For all those who helped last year, or said you would be willing to help out this year with the Penny Party, **there will be a planning meeting on Monday October 21st at 1:00pm** in the conference room. Please plan to attend if you are able and join the fun. If you would like to help out but are not available on the 21st, you can contact Brenda Hovis @ 610-657-6287 or Cindy Talaber @ 610-282-4627.

Penny Party Donations

We need your help to make this fundraiser a huge success.

The Fundraising committee is looking for donations for the penny party. Items could include, but are not limited to, canned items (current sell by dates only please. We will not use any expired canned items), paper products, cleaning items, children's items (crayons, coloring books, toys, etc.), or any items that you think people might want to take a chance on. There will be totes in the narthex to place your donated items into. The totes will be marked Penny Party, and will be to the left of the front doors.

The fundraising committee will also be accepting baskets for a basket raffle, or items to add to a basket for the raffle. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be given to Brenda Hovis, Cindy Talaber, or left in the church office marked Penny Party.

Thank you, your support means so much to us.

The Fundraising Committee

2024 Lawn Crew Schedule

09/01/2024	Dwayne Schantz	610-797-4994
	Roger Erney	610-797-7227
09/08/2024	Bruce Torrence	610-282-4081
	Wes Koser	610-841-7077
09/15/2024	Mirth Crew	610-417-4153
09/22/2024	Bruce Torrence	610-282-4081
09/29/2024	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
10/06/2024	Mirth Crew	610-417-4153

Thanks for helping out on the Lawn Crew!

If gas is needed, please purchase & submit the receipt to the church office for reimbursement.



SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Financial Secretary: Bruce Torrence

Date	Head Usher	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers
9/1	Joan Hassler	Jean Hanville Rose Mirth	Rose Mirth	Joan Hassler
9/8	Cindy Talaber	Joan Hassler Elaine Trexler	Joan Hassler	Kochs
9/15	Kim Ritter	Deb Herstine Linda Torrence	Patience Stevenson	Talboos
9/22	Kim Ritter	Chuck & Karen Talboo	Karen Talboo	Becks
9/29	Bruce Torrence	Cindy Talaber Kim Ritter	Cindy Talaber	Rose Mirth



FAITH FINANCIALS

June	Month	YTD
Combined Receipts	\$18,133.63	\$112,523.57
Combined Disbursements	\$20,718.88	\$120,801.43
	(\$2,586.25)	(\$8,278.26)

Weekly Attendance Weekly Offering

6/2	53	\$2,965
6/9	38	\$1,931
6/16	47	\$1,273
6/23	43	\$1,352
6/29	47	\$1,865
Tithe.ly		\$2,099

July	Month	YTD
Combined Receipts	\$15,810.99	\$128,634.16
Combined Disbursements	\$16,163.54	\$136,964.97
	(\$352.22)	(\$8,330.81)

Weekly Attendance Weekly Offering

7/7	43	\$1,075
7/14	44	\$1,958
7/21	41	\$2,001
7/28	32	\$2,250
Tithe.ly		\$1,955.05



Betty Lou's Pantry

Thank you for your generous support of Betty Lou's Pantry.
The food items most needed at this time are:

CEREAL
SPAGHETTI SAUCE
MACARONI & CHEESE

Contributions of these items are greatly appreciated:

Hearty Soup, Chili, Beef Stew	Peanut Butter & Jelly
Spaghetti Sauce & Spaghetti Noodles	Macaroni & Cheese
Meal Helpers (Beef, Chicken, Tuna)	Tuna Fish
Black Beans & Kidney Beans	Canned Tomato Products
Canned Fruit & Applesauce	Vegetables
Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghettios)	Boxed Potatoes
Canned Meats (Chicken & Salmon)	Cereal
Pasta of All Kinds	Side Dishes & Rice
Baked Beans	Condensed Soups

Monetary donations are always helpful

If you or anyone you know in the Southern Lehigh area are in need of food please call **610-282-2838**. Also, an email message can be left at bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com.

Distributions are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 am. Adjustments are occasionally made to this schedule.



SEPTEMBER BIBLE READINGS

September 1
Job 11:1–9, 13–20
Rev. 5:1–14
Matt. 5:1–12

September 7
Job 22:1–4, 21–23:7
Acts 13:26–43
John 10:1–18

September 13
Job 29:1; 31:24–40
Acts 15:12–21
John 11:30–44

September 2
Job 12:1–6, 13–25
Acts 11:19–30
John 8:21–32

September 8
Job 25:1–6; 27:1–6
Rev. 14:1–7, 13
Matt. 5:13–20

September 14
Job 38:1–17
Acts 15:22–35
John 11:45–54

September 3
Job 12:1; 13:3–27
Acts 12:1–17
John 8:33–47

September 9
Job 32:1–10, 19—
33:1, 19–28
Acts 13:44–52
John 10:19–30

September 15
Job 38:1, 18–41
Rev. 18:1–8
Matt. 5:21–26

September 4
Job 12:1; 14:1–22
Acts 12:18–25
John 8:47–59

September 10
Job 29:1–20
Acts 14:1–18
John 10:31–42

September 16
Job 40:1–24
Acts 15:36–16:5
John 11:55—12:8

September 5
Job 16:16–22; 17:1, 13
–16
Acts 13:1–12
John 9:1–17

September 11
Job 29:1; 30:1–2, 16–
31
Acts 14:19–28
John 11:1–16

September 17
Job 40:1; 41:1–11
Acts 16:6–15
John 12:9–19

September 6
Job 19:1–7, 14–27
Acts 13:13–25
John 9:18–41

September 12
Job 29:1; 31:1–23
Acts 15:1–11
John 11:17–29

September 18
Job 42:1–17
Acts 16:16–24
John 12:20–26

September 19
Job 28:1–28
Acts 16:25–40
John 12:27–36a

September 20
Esther 1:1–4, 10–19
Acts 17:1–15
John 12:36b–43

September 21
Esther 2:5–8, 15–23
Acts 17:16–34
John 12:44–50

September 22
Esther 3:1–4:3
Jas. 1:19–27
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

September 23
Esther 4:4–17
Acts 18:1–11
Luke (1:1–4) 3:1–14

September 24
Esther 5:1–14
Acts 18:12–28
Luke 3:15–22

September 25
Esther 6:1–14
Acts 19:1–10
Luke 4:1–13

September 26
Esther 7:1–10
Acts 19:11–20
Luke 4:14–30

September 27
Esther 8:1–8, 15–17
Acts 19:21–41
Luke 4:31–37

September 28
Esther 9:1–32
Acts 20:1–16
Luke 4:38–44

September 29
Hos. 1:1–2:1
Jas. 3:1–13
Matt. 13:44–52

September 30
Hos. 2:2–15
Acts 20:17–38
Luke 5:1–11



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.



What you need:

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone. For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.



September Birthdays

01 Anna Tilley

03 Iris Shelly

03 Adriana Muth

03 Tim Long

05 Pauline Kemmerer

06 Nathan Smith

06 Paul Stebbings

09 Patti Shelly

10 Carol Beck

10 Olivia Muth

12 Donna Schudel-Barone

14 Donna Kuhns

14 Howard Barrick

17 Cindy Talaber

17 Kate Jellison

18 Donna Herndon

21 Carrie Fosbenner

23 Diane Talaber

26 Susan Roberts

26 Erin Gollie

27 Abby Muth

28 Michael DiSanto

28 Damyn Allison

29 Ruth Smith

29 Eric Fosbenner



Please contact the church office with corrections or omissions to the list.

PUZZLE



AMAZING ILLUMINATION

God grants us knowledge and understanding through his holy Word, which is like a flashlight.

Directions: Arrange the words from Psalm 119:105 (NIV) in order. Then unscramble the circled letters to complete James 1:5 (NIV).

PATH IS LIGHT WORD
YOUR A FEET
MY FOR LAMP A ON MY

Psalm 119:105, NIV

If any of you lacks _____, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. *James 1:5, NIV*

