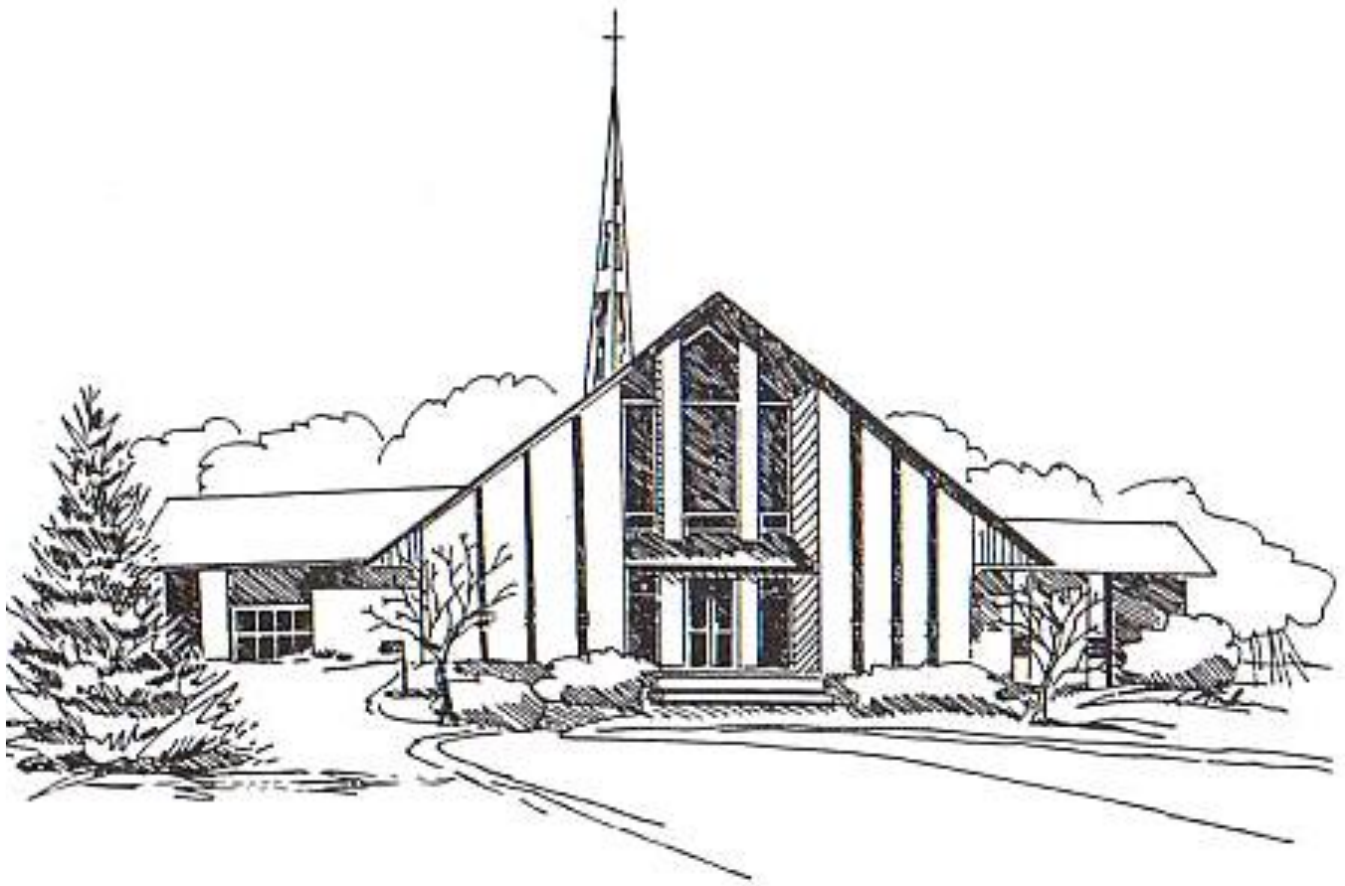


FAITH

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
TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

God of endings and new beginnings, of timeless circles of forever, we celebrate this day the reign of Christ. Help us renew our commitment to you. Shape us into disciples of Christ that we might live in his example to bring signs of heaven on earth wherever we go. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: WE GATHER TOGETHER**

421

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Before there was anything at all

People: **THERE WAS YOU.**

Pastor: After nothing will be left,

People: **THERE WILL STILL BE YOU.**

Pastor: Power of all power

People: **COME TO US IN CHRIST.**

Pastor: Break the Power of Evil

People: **MAKING US AND ALL THINGS NEW.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

There are times in our lives when the forces of evil threaten to destroy us. They attempt to overwhelm us, divert us from our true destiny, separate us from you, and turn us toward evil. When we yield, do more than forgive us; become our savior and deliver us, be the moral foundation upon which we stand, the rock of our strength, our front and rear guard, and our

staunch ally. Restore our faith and move us to offer you our praise in lives of devotion. 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: HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS**

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

New Testament: Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel: John 18:33 – 37

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN: *LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING*

Insert

SERMON: *Where Jesus Reigns*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING:**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God our Father
for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
For the beauty and wonder of your creation,
in earth and sky and sea.

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and
our friends,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and
play,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in
suffering and faithful in adversity,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father,
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Unison: Amen.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Pastor: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you
have done for us.

**People: We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation,
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,**

and for the mystery of love.

Pastor: We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, a
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

**People: We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand
our best efforts, and for leading us to
accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

Pastor: We thank you also for those disappointments and
failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on
you alone.

**People: Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;
for the truth of his Word and the example of his life;
for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame
temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame
death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are
raised to the life of your kingdom.**

Pastor: Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him
and make him known; and through him, at all times and
in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

*(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

OFFERTORY

CHOIR ANTHEM: *THANK THE 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:

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING HYMN: *NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD* 419

* 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.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM: *THANK THE LORD - R. Clausen*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ry one what He has done. Let ev'ry man who loves the Lord rejoice and gladly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of Thanksgiving Alleluia, Alleluia!

Welcome to Faith Church this Twenty-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 Rose Mirth in support of all those battling breast cancer. No one fights alone!

We welcome Rev. Ernie Diefenderfer and thank him for leading us in worship while Pastor Bruce is recuperating from a wound on his foot.

The Worship Committee is taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary again this year. The cost is \$12 per plant. Please fill out the order form in your bulletin and return it to the church office or put it in the offering plate with payment. **Deadline to order is TODAY.**

Tis the Season...It's time again to decorate the church for Christmas! The Worship Committee will be here Saturday, November 30th at 9 am and would ask that you join them to help decorate!

The Holiday Hope Chest Boxes are ready to be filled! They are labeled and a list of gift ideas are included. If you are not interested in packing an HHC but still want to help, you may purchase a gift card for a teenager. Teenagers do not receive a shoe box but only gift cards. A \$25 gift card is the suggested amount to places like Walmart, Target, 5 Below. *Please do not give gift cards to fast food restaurants.*

This holiday season we will be delivering the beautiful hats made by the Faith in Stitches ladies to The Caring Place. Along with the hats we would like to include mittens, gloves, and scarves for the children. If you would like to help by donating a

few of these items, please look for a drop-off bin in the Narthex to leave your donations.

CALENDAR

- Today - 9 am Sunday School
- 9:30 & 11:00 am Faith Singers Rehearsal
- 10:15 am Worship
- 6:00 pm Children & Communion
- Tuesday - 2 pm Faith in Stitches
- Thursday - Happy Thanksgiving; Office Closed
- Friday - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off
- Saturday - 9:30 am – 5 pm Hall Rental
- Sunday - 1st Sunday of Advent
- 9 am Sunday School
- 9:30 & 11:30 am Faith Singers Rehearsal
- 10:15 am Worship/Communion

Thanks to our volunteers:

| | November 24 | December 1 |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Head Usher: | Cindy Talaber | Tom Hovis |
| Ushers: | Faye Tirpak Rose Mirth | Tom & Brenda Hovis Tim & Sara Hovis |
| Lay Reader: | Rose Mirth | Patience Stevenson |
| Financial Sec: | Tony DiSanto | Tom Hovis |
| Altar Flowers: | Mirth | Mirth |

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

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