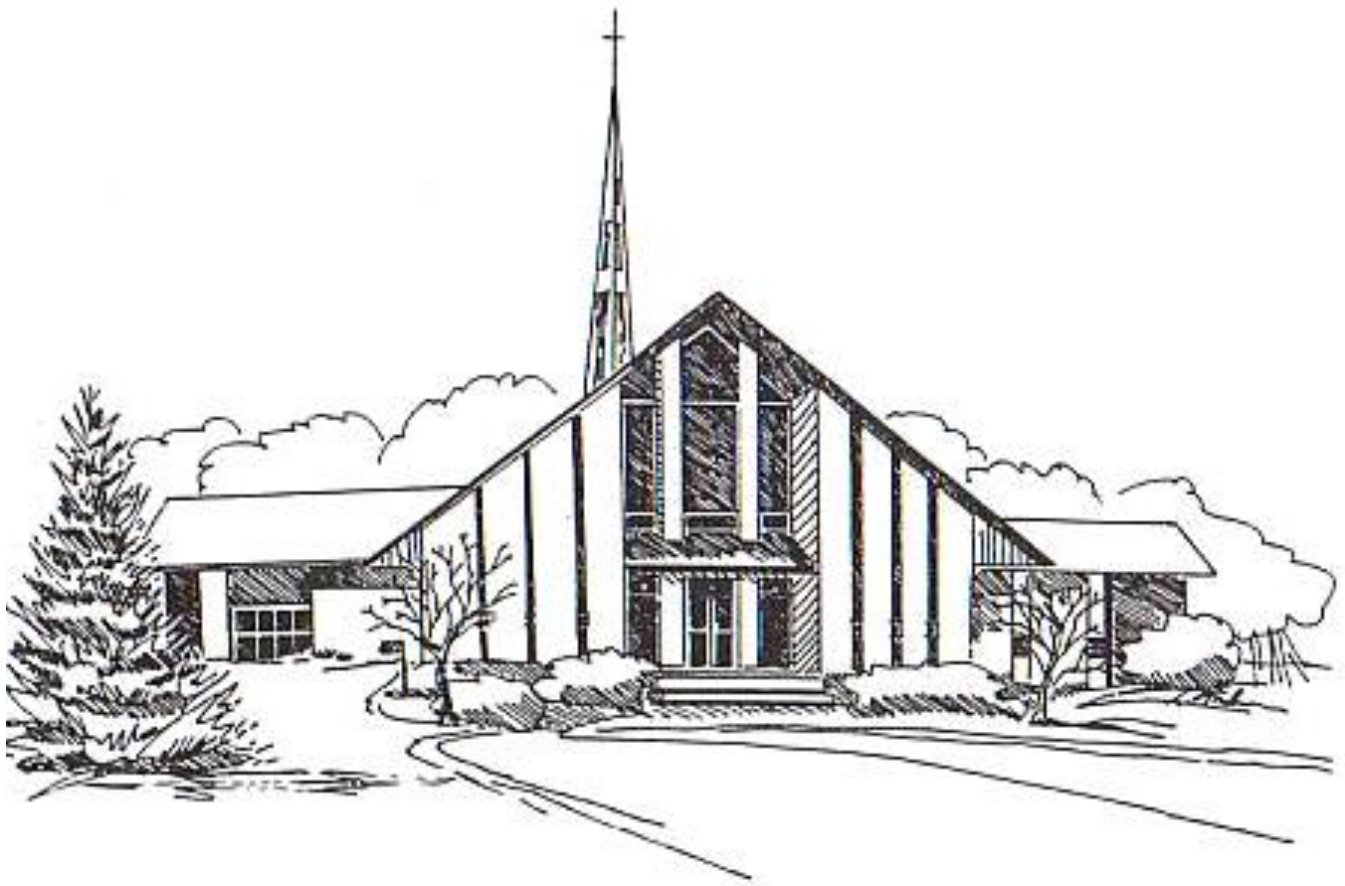


FAITH

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
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY
JANUARY 19, 2025**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Magnificent God, we come to draw near to you. Your presence among us sustains and challenges us. In you, we find strength and surprises. May the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the word proclaimed, and the lives touched honor your name. We give you glory and honor. We welcome you and pray that your spirit shapes us with fresh wind, power, and compassion. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER** **597**

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: God of justice, the poor of the of the world cry out.

People: You are among them, and your cry goes out to the ends of the world.

Pastor: Evil stalks the earth, and oppression hides everywhere.

People: But you are among us, and your Spirit breathes a new Creation.

Pastor: Unseeing, we are caught in webs of injustice.

People: But you are among us, and your love transforms our hearts. We worship you in awe and humility.

Speak your Word to us. Open our eyes. Give us courage and wisdom, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, for the sake of the mending of the world.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right. Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as You intended them to do. Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute – the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, so that we can, with your help, change the world. Enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, and to love our enemy as our friend.

* **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.

* **WORDS OF GRACE**

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: THIS IS THE DAY**

84

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will

rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day, that our God has made.

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

MISSION MOMENT: *SOUP/CEREAL BOWL OF CARING*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Micah 6:6 – 8

New Testament: John 2:1 – 11

THE CHILDREN’S SERMON

HYMN: *JESUS CALLS US, O’ER THE TUMULT*

172

SERMON: *It’s Not Complicated*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD’S WILL

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

Pastor: The Prophet Micah told us that the LORD requires us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. As we celebrate Martin Luther King’s witness, let us be called to worship by some of the prophets of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1963, in his challenging letter to complacent white clergy in the South, Dr. King wrote, “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

People: O God, we pray, transform our silence into action, our fear into courage.

People: President John F. Kennedy in an address that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 said, “The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights

and equal opportunities; whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated.”

People: O God, we pray, help us to love you and to love others as ourselves.

Pastor: Rosa Parks said, “You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”

People: O God, we pray, remind us that you did not give us a spirit of fear.

Pastor: Ann Braden, a white Southern activist and ally of the Civil Rights movement wrote, “In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed.

People: O God, we pray, help us to envision and struggle for a world where justice will roll down like water, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Incline your ear, O God, and answer us, for we are poor, hungry, naked, homeless and sick. Preserve our lives, for we are devoted to you; save your servants who trust in you. Dr. King’s work reminds us: church and state must work together for the common good; laws must establish justice for all, but hearts must change for the Beloved Community to flourish.

People: We will do the work of justice for all; we will open our hearts to an ever-expanding vision of community. We will trust the Spirit of God to guide and move us between the present and the anticipated Realm of Justice.

People: You are our God; be gracious to your children, for we cry out to you all day long. Bring joy to the soul of your servants, for to you, O God, we lift up our soul.

Dr. King's vision inspires us: "We are tied together in a single garment of destiny caught in an inescapable network of mutuality."

People: We will work for a world where lives are enriched by difference; where people of different genders, races and sexual orientations work together in Shalom for the good of the whole. We will work for a nation where persons will be judged solely upon the content of their characters.

Pastor: For you, O God, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. Give ear, O God, to the prayers of the marginalized; listen to our supplications. Dr. King's words challenge us:

"...injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

People: We will listen to the cries of the poor; we will stand in solidarity with those who suffer oppression; we will take as our own the hopes of all who long for full human life; we will create in our midst the Beloved Community with room for all, justice for all, joy for all, Shalom for all. We will listen to the voice of the Christ, who stirs about liberating all minds, hearts and spirits.

Pastor: In our days of trouble we call on you, for you will answer us. There is none like you among the gods, O God, nor are there any works like yours to the ends of the earth. Teach us your way, O God, that we may walk in your truth. Dr. King's life inspires us: "I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of

the land...I still believe that someday we shall overcome.”

People: We will overcome because of our faith and trust in God. We will reach the goal laid before us without faltering. We will never give up our hope for equality with one another. We will live Dr. King’s dream into our reality.

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

Pastor: Call us to follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us when we pray to say:

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

CHOIR ANTHEM: *COOL NIGHT, QUIET NIGHT*

*** 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:**

Holy One, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for your

generosity and the opportunity to participate in your kingdom on earth. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: *WE SHALL OVERCOME***

570

*** BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

*** MEDITATION**

*** POSTLUDE**

***Those who are able please stand.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: *COOL NIGHT, QUIET NIGHT* - R. C. Lau

Cool night, quiet night, candlelight, starlight, heaven's light, holy night. One star led them to the place where he lay. God's light, lead us to the manger, we pray. Jesus, little Babe, born this night, guide me, lead the way, be our light. Son of God, our Savior and King!

Welcome to Faith Church this Second Sunday after Epiphany. 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 Jerry & Elaine Trexler in fond memory of Michael Moomaw.

Special thanks to Rose Mirth for sharing the Mission Moment this morning. The Souper Bowl of Caring will continue through February 23rd.

The church office is closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Next Sunday's Altar Flowers are available. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Today | - 9:00 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 10:15 am Worship
- 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal |
| Monday | - Office Closed |
| Tuesday | - 2:00 pm Faith in Stitches |
| Wednesday | - 3:30 pm Pastor's Meeting |
| Thursday | - 9:00 am Pastor's Meeting |
| Friday | - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off |
| Saturday | - 11:30 am – 4:30 pm Herstine Hall Rental |
| Sunday | - 9:00 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 10:15 am Worship
- 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal |



In 1990 the **Souper Bowl of Caring** began with a simple prayer from a youth group in South Carolina. The prayer was simply this:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat”. Since then, more than \$110 million has been raised and donated to organizations that provide shelter to the homeless and food for the hungry. Right here in the Southern Lehigh area, Betty Lou’s Pantry provides food for over 100 families and 300 individuals, many of whom are children.

The Mission Team would like to challenge all of you to support the **Soup & Cereal Bowl of Caring** by bringing several of these food items **EVERY week through Sunday, February 23, 2025.**

**Cereal
and
All Condensed Soups Except Tomato**

We challenge the congregation to donate at least **150** cans or boxes of **soup and/or cereal**. Donations can be left in the Narthex on the table labeled for **Souper Bowl of Caring**. *continued...*

I am sure that many of you will be gathering with friends and family to watch the Super Bowl. There will more than likely be an abundance of snacks and beverages. As we gather for this event let us not forget our neighbors in need and help to provide a family with a hot bowl of soup on a cold winter's night.

This event will be topped off with a Soup and Chili Cook-off on Sunday, Feb 16 after worship. Details to follow.

Thanks to our volunteers:

	January 19	January 26
Head Usher:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Ushers:	Rose Mirth Kim Ritter	Cindy Talaber Deb Herstine
Lay Reader:	Rose Mirth	Cindy Talaber
Fin. Sec:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Altar Flowers:	Jerry & Elaine Trexler	Available

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

Sandy when working remotely – 610-967-6232

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

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