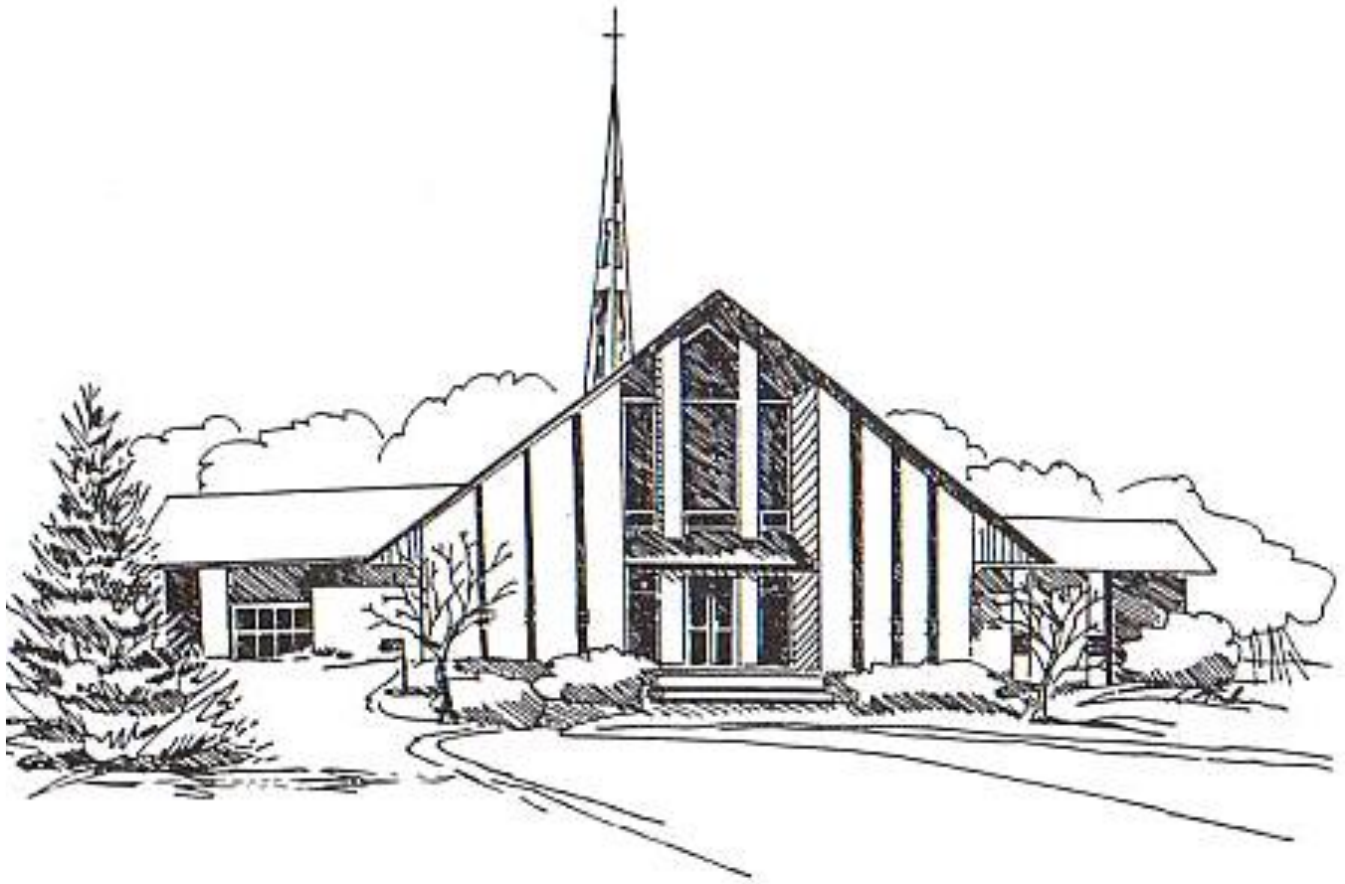


FAITH

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
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
CWS BLANKET MONTH
FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Emmanuel, we welcome you in our midst. You amaze and inspire, challenge and convict, comfort and fortify. May we be open and receptive to your voice and presence among us. Let your words encourage us to be prophetic, passionate, and public in our ministry as we praise and honor your name. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: *BLESSED ASSURANCE***

473

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

People: **In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.**

Pastor: In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

People: **Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation, for you are our rock and fortress.**

Pastor: In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

People: **Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel, for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

* CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

God who knows us, we pray that you form and shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw us back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of righteousness, truth, and peace. Forgive us for the ways that we reject your presence, your guidance, and your will. Redeem and restore us as your beloved creation and active citizens of your kingdom. In Jesus, we 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.

* 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: *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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4 – 19

New Testament: Luke 4:21 – 30

THE YOUTH SERMON

HYMN: *GOD, YOU WRAP YOUR LOVE AROUND US*

Sung to the tune “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” 506

God, you wrap your love around us, Like a blanket, soft and warm. You give rest when we are weary, You protect us from the storm. May each person who finds shelter In these blankets that we share Also feel the joy and comfort Of your love's protecting care.

Jesus, you were once a baby, Sought by those who would destroy. Into Egypt you were carried — Far from home, a little boy. Were you wrapped up warm to travel, Safe from terror, free from harm? Did you feel God's strong protection, Snuggled there in Mary's arm?

May the women, men and children Fleeing danger every day Know, through us, your living presence; You walk with them on their way. Spirit, as you give them comfort, Teach us here to freely give; May we blanket this world over With your love, so all may live.

SERMON: How Quickly Things Can Change

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

Pastor: When we expend great efforts on a good cause and see little result for our labor, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: **We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.**

Pastor: When we profoundly and faithfully seek the healing of a friend, but to no avail, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: **We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.**

Pastor: When we witness by word and deed to the Gospel yet see no obvious fruits, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When disasters happen to the faithful, while unbelievers flaunt their prosperity, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we pray with anguish over a lost soul but see no change for the better, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we get so frustrated with our own failures that we become carping critics of others, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we seem tempted beyond that which any mortal should have to bear, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we are weary of body and soul, and feel like retreating into a closed-off piety, God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

People: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Unison: For yours is the kingdom of unlimited opportunities, the innovative and resilient power of saving love, and the surging glory of the love which never ends Amen!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: You call us,

Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks, inviting us to sail out of our smug harbors into the uncharted waters of faith to wander off from our predictable paths to follow You into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom; to leave

the comfort of our homes and accompany you into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid.

As we wait,
in our simple, sometimes crazy, constantly uncertain lives, speak to us, Spirit of Grace: of that hope which is our anchor; of that peace which is our rock; of that grace which is our refuge.

(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

CHOIR ANTHEM: *SLEEP LITTLE BABY*

* **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:**

Giver of Good Gifts, may the gifts we give reflect your abundance and generosity. Use our time, talent, and treasure to serve our faith community and the world. May each

offering be a seed that will grow, spread, and perfume the atmosphere with faith, hope, and love. Amen

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: *BLESSED BE THE TIES THAT BIND* 393**

*** 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *SLEEP, LITTLE BABY* - J.M. Martin

Sleep, little baby, all through the silent night: nothing awake thee, don't you cry. Peace be your blanket, love be your dream; Lullabye Jesus, sleep, baby, sleep. Sleep little Jesus, safe in your mother's arms; Her love will keep you from all harm. One day the wind will blow, but for now angels sing; Lullabye Jesus, sleep, baby, sleep. Child of the promise, born to redeem; The truth that you bring us is more than just a dream. Sleep, little baby, Savior sent down from high; Jesus, we need thee in our lives. God sends us his own heart to share and to keep; While we adore thee, sleep, baby, sleep.

Welcome to Faith Church this Third Sunday of 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 Bob & Patti Shelly in memory of our parents.

February is Blanket Sunday. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. The collection will be taken on February 23rd.

February is also our month for the Soup & Cereal Bowl of Caring! Mission challenges you to bring cans of Soup (No Tomato Soup please!) and boxes

of Cereal to worship every Sunday through February 23rd. The goal is to reach 150 cans or boxes!!

We'll hold our Soup and Chili Cook Off on February 16th! Select and prepare your best soup or chili and maybe you'll take home the Golden Ladle! If you can't make soup, please join us to enjoy some social time with friends and family. There is always plenty of food.

The devastation caused by the California wildfires has left countless families without homes, communities in mourning, and landscapes forever changed. As the smoke clears, the work of recovery begins—and it's a long road ahead. Your support can bring lasting hope to those affected by this crisis. Your gift will help provide resources including emotional and spiritual care to families in need. Your generosity will make a difference. *(Send checks to United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194.)*

CALENDAR

- Today
 - 9:00 am Sunday School
 - 9:30 & 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal
 - 10:15 am Worship
- Monday
 - Sandy Works Remotely
- Tuesday
 - 2:00 pm Faith in Stitches
 - 7:00 pm Worship Mtg (Zoom)
- Friday
 - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off
- Sunday
 - 9:00 am Sunday School
 - 9:30 & 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal
 - 10:15 am Worship
 - 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal

Thanks to our volunteers:

	February 2	February 9
Head Usher:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Ushers:	Bob & Patti Shelly	Rose Mirth Linda Torrence
Lay Reader:	Joan Hassler	Rose Mirth
Fin. Sec:	Bob Shelly	Bob Shelly
Altar Flowers:	Shelly	Talboo

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 Sandy when working remotely – 610-967-6232
 Pastor: 610-248-5586; pastorbruce.faihucc@outlook.com
 Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net