



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.



9:00 am—SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15 a.m.—WORSHIP

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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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.*

2025 Consistory

President—Tom Hovis, Vice President—Bruce Torrence
Secretary— Jean Hanville

Elders

Melissa Shafer
Jean Hanville

Tom Hovis
Bruce Torrence

Chuck Talboo
Cindy Talaber

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine

Liaisons:

Worship & Music—Jean Hanville

Christian Ed—Cindy Talaber

Fundraising—Tom Hovis

Budget & Finance—Bruce Torrence

Memorial & Enduring Gifts—Bruce Torrence

Property—Tom Hovis

Mission—Chuck Talboo

Justice—Cindy Talaber



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Cold has arrived and this means at least four things:

1. Snow and ice
2. Snow shovels
3. Snowblowers
4. Merf David (Our Parish Administrator's husband) has set up his annual ice-skating rink in their back yard! He's a regular Bobby Orr!

The first snowfalls that came before Christmas were light and did not call for a snowblower. A quick shovel did the job. But this recent forecast was calling for something more substantial. I gassed up the snowblower, started it up, and was ready to roll! However, the morning after the snow had fallen the snowblower refused to start. ☹️

My neighbor came to my rescue with her tiny electric snow blower. I used to poke fun at her (behind her back, of course) for having such a tiny snowblower but no more! She and her snowblower were a god-send!

With more snow in the forecast, I'm not sure what I'm going to do. Still recovering from cataract surgery I've been told not to lift anything. Even if I could lift, my back, hips, and knees are not what they used to be! I'm not the mechanic that my father was so I'm not sure what to do to get that machine working again.

I need a plan, but I don't have one yet. Perhaps I will ask my neighbor to help me out again if I need it. I can bake her some cookies in

gratitude. I can see if I can find a repairman to do a “house call” and fix the snowblower. Or I can start praying that it will stop snowing this season or at least until my ophthalmologist clears me to lift things again which should be soon. All three solutions have one thing in common. I need someone to rescue me. I’m in a position in which I must rely on someone else:

1. My neighbor
2. A repairman
3. God

I was brought up to be fiercely independent, to be able to take care of all my problems and challenges. However, while being independent may seem noble, it is not always possible, practical, or for that matter wise. God calls us to live in community and to be a part of each other’s lives whether its dealing with snow or anything that challenges us.

The winter of 1996 was full of snow, one storm after the next. I remember this because I was in the hospital in NYC and I couldn’t go home until the streets were cleared. Once again, I had a doctor say, “no lifting” and this time he said, “for two years.” The snow kept falling. Patience, with the help of our neighbor Ed, kept shoveling. Finally, ice dams started to form on the back of the house and water started to drip into the dining room. Patience felt exhausted, I felt helpless, we both felt like crying and then suddenly Kenny Walter and Tom Herstine showed up and started chipping away at the ice. The youth group showed up to dig us out yet another time and get the snow off of the roof. There is a lot that I don’t remember about those events, but I do remember Brenda Hovis jumping off of our roof!

Patience and I weren’t expecting that help to come but that’s how

things happen in community — especially in Christian community. Whether it be help, a hot meal when you can't make it yourself, company during loneliness, or any other need, community provides the answers to the questions that overwhelm us.

Peace,



February is **BLANKET** month!

During the month of February we will be learning about Church World Services Blankets.

We will be collecting for Blankets at the end of the month.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help!



***The Church Office is CLOSED
on Monday, February 17th in observance
of President's Day.***



Dear Friends,

We continue to print letters from our members who share why they support Faith UCC. Enjoy!

Why I Support Faith UCC

Dear Faith Friends,

Except for a few years when I was a young adult, I have always attended church on a regular basis. I was fairly new to Coopersburg when I began attending Faith and enrolled my oldest daughter in Sunday School. That was more than 46 years ago.

I had only been retired for a few months when the pandemic hit. I was so looking forward to spending more time with the grandchildren, traveling and having much more time at home to devote to my passion for reading and crochet so it came as a bit of a surprise at how quickly I felt trapped. The hardest thing by far in the early days was not being able to get together with my daughters and grandchildren but I also missed church. I was really looking forward to Mission Sunday and to presenting my first Angel Project when suddenly everything non-essential was shuttered. I remain very grateful to Pastor Bruce for offering on-line services, and I did check in most weeks, but there was a lot missing. I longed to be present in our beautiful sanctuary, to sing hymns, to be blessed by the voices of the choir, to be inspired by the message and to worship in person with my faith community. I missed the weekly Faith in Stitches gatherings and oh did I miss my work on the Mission Committee. Mission work is so important to me and I enjoy working on our various projects and contributing to them. I love planning for and helping with our Spring

Bingo mission fundraiser and now I also enjoy doing the same with the Penny Party held in the fall. I enjoy our occasional lunches, Pie Sunday and the Souper Bowl Cook-off. I have been experimenting with new soup recipes and am determined to finally win a ladle after having taken fourth place several times. Time will tell if I succeed at this goal or not. If not, I'll keep trying.

During the pandemic shutdown, it would have been so easy to get out of the habit of attending church regularly, but that wasn't an option for me. Supporting our church financially and with my time is vital to my well-being. Being a part of a Faith community feeds my soul. My prayer is that Faith UCC will continue to flourish and grow.

Yours in Faith,
Cindy Talaber



I'm Here

In *Bread for the Journey*, theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen calls consolation — from “to be with” (con-) “the lonely one” (solus) — “one of the most important ways to care.” He writes, “Life is so full of pain, sadness and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see.”

Although consoling doesn't necessarily remove someone's pain, Nouwen notes that it serves a deeper purpose: To console means “to be there and say, ‘You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don't be afraid. I am here.’ That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it.”



In 1990 the Souper Bowl of Caring began with simple a 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 Souper Bowl of Caring.

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 on the next page.

Soup and Chili Cook-off

On February 16 we will be holding a
Soup & Chili Cook-off Lunch
after Worship. Select and prepare your best soup
or chili.



Maybe you will make the best soup or chili this year
and take home the golden ladle!
Everyone will be able to vote.

If you can't make soup for any reason, please join us to enjoy
some social time with friends and family.

There is always plenty of food.

SPRING BINGO

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Always the 4th Sunday in April

Mark your calendars for Mission's most important fundraiser of
the year. Don't miss out on all the fun. Take your chance to win
a beautiful purse or other valuable products. Details will soon be
available.

THE CARING PLACE

Please know that during this cold weather, Mission has delivered
several more hats and gloves to TCP. Thanks to those who made
beautiful hats for the children. They greatly appreciate it!

Puzzle Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, dove, love;
We love because God first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS
Head Usher & Financial Secretary: Tom Hovis

Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers
2/2	Bob & Patti Shelly	Joan Hassler	Shelly
2/9	Rose Mirth & Linda Torrence	Rose Mirth	Talboo
2/16	Jerry & Linda Lennon	Barb Maursky	Talboo
2/23	Brett & Sonya Dill	Patience Stevenson	Available



FAITH FINANCIALS

December	Month	YTD
Combined Receipts	\$35,846.29	\$241,844.07
Combined Disbursements	\$25,975.14	\$238,251.67
	\$9,871.15	\$3,592.40

	Weekly Attendance	Weekly Offering
12/1	70	\$6,330
12/8	70	\$1,298
12/15	64	\$1,055
12/22	82	\$8,655
12/24	107	\$1,794
12/29	30	\$1,441
Tithe.ly		\$2,500
Total	423	\$23,073



Thank you for your generous donations to Betty Lou's Pantry. For the month of January a total of 116 items were donated.

All items are greatly appreciated.

The food items most needed at this time are:

**Boxes of Cereal
Cans of Condensed Soup
(NO Tomato Soup)**

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**.

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.”

—Maya Angelou

“Love is something eternal; the aspect may change, but not the essence.”

—Vincent van Gogh

“There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.”

—Walt Streightiff

“Without Valentine’s Day, February would be ... well, January.”

—Jim Gaffigan





FEBRUARY BIBLE READINGS

February 1

Isa. 51:1–8

Gal. 3:23–29

Mark 7:1–23

February 2

Isa. 51:9–16

Heb. 11:8–16

John 7:14–31

February 3

Isa. 51:17–23

Gal. 4:1–11

Mark 7:24–37

February 4

Isa. 52:1–12

Gal. 4:12–20

Mark 8:1–10

February 5

Isa. 52:13–53:12

Gal. 4:21–31

Mark 8:11–26

February 6

Isa. 54:1–10 (11–17)

Gal. 5:1–15

Mark 8:27–9:1

February 7

Isa. 55:1–13

Gal. 5:16–24

Mark 9:2–13

February 8

Isa. 56:1–8

Gal. 5:25–6:10

Mark 9:14–29

February 9

Isa. 57:1–13

Heb. 12:1–6

John 7:37–46

February 10

Isa. 57:14–21

Gal. 6:11–18

Mark 9:30–41

February 11

Isa. 58:1–12

2 Tim. 1:1–14

Mark 9:42–50

February 12

Isa. 59:1–21

2 Tim. 1:15–2:13

Mark 10:1–16

February 13

Isa. 60:1–22

2 Tim. 2:14–26

Mark 10:17–31

February 14

Isa. 61:1–9

2 Tim. 3:1–17

Mark 10:32–45

February 15

Isa. 61:10–62:5

2 Tim. 4:1–8

Mark 10:46–52

February 16

Ruth 3:1–18

2 Cor. 4:1–12

Matt. 5:38–48

February 17

Isa. 63:1–6

1 Tim. 1:1–17

Mark 11:1–11

February 18

Isa. 63:7–14

1 Tim. 1:18–2:8-15

Mark 11:12–26

February 19

Isa. 63:15–64:9

1 Tim. 3:1–16

Mark 11:27–12:12

February 20

Isa. 65:1–12

1 Tim. 4:1–16

Mark 12:13–27

February 21

Isa. 65:17–25

1 Tim. 5:1–25

Mark 12:28–34

February 22
Isa. 66:1–6
1 Tim. 6:1–21
Mark 12:35–44

February 23
Isa. 66:7–14
1 John 3:4–10
John 10:7–16

February 24
Ruth 1:1–14
2 Cor. 1:1–11
Matt. 5:1–12

February 25
Ruth 1:15–22
2 Cor. 1:12–22
Matt. 5: 13–20

February 26
Ruth 2:1–13
2 Cor. 1:23–
2:17
Matt. 5:21–26

February 27
Ruth 2:14–23
2 Cor. 3:1–18
Matt. 5:27–37

February 28
Isa. 62:6–12
1 John 2:3–11
John 8:12–19

February 17, 2025



a lovely aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.



What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.



February Birthdays

04 Darin Jellison

04 Griffin Koch

05 Brett Dill

05 Karlee Allison

06 Tracy Adams

07 Ben Keeler

10 Ethan Stevenson

13 Grace Koch

14 Jade Stoffey

15 Joe Smith

15 Molly Grammer

18 Steve Fosbenner

18 Eric Hite

19 Sandy Sosnowsky

22 Eva Greger

22 Nancy Gollie

22 Dana Kernick

22 Monica Gunkle

23 Brenda Hovis

28 Donald Koch, Jr



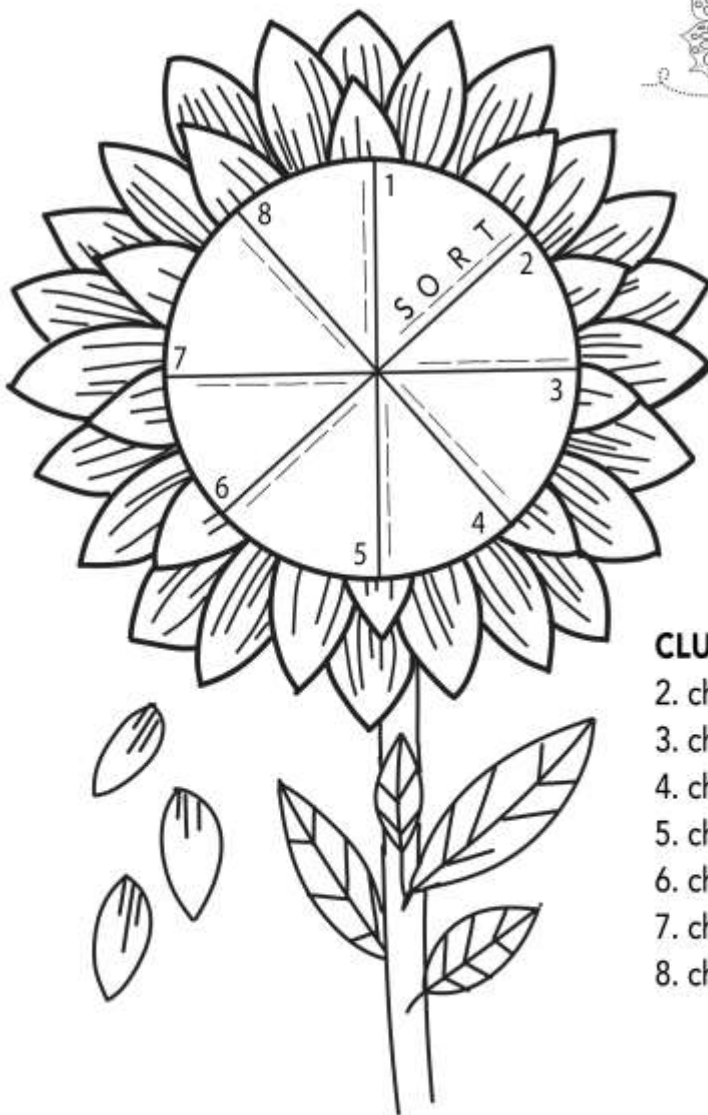
Please contact with corrections
or omissions to the list.



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).