



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

5992 Route 378
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.*

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,

So, someone said to me a few days ago that as 2024 was coming to a close, he was reflecting over all the mistakes he had made over the year and that he wanted to avoid making them again in the new year. Many of us resolve to live our lives differently, to avoid mistakes of the past, in the new year. I've even written about this in the past so maybe you're thinking "Oh no, not this one again!" I don't think I've ever approached it this way before though so bear with me!

A new year is supposed to be about new opportunities full of hope and change, focusing on past mistakes does not appear to be all that joyful. It doesn't help us to start off on a "good note." However, perhaps that is precisely what we must do.

Throughout the season of Advent we have heard the voice of John the Baptist calling in the wilderness to "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." When many of us hear the word "repent" we think that we are simply called to seek God's forgiveness. While that is true, that is only partially true. Repenting requires much more than to say, "I'm sorry God, please forgive me." Repenting requires that we turn away from behaviors that are contrary to God's wishes. Repenting requires that we make a directional shift in our lives, one that is in alignment with the teachings of Christ.

But in order to consider what a new life following Christ would require, one must consider what changes must be made. Out with the bad, in with the good.

When one looks at things this way, considering the "mistakes" of 2024 isn't a such a bad thing at all. As a matter of fact, it's essential.

In order to move into a new bright and hopeful future we must consider where we have been and what kept us there in the first place.

So, remember the voice of John the Baptist: ***Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!*** As a matter of fact, the Kingdom of God has arrived! Let us all walk into it boldly! The mistakes of 2024 do not have to hold us back. Remember them, learn from them, but don't repeat them!

Peace,



**Epiphany Communion
Sunday, January 12, 2025**

We will celebrate communion during worship.



JOYFUL NOISE COLLECTION

**Bring your loose change to church on
Sunday, January 12th
for the Joyful Noise Collection!**

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!



**The Church office will be closed on
Monday, January 20th in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the Christmas wishes and donations to the Samaritan Fund. I really do appreciate your generosity. Have a Happy New Year! ~ Sandy



Christmas Missions in Review

During this Christmas Season Faith Church participated in several missions focused on the needs of children. It is important that we share the results with you.

Holiday Hope Chests

The Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley requested packed shoe boxes for children between the ages of 2 -12 years. Non-profits working with children requested Holiday Hope Chests to provide a gift for each child. Faith Mission Team signed up to provide **70** packed shoeboxes for different ages and genders.

We are pleased to share with you that Faith church donated **78 Holiday Hope Chests and 8-\$25 Gift Cards** for teens. We have exceeded our goal of 70. We wish to thank you for all donations that made our goal possible.

The VCLV collected 5,452 boxes. All boxes have been delivered and are currently being distributed throughout the Lehigh Valley. That will surely make the holidays a lot brighter for each child receiving this special holiday gift.

Thank you to all!



The Caring Place

Hats, Scarves, and Gloves... that's what we delivered to The Caring Place before Christmas!

Thanks to our Faith in Stitches group and donations from the congregation! Over 220 beautiful hats and at least 80 pairs of gloves along with 50 warm scarves were delivered to help keep many children warm during the cold winter weather.

Many thanks to all who helped make this possible!



Gift Cards for Betty Lou's Pantry

For the past several years the children and seniors have been receiving a \$50 gift card at Christmas time. If there is enough funds everyone receives a gift card. Most of the donations come from the community and the churches that assist with the pantry. A donation of \$250 was given to help with this mission.

Sponsored Children Christmas Gifts

Along with Christmas cards and letters from many Faith members, we sent an extra \$100 as a special gift to the families of Mercy and Jose. The organization will select an appropriate gift for each family. We are hoping to hear what that gift is in the near future. We'll keep you posted.

Allentown Rescue Mission

This extremely important mission serves homeless men in the Lehigh Valley. It is instrumental in helping men find their way in

life by providing housing, meals and spiritual guidance. There are many testimonials from the men whose lives have been changed through the efforts of the Rescue Mission. Mission sent \$225 to help with Christmas dinner expenses.

The Samaritan Fund

This fund is designated to help needy families in the Southern Lehigh area. It provides short-termed financial need. Recipients who qualify might be unable to pay electric or heating costs, car and household repairs, and medications. Churches in the Southern Lehigh area have pledged to contribute to this fund on an annual basis. Faith Church has contributed \$1,000 for 2024.

Your generosity toward all of these missions is greatly appreciated by those who have received gifts. When everyone shows generosity to each mission, we are able to make a difference for every recipient.

Your Mission Team Thanks You for your Generous Support
May You be Blessed in the New Year!

**What's next for Mission?
The "Souper" Bowl of Caring!
Stay Tuned!**

Members and Friends of Faith,

Thanks again for helping to fill my Christmas Stocking. I always enjoy its contents.

My hope and prayer is that you have a happy and healthy New year ahead of you.

*Your Sexton,
Dorothy*



Puzzle Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, shore, everything, followed

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS
Head Usher & Financial Secretary: Tom Hovis

Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers
1/5	Karen & Chuck Talboo	Karen Talboo	Trexlers
1/12	George Rau & Brenda Hovis	Barb Maursky	Available
1/19	Rose Mirth & Kim Ritter	Rose Mirth	Available
1/26	Cindy Talaber & Deb Herstine	Cindy Talaber	Available



FAITH FINANCIALS

November	Month	YTD
Combined Receipts	\$23,733.74	\$205,966.87
Combined Disbursements	\$19,716.57	\$212,276.53
	\$4,017.17	(\$6,279.66)

	Weekly Attendance	Weekly Offering
11/3	49	\$1,152
11/10	67	\$1,173
11/17	65	\$3,278
11/24	50	\$1,395
Tithe.ly		\$1,950
Total	231	\$8,948



Betty Lou's Pantry

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

**Boxed Potatoes; Stuffing
Meal Helpers (Beef, Chicken, Tuna)
Jams & Jelly**

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.



JANUARY BIBLE READINGS

- January 1 Gen. 17:1–12a, 15–16; Col. 2:6–12; John 16:23b–30
January 2 Gen. 12:1–7; Heb. 11:1–12; John 6:35–42, 48–51
January 3 Gen. 28:10–22; Heb. 11:13–22; John 10:7–17
January 4 Exod. 3:1–5; Heb. 11:23–31; John 14:6–14
January 5 Deut. 33:1–5 1; John 2:12–17; John 6:41–47
January 6 Isa. 52:7–13; Rev. 21:22–27; Matt. 12:14–21
January 7 Isa. 52:3–6; Rev. 2:1–7; John 2:1–11
January 8 Isa. 59:15b–21; Rev. 2:8–17; John 4:46–54
January 9 Isa. 63:1–5; Rev. 2:18–29; John 5:1–15
January 10 Isa. 65:1–9; Rev. 3:1–6; John 6:1–14
January 11 Isa. 65:13–16; Rev. 3:7–13; John 6:15–27
January 12 Isa. 40:1–11; Heb. 1:1–12; John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34
January 13 Isa. 40:12–24; Eph. 1:1–14; Mark 1:1–13
January 14 Isa. 40:25–31; Eph. 1:15–23; Mark 1:14–28
January 15 Isa. 41:1–16; Eph. 2:1–10; Mark 1:29–45
January 16 Isa. 41:17–29; Eph. 2:11–22; Mark 2:1–12
January 17 Isa. 42:(1–9) 10–17; Eph. 3:1–13; Mark 2:13–22
January 18 Isa. (42:18–25) 43:1–13; Eph. 3:14–21; Mark 2:23–3:6
January 19 Isa. 43:14–44:5; Heb. 6:17–7:10; John 4:27–42
January 20 Isa. 44:6–8, 21–23; Eph. 4:1–16; Mark 3:7–19a
January 21 Isa. 44:9–20; Eph. 4:17–32; Mark 3:19b–35
January 22 Isa. 44:24–45:7; Eph. 5:1–14; Mark 4:1–20
January 23 Isa. 45:5–17; Eph. 5:15–33; Mark 4:21–34
January 24 Isa. 45:18–25; Eph. 6:1–9; Mark 4:35–41
January 25 Isa. 46:1–13; Eph. 6:10–24; Mark 5:1–20
January 26 Isa. 47:1–15; Heb. 10:19–31; John 5:2–18
January 27 Isa. 48:1–11; Gal. 1:1–17; Mark 5:21–43
January 28 Isa. 48:12–21 (22); Gal. 1:18–2:10; Mark 6:1–13
January 29 Isa. 49:1–12; Gal. 2:11–21; Mark 6:13–29
January 30 Isa. 49:13–23 (24–26); Gal. 3:1–14; Mark 6:30–46
January 31 Isa. 50:1–11; Gal. 3:15–22; Mark 6:47–56

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Eric Schoenberger | 22 Koltin Leh |
| 01 Justin Koser | 25 Matthew Talboo |
| 01 Collin Freitas | 27 Luke Schafer |
| 04 Jameson Hughes | 27 Riley Snyder |
| 05 Rose Mirth | 28 Ronald Stoffey |
| 05 John Marple | 30 Leah Connors |
| 09 Dennis Eisenhart | 31 Gail Clark |
| 13 Joan Hassler | 31 Matthew Allison |
| 15 Andrew Sosnowsky | |
| 15 Jerry Trexler | |
| 16 Robin Davis | |
| 19 Dwayne Schantz | |
| 21 Richard J Featherman | |
| 22 Christian Heaps | |
| 22 Christian Miller | |



Please contact with corrections
or omissions to the list.

