



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—26 Consistory

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

Elders

Tom Hovis
Cindy Talaber

Chuck Talboo
Rose Mirth

Bruce Torrence
Jean Hanville

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

Day Care Liaison—Brenda Hovis



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Pennsylvania Avenue in Bethlehem is a lovely place to live.



Two wide lanes, beautiful trees, wonderful neighbors, close to shopping, schools and parks. What more could you ask for?

Well, traffic safety has been an issue. With two wide lanes like that people drive higher than the 35-mph speed limit and treat it like a four-lane highway. As a result, things like this have happened:



Between ourselves and our neighbors, 6 cars had been totaled and that doesn't count the cars driven by the drivers who hit our cars. What to do, what to do?

In 2017 Patience and I went to the Traffic Safety Office to share our concern. They agreed to do a "Traffic Study", whatever that is. After that was done they told us that the average speed of vehicles on Pennsylvania Avenue was between 35 and 40 MPH and since the speed limit was 35 MPH they didn't see the need to take any action. We went back and said that the real danger was people driving like it was a four-lane highway. Believing that this would resolve the issue or just satisfy us they put up a few "No Passing" signs. They failed to

change the behavior of motorists.

After more car crashes, in 2022 we went back but this time to City Council with 5 neighbors. We had noticed that on Eaton Avenue, a street similar in size, the city had painted white lines on the road to distinguish between driving areas and parking areas.



Surely, the city officials would see the wisdom in this. We weren't asking for the moon. No more signs, no traffic lights, no speed bumps ... just a white line.

I offered to pay for the paint! They promised to look into it but nothing but "radio silence."

Then this year, after two more crashes into cars that were legally parked we went back. "When will we get a white line?! I drive on Eaton Avenue every day to get to work and there are over 40 cars parked in an area designated by a white line. You say that the line doesn't deter speeding, but I haven't seen any crashed cars!" Another gentleman spoke up. "I think it is horrible that these people have to come here and beg for something as simple as traffic safety."

I went home that night feeling satisfied that I spoke my mind but unsure I would receive my white line. Then, on one bright summer day as I was walking to my car to come to work I noticed some city workers.



I called Patience and we both ran over to them. "Are you two measuring the street for a white line?"

"As a matter of fact we are! I Was at the City Council meeting the night you were there making your request. Job should be done by the end of the

week weather permitting!” They were true to their word. Five days later:



VOILA! Our long-awaited white line has become a reality! My neighbors have noticed that people are driving calmer, following the speed limit, are not “hugging the curb,” and we are feeling safer in our neighborhood.

While this is a fun story to tell you I do have a reason. In the U.C.C. Statement of Faith we petition God to give us “Courage in the struggle of justice and peace.” As Christians it is not always easy to stand up for what we know to be true and right. Now God calls us to stand up for far more than white lines on roads to promote safety, considering that it took us 8 years to get the “justice” we sought.

As Christians, when we see homelessness, we fight to eliminate it. When we see hatred, we sow seeds of peace. When we see hunger, we offer food. When we see children without school supplies or decent clothing for a harsh winter, we provide it.

It took us 8 years to get our justice. Resolving homelessness, hunger, malnutrition, and illness are issues that will require a lifetime of work and it is easy to get tired and frustrated and wonder if we are making any progress at all. That is when we pray for courage. Pursuing justice and peace is a struggle but one that can be achieved. Justice and peace are winning one day at a time. Don’t take on more than that otherwise you will be discouraged. What justice and peace have you achieved this day? Tomorrow will present more challenges. Celebrate the accomplishments of today before you deal with tomorrow.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Emu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



**The Church Office will be closed on
October 13th
in observance of
Indigenous Peoples Day.**

**The Fundraising Committee will
hold a Penny Party Planning Meeting on
Tuesday, October 7th at 10 am in the conference room.**

**The Worship Committee will meet on
Tuesday, October 7th on Zoom at 7 pm.**

**Budget & Finance will meet on Tuesday,
October 14th at 7 pm.**

**Consistory will meet on
Thursday, October 16th at 7 pm.**

**Faith in Stitches meets every Tuesday
at 2 pm in the Memorial Room.**

From Knowing to Becoming

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAITH CHURCH!

On Sunday, October 5th we will celebrate
World Communion and welcome
the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates to share the message.

In honor of our 60th Anniversary we will hold a
mini-carnival following worship.



We'll have:

Miss Mary's Food Truck
from the Caring Place,

the Sugar Cycle
Ice Cream Stand,



a Bounce House,
and more.

Hope to see you there!!

Our Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need



*Supporting justice
initiatives across
the United Church
of Christ*

Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

We'll be accepting your donations for this special mission through the month of October.

Special Offering Envelopes will be available in the narthex.

PENNY PARTY

*Where: Faith UCC
5992 Route 378
Center Valley, PA 18034
When: Sunday, November 2, 2025
12 ^{pm} Doors Open
Lunch & Desserts available for purchase
1 ^{pm} Games Begin*

\$5/bag of 70 tickets



*Over 300 items auctioned
all priced from 1¢ - 25¢
Bring your coins!
Change will be available*

DOOR PRIZES

BASKET RAFFLES

FUN for EVERYONE!

NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Everybody Mark your Calendars for the PENNY PARTY! Join us Sunday, November 2nd for Faith's Penny Party! Bring your change! There will be FUN and PRIZES for the whole family! Doors will open at 12 noon - lunch and desserts will be available for purchase. Games begin at 1:00.

Penny Party Planning Meeting

For all those who helped last year, or said you would be willing to help out this year with the Penny Party, there will be a planning meeting on Tuesday October 7th at 10:00 am in the conference room. Please plan to attend if you are able and join the fun. If you would like to help out but are not available on the 7th, you can contact Brenda Hovis @ 610-657-6287 or Cindy Talaber @ 610-282-4627.

Penny Party Donations We need your help to make this fundraiser a huge success. The Fundraising committee is looking for donations for the penny party. Items could include, but are not limited to, canned items (current sell by dates only please—we will not use any expired canned items), paper products, cleaning items, children's items (crayons, coloring books, toys, etc.), or any items that you think people might want to take a chance on. There will be totes in the narthex to place your donated items into. The totes will be marked Penny Party.

The fundraising committee will also be accepting baskets for a basket raffle, or items to add to a basket for the raffle. all donations will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be given to Brenda Hovis, Cindy Talber, or left in the church office marked Penny Party.

Thank you, your support means so much to us. The Fundraising Committee



HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS

We are still accepting shoe boxes for wrapping. The wrapped shoe boxes will become available for you to take and fill beginning **Sunday, October 26th.**

The volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley has not yet released the information on this holiday mission. The boxes will be labeled with gender and age with a list of suggested gifts inside.

The filled boxes will need to be returned by Nov 30, the week after Thanksgiving.

Teenagers will be given gift cards only. \$25 gift cards from Walmart, Target, Dollar Tree, Dollar General will be accepted. Please no food gift cards.

BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8th.

The biggest and most important food drive will be held on this day.

Betty Lou's Pantry relies on your generous donations to assist our families in need.

You should receive a bag on your front porch with a flyer listing suggested food donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Set your bag out by your mailbox **by 9 am on Sat, Nov 8.** If it's raining please put the paper bag into a plastic bag.

If your bag is not picked up by the scouts, please bring it to church on Sun, Nov 9. Donations can also be dropped off at BLP every Wednesday between 8:45–10 am. Donations are also accepted at the Southern Lehigh Library, Center Valley and Coopersburg Post Offices.

CHILDREN'S LIGHTLY USED COATS NEEDED

Betty Lou's Pantry will be collecting children's clean and lightly used coats through the month of October. Drop off your coat donations in the bins in the Narthex. New coats will also be accepted.



JOYFUL NOISE UPDATE

This special offering is collected by the Youth at Faith on the second Sunday of each month.

It is used to cover the sponsorships of 2 children, **Jose in El Salvador and Mercy in Uganda**. In order to cover these expenses we must average a total of **\$115 monthly**. This will cover the monthly expenses plus a \$100 birthday gift and \$100 Christmas gift for each child.

Listed below are the offering totals so far in 2025:

January	\$241.18	June	\$ ——
February	\$ 74.62	July	\$114.43
March	\$ 87.32	August	\$ ——
April	\$105.50	September	\$ 99.25
May	\$101.54		

9 Month TOTAL: \$ 823.84

Thank you for your generous donations that help to change the lives of these 2 children, Jose and Mercy!

BEYOND BORDERS HAITIAN FAMILY SPONSORSHIPS

A little over 2 years ago several Faith families teamed up with the Mission Team to sponsor 2 impoverished families on Laganov Island, Haiti. Our sponsorships, through Beyond Borders, has helped to bring these families from a life of poverty to one of hope and optimism.

Much was expected of Erwine Simon and Marijo Remy in order for them to graduate from this life-changing training. We are pleased to announce that both have graduated from the program. We are anxiously awaiting to see the graduation pictures of all the happy families who participated in Beyond Borders cohort.

A new cohort will be starting soon and the Mission Team is hoping to support 2 or more families with the help of Faith members.

ANGEL MISSION SUNDAY



On Sunday, October 19 we will be hearing from several Faith Angels. They will be sharing information on how they created their own mission projects.

If you are a participant, please have photos or videos to Pastor Burce by October 1.

The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.



Household Hazardous Waste Event

A Household Hazardous Waste Event
is scheduled for **Saturday, November 1st** from **8 am - 2 pm**
at **Coca-Cola Park**
1050 Ironpigs Way
Allentown, PA 18109

It is for Lehigh County Residents only.

Print outs of allowable items and what not to bring along will be available in the Narthex in the very near future.



Lawn Crew

October 5th: Tim Hovis
October 12: Mirth Crew

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to keeping the grounds of Faith Church looking great this year.

A new schedule will be coming out in the Spring and we'd be happy to have some new volunteers!! Please give a call to the church office if you would like to help.



Thank you for your generous donations to Betty Lou's Pantry. All items are greatly appreciated.

The food items most needed at this time are:

**BOXED POTATOES
(Scalloped & Stuffing)
JELLY
SPAGHETTI SAUCE**

Contributions of these items are greatly appreciated:

Hearty Soup, Chili, Beef Stew
Spaghetti Sauce & Spaghetti Noodles
Meal Helpers (Beef, Chicken, Tuna)
Black Beans & Kidney Beans
Canned Fruit & Applesauce
Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghettios)
Canned Meats (Chicken & Salmon)
Pasta of All Kinds
Baked Beans

Peanut Butter & Jelly
Macaroni & Cheese
Tuna Fish
Canned Tomato Products
Vegetables
Boxed Potatoes
Cereal
Side Dishes & Rice
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 **484-898-5482** . 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.

October Volunteers
Head Usher: Chuck Talboo
Financial Secretary: Bob Shelly

Date	Greeter	Lay Reader	Flowers
10/5	Faye Tirpak	Iris Shelly	Bob & Patti Shelly
10/12	TBD	Joan Hassler	Erneys
10/19	TBD	Barb Maursky	Mirth
10/26	TBD	TBD	Dills



FAITH FINANCIALS

August	Month	YTD
Combined Receipts	\$17,207.56	\$147,526.81
Combined Disbursements	\$17,225.54	\$145,881.18
	(\$17.98)	\$1,645.63

Weekly Attendance Weekly Offering

8/3	41	\$2,058
8/10	85	\$1,840
8/17	45	\$1,704
8/24	36	\$1,598
8/31	35	\$ 992
Tithe.ly		\$1,460
Total	242	\$8,192



OCTOBER BIBLE READINGS

October 1

2 Kings 18:9–25

1 Cor. 8:1–13

Matt. 7:13–21

October 2

2 Kings 18:28–37

1 Cor. 9:1–15

Matt. 7:22–29

October 3

2 Kings 19:1–20

1 Cor. 9:16–27

Matt. 8:1–17

October 4

2 Kings 19:21–36

1 Cor. 10:1–13

Matt. 8:18–27

October 5

2 Kings 20:1–21

Acts 12:1–17

Luke 7:11–17

October 6

2 Kings 21:1–18

1 Cor. 10:14–11:1

Matt. 8:28–34

October 7

2 Kings 22:1–13

1 Cor. 11:2–22

Matt. 9:1–8

October 8

2 Kings 22:14–23:3

1 Cor. 11:23–34

Matt. 9:9–17

October 9

2 Kings 23:4–25

1 Cor. 12:1–11

Matt. 9:18–26

October 10

2 Kings 23:36–24:17

1 Cor. 12:12–26

Matt. 9:27–34

October 11

Jer. 35:1–19

1 Cor. 12:27–13:3

Matt. 9:35–10:4

October 12

Jer. 36:1–10

Acts 14:8–18

Luke 7:36–50

October 13

Jer. 36:11–26

1 Cor. 13:(1–3) 4–13

Matt. 10:5–15

October 14

Jer. 36:27–37:2

1 Cor. 14:1–12

Matt. 10:16–23

October 15

Jer. 37:3–21

1 Cor. 14:13–25

Matt. 10:24–33

October 16

Jer. 38:1–13

1 Cor. 14:26–40

Matt. 10:34–42

October 17

Jer. 38:14–28

1 Cor. 15:1–11

Matt. 11:1–6

October 18

Jer. 52:1–34

1 Cor. 15:12–29

Matt. 11:7–15

October 19

Jer. 29:1, 4–14

Acts 16:6–15

Luke 10:1–12, 17–20

October 20

Jer. 44:1–14

1 Cor. 15:30–41

Matt. 11:16–24

October 21

Lam. 1:1–12

1 Cor. 15:41–50

Matt. 11:25–30

October 22
Lam. 2:8–15
1 Cor. 15:51–58
Matt. 12:1–14

October 23
Ezra 1:1–11
1 Cor. 16:1–9
Matt. 12:15–21

October 24
Ezra 3:1–13
1 Cor. 16:10–24
Matt. 12:22–32

October 25
Ezra 4:7, 11–24
Philem. 1–25
Matt. 12:33–42

October 26
Hag. 1:1–2:9
Acts 18:24–19:7
Luke 10:25–37

October 27
Zech. 1:7–17
Rev. 1:4–20
Matt. 12:43–50

October 28
Ezra 5:1–17
Rev. 4:1–11
Matt. 13:1–9

October 29
Ezra 6:1–22
Rev. 5:1–10
Matt. 13:10–17

October 30
Neh. 1:1–11
Rev. 5:11–6:11
Matt. 13:18–23

October 31
Neh. 2:1–20
Rev. 6:12–7:4
Matt. 13:24–30



THE POWER OF PRAYER BOX

I want to pray for my family and friends

My Prayer Box

Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper

What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV

October Birthdays

07 Amanda Gunkle
12 Doris Horwath
12 Brylie Kepner
16 Kellan Maginn
16 Patience Stevenson
16 Duane Jones
17 Kraig Koehnlein
18 Larry Weidner
19 Ben Muth
20 Joyce Butz
21 Logan Koch
22 Debby Herstine
23 Jean Rau
24 Addison Dill
25 Jane Lenner
26 Hunter Steele

27 Ron Demkee
27 Charles Castetter
27 Anthony DiSanto Jr
28 Susanna Berghold
29 Zina Sosnowsky
30 Debra Miller
31 Mim Allison



Please contact the church office with corrections
or omissions to the list.



JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY

BETHLEHEM

BETHSAIDA

CAESAREA PHILIPPI

CANA

CAPERNAUM

DECAPOLIS

EGYPT

EPHRAIM

GALILEE

JERICHO

JERUSALEM

JORDAN RIVER

JUDEA

MAGDALA

MOUNT OF OLIVES

NAZARETH

PEREA

SAMARIA

SIDON

TYRE

WILDERNESS

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K