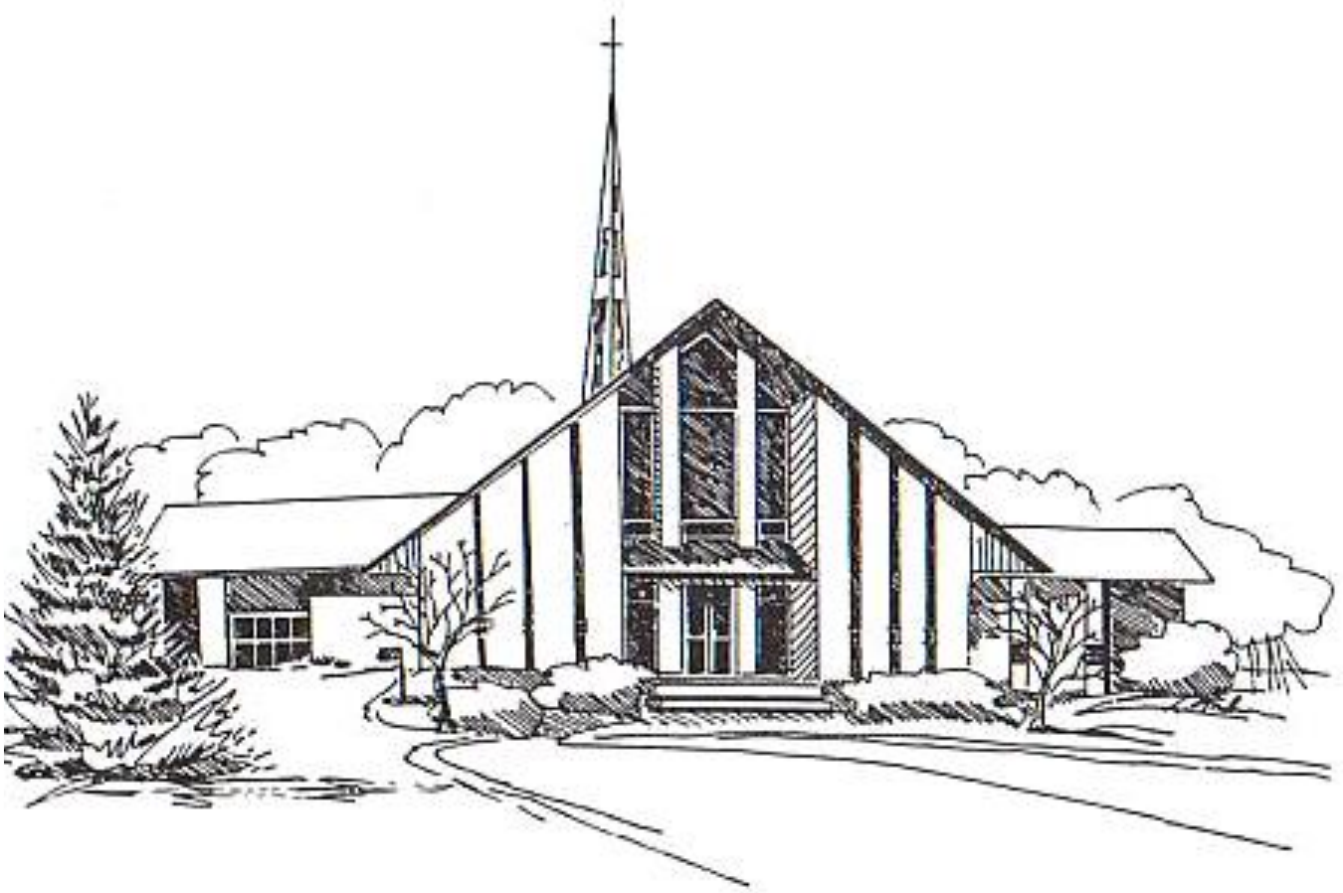


FAITH

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
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHILDREN'S SABBATH
OCTOBER 12, 2025**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: JOY SONG – *Mark Hayes*

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Everlasting God, we come before you with questions, and you question us in return. We declare that you are good, and you have declared us good. May we acknowledge that you make all things new, you redeem our days, and you empower us to be your people. In your presence, there is joy, and there is struggle. Peace surpasses understanding, and our hearts break. This defines the fullness of human community and experience in companionship with you. We give thanks for your presence and trust that you continue to transform the impossible into the possible. Make it so in us and through us in your precious name. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: LITTLE CHILDREN, WELCOME! 323**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: We have gathered in this space

People: Welcomed like a prodigal child back into our warm, safe home.

Pastor: We have gathered in this space

People: Embraced like children greeted by Jesus when others turned us away.

Pastor: We have gathered in this space.

People: Let us worship God as beloved children, heirs to God's beloved kin-dom of peace.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Pastor: You created a world of plenty,

People: Yet there are children starving for food, thirsting for clean water.

Pastor: You created a world of peace,

People: Yet there are children in the path of war, innocent lives lost to the violence of weapons and hatred.

Pastor: You created a world with time for rest,

People: Yet there are children in homes and communities so wrought with uncertainty and fear that no rest comes and sleep carries with it memories of fear.

Pastor: You created a world touched by your compassionate hand,

People: Yet there are children who never hear kindness and never experience unconditional love in ways they can understand.

Pastor: It is our sin, through what we have done and what we have left undone, what we have said and what we have kept silent, that has caused your world to feel less compassionate, less restful, less peaceful and less bountiful.

Unison: Forgive us. Place us back into the work of reconciling ourselves to our neighbors and this world so that we may again return to your loving creation.

* 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: *HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS
HANDS***

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

**MISSION MOMENT: *The Southern Lehigh Area Samaritan
Fund***

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Genesis 21:8 – 21

Exodus 2:1 – 10

New Testament: Matthew 2:13 – 15

A MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

SERMON: *Young Strangers in Our Midst*

HYMN: *CHILD OF BLESSING, CHILD OF PROMISE* 325

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *IT TAKES A CHURCH ...***

Pastor: It takes a United Church of Christ Village to raise a
United Church of Christ child. We will read what we
believe important for our children to learn, to know, and
to experience. It is important for our children to know

that they are cared for, to know that they are part of a larger family, an important part of a bigger “human picture.”

People: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Pastor: It is important for our children to believe in themselves, to trust in themselves, to know that they can make a difference.

People: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Pastor: It is important for our children to know our United Church of Christ principles, to find ways to live them in their daily lives, and to realize that the choices they make are important.

People: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Pastor: It is important for our children to be able to speak about our faith, to honor its history and its heritage, and to appreciate its heroes and heroines.

People: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Pastor: It is important for our children to explore religious truth and meaning in the Jewish, Christian, and other world religions, and to know that ours is a religion worth having.

People: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Pastor: It is important for our children to experience the Spirit of Life, to feel a sense of awe at the grandeur of the world, and to live lives of empathy and compassion.

People: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Loving God, we come today bringing prayers for your beloved children near and far. We pray for the children in our congregation and families. We pray that we do the work we promised at their baptism. That we love and support them, hold them in our daily prayers and provide

for them lessons in both our words and our actions that each your love for all creation.

People: May children find peace and rest within this congregation and within your loving embrace wherever their journeys may lead.

Pastor: We pray for the children in our community. Bless them with enough food to eat each day and a safe place to take their rest each night. Hold them safe when their worlds feel unstable and keep us actively engaged in making this community a place where they can thrive and live in love and peace.

People: May children find peace and rest in our neighborhoods and in your loving embrace wherever their journeys may lead.

Pastor: We pray for the children in our nation. We grieve for those who have perished this year from violence, from not having access to clean water, from being held in detention facilities on our nation's border and for those who were unable to get the medical care they needed to keep their bodies healthy. We give you great thanks for the children who are standing up and advocating for themselves and for others, from standing up against bullies in their classroom to advocating internationally for justice for all children and their future.

People: May children find peace and rest in our nation and in your loving embrace wherever their journeys may lead.

Pastor: We pray for the children of this world. We ask you to place a protective hand over every child living in fear of war or genocide, of drought or evacuation. We know their suffering inflicts so much pain upon your heart, and we pray that we can be part of the work of global peace and reconciliation between nations and with your beloved

Earth. While we await your Beloved Kin-dom, we are reminded of your mandate to care for these, your beloved children, and put their wellbeing above the conflicts of politics.

People: **May all children find peace and rest in our world and in your loving embrace wherever their journeys may lead.**

Pastor: We pray for the work of *Children's Advocacy* from the local to the global level. We thank you for teachers, counselors, coaches, therapists, parents, pastors and all other caregivers who put love and effort into creating a safer and better world for children. We thank you for all people working in politics to advocate for the rights of children, for quality education, for accessible healthcare and for a clean earth that our children will inherit. May we all work, advocate, love and educate until all children can find peace, rest, and hope for whatever their future may bring.

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

Pastor: We lift these prayers as children to our loving parent praying as Jesus taught his disciples ...

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: *BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL* – arr. Mark Hayes

*** 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:**

Divine Crafter of Joy, through your great works, we see your glory. Through our work together, we reflect your glory to a world of pain. May we deliver your dreams and build your Realm here on earth. Bless the work of our hearts as we move into a future filled with hope and living your visions. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: *ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR*** **216**

*** 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: *THE LOVE OF JESUS MEDLEY*** – arr. Mark Hayes

*Would those who are able please stand.

Welcome to Faith Church this Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. 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 Roger & Linda Erney in memory of loved ones.

We welcome and thank Eileen Wescoe and Carole Burkhardt for joining us this morning and sharing their musical talents.

The mission moment this morning is about the Southern Lehigh Area Samaritan Fund. There are several ways you can volunteer your time to the Samaritan Fund. Please speak to Pastor Bruce following worship.

Today is Joyful Noise Sunday. Let's all make a JOYFUL NOISE by dropping your coins in the pans!

Next Sunday is Mission Sunday. Be sure to join us to hear about the Angel Mission Projects done by your fellow congregants.

Betty Lou's Pantry is in need of Chunky/Hearty Soups.

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.

There will be another Penny Party meeting on Tuesday, October 14th at 10:00 am in the Memorial Room. Please plan to attend.

In order to make the Penny Party a HUGE Success the Fundraising committee is looking for donations. 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 Penny Party totes in the narthex to place your donated items into. 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

We continue to collect coats for the children whose families use Betty Lou's Pantry through the end of October. Please be sure they are clean and in good condition. Coats will be distributed during the month of November. If you have an adult coat you wish to donate, place it in a bag labeled "Adult Coat". These coats will be donated to The Caring Place in Allentown.

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Hope Chest Packing Party on November 16th. A lunch will be provided and afterwards we will work at packing shoe boxes. If you would like to pack the shoe boxes on your own they will be ready for distribution on October 26th. Please have the filled boxes back to the church by Sunday, November 23rd.

CALENDAR

Monday (Remotely) – 9 – 4 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday – 9 – 4 pm

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Today | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 9:00 am Sunday School- 10:15 am Worship |
| Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Office Closed in observance of Indigenous People's Day- 7 pm Worship Committee Mtg |
| Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10 am Penny Party Mtg in the Memorial Room- 2 pm Faith in Stitches- 7 pm Budget & Finance Mtg |
| Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10 am SLA Samaritan Fund Mtg- 7 pm Consistory Mtg |
| Friday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off |
| Sunday | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 9:00 am Sunday School- 9:30 am Faith Singers in the Loft- 10:15 am Worship/Mission Sunday- 11:30 am Faith Singers in the Loft |

Thanks to our volunteers!

	October 12	October 19
Head Usher:	Chuck Talboo	Chuck Talboo
Greeter(s):	Bradley Shafer Ryan York	Deb Herstine
Lay Reader:	Joan Hassler	Barb Maursky
Financial Sec:	Bob Shelly	Bob Shelly
Altar Flowers:	Erneys	Rose Mirth
Sunday School:	Tom & Brenda Hovis	Brett & Sonya Dill
Lawn:	Mirth crew	-

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