

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
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2025

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *ALLERSEELEN – Richard Strauss*

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Sovereign of Creation, all that we have comes from you. We gather in your presence, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet. Receive the praise we offer, work in us and through us. You alone are holy, you alone are the Most High, you alone are worthy of our praise. Glory to you, O God, and to the Lamb, our Shepherd, and to the Spirit that unites us all, today and ever more. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

- * **OPENING HYMN: *FOR ALL THE SAINTS*** **299**
- * **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: On this All Saints Sunday, we gather to remember teachers and storytellers who made God's stories come alive for us.

People: We give thanks!

Pastor: We remember choir members, praise bands, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises.

People: We give thanks!

Pastor: We remember preachers and lay leaders who led our worship through the years.

People: We give thanks!

Pastor: We remember parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings who showed us how to hold fast to

the faith.

People: We give thanks!

Pastor: We remember our church families – this one and others we have loved. We remember all those who have been a part of this faith family with whom we grew our faith and our love for God and neighbor.

People: We give thanks!

Pastor: We remember our ancestors in the faith whose courage enables us to be here today.

**People: We give thanks for the saints who came before us, are present here with us, and will continue after us.
Thanks be to God!**

REJOICING IN GOD’S GRACE

*** CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN**

*** PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, and even to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you. Hold us, dear One – comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving our errors, especially the ones that we don’t share with any but you. Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.

*** 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.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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: WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER**

438

When peace like a river, uphold me each day,

when sorrows like sea billows roll,

whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,

"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul;

it is well, it is well with my soul.

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Daniel 7:1 – 3, 15 – 18

Gospel: Luke 6:20 – 31

THE YOUTH MESSAGE

SERMON: *Sainthood 101*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** A LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS WORSHIP**

Pastor: We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from
Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:

People: Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

Pastor: We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and
teachers who have taught us the way of God:

People: Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

Pastor: We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and
uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

People: Family of our faith, we remember you.

Pastor: We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents whose lives ended too soon:

People: Those close in our heart, we remember you.

Pastor: We lift up to You, O God, those we have lost in this past year from our lives, knowing that they are with Your heart forever.

People: Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.

Pastor: We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray.

Unison: Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: O Holy God: we thank you today for calling us your saints. In spite of our unholy lives you look at us and see Jesus' perfect life and death covering ours. Thank you for this grace, the grace we received when we were baptised. Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Thank you for every Christian who has helped us on our journey and encouraged us to keep believing when we felt like giving up. Thank you for all those who taught us the faith. Thank you for those who made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to ensure others could hear of your love in Christ. Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

People: We remember the saints in heaven. Thank you for releasing them from the burden of sin and death in this life and for keeping your promise to them. We especially remember those from our community who have passed away in the past year. Give comfort to all those who grieve over loved ones no longer with us on earth. Give them the hope only your word can offer us. Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: We pray for your church on earth, that it may remain faithful to the apostles' teaching and that it will strive for unity. We pray for all Christians, especially those under persecution, that they may imitate the martyrs in bold witness to the gospel.

We pray for those who are not yet part of your church and for those who have left it, asking your spirit to convince them of your love for them in Jesus. And we pray for the enemies of the church, and those who curse your saints. Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Bring peace to those nations in conflict and where there is political instability. Protect those who are poor and hungry and give them hope. Move those with plenty to share with those who have little. Help all people to love their neighbor as themselves. Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: God of life, we give thanks for the love you have shown to the world through all your saints, and we celebrate our continuing communion with them whenever we worship. We look forward to being part of the crowd around your throne in heaven on the last day. In the meantime keep us looking to Jesus and help us to keep giving a clear

witness to him, living the holy lives you have called us to live by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(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.

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

Introduction

Honoring the Saints

Dedication of Memorials

Pastor: It is good and appropriate that we should set apart and dedicate common items purchased for sacred purposes in the work and ministry of Christ's church. We come to this moment in our worship when we pause to meditate upon the thoughtfulness of others, whose love for their loved ones who have passed from this life to the next will be kept fresh by a living memorial to them.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to dedicate gifts made to support the ministry of Faith Church through our Enduring Gifts Fund.

Before moving away Joyce White was a faithful member of this church. She sang in the choir, served several terms as an elder, president of Consistory, and as the Church Treasurer. In gratitude for her service and the friendship we shared a contribution has been made to our Enduring Gifts Fund in her memory. Steve and Janet

Mitchel were founding members of this church. Having moved far away in their retirement, they may have become forgotten by some and unknown by others but they remained committed to Faith United Church of Christ. Through their generous gift to our Enduring Gifts Fund, the ministry of Faith Church will continue to speak for justice, witness to love and kindness, and spread the word of the Gospel in our generation and those to come.

Bob Pierson moved to Florida after he retired. Later he returned to Coopersburg to be close to family and then moved to Atria Assisted Living in Bethlehem. Bob loved this church and was always very concerned about its financial stability. It is only fitting that Memorial Gifts received in his name were invested in the Enduring Gifts Fund to provide resources for the church's future.

People: May we work hard to be faithful stewards of these gifts.

Pastor: As a tribute to the memory of Kenny Ritter an ornate carving on display this morning in the sanctuary will be placed in the Memorial Room. Its history includes being a portion of a sanctuary pew in a church built in the Lehigh Valley in 1878. In addition to this decorative piece, a donation has been given to the Mission Team to assist with purchasing winter items for the Caring Place, Christmas gift items for the shoe boxes, as well as gift cards for the children we support, Mercy and Jose.

People: We are grateful for Kenny's generosity and dedication to this church. We were blessed to have him in our midst during his earthly life. May this display remind us of the gift of his life to us and encourage to share with others as he did with us. And may the monetary gift entrusted to the work of the Mission Team be a silent yet tangible witness to vulnerable children in need of God's love.

Pastor: Marilyn Bleam gave so much of herself to the ministry of the church. Trying to list her contributions is very difficult but many were done quietly and without notice. She served as the church's first secretary and held that position for 20 years. She sang in the choir. She even mowed the grass on those hot summer days. After she and her husband Frank moved to Florida upon retirement,

Marilyn volunteered in the office of the church that they called home.

Today we dedicate a cross built in her memory. During the Lenten Season it is placed in a more prominent location in the sanctuary to remind us of Jesus journey to Jerusalem and ultimately to the cross. But on Easter Sunday its dull brown wood is flooded with the bright color of lilies to remind that the power of Jesus cannot be contained. Jesus returned to life and He lives with us even now.

People: We thank you for Marilyn's life and all that she shared with us and did for your glory. May this cross remind us of the sacrifice that Christ made that we might be forgiven of our sins and enjoy newness of life. May the cross remind us that we too must journey to Jerusalem with Jesus. We must take up our own crosses and follow Him and that journey will lead us to our own salvation.

A Moment for Private Reflection

Unison: Spirit of God, the life we lead and the stories we weave do not always have a tidy beginning, middle, and end. Some poems do not rhyme, some stories have twists and surprises. Yet, we give thanks to you for the many stories we were able to share with one another, for the joys we knew and dreams we shared with our friends before us. Help us to remember and honor their lives. May the examples of their lives teach us about the meaning and truth to life's ultimate questions. Trusting in your promise to be with us in life, in death, and in life beyond death, we offer all our prayers in the holy name of Jesus. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY: *DEEP RIVER* – arr. Andy Beck

* **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 AND DEDICATION:**

God of Infinite Light, in the ways that you glow, we discover more about ourselves: how we excel and how we are to share from our talents, treasures, and time. May we have hearts of hospitality as we seek the Christ in our works. May we build God's Realm, knowing that what we give will make a difference and bless our siblings across this world. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: *I SING A SONG OF THE SAINTS OF GOD* 295**

*** 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: *ESPRESSIVO* – C. P. E. Bach**

**Would those who are able please stand.*

Welcome to Faith Church this Twenty-First 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 in remembrance of Rev. Karl Siegfried's birthday by his family.

This morning we welcome Eileen Wescoe and Carole Burkhardt and thank them for sharing their special talents with us.

Join us after worship 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.

Pastor Bruce will be away for Continuing Education beginning this afternoon through Wednesday evening. If you need pastoral care during this time please contact Rev. Teresa Martin at 717-654-4044.

We are in need of volunteers to man the Election Day Soup & Bake Sale on November 4th. Please consider helping and sign up in the Narthex.

The BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE will take place on Saturday, November 8, 2025. You should have received a donation bag with a list of suggested food items that are needed at Betty Lou's Pantry. Please leave your filled bag on your front steps or next to your mailbox by **9 am on Saturday**. If your donations do not get picked up you can take them to:

- Faith Church on Sunday
- Southern Lehigh Library
- Center Valley or Coopersburg Post Offices

Donations are also accepted on Wednesday mornings between 8:45 -10:00 a.m at Betty Lou's Pantry, 528 Thomas Street, Coopersburg.
(Due to budget cuts the Pantry is counting on community donations to help keep our shelves well-stocked.)

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're packing your own boxes please have the filled boxes back by Sunday, November 23rd.

We are in need of Greeters for Sunday mornings. Please sign up in the Narthex.

CALENDAR

Office Hours: Monday (Remotely) – 9 – 4 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday – 9 – 4 pm

**Today - 9:00 am Sunday School
 - 10:15 am Worship/Mission Sunday**

Tuesday - 2 pm Faith in Stitches

Friday - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off

**Sunday - 9:00 am Sunday School
 - 9:30 am Faith Singers in the Loft
 - 10:15 am Worship
 - 11:30 am Faith Singers in the Loft**

Thanks to our volunteers!

	November 2	November 9
Head Usher:	Cindy Talaber	Cindy Talaber
Greeter:	Kim Ritter	Deb Herstine
Lay Reader:	Karen Talboo	Cindy Talaber
Financial Sec:	Tony DiSanto	Tony DiSanto
Altar Flowers:	Cindy Siegfried	Sue Roberts
Sunday School:	Catherine & Patience S	Tom & Brenda H

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Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net