



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
Staff Relations—Chuck Talboo



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

What do the following companies have in common with each other?

FaceBook
Intel
Tesla
Google
ebay
in
Zipcar
Kraft
Colgate
AT&T
Chobani
Pfizer
duolingo

At a quick glance, I depend on eight of these thirteen companies. I may not drive a Tesla but I buy and sell on ebay, when I need to buy yogurt its always Chobani, and ever since I was a boy I have always used Colgate toothpaste. So, what do all 13 companies have in common?

They were all started, at least in part, by immigrants.

There are reasons why the church should be addressing immigration. One reason is economic, and the others are theological/justice related issues. While I am better versed at theology/justice issues than I am at economics, the two are connected so I will do my best to address both. As I dive into this issue let me stress that I am speaking of DOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION in this article. I will not use the terms legal or illegal because we are talking about human beings and humans are neither “legal” or “illegal.” In terms of immigration, they are either documented or nondocumented. That said, here we go, buckle your seat belt!

Did you know that thirty-six percent of all patents in the United States

last year were filed by immigrants? Twenty-three percent came from immigrants and thirteen percent came through partnerships between immigrants and natural born Americans. The contributions of immigrants to the American economy are staggering. We need immigrants.

An immigrant is 80% more likely to start a new business than a natural born American. We need immigrants.

But do immigrants create more crime than natural born Americans? NO! Studies show that whether you are talking about violent crimes, property related crimes, or drug violations natural born Americans commit more crimes than Documented or Non-Documented Immigrants. We need immigrants.

When it comes to immigration we need to move away from a villain/victim or a fear or pity mentality. The facts simply don't support them. And yet many hold on to the thinking that immigrants are here to hurt us, they are here to steal our jobs, and they are to be feared and pitied. There is nothing new about this. My grandfather told me of signs he saw in shop windows: ***Help Wanted; Irish Need Not Apply***. These sentiments have come up in every era of immigration, and they are running high now.

So, I am done with the economic or historic portion of this article. Onto the theological/justice related portion.

We are a country of immigrants. While not everyone residing in America is a Christian, the sacred texts of our faith orders us to show special welcome to the “stranger in our midst.”

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. ~ Leviticus 19:33 – 34

For many years God's people were nomads, traveling from one place to the next, seeking safety, hospitality, and refuge in foreign lands. They were strangers and they were welcomed by strangers. As we wrestle with the plight of immigrants in our time the character of our God and

our faith demands that we show the same welcome that our ancestors in faith received when they sought grace and mercy.

Immigrants deserve our grace and mercy.

‘Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ~ Matthew 25:37 – 43

These words of Jesus tell us that it is our Christian responsibility to welcome the stranger and that nations that fail to do so will be judged as such.

So, are you thinking that I believe in open borders? Not at all. I believe in secure borders with mercy, that are just and are humble.

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. ~ Micah 6:8

Right now, I believe we have broken borders and not because we haven’t finished building a “wall.” I believe our border problem is because we are failing to **welcome the stranger**. Our immigration policies do not meet an international problem. The need for workers in this country has increased yet the number of documented immigrations we will accept has not changed since 1990 - 35 years ago.

I believe in borders that will speak to the needs of everyone on either side of the border providing food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, shelter for the homeless, clothes for the naked, medicine for the sick, and comfort and company for those who are lonely or have been impris-

oned. It will be to the extent that we do these things that we, our church, our community, our nation, and our world will be judged.

Who are the strangers in our midst? They are the people who show up at Betty Lou's Pantry for food. They are the people who call the Samaritans Fund seeking shelter. They are the children at the Caring Place who need notebooks, binders, crayons, pencils, and backpacks for school. They are the people who show up at a soup kitchen in Allentown or Bethlehem to receive a hot and nutritious meal. They are the teens of the LGBTQ+ community whose lives have become so unbearable due to judgement and rejection that they are considering harming themselves because they don't know of any other way to make the pain stop until they pick up a phone and dial the Trevor Project. These are just some of the strangers in our midst and sometimes it is just easier to look in the opposite direction when we are confronted by their presence.

But remember this: A stranger stays a stranger as long as both parties are standing on either side of the wall.

Welcome the stranger.

Peace,



Fall Back

Set your clocks
back one
hour before
bed on
Sunday.

AP



**ALL SAINTS
SUNDAY
November 2, 2025**

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!

**ELECTION DAY FOOD SALE
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2025**



**We need volunteers to man the kitchen
for our sale of SOUP, HOT DOGS, & BAKED GOODS!**
If you can help please call Brenda @ 610-657-6287.



**BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH**
More information on page 11.

**CARING PLACE MISSION MOMENT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
DURING WORSHIP**



More information on page 12.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
*after worship
to approve the 2026 Budget and re-elect
members of the Memorial & Enduring
Gifts Committee & Treasurer*

**HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS
PACKING PARTY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH**
More information on page 11.



DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 29TH**

9:00 am



**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

MEETINGS

**The Worship Committee will meet on
Tuesday, November 11th on Zoom at 7 pm.**

**The Mission Team will meet on Thursday,
November 13th at 3:00 pm in the
Memorial Room.**

**Budget & Finance will meet on Tuesday,
November 18th at 7 pm.**

**Consistory will meet on
Thursday, November 20th at 7 pm.**

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

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 November

Special Offering Envelopes will be available in the pews.



HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS

Our Holiday Hope Chest Mission is well underway.

Just a few reminders:

Boxes are located in the Narthex and are labeled with Age and Gender.

Suggestions and Directions are included inside the box.

Teenagers receive only \$25 Gift Cards. They do not need to be in a box. Put in a card.

On November 16 we will be holding a packing party to fill 50 boxes. This event will follow worship with a light lunch and then we'll begin packing. Please join us for the fun.

ALL filled boxes must be returned to Faith Church no later than **Sunday, Nov 23**. We must deliver all Holiday Hope Chests the week after Thanksgiving.

Thank you for helping to brighten the lives of many children across the Lehigh Valley this holiday season.

BETTY LOU'S PANTRY **BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE**

Saturday, November 8

Please watch for your Food Drive donation bag to be dropped off on your front steps sometime during the first week in November. You will find attached to the bag 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 Saturday, November 8**. Due to budget cuts the Pantry is counting on community donations to help keep our shelves well-stocked. If your donations are



not picked up please take them to:

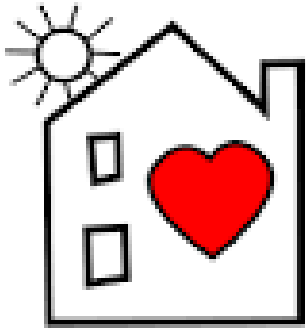
- Faith Church on Sunday
- Southern Lehigh Library
- Center Valley or Coopersburg Post Offices

Donations are also accepted on Wednesday mornings between 8:45 - 10:00 a.m at Betty Lou's Pantry, 528 Thomas Street, Coopersburg.

THE CARING PLACE

Hamilton Street

Allentown PA



Winter is slowly moving in on the Lehigh Valley and it is time to turn our thoughts to helping our neighbors in need keep warm and comfy. Please continue to bring in lightly used and clean coats for all ages, children through adults. Thank you to those who

have already dropped off your donations.

On **Sunday, November 9th** the director of **The Caring Place** will be joining us to share information about their goals and needs. Please join us as we surprise Adam with some of their much-needed outer-wear for the children who attend TCP.

A large portion of these donations will include hat and scarves created by our very own ladies of **Faith in Stitches**. Thank you to all who continue to use your **Time, Talents, and Treasures** to warm up recipients with their beautiful creations!

Have Questions on any of these missions? Contact:

Chuck or Karen Talboo

610-703-5229

cktalboo@gmail.com



**The Church Office will be
closed on
November 10th
in observance of
Veteran's Day
and on
November 27th
in observance of
Thanksgiving.**

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and
rejoice in Your constant goodness
and grace.
May our hearts overflow with
gratitude, not just today,
but every day.
Amen.

Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column of letters to complete the hidden phrase below.

FEAST, KHAKI, MOUTH,
ESSAY, LLAMA, ORBIT, CARRY,
UDDER, BRUSH, ITEMS,
~~APPLE~~, LEARN, CIDER

A	P	P	L	E



P

!



Thank you for your generous donations to Betty Lou's Pantry. Between August 24th and October 26th, 375 items were donated. All items are greatly appreciated!!

The food items most needed at this time are:

HEARTY/CHUNKY SOUPS

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 **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.

Answers to puzzle on last page: Give, praise, Lord,
proclaim, name, known, nations, done, sing, him, praise, tell,
all, wonderful, acts

NOVEMBER Volunteers
Head Usher: Cindy Talaber
Financial Secretary: Tony DiSanto

Date	Greeter	Lay Reader	Flowers
11/2	Kim Ritter	Karen Talboo	Cindy Siegfried
11/9	Deb Herstine	Cindy Talaber	Sue Roberts
11/16	TBD	Joan Hassler	Bergholds
11/23	TBD	Barb Maursky	Available
11/30	TBD	Marc Bamberger	Joan Hassler



FAITH FINANCIALS

September	Month	YTD
Combined Receipts	\$20,775.47	\$168,302.28
Combined Disbursements	\$19,654.16	\$165,535.34
	\$1,121.31	\$2,766.94

	Weekly Attendance	Weekly Offering
9/7	43	\$4,796
9/14	39	\$1,755
9/21	53	\$2,391
9/28	58	\$1,181
Tithe.ly		\$1,961
Total	193	\$12,104



NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS

November 1

Isa. 26:1–21

Rev. 21:9–27 (22:1–5)

Matt. 5:1–12

November 2

Neh. 5:1–9

Acts 20:7–12

Luke 12:22–31

November 3

Neh. 6:1–19

Rev. 10:1–11

Matt. 13:36–43

November 4

Neh. 12:27–47

Rev. 11:1–19

Matt. 13:44–52

November 5

Neh. 13:4–22

Rev. 12:1–12

Matt. 13:53–58

November 6

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26

Rev. 14:1–13

Matt. 14:1–12

November 7

Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36

Rev. 15:1–8

Matt. 14:13–21

November 8

Ezra 9:1–15

Rev. 17:1–14

Matt. 14:22–36

November 9

Ezra 10:1–17

Acts 24:10–21

Luke 14:12–24

November 10

Neh. 9:1–25

Rev. 18:1–8

Matt. 15:1–20

November 11

Neh. 9:26–38

Rev. 18:9–20

Matt. 15:21–28

November 12

Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18

Rev. 18:21–24

Matt. 15:29–39

November 13

Neh. 6:1–19

Rev. 19:1–10

Matt. 16:1–12

November 14

Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–

47

Rev. 19:11–16

Matt. 16:13–20

November 15

Neh. 13:4–22

Rev. 20:1–6

Matt. 16:21–28

November 16

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26

Acts 28:14b–23

Luke 16:1–13

November 17

Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36

Rev. 20:7–15

Matt. 17:1–13

November 18

Ezra 9:1–15

Rev. 21:1–8

Matt. 17:14–21

November 19

Ezra 10:1–17

Rev. 21:9–21

Matt. 17:22–27

November 20

Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)

Rev. 21:22–22:5

Matt. 18:1–9

November 21

Neh. 9:26–38

Rev. 22:6–13

Matt. 18:10–20

November 22
Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18
Rev. 22:14–21
Matt. 18:21–35

November 23
Isa. 19:19–25
Rom. 15:5–13
Luke 19:11–27

November 24
Joel 3:1–2, 9–17
1 Peter 1:1–12
Matt. 19:1–12

November 25
Nahum 1:1–13
1 Peter 1:13–25
Matt. 19:13–22

November 26
Obad. 15–21
1 Peter 2:1–10

Matt. 19:23–30
November 27
Zeph. 3:1–13
1 Peter 2:11–25
Matt. 20:1–16

November 28
Isa. 24:14–23
1 Peter 3:13–4:6
Matt. 20:17–28

November 29
Micah 7:11–20
1 Peter 4:7–19
Matt. 20:29–34

November 30
Amos 1:1–5, 13–2:8
1 Thess. 5:1–11
Luke 21:5–19



Answer to puzzle on page 14:
Praise the Lord!

Thankful garland

Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)

What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

October Birthdays

01 Sadie Shafer
02 Russ Shelly
03 Jessica Schaffer
04 Catherine Stevenson
05 Glenn Gunkle
05 Emma Hardy
06 Joseph Orach
08 Bruce Keeler
11 Tootie Koch
11 Steve Sosnowsky
18 Nicole Gasda
22 Nolan Ryan
25 Rebecca Hite
26 Eric Koch




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



GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

1 Give Take Grab	2 peanut praise pear	3 temple house LORD	4 proclaim past present	5 name boy lad	6 ruin destroy make
7 pine acorn known	8 train nations bus	9 done donut muffin	10 Sing Sleep Yawn	11 she him girl	12 sun praise moon
13 tell fast slow	14 red all blue	15 horrible dreadful wonderful	16 acts sisters aunts		

_____ to the _____, _____ his _____;
 1 2 3 4 5
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____.
 6 7 8 9
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of
 10 11 12 13
 _____ his _____.
 14 15 16

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV