

# FOCUS



# ON

# *FAITH*

Volume 45, Number 11  
2016

December 2016

The word 'December' is written in a large, elegant, grey cursive font. The number '2016' is written below it in a similar, slightly smaller font. A red cardinal is perched on the right side of the word, and a branch of green holly leaves with red berries is positioned at the bottom left of the word.

**Sunday School—9:00 am**

**Worship—10:15 am**

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

Office@faithchurchucc.org

www.faithchurchucc.org



Thank you to the newsletter crew for their help in mailing the newsletters this month -

*Arlene Beck, LaVerna Diehl, Joan Hassler, Evelyn Hovis, and Sue Walter*

## 2016—2017 Consistory

President: Wes Koser

Vice President: Deb Orach

Secretary: Michele Keeler

### Elders:

Mim Allison

Deb Orach

Wes Koser

Jane Van Horn

### Deacons:

Caroline Frantz

Colleen Kandt

Tori Schoenberger

Michele Keeler

Qiyi Zhu Stoffey

John Barone

Scott Christman

Kevin Long

**Church Treasurer:** Joe Orach

### Liaisons:

Christian Ed: *John Barone*

Kitchen Krew: *Jane Van Horn*

End./Mem. Gifts: *Michele Keeler*

Property: *Wes Koser*

Staff Relations: *Qiyi Zhu-Stoffey*

Worship: *Mim Allison*

Budget & Finance: *Deb Orach*

Mission: *Caroline Frantz*

Youth: *Kevin Long*

Day Care: *Colleen Kandt*

FUN<sup>d</sup>raising: *Michele Keeler*

Fellowship: *John Barone*

*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.*



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

If you've ever driven by my house over the last few years you may have noticed that it was starting to look a little "shabby." The roof needed to be replaced, it needed new siding, and replacement windows would be a really nice touch. Patience said that our house looked like it had a "bad case of acne!" The first project we tackled was the roof as we figured keeping ourselves dry should be our first priority! This summer we bit the bullet and had new windows, siding, and shutters installed. Our house looks brand new!

There are more things that need to be done on the inside. We'd like to do something about flooring in half of the first floor, the entire second floor, and there are some plumbing issues that will need to be addressed eventually.

Home ownership is an on going progress. It seems like we are always in the process of fixing things and making things "new" again but in order to do this preparation is required. Whether its saving enough money to have the job done, finding time to do the job yourself, or making the simple decisions involved (e.g. What color shutters should we get) preparation is key. We had to purchase a new washing machine. A day before it was delivered I received an email telling me what I had to do to *prepare* for the new machine. I thought the delivery people would take care of all that! Boy, was I wrong. Preparation is key to almost everything.

Here is the deal: if you don't prepare properly the job is not done properly. If a painter does not prepare your house properly before applying the pain, it will peel. If the roofer doesn't prepare

the wood before he applies the paper and tiles, the roof will leak. And if you don't move things in the laundry room in preparation for the new machine, then the delivery people may just leave your brand new **HEAVY** machine in the middle of your driveway (No, that didn't happen to me!). Preparation is key to anything that is important, crucial, and meaningful. Proper preparation will get you the most out of anything.

November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the season that we prepare for the most important event in our lives. The Messiah is about to be born and with His birth comes the seeds of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and all that accompanies them.

However, if we do not properly prepare for His arrival we will forget Him and lose an awareness of His presence just as paint will peel off from a surface that has not been appropriately prepared.

What must we do to prepare? It is a costly process but not in the same sense as the checks I had to write for the window/siding guys. This is not a monetary cost. It is a personal cost.

What God needs from us as we approach this season is for us to be open, be vulnerable, be self critical, take a good hard look and see what is wrong within us with a willingness to take corrective action.

Let's face it. Christ did not come into this world because of what was "right" with it. He was sent by His father to correct what was wrong with it.

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is*

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*now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*Ephesians 2:1 – 10*

No one likes to look at what is wrong, especially at Christmas time. We want to celebrate what is right. However Christ came because the world was in need of His redemptive work and still is today.

As John the Baptist sings in the beginning of the musical *Godspell*: “Prepare ye the way of the Lord!” may we prepare His way. Be open; see what must be changed within our hearts and minds. This Advent may way discover things that we have never seen before and by Christmas day be changed by the arrival of Christ in our lives again.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor [Name]", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Come, Celebrate the Advent  
Season with  
Choirs, Brass and Special  
Musical Guests

- November 27 - Hill to Hill Brass Quintet;  
Choral Anthems and Communion
- December 11 - Meistersingers of Southern Lehigh  
High School, Matthew Wehr,  
Conductor
- December 24 - Carols, Choir and Brass  
4:00 pm—**Children's Program**  
8:00 pm (communion)
- 



Hot Cocoa and  
Christmas Cookies!

Join us Sunday, December  
18th in Fellowship Hall  
following the service for  
some yummy treats!

Bring your favorite cookies  
to share with everyone!



*Christmas Eve  
Candle Light Service*

Saturday, December 24, 2016

4:00 pm

Christian Education Program presents

**A SUPER CHRISTMAS**

The service will conclude with the traditional Candlelight Ceremony.

6:00 pm

Candles, Choirs, and Brass  
Communion will be served  
and the service will conclude with  
the traditional  
Candlelight Ceremony.

# MISSION CHRISTMAS REMINDERS

## FORGET-ME-NOTS

All donations for the Forget-Me-Not Gift bags must be in church by Sunday, **December 4**. If you will be delivering gifts to one of our friends please be sure to sign the list in the Narthex.

**Contact Person: Cathy Wimmer 610.797.8249**

## BETTY LOU'S PANTRY CHILDREN'S GIFTS

If you are donating gifts for the Pantry families please have wrapped and labeled gifts in church by Sunday, December 11. Gifts will be distributed on Saturday, December 17. If you wish to help set up Friday night or assist with distribution on Saturday call Cindy.

**Contact Person: Cindy Talaber 610.282.4627**



## BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE



Over 21,000 pounds of food was donated to Betty Lou's Pantry. What a generous community we live in here in Southern Lehigh! Thank you for your abundance of donations in helping our neighbors in need. We owe a special thank you to the

Boy Scouts and the Southern Lehigh Key Club for donating their time and energy to make this happen.

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Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV



Deanna Shelly and Scott Melideo were married here at Faith Church on Sunday, November 27, 2016.

*Congratulations and God's blessings as the new couple begin their life together!*

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Our Nursery is Up and Running!

We welcome Catherine Stevenson and Diane Talaber as our new Nursery Coordinators! Both Catherine and Diane have all of their child safety clearances and first aid training. The nursery is for infants through children in the second grade. There will be a new security sign in and sign out procedure and emergency pagers will be made available to parents should they wish to carry them while in worship. Both Catherine and Diane will still need assistants and if you are willing to help out on an occasional Sunday please contact Pastor Bruce.

*Please note*—The nursery will not be open when Sunday School Classes are not held which include the Sundays after Christmas and New Years and during the Summer.

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### **F.Y.I.**

- **The Church Office will be closed December 26th through January 2nd.**
- **Our 2016 Year End Closing Date for Contributions is Sunday, January 8th.**

# *THOSE WHO WILL SERVE IN DECEMBER*

Head Usher—John Barone  
 Financial Secretary—Tom Hovis  
 Nursery—Diane Talaber

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Advent Wreath</b>	<b>Lay Reader Reader</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
12/4	Bebe Moyer		Orachs	Ron Demkee	Noah J. Noah R.	Barrick
12/11	Mary Ellen Long	John & Donna Barone	Schoenbergers	Mary Ellen Long	Avery K. Noah J.	Roberts
12/18	Cindy Talaber	Barb Scattergood Ken, Tara & Craig Koehnlein	Dalton Biery Olivia Biery Gavin Gunkle	Cindy Talaber	Noah R. Avery K.	Scholl
12/24 4:00			Stevenson Family	n/a	Noah J. Noah R.	poinsettias
12/24 6:00			Barone Family	n/a	Noah R.	poinsettias
12/25	Mim Allison	Pastor Bruce	n/a	Pastor Bruce	Pastor Bruce	poinsettias



# FROM THE TREASURER

## OCTOBER FINANCIALS

OCTOBER		YTD
Receipts	\$ 22,219	\$187,400
Disbursements	\$ 16,908	\$189,825
	\$ 5,311	(\$ 2,426)

	Weekly Attend.	Weekly Offering	over/under \$3500 goal
10/2	90	\$3172	\$ (328)
10/9	86	\$2294	\$ (1026)
10/16	74	\$2733	\$ (767)
10/23	82	\$2147	\$ (1,353)
10/30	72	\$2660	\$ (840)
<b>Total</b>	404	\$10,346	\$ (4,494)

### October FUNDRAISING INCOME:

Fall Bag & Basket Bingo—\$2,607

Clothing Shed—\$1,200

Yard Sale—\$ 433

BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR 2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES IN THE NARTHEX. If you don't find any with your name and would like some, please call the church office—610.282.3939.



**From the Secretary:**

The **deadline** for **January Newsletter** articles and information is **December 10th**. Please email to [faithchurchcv@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurchcv@gmail.com) place them in the Secretary's mailbox in the conference room.

Time to sign up for 2017 Altar Flowers! Call the church office to see what dates are available. The cost is \$34.



**Thank you for your continuing support of Betty Lou's Pantry. For the last two Sundays of October and the first two Sundays of November, our regular donations included \$50 and 203 items. Many thanks for your generosity and your continuing support of Betty Lou's Pantry. All of the recipients are very grateful.**



**FYI—The November 12th Scout drive collected 21,000 pounds of food for Betty Lou's Pantry. The community**

**really came through again! Many thanks to all who participated in this yearly collection.**

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

**CANNED PASTA • CANNED TUNA • BAKED BEANS • PORK & BEANS  
CHUNKY SOUPS • BOXED POTATOES • BOXED PASTA (NO SPAGHETTI)**

**Items stocked at the Pantry include:**

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pork & Beans                | Chili                          |
| Canned Fish (salmon) & Meat | Canned Pasta                   |
| Peanut Butter               | Canned Tomatoes & Canned Sauce |
| Kidney & Black Beans        | Meat Helpers                   |
| Canned fruit                | Macaroni & Cheese              |
| Rice or Noodle Roni         | Canned Vegetables              |
| Beef Stew                   | Dry Pasta & Spaghetti          |
| Spaghetti Sauce             | Canned Tuna                    |

Monetary Donations are a particularly effective way to help the Pantry. If you are in need or know of someone in the area who is, please call **610-282-2838** and leave a message, or email [bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com](mailto:bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com) —*Mike Ford*

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Many thanks to everyone who helped to fill shoe boxes for OCC. There are many of you who work behind the scenes to make this process go so smoothly. Assembling soap & washcloth kits, school kits, rolling paper, wrapping boxes, setting up tables & chairs, preparing lunch for everyone, and cleaning up are all tasks that must be



accomplished in order to fill over 500 boxes. And we did fill 575 to be exact!!!! Your filled boxes will make a difference in a young child learning about the Love of Jesus.



Blessings to You All and Once Again Thanks!



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# THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



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In 2015, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Small pension supplementation for 464 retired clergy and lay employees - \$1,500,203
- Health benefits supplementation for 235 retired clergy and lay employees - \$452,561
- Emergency grants for 58 individuals and families - \$91,694
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 528 retired clergy and lay employees - \$211,200

Your gift in 2016 will be combined with the gifts of others to continue this vital mission. Thank You!

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Special Offering will be collected  
Sunday, December 18th

## Advent I—Hope

Jay Whitley  
Keeping the Covenant



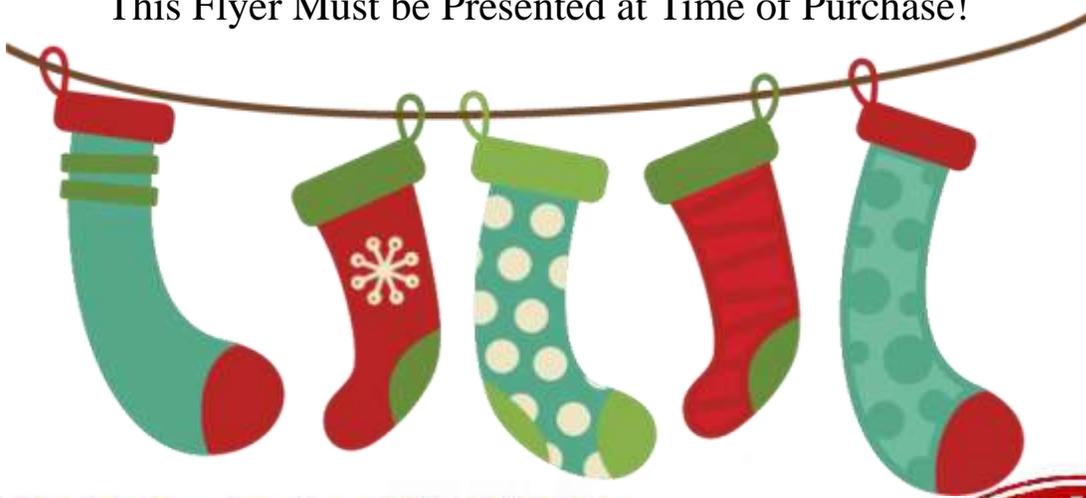
The Rev. James W. Whitley had served UCC congregations for 34 years, and in 2011 was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He battled the disease for five more years while continuing to do ministry, eventually deciding to retire on disability in April of 2016. He preached his last sermon at Bethany UCC in Winston-Salem, North Carolina about "our covenant in the UCC and how it works for all of us. Little did I know how prophetic my sermon would be."

Jay and his wife, Cathy, completed the process of applying for disability benefits, and were initially determined to be eligible, but their eligibility was later revoked. With the help of Pension Boards staff, the benefits were reinstated. Even so, a gap in resources to pay insurance premiums for a three-month period threatened to undo the apparent resolution. That is, until Jay learned that an emergency grant from the Christmas Fund would enable the premium to be paid. "Those words made our day, our month, our year, our life!"

Jay relates that "after 39 years of faithful service to the United Church of Christ and keeping my part of the covenantal relationship, my beloved denomination came through for me in a crisis situation. Each church that I have served has been diligent in answering the call of the Pension Boards to give to the Christmas Fund. On several occasions, I have asked for assistance for other ministers. Little did I know that I would find myself in need of assistance through the Christmas Fund."

Parkinson's has afflicted Jay with memory loss, difficulty standing, walking, and writing, and ongoing tremors. Yet, he states with conviction: "When we find ourselves in crisis situations, the God who blesses us on our journey sees to our need by providing the right people at the right time. This is only part of my journey. My cup runneth over with blessings."

This Flyer Must be Presented at Time of Purchase!



**five BELOW**  
**[FUNDRAISER]**



**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**TO A FUNDRAISING SHOPPING EVENT FOR**

Faith UCC Center Valley

**DATE:** DECEMBER 12-19, 2016  
**TIME:** 9AM-9PM  
**WHERE:** Richland Marketplace 648 N. West End Blvd.  
Quakertown, PA 18951

**It's simple! 10% of the purchases made by members of your group will be donated back to your organization.**

**all we ask is that this flyer is presented to our cashier at the time of purchase.**  
please note that we do not allow flyers to be handed out in our store or shopping center at any time before, during or after your event.

this section to be completed by five below associate

**PURCHASE AMOUNT (PRE-TAX) \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**REGISTER:**    1        2        3        4        5        6        (circle one)  
**ASSOCIATE NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**sports. media. crafts. party. candy. room. style. now.**

**fivebelow.com**



The Worship Committee will be taking orders for **POINSETTIAS** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas **through Sunday, December 4th**.

Fill out the order form below and return it, with payment, to a member of the committee who will be in the memorial room or drop in the offering.

*Please Order!*

**Number of Plants**

**Cost Per Plant**

**Total**

\_\_\_\_\_

**\$10.00**

\$\_\_\_\_\_

**Bulletin listing:**

**In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note from the Worship Committee:**

Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season. You can mail in your order and payment to: Faith Church, 5992 Route 378, Center Valley, PA 18034.

\_\_\_\_\_



If you shop online there is now a way that a percentage of every purchase you make will be sent to Faith Church. Here is how it works.

1. Open up a free email account designated for your shopping on iGive (gmail, hotmail, yahoo). This will keep any junk emails and advertisements from iGive out of your primary email box.
2. Go to iGive.com and establish an account using your new iGive email address
3. Be sure to choose Faith United Church of Christ, Center Valley as your charity. There are other Faith United Churches of Christ out there.
4. Go through the list of merchants that iGive partners with, over 4,000. Choose the merchants from which you make online purchase and create your “list of stores.” Merchants will state how much of a percentage they will donate to our church.

The next time you shop online go to iGive and from there choose the store from which you wish to make online purchase. The store’s website will open up and a percentage of your purchase will be sent to Faith Church!

What could be easier? If you shop online use iGive and support your church.

## **November 09, 2016 UCC Response to Election**

**"United in Spirit, and inspired by God's grace, we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all."**

Just three weeks ago, the United Church of Christ Board affirmed this as the Mission of the United Church of Christ.

This morning, we wake up to a new reality. Our country and its citizens once again successfully elected a new leader. As we gather to worship this weekend, we will find among us many who are celebrating the decision that was reached – and many who are mourning it. We are, by all measures, a deeply divided people.

Because this election sharply separated us over matters of race, gender, human sexuality, faith, economic inequality and political persuasions we all bear a heavy burden moving forward. It is our call, our shared mission, to heed the call of God's Spirit and to work to repair damages in our deeply wounded and fiercely broken body. Mr. Trump was able to win this election in spite of clear evidence from him of racism, homophobia, xenophobia, misogyny, and Islamaphobia. This was so blatant that many of his own party's leaders could not endorse him. Many who voted for him knew this, and yet their fears about what is happening in their lives overrode their distaste for his bombast. In their search for a leader not connected to the power base of a government that has been perceived as corrupt, inefficient, and out of touch - his populist rhetoric appealed to them. He must now lead a country where people of color, women, Muslims, immigrants, the disabled, and an LGBT community all feel the sting and impact of his public speech.

But as the United Church of Christ, we will live into our Vision:

**"United in Christ's love, a just world for all." (continued...)**

Dear United Church of Christ, we were built to heal bodies broken and divided. This is our calling. Our core values of love, hospitality, and justice for all must be fully embraced in the days to come. It could well be that we were called into being for just such a time as this.

We, the Officers and Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ, call upon the church to seek a pathway that envisions a just world for all. Those who celebrate this election must show a humility that honors the pain of those whose dreams were dashed by the outcome. Those who grieve must find a courage and hope found in a faith not in earthly power, but in the redemptive love of our Risen Christ.

It is with this humility and faith that we can fulfill our mission: to build a just world for all. We stand in the face of fear and hate and proclaim that "love wins!" We rise up and respond to public derision of "the other" with a full embrace of and warm welcome for all God's beautiful children. We confront the injustices of the powerful with a steady drumbeat of justice.

It seems appropriate to remember the words of the civil rights activist and song-writer James Weldon Johnson:

*God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray....  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.*

We now must stand, true to our God and true to our native land. Let what we do in this time help both America and our denomination become what each name aspires to: A UNITED States of America and a UNITED Church of Christ. And may it be our love of, our welcome to, and our justice for all that unites us.

***The United Church of Christ National Officers:***

***The Rev. John C. Dorhauer***

*General Minister and President*

***The Rev. Traci Blackmon***

*Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries*

***The Rev. James Moos***

*Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries*

***The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ***

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I would like to thank everyone who helped with our two fundraisers in November. For those who baked, provided kitchen assistance by baking or providing soup, and attended or purchased items, we couldn't have done this without you.

Thanks you again.

Michele Keeler



November 11, 2016

**A Pastoral Letter Following the 2016 Presidential Election**  
*- Alan C. Miller, Conference Minister*

At the very heart of American democracy is the peaceful transition of power; it goes to the very core of defining who we are. We are the largest democracy on earth and we have never had a military coup or a revolution.

Thus, regardless of how you voted, we all owe it to our democracy, to each other, and to President Elect Trump to give him a chance. President Obama and Secretary Clinton are already modeling for us a peaceful transition of power. For those who feel the need to protest, that is your right as an American, but do it peacefully; voice your opinions but do it without harming others or destroying property.

However, in the wake of this election, something is happening that I am compelled to speak against. Some in our society have clearly interpreted President Elect Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again" as "Make America White Again," and often his campaign rhetoric reinforced this notion. This has happened primarily, but not exclusively, by white supremacy groups. We are witnessing horrible actions of cruelty and hatred in our country. On Thursday at a school district in our own Conference some white students called African-American students horrible and historic racial slurs, referred to lesbian students by a demeaning term, drew swastikas and raised their right arms using the Nazi salute. My daughter who is an elementary school teacher in North Carolina

told me that one of her eight year old students was crying all day and between sobs crying out: "I don't want to be deported." No-one, particularly children, should have to live with such fear.

Many white supremacy groups who spew such hatred, profess to be Christians. I know as a follower of the Christ, I am not to judge others, but I have a hard time reconciling such hatred with Christ's call "to love thy neighbor" and to know that God's Kingdom is one where everyone is loved and equal.

I often hear people complain about having to use "politically correct" language. What people perceive as correct language is not about political "correctness," nor is it about kindness or being nice. Such language is about recognizing the God-given dignity of every person in creation. As Christians, this is one of our core beliefs as followers of Jesus.

If as white supremacists believe that to "Make America Great Again" means to return to what they consider to be the America of old, then I too must leave, for my ancestors migrated here from Germany in the early 1700's. The only group who can legitimately make this claim are Native Americans who were forced by white America to live on reservations and learn English.

At the core of who we are as United Church of Christ Christians, is our belief in God's radical hospitality -- "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" We believe that diversity adds to life rather than threatening it. If we truly want to live as Jesus lived, then we have a mandate to speak out against words and actions of hatred.

So, as an American, recognize we had a fair election and give President Elect Trump a chance. But as a Christian stand up and

speaking out against words and actions of hatred. Do it, but do it peacefully, otherwise we too are participating in the hatred. As the words of my favorite church camp song remind us: "They'll know we are Christians by our love!"

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Deborah Herstine, Tax Collector  
Upper Saucon Township  
P. O. Box 337  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
610-797-2282

October 30, 2016

Faith United Church of Christ  
5992 Route 378  
Center Valley, PA 18034

Dear Pastor Bruce, Consistory and Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to use our Church as a location to collect tax monies for our community again this year.

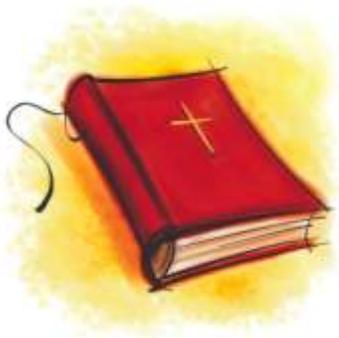
As a token of my appreciation, please accept this donation.

Enjoy the upcoming holiday season and I hope the consistory will allow me to continue this relationship next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Deborah Herstine, Tax Collector  
Upper Saucon Township



## ***DECEMBER BIBLE READINGS***

### **December 1**

Isa. 2:5–22  
1 Thess. 3:1–13  
Luke 20:27–40

### **December 2**

Isa. 3:1–4:1  
1 Thess. 4:1–12  
Luke 20:41–21:4

### **December 3**

Isa. 4:2–6  
1 Thess. 4:13–18  
Luke 21:5–19

### **December 4**

Isa. 5:1–7  
2 Peter 3:11–18  
Luke 7:28–35

### **December 5**

Isa. 5:8–17  
1 Thess. 5:1–11  
Luke 21:20–28

### **December 6**

Isa. 5:18–25  
1 Thess. 5:12–28  
Luke 21:29–38

### **December 7**

Isa. 6:1–13  
2 Thess. 1:1–12  
John 7:53–8:11

### **December 8**

Isa. 7:1–9  
2 Thess. 2:1–12  
Luke 22:1–13

### **December 9**

Isa. 7:10–25  
2 Thess. 2:13–3:5  
Luke 22:14–30

### **December 10**

Isa. 8:1–15  
2 Thess. 3:6–18  
Luke 22:31–38

### **December 11**

Isa. 13:1–13  
Heb. 12:18–29  
John 3:22–30

### **December 12**

Isa. 8:16–9:1  
2 Peter 1:1–11  
Luke 22:39–53

### **December 13**

Isa. 9:2–7  
2 Peter 1:12–21  
Luke 22:54–69

### **December 14**

Isa. 9:8–17  
2 Peter 2:1–10a  
Mark 1:1–8

### **December 15**

Isa. 9:18–10:4  
2 Peter 2:10b–16  
Matt. 3:1–12

### **December 16**

Isa. 10:5–19  
2 Peter 2:17–22  
Matt. 11:2–15

### **December 17**

Isa. 10:20–27  
Jude 17–25  
Luke 3:1–9

### **December 18**

Isa. 11:1–9  
Eph. 6:10–20  
John 3:16–21

### **December 19**

Isa. 11:10–16  
Rev. 20:1–10  
John 5:30–47

### **December 20**

Isa. 28:9–22  
Rev. 20:11–21:8  
Luke 1:5–25

**December 21**

Isa. 29:9–24  
 Rev. 21:9–21  
 Luke 1:26–38

**December 22**

Isa. 31:1–9  
 Rev. 21:22—22:5  
 Luke 1:39–56

**December 23**

Isa. 33:17–22  
 Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20  
 Luke 1:57–66

**December 24**

Isa. 35:1–10  
 Rev. 22:12–17, 21  
 Luke 1:67–80

**December 25**

Zech. 2:10–13  
 1 John 4:7–16  
 John 3:31–36

**December 26**

2 Chron. 24:17–22  
 Acts 6:1–7  
 Acts 7:59—8:8

**December 27**

Prov. 8:22–30  
 1 John 5:1–12  
 John 13:20–35

**December 28**

Isa. 49:13–23  
 Isa. 54:1–13  
 Matt. 18:1–14

**December 29**

Isa. 12:1–6  
 Rev. 1:1–8  
 John 7:37–52

**December 30**

89:19–52  
 Isa. 25:1–9  
 Rev. 1:19–20  
 John 7:53—8:11

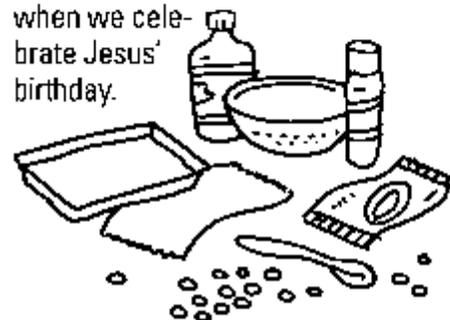
**December 31**

Isa. 26:1–6  
 2 Cor. 5:16—6:2  
 John 8:12–19



# birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

**What you need:**

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

**What you do:**

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.

# December

02 Dennis Frantz

03 Carol Bouc

04 Anna Breisch

04 Angela Lender

04 Nicole Ryan

11 Christine Leh

11 Allison Grammer

12 Sherry Meluskey

12 Dana Zsido

13 Lincoln Spitzer

14 Faye Tirpak

14 Bonnie Stenroos

15 John Lenner

16 Harvey Weidner

16 Sis Scholl

18 Edward Diehl

18 Cody Schaffer

19 Bruce Haas

22 Shirley Baldwin

22 Jordan Koch

24 Donald Koch

24 Robert Campbell

26 Mason Ritter

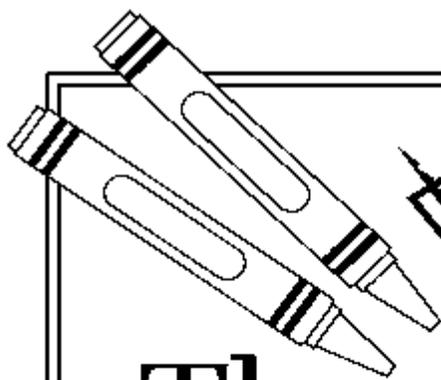
27 Mike Ford

30 Raymond Foulke



Please call the church office with any omissions or corrections.

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# PUZZLE

## The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition.  
What very special gift has God given to you?

**Directions:** Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.

