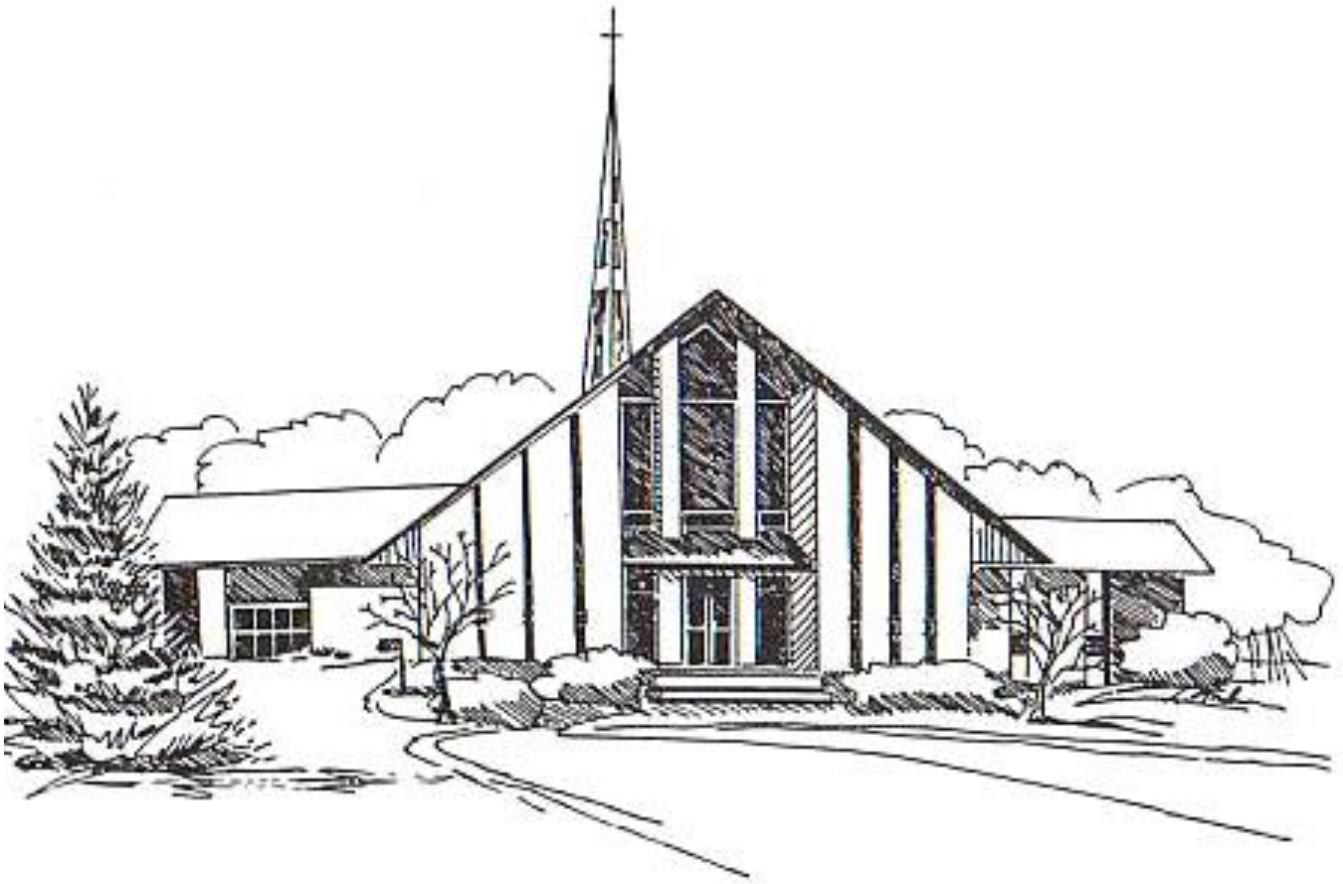


FAITH

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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God, make yourself known to us. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: WE GATHER TOGETHER**

421

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Shouts of joy! Songs of praise! Sounds of hope and love!

People: **These are moments of thanksgiving – thanks giving to our God!**

Pastor: Adonai is our God. Our creator. We are God's people, led by God's love.

People: **These are moments of thanksgiving – thanks giving to our God!**

Pastor: Enter God's house thanks giving. Enter God's house full of praise!

People: **These are moments of thanksgiving – thanks giving to our God!**

Pastor: God's love is never ending.

People: God is good! Alleluia!

Pastor: On this day of the harvest –

People: we bring our gifts to you, God. You have brought us into this place and shared with us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land flowing with maple syrup, Bless this thanksgiving, offered now to you! In Christ's name, we ask it. May it be so.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

*** CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Sovereign God, we confess that life is hard. We don't always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world's problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond with our tribal allegiances first in mind. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory. Amen.

*** 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: I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER** 478

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

**THE CHILDREN'S SERMON
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

Old Testament: 1 Chronicles 16:23-26

Epistle: I Peter 4:10 – 11

Gospel: Matthew 25:14 – 30

HYMN: *LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING*

Insert

SERMON: *Five Ways Will Do It*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

* **A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING:**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God our Father
for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
For the beauty and wonder of your creation,
in earth and sky and sea.

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and
our friends,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father,
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Unison: Amen.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Pastor: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

People: We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

Pastor: We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

People: We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

Pastor: We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

People: Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;

for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Pastor: Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

(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.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

OFFERTORY

CHOIR ANTHEM:

*** 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:**

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the

needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * **CLOSING HYMN: *NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD* 419**
- * **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**

*Would those who are able please stand.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *I WILL ALWAYS GIVE THANKS*

– *E. Titcomb*

I will always give thanks unto the Lord, I will always give thanks unto the Lord: his praise shall ever be in my mouth, his praise shall ever be in my mouth. O praise the Lord with me, O praise the Lord with me: and let us magnify his Name together And let us magnify his Name together.

Welcome to Faith Church this Twenty-Fifth 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 Jerry & Elaine Trexler in praise to God in thanksgiving for all his gifts to us

We will hold a Congregational Meeting at the end of worship to elect 2 members of the Memorial & Enduring Gifts Committee and the treasurer. We will also approve the 2024 Budget. Please plan to stay!

The Children and Communion program will hold a meeting this evening at 6:00 pm at the church.

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving!

We will be decorating the sanctuary once again with Poinsettias for Christmas. Please order yours today! The order forms are available in the Narthex or you can order them online through the weekly email.



Faith UCC

Jewelry Fundraiser

Time to clean out your
jewelry box!

Donate your unwanted,
broken and unused Jewelry
to Faith UCC,
Center Valley, PA

Proceeds benefit our church's ministry.

The following items will be accepted:

Necklaces

Bracelets

Pins

Watches

Cufflinks

Broken Pieces

Earrings (Including Singles)

Costume Jewelry

Any Gold or Silver Jewelry Items

Place all donations in a ziplock with your name & phone.

A collection box will be in the Narthex beginning
November 19 through December 17.

(If your jewelry donations don't fall into the box, that means it's full. Let Karen know.)

Please share this with family, friends and neighbors.

Questions: Contact Karen Talboo at cktalboo@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Monday (remotely), Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 9 am - 4:30 pm
Closed Fridays

Today - **10:15 am Worship**
- **Sunday School**

Monday - **Sandy works remotely**

Tuesday - **2 pm Faith in Stitches**

Thursday - **Happy Thanksgiving!**
- **Office Closed**

Friday - **Pastor's Day Off**
- **Office Closed**

Sunday - **10:15 am Worship/Sunday School**
- **6:00 Children & Communion Mtg**

A Gratitude Game

Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids and tired parents can be a bad combination.

When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play the thankful game. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we're thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing — and bring on lots of smiles!

Thank you to our volunteers:

	November 19	November 26
Head Usher:	Mike Ford	Mike Ford
Ushers:	Cindy Talaber George Rau	Faye Tirpak Cindy Talaber
Lay Reader:	Cindy Talaber	Donna Schudel-Barone
Fin. Sec.:	Tony DiSanto	Jerry Trexler
Sunday School:	Kim Ritter Catherine Stevenson	Tom & Brenda Hovis
Flowers:	Trexlers	Mirth

Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com

Sandy works away from the office on Mondays.

Voicemails are checked on a regular basis but if you need to get
ahold of her you can call 610-967-6232.

Pastor: 610-248-5586; pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org

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