



# 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.*



10:15 a.m.—WORSHIP

Sunday School is held during a portion of church.

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.*

---

## 2024 Consistory

President—Tom Hovis, Vice President—Bruce Torrence  
Secretary- Joan Hassler

### Elders

Kim Ritter  
Joan Hassler

Melissa Shafer  
Jean Hanville

Tom Hovis  
Bruce Torrence

**Church Treasurer:** Deb Herstine

### **Liaisons:**

Worship & Music—Joan Hassler  
Christian Ed—Donna Schudel Barone  
Fundraising—Tom Hovis  
Budget & Finance—Bruce Torrence  
Memorial & Enduring Gifts—Bruce Torrence  
Property—Tom Hovis  
Mission—Kim Ritter  
Justice—Melissa Shafer



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I had a few other ideas for this newsletter article and then we had the Rev. Dr. Katharine Yarnell visit us. For her sermon scripture she chose Haggai 2:9:

***‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place, I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty.’***

I must confess that ever since COVID-19 I have been a little discouraged about how it has affected church life. Worship attendance has not bounced back to what it was prior to COVID nor has Sunday School attendance or church activities or monetary support of the church. I know that I can’t blame all of these things on COVID but they have all become a part of our reality as a church. It’s a little discouraging. I suppose it’s understandable but puzzling at the same time. I know we’re not alone as other churches are experiencing the same things; some churches have actually closed and I think we’re far from that happening.

However, during Katharine’s message based on the scripture passage from Haggai, Katharine reminded me (and I hope you) of a great thing. God promises that the future will be greater than the present. That should give all of us hope.

Sometimes it is easier to become discouraged than it is to have hope. Being discouraged requires very little from us. We just take on an attitude and get stuck there. Having hope requires more of us. With hope comes an expectation of more than an attitude but also a promise of action and activity. Discouragement is passive while hope

is active. Katharine's message reminded me of this.

What Faith Church was in the past and what it is in the present is *nothing* like what it can become in the future. God will do His part to make sure that will happen. Will you do your part as well to make Faith *a greater place than the former house?*

Perhaps you aren't sure just what this will require of you. I'm still trying to figure it out myself but I've heard God's promise again and I have found new enthusiasm. Together listen for the voice of God which will direct us into a faithful, bright, and promising future. Let us all move towards it and celebrate it.

Peace,



---

**MOTHER'S DAY**  
Sunday, May 12, 2024

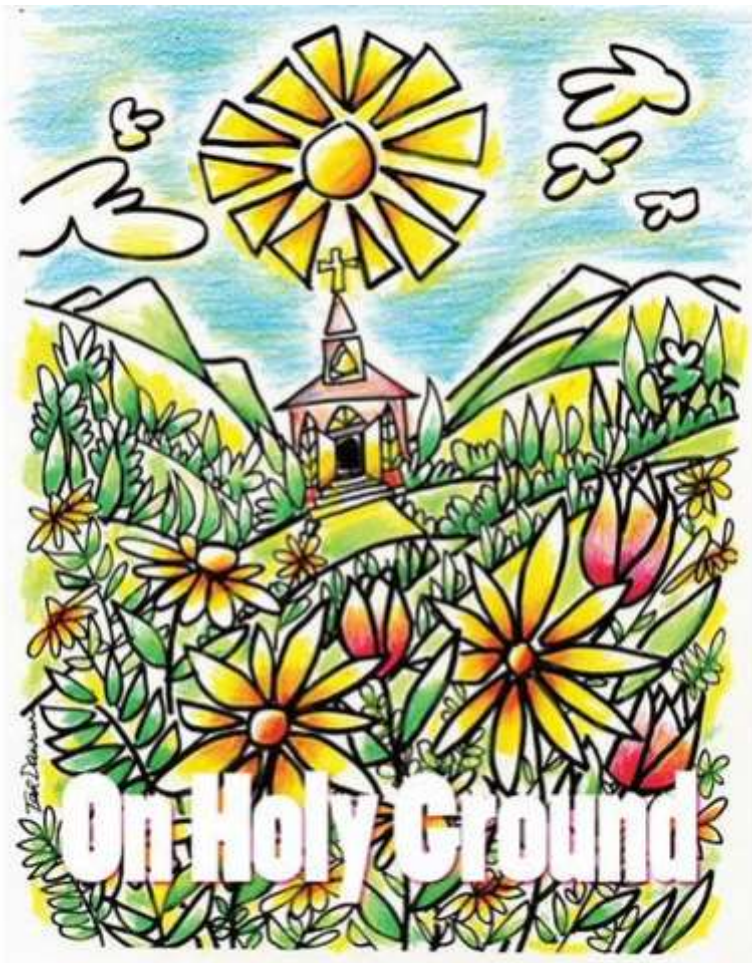
**“God could not be  
everywhere, and  
therefore he made  
mothers.”**

**RUDYARD KIPLING**

---

Puzzle Answers: bee, pink, brother, purple, braid, heart, potato,  
she, family, temperature, sandwich, white, gentle, quiet, spirit

May is **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH** month!



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will

plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Please prayerfully consider how you might help.



## **Pentecost Sunday May 19, 2024**

Worship with us at 10:15 am  
Communion will be served.

## **Betty Lou's Pantry**

Please watch for laundry detergent deals because we are responsible for supplying 100 bottles for the month of May.

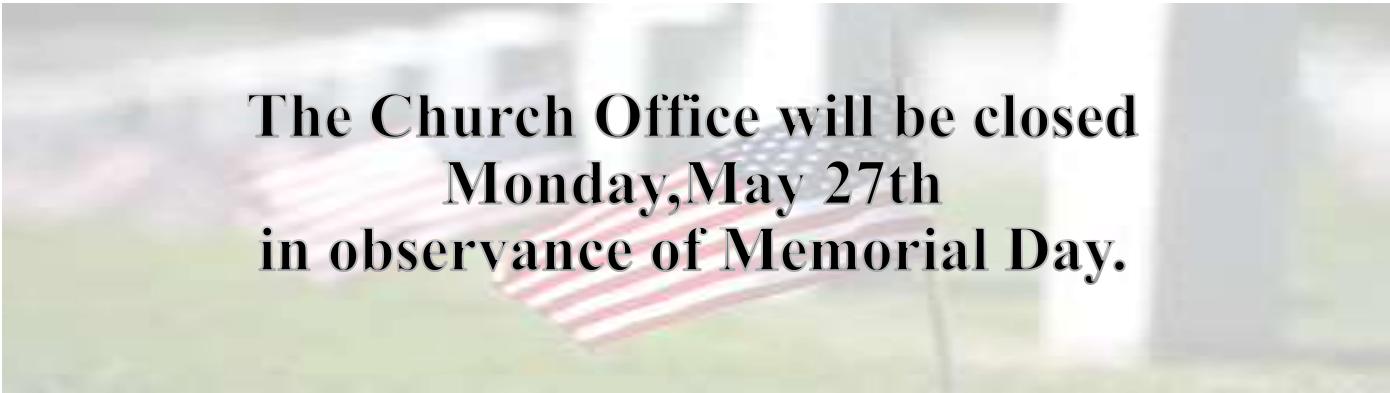
Mark your calendars for July 13 and 27, 2024. July is our month to help distribute food to the families at BLP. We have several volunteers signed up but are in need of 8-10 total volunteers each week.

## **Spring Bingo Thank You** **Blessings to All!**

We wish to thank those who volunteered their time to help with Bingo. We couldn't do this without your help. Also, we greatly appreciate your generous donations of gift cards, basket raffle items, door prizes, desserts, monetary donations. Much is needed to help raise money to help support Faith's many missions. The final profit results will be shared when everything has been tabulated.

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

If you have not had an opportunity to make your donation to OGHS we are still taking contributions at this time. We are working toward a goal of \$600 or more. You may use one of the envelopes that can be found in the Narthex so your donation can be directed to the correct place. Thank you to those who have made your donation.



**The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, May 27th  
in observance of Memorial Day.**



# Stamp Out Hunger Letter Carrier Food Drive

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

~During the week you will receive a bag from your letter carrier.

~Please fill it with the items we stock at Betty Lou's Pantry. See list in the newsletter.

**~Place near your mail box by 8 am Saturday morning.**

~A crew from the Pantry will be collecting the filled bags all day. Letter Carriers will not be picking up your donations.

~If your donation is not picked up please bring to Faith on Sunday. Donations can be dropped off at the Coopersburg or Center Valley Post Offices or the SL Library.

~The Pantry is opened from 9-10 am every Wednesday for donation drop-offs.

---

*Parish Administrator Sandy David will be out of the office on*

*Thursday, May 23*

*and*

*Thursday, May 30*

## CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!

We would like to share your accomplishments  
in the June Focus on Faith.

Please send your graduation info, your future  
plans, and a picture to  
[faithchurchcv@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurchcv@gmail.com)  
**no later than May 15th.**



---

## WATER COMMUNION

**Don't forget to pick up a water tube for Water Communion. Water tubes are available in the Narthex.**

**Take your water tube to a special place that you are visiting this summer.** This could be at your favorite beach, the ocean, mountains with streams or lakes, a favorite fishing hole, golf course, or hiking trail. Maybe a luxurious bath or hot tub! Perhaps standing on a porch during summer rains or getting splashed going down a water flume at an amusement park. It could be something as simple as the hose you use to water your flowers and your garden, the tub where you bathed your children when they were young, or your kitchen where you have prepared many meals. Whatever or wherever you feel happy, grab some water AND make SURE that some-one takes a picture of you collecting your water. Please turn your picture into the church office by Sunday, August 25th.

**Bring the water tube to church on Back to Church Sunday in September.** We will pour the water into the baptismal font and will dedicate the water then have it sterilized. Throughout the year we will use a portion of the water in our baptisms. This is a way we can all participate in baptisms by our actions and our promises.



## 2024 Lawn Crew Schedule

05/05/2024	Terry Muth	484-894-4669
05/12/2024	Mirth Crew	610-417-4153
05/19/2024	Owen Hovis	484-223-9476
	Tom Hovis	610-657-1359
05/26/2024	Tony DiSanto	610-653-3403
06/02/2024	Dwayne Schantz	610-797-4994
	Bob Shelly	610-965-7999
06/09/2024	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
06/16/2024	Owen Hovis	484-223-9476
06/23/2024	Mirth Crew	610-417-4153
06/30/2024	Brett Dill	610-850-2679
07/07/2024	Chuck Talboo	610-282-1552
	Randy Hughes	610-967-5061
07/14/2024	Kevin Long	610-751-4653
07/21/2024	Tom Hovis	610-657-1359
07/28/2024	Brett Dill	610-850-2679
08/04/2024	Tom Hovis	610-657-1359
	George Rau	610-865-1448
08/11/2024	Terry Muth	484-894-4669
08/18/2024	Tom Herstine	610-797-7129
	Vinne Farina	610-509-5842
08/25/2024	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
09/01/2024	Dwayne Schantz	610-797-4994
	Roger Erney	610-797-7227
09/08/2024	Bruce Torrence	610-282-4081
	Wes Koser	610-841-7077
09/15/2024	Mirth crew	610-417-4153
09/22/2024	Bruce Torrence	610-282-4081
09/29/2024	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
10/06/2024	Mirth Crew, if needed	610-417-4153

Thanks for helping out on the Lawn Crew!

If gas is needed, please purchase & submit the receipt to the church office for reimbursement.

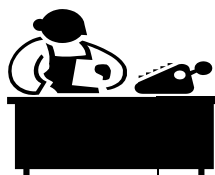
If you have problems with any of the equipment, please call Tim Hovis @ 484-223-9476 or Tim Hovis @ 610-657-1359



## MAY VOLUNTEERS

**Head Usher : 5 - tbd; 12, 19 - Tom Hovis; 26 - Kim Ritter**  
**Financial Secretary: Jerry Trexler**

Date	Ushers	Lay Reader	Flowers
5/5	Bob & Patti Shelly	Cindy Talaber	Dills
5/12	Rose Mirth Diane Neidermeier	Brenda Hovis	Tim & Sara Hovis
5/19	Chuck & Karen Talboo Tom & Brenda Hovis	Patience Stevenson	Talboos
5/26	Donna Schoenberger Linda Torrence	Barbara Maursky	Foulkes



## FAITH FINANCIALS

March	Month	YTD
Combined Receipts	\$22,702.58	\$58,018.60
Combined Disbursements	\$23,081.68	\$61,612.50
	<b>(\$379.10)</b>	<b>(\$3,593.90)</b>

### Weekly Attendance

### Weekly Offering

<b>3/3</b>	62	\$1,793
<b>3/10</b>	62	\$2,575
<b>3/17</b>	70	\$4,275
<b>3/24</b>	78	\$1,794
<b>3/28</b>	24	\$165
<b>3/31</b>	122	\$2,649
<b>Tithe.ly</b>		\$1,920



## **Betty Lou's Pantry**

Thank you for your generous support of Betty Lou's Pantry.  
The food items most needed at this time are:

**JELLY**  
**BAKED BEANS**  
**MACARONI & CHEESE**

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 **610-282-2838**. Also, an email message can be left at [bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com](mailto:bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com).

Distributions are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 am. Adjustments are occasionally made to this schedule.

## Running slowly

At a track meet, we sat in the stands, cheering for our son. I chuckled as a young sibling of an athlete asked, “Why are they running so slow, Mommy?”

These athletes had been training for years, and many were setting personal best times and even state records. Most spectators would provide little competition for the runners. But the child was comparing how he’d felt while running at the park, sprinting to a soccer game.

Along the track, dozens of teammates and coaches cheered. Each time an athlete passed, she heard strong, pointed encouragement. “You’ve got this!” “Someone’s approaching; time to pick up the pace!” “Great stride — keep going!” The coaches and runners knew what was helpful and understood how hard the athletes were working.

My point: Consider who you allow to speak truth into your life. Do you listen to loved ones who “train” alongside you? Or do you give sideline critics too much space in your thoughts? Heed Proverbs 2:2 (NLT), which advises, “Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.”

—Janna Firestone

---

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

—Anne Bradstreet

“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience.”

—Martin Luther



## ***MAY BIBLE READINGS***

### **May 1**

Lev. 19:1–18  
1 Thess. 5:12–28  
Matt. 6:19–24

### **May 2**

Lev. 19:26–37  
2 Thess. 1:1–12  
Matt. 6:25–34

### **May 3**

Lev. 23:1–22  
2 Thess. 2:1–17  
Matt. 7:1–12

### **May 4**

Lev. 23:23–44  
2 Thess. 3:1–18  
Matt. 7:13–21

### **May 5**

Lev. 25:1–17  
Jas. 1:2–8, 16–18  
Luke 12:13–21

### **May 6**

Lev. 25:35–55  
Col. 1:9–14  
Matt. 13:1–16

### **May 7**

Lev. 26:1–20  
1 Tim. 2:1–6  
Matt. 13:18–23

### **May 8**

Lev. 26:27–42  
Eph. 1:1–10  
Matt. 22:41–46

### **May 9**

Dan. 7:9–14  
Heb. 2:5–18  
Matt. 28:16–20

### **May 10**

1 Sam. 2:1–10  
Eph. 2:1–10  
Matt. 7:22–27

### **May 11**

Num. 11:16–17, 24–29  
Eph. 2:11–22  
Matt. 7:28–8:4

### **May 12**

Exod. 3:1–12  
Heb. 12:18–29  
Luke 10:17–24

### **May 13**

Josh. 1:1–9  
Eph. 3:1–13  
Matt. 8:5–17

### **May 14**

1 Sam. 16:1–13a  
Eph. 3:14–21  
Matt. 8:18–27

### **May 15**

Isa. 4:2–6  
Eph. 4:1–16  
Matt. 8:28–34

### **May 16**

Zech. 4:1–14  
Eph. 4:17–32  
Matt. 9:1–8

### **May 17**

Jer. 31:27–34  
Eph. 5:1–32  
Matt. 9:9–17

### **May 18**

Ezek. 36:22–27  
Eph. 6:1–24  
Matt. 9:18–26

### **May 19**

Deut. 16:9–12  
Acts 4:18–21, 23–33  
John 4:19–26

### **May 20**

Prov. 3:11–20  
1 John 3:18–4:6  
Matt. 11:1–6

### **May 21**

Prov. 4:1–27  
1 John 4:7–21  
Matt. 11:7–15

## May 22

Prov. 6:1–19  
1 John 5:1–12  
Matt. 11:16–24

## May 23

Prov. 7:1–27  
1 John 5:13–21  
Matt. 11:25–30

## May 24

Prov. 8:1–21  
2 John 1–13  
Matt. 12:1–14

## May 25

Prov. 8:22–36  
3 John 1–15  
Matt. 12:15–21

## May 26

Job 38:1–11;  
42:1–5  
Rev. 19:4–16  
John 1:29–34

## May 27

Prov. 10:1–12  
1 Tim. 1:1–17  
Matt. 12:22–32

## May 28

Prov. 15:16–33  
1 Tim. 1:18–2:15  
Matt. 12:33–42

## May 29

Prov. 17:1–20  
1 Tim. 3:1–16  
Matt. 12:43–50

## May 30

Prov. 21:30–22:6  
1 Tim. 4:1–16  
Matt. 13:24–30

## May 31

Prov. 23:19–21, 29–  
24:2  
1 Tim. 5:17–22 (23–  
25)  
Matt. 13:31–35



# a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

### What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



### What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



# May Birthdays

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Tom Berghold        | 15 Mia Miller        |
| 01 Sadie Schaffer      | 17 Autumn Kandt      |
| 02 Linda Koch          | 19 Sandi DiSanto     |
| 02 Owen Hovis          | 19 Kim Ritter        |
| 03 Noah Jellison       | 19 Brian Bross       |
| 03 Philip Greger       | 20 Meagan Santoro    |
| 04 Samantha Ritter     | 20 Brandon Barone    |
| 04 J Bittenbender      | 21 Michele Keeler    |
| 05 Wayne Gollie        | 22 Megan Farino      |
| 05 Byun Miller         | 23 Dennis Duda       |
| 06 Linda Torrence      | 23 Edison Zehnder    |
| 07 Ainsley Dill        | 24 Heather Koser     |
| 09 Linda Erney         | 24 Spencer Gunkle    |
| 09 Richard Featherman  | 25 Ezekiel Sosnowsky |
| 09 Sarah Frech         | 27 Alex K            |
| 09 Alex Weidner        | 29 Darcie Greger     |
| 10 Caroline Frantz     | 31 Gavin Gunkle      |
| 10 Scott Smith         | 31 Kristen Jellison  |
| 11 Barbara Scattergood |                      |
| 12 Layne Frech         |                      |
| 12 Elaine Trexler      |                      |
| 13 Lily Frech          |                      |

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





# UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment.  
How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

*Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.  
Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.*

flower, stem, bee, leaf

—○—

pink, red, yellow, blue

— —○—

mother, sister, brother, aunt

— — — —○— — — —

purple, dress, skirt, blouse

— — — — — —○—○—

necklace, ring, bracelet, braid

— — — — — —○—

diamond, emerald, heart, ruby

— — — — — —○— — — —

orange, cherry, potato, kiwi

— — — — — —○— — — —

my, our, she, your

— — — — — —○— — — —

faith, family, love, hope

— — — — — —○— — — —

sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature

— — — — — — — — — — — —○— — — — — — — — — —

cookie, cake, pie, sandwich

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —○— — — — — — — — — —

silver, white, gold, bronze

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —○— — — — — — — — — —

“Rather, it should be that of your inner self,  
the unfading beauty of a g \_\_\_\_\_  
and qu \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_, which is  
of great worth in God’s sight.” 1 Peter 3:4, NIV