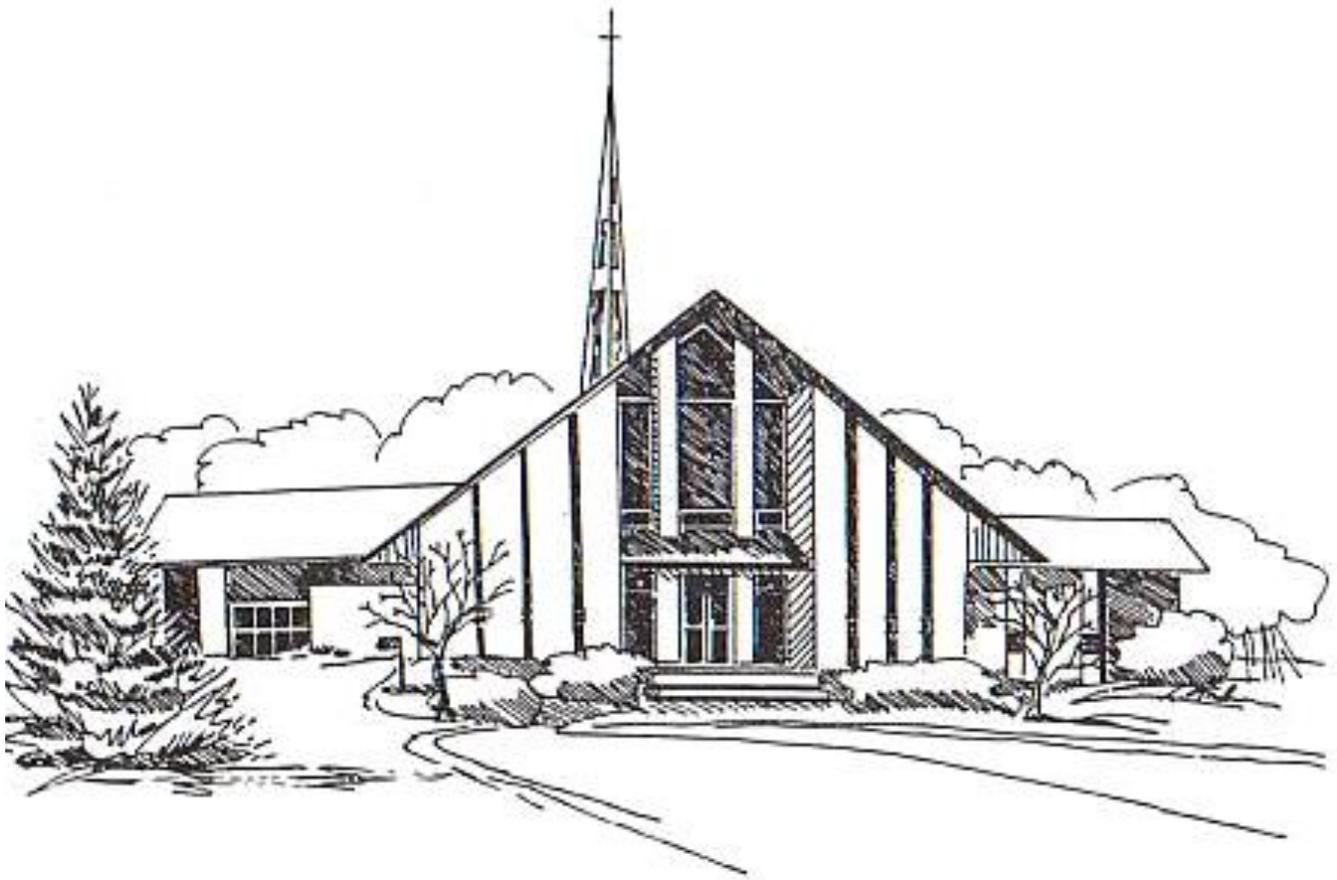


FAITH

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
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 14, 2024

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Abba Father, Loving God, our hope and our salvation, calm us. Give us the assurance of your presence, empty us. Make us pure vessels of your love, polish us. Shine each of us to be a reflection of your grace, equip us. Arm all of us Father to be your strong warriors. Right now, today, we are yours and we are thankful. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: *I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD* 12**

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: We gather in this place, some empty, some filled,
some whole, some broken:

People: yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

Pastor: We come, with these ordinary people, who have shown
us the way:

People: trusting that God will continue to illumine our hearts.

Pastor: We surround the Table of grace so we might be fed by
the Bread of life:

**People: that graced, we may serve others;
that healed, we may bring hope to the world.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Pastor: Merciful God, the gift of Jesus' life in us is visible

in the way we witness to the fruitfulness of that gift. We know that the fruit of the Spirit consists of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Yet, so often we put conditions on our love — and joy and peace are difficult to discern when our words and actions deny their presence.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit in me. (Ps. 51:10)

Pastor: By desiring instant results to most things these days, we confess that we forget what it's like to be patient. We find ourselves neglecting the needs of others because we run out of time to be kind to other than ourselves.

People: Create in me a clean hear, O God, and put a new and right spirit in me. (Ps. 51:10)

Pastor: When we persistently make self-centered decisions rather than Christ-centered ones, our understanding of your goodness and faithfulness is weakened and our discipleship lacks credibility.

People: Create in me a clean hear, O God, and put a new and right spirit in me. (Ps. 51:10)

Pastor: In this aggressive world, it's easy to believe one can't get anywhere by exercising a spirit of gentleness or even self-control.

People: Create in me a clean hear, O God, and put a new and right spirit in me. (Ps. 51:10)

Pastor: Gracious and merciful God, grant us your forgiveness and your love so that we may truly care for one another.

People: Refresh and renew us with the Holy Spirit so that we are fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. 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: Psalm 24

New Testament: Mark 4:1-20

HYMN: *LET THERE BE LIGHT, O GOD OF HOSTS*

589

SERMON: *Let's get scattering*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

We sing of God the Spirit,

**who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation,
animating all energy and matter**

and moving in the human heart.

We sing of God the Spirit,

faithful and untameable,

who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy

not only in what is familiar,

but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit,

who speaks our prayers of deepest longing

and enfolds our concerns and confessions,

transforming us and the world.

We offer worship

as an outpouring of gratitude and awe

and a practice of opening ourselves

to God's still, small voice of comfort,

to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Through word, music, art, and sacrament,

in community and in solitude,

God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Exalted God, you are the constant lover who never forsakes us; you are the mother who cradles her children, you are the teacher patiently repeating your words for us. We worship you.

Jesus Christ, in you we are convinced God loves us; through you, we are formed into your people; with you, we serve those the world has forgotten. We follow you.

Holy Spirit, you are the power that gives us peace; you are the wisdom that reveals the broken in our midst; you are the spokesperson to whom we are deaf. We welcome you.

God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our prayers to you in the name of Christ.

(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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

* 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:

Blessed One, you offer a redemptive inheritance sometimes beyond our imagination. You graciously bestow each of us with your wisdom, grace, forgiveness, and love. Joyously, we share these tithes and offerings. As you call us to give, you remind us to place our hopes and dreams in your love and grace. Thank you, God, for giving us your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray in His name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN: *THINE IS THE GLORY***

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* **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.

Welcome to Faith Church this Eighth 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 Joan Hassler.

We welcome and thank Linda Lennon for leading us in worship this morning.

Pastor Bruce will be back from vacation tomorrow.

Former Faith member, Joyce White passed away last Sunday. There will be a memorial service here at Faith on Wednesday, July 17th. Visitation will be at 10 am with the service at 11 am. A luncheon will be served following the service in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

CALENDAR

Sandy's Office Hours:

Remotely - Mondays & Wednesdays 9 – 4

In Office - Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 – 3

- Today - 10:15 am Worship**
- Linda Lennon leading worship
- Tuesday - 2 pm Faith in Stitches**
- Wednesday - 10 pm Visitation; 11 am Memorial Service for Joyce White**
- Friday - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off**
- Sunday - 10:15 am Worship**

Thanks to our volunteers:

	July 14	July 21
Head Usher:	Joan Hassler	Joan Hassler
Ushers:	Jean Hanville Joan Hassler	Jerry and Elaine Trexler
Lay Reader:	Joan Hassler	Joan Hassler
Financial Sec:	Jerry Trexler	Jerry Trexler
Altar Flowers:	Joan Hassler	Torrence
Lawn Crew:	Bruce Torrence	Tom Hovis

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

Sandy works remotely on Mondays & Wednesdays.

You can text or call her at 610-967-6232.

Pastor: 610-248-5586; pastorbruce.faihucc@outlook.com

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