



Words of Faith

Volume XXI, No iii
August/September/October 2015

Simple Words of Faith from Dr. Hess

I am writing this article having recently spent 6 days in Cleveland with 3,000 + of our church leaders for our National UCC meeting called the General Synod and just last week spending 5 days in Pittsburgh on the Mission Trip with our Youth. Although both trips were very rewarding and I learned tons, I would not consider either time away from Hazleton as what I would term vacation or even Sabbath time. I know for the most part folks believe I have been on vacation (evidenced by the repeated queries, “How was vacation Pastor?” “Did you have a good time on vacation Pastor?” Usually this was followed by the question for my husband, “Did you go too?”). But it was not vacation it was indeed work time. Let me assure each of you that attending meetings morning, afternoon and evening at General Synod and being with our youth 24/7 is fun but... I was working. I am headed to Wildwood New Jersey next week with the Youth on a retreat called “Closer Walk” but again it is work. However, I do have a week of vacation scheduled in August to visit my sister Phyllis in Florida. Now that is 7 days to be spent with all my daughters, nieces and my little sister in West Palm Beach Florida, so yes, that will be vacation. But again, vacation is different from work and Sabbath. Sooo - work is not vacation. Vacation is not Sabbath time. And Sabbath time is not time away from my regular schedule of work. Seems like a circular argument.

What did you do for vacation this past summer?? Spending time away from work and with your family is vacation (sometimes) but it is not Sabbath time. You see we need work, we need vacation (time away from work) but more than vacation, we need Sabbath time. We believe in a God that is not a workaholic. After six days of work, God rested and instructed we mere mortals to go and do likewise. Keep the Sabbath and make it holy.

Sabbath means rest... to disconnect from our technology (which by the way can be as great an addiction as alcohol, or caffeine, or drugs). Take a day, or a half of a day, or just two hours and disconnect from your technology and rest. If you have trouble with two hours, then you may have to attend an AA meeting and admit the truth – I am an addict. Ok, most of us can restrain from picking up our phones while driving. But what happens at the stop light. We reach for our phones – until someone behind us beeps. Yikes. We really are addicted. It’s as if texting or tweeting or just flipping through Facebook is our only connection to others, friends, family, or the world. Not good. Kinda sad.

Like any addiction, we need to admit the truth, and then install helpful reminders along the way to keep up the motivation. So, every time we touch a door knob we will remember to pause, look around at the world in which we live and give thanks for a wonderful blessing in our lives. Or keep a one sentence journal (nothing fancy, just a moment in time to write a sentence about how you are doing). Or schedule time to connect with (a family member, old friend, God). Or just take the time to notice what is around you. Some folks have the impression that Sabbath means going to church, or doing good deeds (which it can) but for the most part it means rest. Relaxing by reading, watching a movie or even doing exercise or taking a walk is very good for us to do, but it is not rest.

There is a New Zealand Prayer that goes...

“What has been done – has been done.

What has not been done – has not been done.

Let it be.....Let it be.”

Your Sabbath Making Pastor, JANE

Clef Notes

It’s that time of year again! Our music ministries here at Faith UCC are starting up for the new season. There are several great opportunities for you to be connected to the life of the church while using your love of music and musical gifts as part of your service to the Lord. Whether you love to sing, play an instrument or simply want to try something new, we have room for you and hope you join us.



Senior Choir- Rehearsals for Senior Choir are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM in the choir room. Senior choir sings at the 10:00 AM service each Sunday and at special services throughout the year. Choir isn’t only about “singing”... we are a family of friends who support each other, enrich the services at Faith UCC, and share lots of laughter. The first rehearsal is slated for Thursday September 3rd at 6:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Chime Choir- Chime Choir gathers four times a year to rehearse a piece of music to play at a 10 AM service at Faith UCC. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 6-6:30 PM in the large Sunday school room. The Chime Choir is for everyone! You do not need to be able to read music; you simply need to be able to count to four! The first rehearsal of the year will be held on Thursday September 17th at 6:00 PM. We will be performing on Sunday October 11th. Come with your son or daughter. Come with a buddy. Come on your own. Come!

Instrumentalists- There is so much musical talent at Faith UCC! If you play an instrument and would like to accompany a piece, play a solo, or put together a small group I would love to talk to you! Please let me know of your interest and we will make it happen!

Thank you for all your support and I hope to see some new faces this year!

Peace, Tracey

2016 Confirmation Class

Attention all youth 6th grade and older! If you have ever wondered why the Bible has so many confusing stories or how to pray or how you can vote at the congregational meetings, you are invited to meet with the Pastor and register for the next Confirmation Class. We will be meeting Sunday September 20th at 2:00. Please bring your parents and your calendars so that we can schedule our classes together! Please call the office and let us know if you are coming. 570-454-5982. See you soon!



World Peace Day

We are joining with hundreds of thousands of people around the world for the September 21st Peace Day. Peace :: Paz :: Pau :: རྟེན་ལྷན་ :: Мир :: Fred :: Friede :: 平和 :: Mír :: ماس رahu :: Baké :: حلص :: Rauha :: Paix :: Maluhia :: שלום :: शांति :: Kev tiaj tus Béke :: 평화 :: Pax :: Vrede :: K’é :: Pokój :: Pace :: Barış :: Ειρήνη :: 和平 :: Qasikay many, many ways to say peace! Our theme for worship 9/19 and 9/30 will be Mother Theresa’s comment “Peace begins with a smile!” So come to worship 9/19 or 9/20 and speak out about peace! Or make a Peace Dove? Or make a donation so that we at Faith UCC can plant a Peace Pole! Let’s Pass the Peace to the world!

Lattimer Service

The Hazleton Ministerium has scheduled a Memorial for Healing to remember the Lattimer Massacre on Thursday September 10th at 6:00 PM. There is a liturgy, prayers and an historian (usually Professor from Penn State) to give a reenactment talk about what happened. Please come and step back into history.



LAY PASTOR'S CORNER

Consistory Notes:

I am writing this article in the midst of summer. During the summer months we take time to vacation at the shore, to picnic at the lake, or to just sit on the porch with a cool drink. We barbecue, swim, and spend time with friends and family. By the time you read this article we will be transitioning from summer to fall. The sun is setting earlier and the evenings are getting cooler. Teachers, students, and parents are beginning the necessary, but often dreaded, back to school preparations. In the church, Sunday school and confirmation classes are forming and committee meetings are resuming. The beach, the lake, and warm evenings on the porch are now being written about in essays of "What I did this summer."

During this transition from summer to fall, our busyness seems to increase and times of fun and relaxation seem to decrease. I don't know about you, but I struggle with finding balance between work and rest. I am currently reading a book by Wayne Muller entitled *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*. Muller speaks of the rhythm of the seasons, the rhythm of the days, the rhythm of our lives and finding a balance between work and rest that keeps us in sync with these rhythms.

Muller defines the Sabbath as not only "the seventh day of the week, as in the Jewish

tradition, or the first day of the week as in the Christian tradition, but Sabbath time can also be an afternoon, an hour, or any time we set aside to savor the gifts of creation, and to give thanks for our many blessings. This is a time we make ourselves available to the insights and blessings that arise only in stillness and time."

The Gospel writers tell us that after preaching to the crowds and healing the sick Jesus often left the crowds and the disciples to rest and pray. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. (Mk 6:46) Great multitudes gathered to hear and to be healed of their infirmities. But he withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. (LK 5:15-16) Jesus renewed his body and soul with food, rest and prayer. He knew that maintaining a balance in his life was important for his ministry.

As we transition into this time of increased busyness and responsibilities, I encourage everyone to observe a day, and hour, a few moments of Sabbath time to renew your body and soul. Share a meal with friends, take an early morning walk, listen to music, read a book, write a poem, light a candle as the sun sets, pray and spend time just being with God. May you find delight in the wonder and rhythms of God's creation.

Peace, Sharon

2015 Consistory

President – Robert Eigenbrod
Vice President – Gary Marsch
Secretary – Mary Ribarchik
Treasurer – Sue Schaeffer

Class of 2015	Phone	Committee
Robert Eigenbrod E	788-6976/956-2573	Lucky Number
Pat James D	359-3233/401-2338	Women of Faith
Neil Manganelli E	599-5720	Property Committee
Robin Olenick D	455-3200/436-6481	200 Club
Class of 2016		
Marty Karchner E	384-3628/401-0714	Communications
MariJo Penkala E	455-2743/436-0359	Christian Education
Mary Ribarchik D	582-3216	Deacons
Sue Schaeffer D	401-5822	Staff & Personnel
Class of 2017		
Dawn Hydock E	956-3735	Bingo
Sara Lukacs-Nagy D	454-3999/579-8726	Youth
Dean Schlauch D	459-1276	Worship
Gary Marsch E	956-8950	Fundraising
Jane Hess	401-2239	Pastoral Care, Outreach. Elders
Sharon Frye	610-739-1920	Student Pastor

SATURDAY CURBSIDE SUPPERS!

In case you haven't heard...we are now having Take-Out-Only, Curb-Side-Only Suppers on the second Saturday of each month. We started on July 11th with a wonderful Spaghetti and meatball supper (Danielle and MaryBeth made the meatballs and Don Hess made the sauce!) On Saturday August 8th we are having Unbaked Pizza with one topping (pepperoni, Mushroom, or Plain) for \$10. There will be instructions for baking on the box! Tickets are \$10 from any Consistory person or call the church office and leave a message 570-454-5982. You can drive up to the curb in front

of the Fellowship Hall between 4:00 and 6:00 on August 8th. Enjoy!

September 12th we will have a Take-Out-Only, Curb-Side-Only Halupki's, mashed potatoes, veggie, dinner roll and cupcake for \$10.

October 10th we will have Unbaked Pizza with one topping (Pepperoni, Extra Cheese, or Plain) for \$10

Nov 14th we have Chicken and Waffles, mashed potatoes, and piece of cake for \$10. Then we will take a Winter Break until Spring. Thanks for your support and spread the word!

1) After getting 3 bids for our Heating/Air Conditioning service the Consistory took the recommendation of the Property committee and signed with Energy Technologies. This company does deal with the makers of the heating units which hopefully will improve repair time (remember last winter's 3 1/2 week delay in getting parts to fix the unit in the Fellowship Hall?)

2) The Women of Faith are saving money to purchase a new freezer.

3) The Consistory voted to Go Green and will be putting all recyclables in green cans. These will be taken to recycling centers by members. Yay us!

4) After much research/bids the consistory purchased a Square which is an electronic device that attaches to an I Pad and will be available at worship and other events to take donations with credit or debit cards for the church. The cost for this use is minimal and will be handed on to the user for their convenience of use. This will be available starting in September.

5) Amber Waters is our new Quiet Room attendant and will be disinfecting the toys. Parents are asked to put toys in the cleaning bin after use so they can be cleaned.

6) After receiving bids, the Consistory voted to sign a contract with Thomas' Disposal. for the removal of our trash. PS If any member of church would like to review the bids mentioned above please see the Consistory Secretary Mrs Mary Ribarchik. Thank You.

FLOWERS-BULLETINS-CANDLES

You are invited to remember or honor loved ones anytime this year by sponsoring flowers, bulletins or candles. The chart is posted on the wall outside the choir room.



Pick a Sunday that is significant to you and your loved ones: anniversaries, birthdays, death days, graduations or any other special days.

Please sign up for your special Sundays and then follow the instructions posted.

Bulletins are \$10 per Sunday, candles \$15, table bouquet \$27.00, and altar flowers are \$37.50.

Your sponsor message will be listed in the bulletin on the appropriate Sunday.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE?

Have you moved recently? Changed your telephone number?

If so, please call the church office at 454-5982 to make the correction.

Our computer records need to be accurate so that we can get the newsletter, envelopes and other correspondence to you.

You can also drop a note in the weekly collection plate, or send updates to:

Faith UCC, 21 Faith Dr., Hazleton, PA 18202.
PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE.

SOCIAL HALL RENTAL

Please remember that our church social hall is available for rental by people and organizations both inside and outside of our congregation.

Contact Building Superintendent Judy Hartzel at 459-2923 for rental information.

Giving Tree

Thanks to all who have donated Baby/Toddler diapers for our Giving Tree in May, June, and July (Pastor doesn't have her van and had to make two trips to the Catholic Social Services to deliver all of them) Nicely done everybody!

In August we were asked by United Charities to collect clear backpacks and school supplies for our Hazleton youth! This will only be for August so try to remember quickly! (It usually takes us 2 or 3 months to fill the tree?!)

For September, October, and thru November 15th we are again collecting non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving Day baskets! Giving freely is a sign of Healthy Congregations and Spiritual Maturity. It is also something that Faith UCC does well!

200 Club

200 Club tickets are currently being sold, and can be purchased from any consistory member. Tickets are also sold at Friday night Bingo. Tickets are \$10.00. Every Friday starting August 7th a number will be drawn at Bingo and the winner will receive \$50.00. Final draw will be September 27th with the prize being \$400.00. Good luck to everyone!

200 club
Got your number?

Sunday School News

Sunday School begins again on Sunday September 13th. Please place to start the 'new year' off with us. On a related note, there will be a meeting of Sunday School Teachers following the 10 O'clock service on Sunday August 23rd. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Area Mission Council Worship

On Sunday October 25th at 3:00 we are hosting a Joint Worship Service with 13 other UCC congregations. We have invited the Amigos to come and share their mission with us. The Amigos have sponsored three trips to Honduras to build a medical facility.

As a part of this joint venture we are asked to collect pennies. One of the biggest needs in Honduras is clean water. So we are to start on September 1 thru Oct. 25th and put a penny in a jar every time we use water. Brush teeth, flush toilet, wash dishes, drink, wash car/dog, hand washing, outside watering, etc.? You may want to go to watersconservationschool.com and use the on-line calculator? Bring your pennies to church and we will put them all together from Faith to see how much we can raise for the Amigos.

We are also inviting other choirs to sing with our choir at this service. We will rehearse together at 2:00. And we will be asking each congregation to bring a dish for our Pot Luck supper after worship. Mark your calendars for this Joint Venture!



Women of Faith

The Women of Faith will be having two upcoming pie sales. In September they will be having a Shoo Fly pie sale. In October they will be having an Apple Crumb pie sale. Cost for the pies will be \$10.00 per pie and can be ordered by calling Janet at 570-455-5135 or by filling out a sheet located in the back of the church on the table. Please watch the bulletin for the dates of the pie sales!



Bingo Gift Certificates

A night in the air-conditioned social hall might be the ticket on a warm summer evening. Cost-\$15.00

Includes:

- *Admission
- *Magic Number
- *Bonanza Special

See or call Dotty Burrell at 570-788-3910

On a related note, help is desperately need and much appreciated at Bingo. Please plan to pitch in at least one Friday per month!

Labor Day Worship

You are invited to bring a symbol of your 'work' to church September 5th & 6th for a special blessing. This includes our youth and their backpacks or calculators or sports equipment (how did that work out for you last year Charlie??).

Adults are invited to bring their brief cases, stethoscopes, hammers, cell phones, etc. Retirees are invited to bring their garden gloves or calendars or pictures of grandchildren?? Whatever it is you spend your days doing. Let us give thanks for the Labor of our Lives!



PNEC One Day Women's Retreat

The women of the Penn Northeast Conference are again gathering for a One Day Retreat Saturday September 19th 9-4 PM at the outdoor pavilion in Jerusalem UCC near Palmerton. The cost is only \$15 and it is guaranteed to be filled with fun, food, and fellowship! Please see the sign up form on the back of the calendars inserted in this Newsletter. We are registering individually and there are a limited amount of spaces, so don't wait too long. The theme is: "Have Your Cake and Eat it Too!" Registration is due September 1st. See you there!

JERUSALEM
United Church of Christ



Youth Ministry

Many thanks to all who have helped our young people go to our Pittsburgh Project Mission Trip. We couldn't have done it without you and we really appreciate your prayers of support! Out Retreat to Wildwood for a Closer Walk Retreat was a huge success!

Coming up: Sleep Out for Homeless @ Union UCC Neff's from 6 PM 9/26 thru 11 am 9/27. We are asked to raise \$25 each for homeless teens. Please sign up outside the office. We will car pool down and back.

October 11th we are planning a fun day?? Trip to Bounceplex?? Hiking at Boulder Field in Hickory Run State Park?? Hot Dog Roast and Hayride?? Let your voice be heard!

Any youth in 6th grade and older is welcome! We could also use some youth leaders (people 20 years. or older) or a couple willing to help out!!! Please see Rev. Hess.



Faith Gardeners

Spring and summer have been full of sun and rain making our gardens full of beautiful flowers and many weeds. Help!!!! The very few of us who are gardening need assistance to keep the weeds under control. Please feel free to weed at your leisure. We appreciate the help!



Faith United Church of Christ
 21 Faith Drive
 Hazleton, PA 18202
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August/September/October 2015

Worshipful Ways

As end the summer months and head into the harvest of the fall, we remain in the Christian Church Season of Pentecost. Our flowers have become lush and prolific, and our tomatoes, corn and squash are plentiful. We have been nurturing Love during this season, because we know that “Love Grows Here”. As we continue reading our way through Mark may you take a moment and appreciate the lush and prolific stories of the Bible as well as the plentiful truths in Love. Please Note: There will not be a worship service on Saturday during the month of August. When we start again in September we will be having Saturday services at 4:30 PM until further notice.

August 1	-	No Saturday Service	September 19	4:30 PM	Vespers New Members
August 2	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XI/Communion/Double Dipping John 6:24-38 Love Grows Here with Heaven Sent Bread	September 20	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XVIII Mark 9:30-37 Love Grows Here with Caring and Concerns
August 8	-	No Saturday Service	September 26	4:30 PM	Vespers
August 9	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XII Dialogue Sermon on David (Adam & Jane)	September 27	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XIX Harvest Home Pastor Sharon
August 15	-	No Saturday Service	October 3	4:30 PM	Vespers/World Wide Communion
August 16	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XIII John 6:51-58 Pastor Lynne	October 4	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XX Job 1:1, 2:1-13 Love Grows Here with Presence /Communion
August 22	-	No Saturday Service	October 10	4:30 PM	Vespers
August 23	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XIV Psalm 84 “Love Grows Here in a New Psalm”	October 11	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XXI Mark 10:17-31 Love Grows Here with Re-Ordering
August 29	-	No Saturday Service	October 17	4:30 PM	Vespers
August 30	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XV Mark 7:1-8, 14-15 Pastor Sue	October 18	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XXII Mark 10:33-43 Love Grows Here with Servanthood
September 5	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion	October 24	4:30 PM	Vespers
September 6	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XVI Labor Day Communion Mark 7:24-37 Love Grows Here with Openness	October 25	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XXIII Mark 10:46-52 Celebrate 498 Years of Reformation German Sermon
September 12	4:30 PM	Vespers	October 25	3:00 PM	Faith UCC Joint Area Mission Council Service with Joint Choir and 12 other UCC church Congregations “Amigos” Bring Your Pennies!
September 13	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost XVII Mark 8:27-38 Love Grows Here with Choices			

**Mark your calendars!
 The deadline for our Nov/Dec 2015 Jan 2016
 Newsletter is Oct 11th Please be prompt!**

Wish to submit an article for the newsletter?

Please send submissions to :

Karen Herb

PO Box 373

Beaver Meadows, PA 18216-0373

Email: herb2857@aol.com

Phone: (570) 710-1752

You may drop off articles at the church office. Church office hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Faith UCC e-mail address: faithuccchaz@verizon.net Building Superintendent: Judy Hartzel – 459-2923 Circle of Prayer – To add names, call Carol Koch at 788-1038

Worship Services:

Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Church Office Phone: 454-5982

Kitchen Phone: 454-8427

Rev. Hess Cell Phone: 401-2239

Address: 21 Faith Drive

Hazleton, PA 18202