



# Words of Faith

Volume XXIII, No 1

February March April 2017

*Words of Faith from Dr Hess*

Can you believe it??? We here at Faith are going to be celebrating our twentieth Anniversary?!? I've been with you for 22 years and it seems to have flown by!! All I can say is – We must be having fun – Holy Fun.

I was talking to a colleague the other day who serves the UCC church in Heidelberg, PA. They just celebrated 275 years – Holy Moly. Two weeks ago in our bulletin I had used a Litany of Faith from 2013 and it said we have 16 good years... I laughed and told the folks, “Well we are actually 20 years, so some of them must not have been good years?” Some of you may recall it has not been what we can say an easy process, this becoming one.

Do you remember our skit at Conference Meeting “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”? That just about explains it. Ha Ha  
So at our 10th Anniversary we read through the Bible together as a congregation. And now we are inviting everyone to stop what you are doing at 12 noon and offer a brief prayer. This is a way we can stitch our 20th year together in prayer. I have my alarm on my phone set which is oh so nice. Without it I know I would have trouble remembering to do so. I am also making up prayer cards each week – posted on Facebook, and web site – or pick one up in church on Sunday. Love Pray Share Repeat.

The 20th Anniversary Committee is busy planning for our celebrations which will be from Sunday March 5th through November 5 which is All Saints Day and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We can look forward to a Bell Choir Concert 4/30, Chicken & Waffle Supper (free just for us) in May, Knoebels Picnic July 16, Water Shed Service August 27, Alzheimer's Walk September 16, and New Church Pictorial Directory in October. Oh the places we will go – the fun we will have. To get us started the Committee is having a Zook's Pot Pie and Apple Dumpling Sale. Orders due February 26. Money due March 12 and pick up is March 18 10-12. They are frozen when delivered. Please call Chair of Committee Sandy Marsch with questions 570-956-0605.

One last suggestion from your Pastor, remember our Anniversary envelopes we get each year? An older saint from our Faith church had a tradition that every year on her birthday she would gift the church with a \$1 for every year of life. She was fortunate (and so were we) that she lived to 87 years. So, in her tradition, I would like to suggest that we gift the church with \$1 for every year we have been Living Our Faith. Hopefully that is a full 20 years! And I know I can say Thank You for your generosity!

Your Faith Filled Pastor, Jane

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

There are again a variety of Holy Week Services that you are welcome to attend. Please mark your calendars:

- Palm Sunday services will be 4/15 at 4:30, or Sunday morning at 8:00 or 10:00 with Special Music from our Sr. Choir and Amen Choir!
- Maundy Thursday Service (think Last Supper) will be Thursday 4/13 at 6:30 PM with communion and a beautiful Choir anthem.
- Friday 4/14 there are two services: a Quiet Service 12-3:00 PM (light a memorial candle and sit and pray) or 6:30 PM with the choir and 1st person sermon.
- Easter Vigil on Saturday 4/15 at 6:30 will include Light, Water and Word along with Easter Communion!
- Easter Sunrise is 4/16 at 8:00 AM and always includes an Easter Surprise!
- Easter Service at 10:00 and celebrate the Essence of Easter!

All services (and activities in this Newsletter are open to everyone – No matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!



## Twentieth Anniversary Greetings!

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of Faith U.C.C. Sunday March 5th will begin one of many “celebration Sundays”, with Pastor Alan Miller (Penn Northeast Conference) as our guest speaker. We are looking forward to greeting other ministers to the Faith pulpit to share their enlightening stories of faith, hope and love during the coming months.

The newly organized 20th anniversary committee will be busy planning other events as well to commemorate this notable year. Members of this committee are Reverend Hess, Pastor Lynne, Student Pastor Sue, Lee Schaeffer, Lorna Veglia, Tracey Smith, Mary Ribarchik and Sandy Marsch. During the months of January and February we will be offering 6” chicken and beef pot pies for sale, as well apple dumplings. These will be purchased by the committee from Zook's in Lancaster. They make their own pot pies and dumplings. Sunday February 26th is the due date for all orders.

We have several other ideas for the upcoming months such as a bell choir, church dinner, Faith Fest, church picnic at Knoebels and a “Walk” in Faith to commemorate this year. We are also considering a pictorial directory and a church calendar to conclude our year in pictures! We would love you all to share your thoughts and ideas, as well as your pictures taken through our years as Faith U.C.C.  
Yours in faith, Sandy Marsch



## Ash Wednesday Services

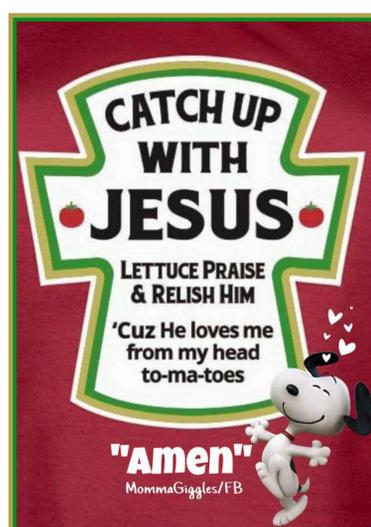
Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> we will again be distributing ashes for the beginning of Lent. You have the opportunity to come first thing in the morning between 7:00 and 9:00 AM to receive ashes and communion (come and go anytime during the two hours). OR come Wednesday evening at 6:30 for our brief ½ hour service and receive ashes and communion as well as enjoy the choir anthem. No need to sign up! Come and invite your family and friends. Please note: *The Worship Committee has changed all of our evening services to 6:30 PM rather than the former 7:00 PM. THANKS!*

## The Bad Habits of Jesus

We don't usually think about Jesus having bad habits, but Leonard Sweet suggests in his book *The Bad Habits of Jesus: Showing Us the Way to Live Right in a World Gone Wrong*, which Jesus does have bad habits – like spitting, procrastinating, and even is a rule breaker. Our Spring Pastors' Class will be looking at the sixteen bad habits of Jesus. We will have 8 classes 8:45 to 9:45 AM on Sundays March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 23 and 30th. (No class Easter Sunday). You are welcome to purchase the book (Amazon books for \$8.46) or just come! We had great discussions in our Pastors Class last Fall around Paul's Parables. Don't miss this opportunity. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office 570-454-5982.

## February Outreach

February is “Catch Up with Jesus” month. Come and receive ‘Mommagiggles’ promotion – “Catch up with Jesus! Lettuce praise & Relish Him! ‘Cuz He loves me from my head to-ma-toes!” All worshippers will receive (drum roll please) a ketchup packet or two or three and are encouraged to spread the word with others in our communities, work places and school yards! New Members Sunday is Sunday of March 12th! Invite folks to come and taste the opportunities Faith UCC has to offer!



## LAY PASTOR'S CORNER

Sometimes I leave church with one specific hymn ringing through my head. It can stay there for more than a week. This happened on New Year's Day with "Emmanuel."

Emmanuel. Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us. Revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us. That is truly such a comforting thought – like a blanket wrapped around us, a perpetual hug, or a flickering light always aglow inside our being. God is with us as we open our eyes, respond to others through our day (praying, answering phone calls, running errands, visiting family or friends, helping a co-worker, calming someone who's upset, feeding our pets, watching TV, cooking our food, on and on.) God with us in the simplest and hardest things, in the smallest and biggest things, in the happiest and saddest things of our days.

Revealed in us. My favorite and most challenging line. I feel wonder and awe that God would choose to be revealed in me, to give me such an awesome responsibility. I feel anxiety that God would choose to be revealed in me, to give me such an awesome responsibility. God's belief and trust in myself awes me; my human doubt and laziness scares me.

We humans get content. We conform and 'fit

in' and stop seeing the challenges in everyday life. In our minds, we compare ourselves with other humans and settle for being 'better than them.' Once this is our comfort zone, it gets harder and harder to step outside the box; yet that is what Jesus did every day. Jesus was not a conformist! He stayed in touch with that God with us in himself and made sure that it was revealed every day of his life. He did what was right, what was needed, all over the place. Comparison with Jesus is our challenge. We've come to scoff at 'What would Jesus do?' and yet that is the living template that God gave us. Jesus was our example of how to BE THE CHURCH. God with us. Revealed in us. Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life. Love, share, pray. Live the faith. Words to live by in 2017.

Thank you for welcoming me, teaching me, and sharing my learning. I love my Faith family. I'm glad I'm 'in this together' with you. I pray that we always feel God with us as we go through each and every day. I pray that we allow God to be revealed in us as we let that flickering candle be seen by others as we do what Jesus would do.

Blessings and Peace. Sue

## Faith-full Opportunities

### 20th Anniversary Service

In case you haven't seen or heard elsewhere in this newsletter, don't miss our 20th Anniversary Service at 10:00 on Sunday March 5th! Rev. Alan Miller will be bringing the message along with a brief History of Faith by Rev. Ghulam Nasrani. Rev. Miller is retiring to North Carolina in August, so this will be our last time to hear him! Special Music is promised! There will be surprises and fun galore. 20 Years Living Our Faith!

Sign up for the Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 service! It's all You!! And You!! And You!! And You!! And You!! THANKS!

### Movie Night

Last May the Nuremburg Players presented "Nonsense", a musical comedy. Four of the five member singing nuns were UCC folks, two of which you already know – our own Tracy (Music Director) and Rev. Hess. We have a 'video' of the play with our favorite nuns in it and thought it would be a fun (and funny) way to celebrate Mardi Gras Tuesday or Donut Day or Shrove Tuesday (all refer to the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. So, on Tuesday February 28th 6:30 we will show this (home-made) video in the double Sunday School classroom and everyone is invited to come and share the laughs. Bring your favorite drinks to share and popcorn/donuts will be provided! A sign up list is in the Narthex, or call the office 570-454-5982 to let us know you will be there! Fun Stuff!

### Saturdays During Lent

All Saturday Services during Lent at 4:30 will include a time of anointing and healing. This is offered to help us heal and prepare for Easter.

ANOINTED

### Women's Retreat/Ladies Night Out

Our Ladies will be retreating to Lancaster on Friday April 21st (leaving town at 5:00 PM) and return by 11:00 AM on Sunday April 23rd (in time for the Freeland Choir to sing). Our Retreat Theme is yet to be determined (suggestions welcome) but most of us attend this retreat for the love and laughter, and great memories! Please sign up in the Narthex with a \$25 deposit by March 26th. The cost is approximately \$145 per person – includes two nights in a double room and breakfast both days. Other meals and Saturday afternoon free time is on your own dime. Promises to be a "Plain and Simple" retreat! (Hey, maybe that will be our theme??)

PS Our Ladies Night Out will be at Perkins on Wednesday 2/22, 3/22 and 4/26 at 6:00. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office 570-454-5982 THANKS!!

### Mid-Week Lent Series

We are sharing our mid-week lent services with our Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Episcopal brothers and sisters in Christ. Lent is a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) in which we prepare for Holy Week (where we travel with Jesus from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem with Palms, to the upper room, and to the cross). It is a wonderful time for Christians to unite in our common Faith. After worship each Wednesday at 7:00 PM (perhaps next year we can get them to change to 6:30?), the host congregations offer a time of fellowship and food to share! Please come and enjoy our larger Christian community.

- Wednesday March 8th 7:00 @ West Hazleton Trinity Lutheran
- Wednesday March 15th 7:00 @ Faith UCC
- Wednesday March 22nd 7:00 @ Christ Lutheran Hazleton
- Wednesday March 29th 7:00 @ St. Peter's Episcopal
- Wednesday April 5th 7:00 @ Trinity Lutheran Hazleton

## Outreach Committee-Faith UCC

From time to time, we will share with you some of the good works being done by our church. This edition's focus will be the Outreach Committee. Thank you, Outreach!

The Outreach Committee met in February 2016. At that time Giving Tree projects were finalized. As follows:

- **January-February:** Undies 500 pair. New adult underwear collected. Also, new adult underwear for the homeless.
  - **March:** personal items for the homeless.
  - **April-May:** Global Outreach. Pastor Lisphar Ondimier from Kenya asked for Bibles for her Church. Also, requested in the native language, Ekegussi. At that time, they had 7 Bibles for their congregation and village. Rev Hess researched and found the Bibles. Faith UCC contributed 70 Bibles. Pastor Lisphar and the congregation were delighted. They sent Faith UCC pictures of themselves reading their Bibles in their own language! Attachment included here. This Global effort was a huge success, and Faith UCC is commended.
  - **June, July, August:** collected suitcases for foster children. The children were carrying their belongings in garbage bags. This was a joint effort with Kids' Peace and the Area Mission Council. Good/gently used luggage backpacks, and school supplies were included. Articles were distributed at a joint picnic held at Eurana Park in August. Another success!
  - **September, October, November:** -Non-perishable food items for local food banks were collected.
  - **December:** Angel tree, Christmas gifts for United Charities children, and boxes of facial tissues were delivered by Rev Hess to shut ins. Joanne Klevence crocheted covers for the boxes to add a personal touch. Faith UCC and the Outreach Committee thank Joanne for her heartwarming efforts.
  - Golden Books for Head Start children of the area (hats, gloves, scarves) are collected. These are projects of Liz Haraschak. Thank you, Liz for your efforts. Soda tabs are also collected.
  - Rev. Hess delivers poinsettias to shut ins. Thank you so much. Rev Jane.
  - The committee also discussed Projects with Missionaries in Guatemala (medical clinic).The chairman of the project was enthusiastic, but felt they needed more time to list their needs. The clinic was not ready yet.
  - Talked with our Missionary in Japan. It was at the time of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Will talk to them later, as we were in midst of the Kenya project.
  - Members of the Outreach Committee are: Grace Fritz- Chairperson, Iris Leitner, Rebecca Bredbenner, Connie Stephens, and Rev Jane Hess. New members are always welcome. Diana Jessel resigned early in the year.
  - Greeting cards are sent to Faith members in nursing homes, personal care homes, and home bound at Easter, Christmas, and Birthdays.
- Respectfully submitted for Grace Fritz by Rebecca Bredbenner

### Freeland Community Easter Cantata

Freeland Community Choir Easter Cantata 3:00 PM Sunday April 23rd. Mark the Date for this wonderful event!

## Hunger Fast

Our Confirmation Class and any youth 6th grade or older is welcome to join us on a 24 hour Hunger Fast. We will accept donations (\$5, \$10, \$20) to raise money for O.G.H.S. One Great Hour of Sharing. Because this is run by our National Church all of the money donated to O.G.H.S. goes directly to our hungry brothers and sisters around our country and around the world. Even if you do not want to fast, please keep us in prayer and see one of the youth to donate! Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty.



## Widows' Web

Nancy DeMara and Lorna Veglia would like to invite all of our widows within and even those outside our congregation to our monthly meetings on the **second Tuesday of the month from 1:30-3:00**. It does not take the pain of grief away, but it helps to know you are not alone in your grief. No need to sign up, just show up. February 8th, March 8th and April 12th. If you have questions please see Nancy or Lorna or Rev. Hess. Blessed are those who mourn.

GOD CARES ABOUT WIDOWS

## Make a Joyful Noise

This coin collection taken up on the 1st weekend of each month in metal buckets was started by our young people so that they could help pay for the church. Please make an effort to save your change all month and then remember to bring it for our young people. They are oh so proud of their efforts over these last 14 years! There is no receipt for what is put in the buckets, except for your crowns in heaven!

### Joyful Noise Collection Recap

2003	-	\$3,723.50
2004	-	3,004.66
2005	-	2,940.91
2006	-	2,929.46
2007	-	2,606.40
2008	-	2,294.55
2009	-	2,228.15
2010	-	2,449.06
2011	-	2,117.98
2012	-	3,299.07
2014	-	1,664.43
2015	-	1,675.65
2016	-	1,969.73
Total	-	35,262.00

Please note these funds were collected during my accreditation period. The fund was implemented before I became involved and those figures were not available to me.

Donald Klevence

**\*\* Editor's Note: Recently our bank has instituted a 5% fee for using the coin sorter to tally the Noisy Offering. This means coins must again be sorted and wrapped in order to avoid those fees. You can help the church and the 'wrapper' by making paper 'noise' (signed, the coin wrapper) :)**

## Book and Soup Sale April 1

Saturday April 1st we are having a book sale from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We are accepting books now so that they can be sorted. Please no encyclopedias or text books. We will also accept puzzles, videos, CD's and records. We are also taking orders for quarts of Chicken Corn Soup and Stuffed Pepper Soup. Both will be available by the bowl the day of the sale along with a tasty menu of goodies! We will need help at 9:30 PM Friday March 31st to set up (and you can shop early for your books) and 3:00 PM on Saturday April 1st to clean up. If you have any questions please see Dotty 570-788-3910.

**Warm your heart and soul with a bowl of soup and a good book!**

### 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.

### Bingo Help Always Needed!

Bingo appreciates YOUR help!

Every Friday night we need at least three cakes, a specialty food item (crock pot size), and five people to work in the kitchen. Please if there is a night that you could work or make something please call Judy at 570-459-2923 or 570-956-1981. Remember Bingo is a crucial fundraiser for "Our" church, and to keep it going we need the support of our church family.

### Easter Flower/Blanket Order Form

<b>Your Name</b> _____	Item	# Ordered
<b>In Memory of</b> _____	Blankets - \$5.00	_____
<b>In Honor of</b> _____	Tulips - \$15.00	_____
<b>Total Due</b> _____	Azaleas - \$24.00	_____
	Hyacinth - \$15.00	_____
	Mums - \$13.00	_____
	Daffodils - \$11.00	_____
	Lilies - \$12.00	_____

### Orders due April 2<sup>nd</sup> with payment

Please send to: Faith UCC, 21 Faith Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202

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## Hershey Handbell Ensemble Concert

The Hershey Handbell Ensemble will present a concert on Sunday April 30th at 3:00 PM here at Faith U.C.C. as a part of our 20th Anniversary Celebration. The Ensemble was formed in 2004. The fifteen member group is under the direction of Dr. Shawn Gingrich and performs with seven octaves of Marlmark Handbells, Handchimes and other assorted instruments. If you have helped Faith U.C.C. over the last 20 years you will be given a ticket to submit for the 10 free drawings. We will have a reception following the 3:00 concert. Let your friends and neighbors know; it is not a secret! Come and celebrate 20 years our Living Faith!



## 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.

## 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.**

## Worship Opportunities

February, March and April or Epiphany, Lent and Easter offer more opportunities to renew your Faith connections!

February Theme: Stars of Epiphany

Catch Up with Jesus Let us Praise & Relish Him 'Cuz He loves me from my head to-ma-toes

February 4	4:30 PM	Vespers Communion	March 25	4:30 PM	Vespers Pastor Sue Anointing
February 5	8 & 10 AM	Worship/Communion Matthew 5:13-20 Stars of Restoring Beauty	March 26	8 & 10 AM	John 9:1-41 Blind Faith
February 11	4:30 PM	Vespers	April 1	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion/Anointing
February 12	8 & 10 AM	Worship Matthew 5:21-37 Stars of Integrity	April 2	8 & 10 AM	Worship/Communion Ezekiel 37:1-14 Resurrected Faith
February 18	4:30 PM	Vespers	April 8	4:30 PM	Vespers Anointing
February 19	8 & 10 AM	Worship Matthew 5:38-48 Stars of Perfection Chime Choir Plays	April 9	8 & 10 AM	Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11 Pensive Palms
February 25	4:30 PM	Vespers	April 13	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17, 31b-36 Communion
February 26	8 & 10 AM	Worship Matthew 17:1-9 Spoiler Alert	April 14	12 – 3:00 PM	Good Friday Quiet Service
Lent Theme: Living Faith for 20 years			April 14	6:30 PM	Good Friday John 18:1-19:42
March 1	7 - 9:00 AM	Ashes Distributed & Communion Shared	April 15	4:30 PM	Easter Vigil Fire, Water, Word, Anointing, Easter Communion
March 1	6:30 PM	PM Ash Wednesday Service Psalm 51:1-17 Do It Anyway Communion/ Anointing	Easter Theme: The Essence of Easter		
March 4	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion/Anointing	April 16	8:00 AM	Easter Sunrise Service John 20:1-18 The Essence of Easter
March 5	8 & 10 AM	20 year Anniversary Service Matthew 4:1-11 Living Faith by Rev. Alan Miller, PNEC Conference Minister	April 22	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion
March 11	4:30 PM	Vespers Pastor Lynne Anointing	April 23	4:30 PM	Worship/Communion John 20:19-31 The Essence of Easter Doubt
March 12	8 & 10 AM	Worship John 3:1-17 Born Again Faith	April 29	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion
March 18	4:30 PM	Vespers Anointing	April 30	8 & 10 AM	Worship/Communion Luke 24:13-35 The Essence of Easter Bread
March 19	8 & 10 AM	Worship Johns 4:5-42 Thirsty Faith			

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Faith United Church of Christ  
21 Faith Drive  
Hazleton, PA 18202  
**Return Service Requested**

February/March/April 2017

**Mark your calendars!  
The deadline for our May June July 2017  
Newsletter is April 9th 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: Wednesday from 2-4 PM, Thursday from 4-6 PM Faith UCC e-mail address: faithucchaz@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