

Words of Faith

Volume XXIV, No 1

February March April 2018

Words of Faith from Jane..... and Marilyn McEntrye

Anyone familiar with the 12 step program knows the serenity prayer which asks for the serenity to accept what we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. As often and as widely as it has been repeated, it has not been flattened into cliché because it is such a sturdy, serviceable prayer, anchored in real wisdom about what we need as we go on our bumpy ways. Real acceptance is neither passive resignation, nor simple capitulation, but active, imaginative, open-hearted reframing of what is given to us to work with. I've often found curious comfort in the little tautology "It is what it is". It seems a gentle way of relinquishing false hope and taking stock of facts. Once we have those facts clearly in front of us we can work with them – reconsider, reframe, reorient ourselves.

At a recent Ladies Night Out we looked at 'stuff' from our pasts – stuff we have been carrying around like a precious Gucci purse, clutching it tightly to our sides just in case some hoodlum hits us with a grab and go. The truth of the matter is, it is what it is. Whatever 'horrible hurtful event' that happened to us is like humpty dumpty's egg – it happened. It cannot be fixed, glued or put back together again. We cannot change the event. We can change what we think about it. We don't even have to forgive 'whomever' (because frankly it is hard to forgive someone who does not ask for forgiveness) but we can relegate the event to the 2nd hand clothing store and not give it control of our happiness.

So the Ladies and I reframed our pasts, or our present's, or our future depending on where we found the need. A friend of mine with a mysterious chronic ailment that had remained undiagnosed for years showed up at my door ecstatic – not because she had found a cure, but because she had a diagnosis. She knew now that what she had was a chronic illness that could not be cured but could be managed. She could not change the fact of her illness or the likelihood of the prognosis, but she did have a new sense of direction upon which she could build her strategies of daily life. She knew her limits and accepted them as the boundaries within which she could exercise her considerable creative energies, budget her time, enjoy her friendships, and rest when she needed to. Letting go of false hope gave her real hope.

All of this, takes courage.....#metoo.....reading out loud in Court your complaints to Dr. Larry Nassar..... or just living your life with love even though you and your 12 siblings have been living in a hell created by your parents.

May God grant us the courage as a Faith Community to say good-bye to our loved ones, to change the things we can, and to give up false hope so we can receive real hope.

Yours in Hope, Jane



Come Celebrate Our 21st Anniversary

On Sunday March 4th we will be 21 years old/young? Compared to most of the churches around us, we are quite young! We are "Coming of Age". Because we are 21 we are asking for an extra \$\$ gift of twenty-one dollars! Come and share the joy that is our church family. New Members will be welcomed into the fold at the 10:00 service! Come and be counted!

Giving Tree



Giving Tree

We are collecting coats, jackets and sweaters starting on Ash Wednesday February 14th. We are going to cover the community with Warmth and Love through February and March. We are asking for gently used sweaters, coats and jackets. These will be donated to Community Centers in Nescopeck and Bloomsburg and

are given away.

And that bring us to the ...

RUMMAGE SALE!

And as always don't forget our Rummage Sale May 2nd and 3rd. While you are going through your closets for the Coats, Jackets and Sweaters, you can clean out a few more articles for the Rummage Sale! THANKS BUNCHES!!

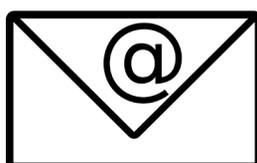


Everything else

New Email Address

Please make note: Faith UCC has a new email address: faithucc.haz@gmail.com

Also, please remember to 'Like' us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/faithucc.hazletonpa> Thanks!



Totenfest Service – Remember Me

There have been oh so many of our church family that have passed on to their eternal life. Quite a few of them we have not had a chance to say good-bye, i.e. no funeral was held.

So on Sunday afternoon March 11th 3:00pm we are going to take the time to say good-bye. Our Jewish brothers and sisters believe that the first death is when you physically die; the second death is when no one remembers you. We will light candles. Sing Hymns. Hear the comforting scripture. And Remember. "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecc. 3



Ash Wednesday Services

Ashes and Communion will be distributed on Wednesday morning February 14th from 7-9am at the altar. Come and go anytime (maybe next year we can have drive through??)

Then our ½ hour service of Ashes, Communion, and Crosses will be at 6:30. Everyone is invited to bring a homemade cross with your name on it. (We will have supplies to make them if there if you forget). We will place them on the altar. Bless them. Then everyone can take one home and pray for that person during Lent. We will return them to their owners on Good Friday. Lift High the Cross this Lent!



Tuesdays in Lent - Quiet Communion Services

On Tuesdays during Lent we are offering our Quiet Communion Services from 4:00-7:00. Come and sit in the sanctuary anytime during the 4-7pm time. Then if you would like to share communion come up to the altar and the Pastor will share it with you. "Be still and know God".



Communion

Lay Pastor's Corner

Happy February!

The good news is that January is behind us; the sad news is we still have several weeks of winter ahead. Unfortunately, some of us experience the winter blues and cabin fever because the cold and snow or the flu keep us housebound. During some very recent snow days that kept me housebound I have been enjoying the Hallmark Movies and Mysteries channel. They are showing some of the good old mystery shows like Monk, Diagnosis Murder, and Murder She Wrote. Life's a mystery isn't it? We can't figure it out like we can a good mystery novel or movie. We just don't know what lies ahead. We welcome and accept the surprises in life that bring us joy. But what about the unexpected sadness or heartache that comes our way? These are times that interrupt our lives and we would just love to fast forward through them but they are part of the journey. Our faith teaches us that God is present in good times and in sad. You have heard the benediction that ends with "wherever you are God is!" The truth is that we don't always sense God's presence, do we?

As a congregation we have experienced so many losses lately and I think that sometimes we find ourselves living life just waiting for the other shoe to drop, or wondering who's next, or how are we going to bounce back? As we all know, there are no words that can take

away anyone's pain and no one can predict the future. But here's what I do know. We are part of a wonderfully supportive, caring, compassionate church family. Whenever one of our family members is hurting or suffering the outpouring of love and support is evidence that we are surrounded by God's love. From a personal standpoint, I know that when life is overwhelming or difficult I find great comfort in coming to church and being surrounded by the love and knowing that where the love is God is. When I was a little girl, there was a plaque that hung over my bed that said simply, "God is Love." Three simple words with a powerful message. Where there is love, God is present. This is an important and comforting truth for us to remember. It is no secret that love abounds at Faith UCC!

Because life is a mystery and unpredictable and we cannot avoid all grief or pain, keep in mind this verse from Lamentations, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness." (v. 22-23) God will provide a daily dose of strength and love each morning through the support of family, friends, colleagues, and yes, even strangers. "Great is your faithfulness. I say to myself The Lord is my portion: therefore, I will wait for him." (v. 23-24)

God bless you, Pastor Lynne

Consistory Notes

Sunday January 7th at the 10:00 service four new members were installed to Consistory. The new members are: Danielle Manganelli, Sandy Marsch, John McKinley, and Karen Herb. A brief meeting was held after church to organize for 2018.

Faith UCC Consistory

President- Judy Hartzel
Vice President-Danielle Manganelli
Secretary-Sandy Marsch
Treasurer -Sue Hennigan

Class of 2018

Larry Cora (Elder)	578-2789
Sue Hennigan (Elder)	215-378-3419
Rev. Nasrani (Elder)	454-1982
Phil Delazio (Deacon)	599-7099

Christian Education
Staff & Personnel/Treasurer
Lucky Number/200 Club
Bingo

Class of 2019

Judy Hartzel (Elder)	956-1981
Charlie Karchner (Deacon)	956-5605
Harold Warg (Elder)	956-2133

President
Communication
Property

Class of 2020

Karen Herb (Deacon)	956-8370
Danielle Manganelli (Deacon)	790-3944
Sandy Marsch (Deacon)	956-0605
John McKinley (Deacon)	578-3319

Deacons Fund
Vice-President
Secretary
Worship

Rev. Dr. M. Jane Hess	401-2239
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Outreach
Pastoral Care Team
Spiritual Counsel

Workshop Planned

"How to Parent Your Parent"

The short answer is you can't - brahaha - but we can manage - together. If you have had difficulty switching roles (i.e. they are now the dependent child and you are the decision making adult) then this workshop is for you.

Bring an open mind and be ready to work! Cost - 2 hours of your time. Date - March 17th Time - 10-12 Place - Faith UCC. Snow date 3/24 (during Book Sale). Please sign up in Narthex or by leaving a message on church answering machine. 570-454-5982.

Questions? See Rev. Hess. 570-401-2239

Children's Ministry News

We're so excited to share the joy that we've been experiencing in our Children's Ministry! Over the past three months we've met the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month to share in fun, Faith, and friendship. We've enjoyed evenings together baking cookies for Penn State students, Christmas party celebrations, and even a glow in the dark night!

Our journey will continue with the upcoming dates.

Sat. Feb 3
Sat. Feb 17
Sat. Mar 3
Sat. Mar 17
Sat. April 7
Sat. April 21

Our meetings are from 5:30pm-7:30pm and include a light dinner. All children are always welcomed and we look forward to seeing new faces in the coming months! If you have questions please contact Allyssa Mizenko at 484.226.5718!

-Allyssa Mizenko
Children's Ministry Director

Bingo Gift Certificates

Still a bargain at -\$15.00, includes admission package plus a bonanza game, See or call Dotty Burrell at 570-788-3910

BINGO

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 entire church family.



Women's Retreat to Washington DC

April 6, 7, 8, we are headed to Washington DC to take in the sites and hopefully the Cherry Blossoms on our Annual Retreat. We will be staying 2 to a room for 2 nights at a hotel to be announced. Approximate cost = \$155.00 per person plus we pay for our own food and entertainment. A \$25 deposit is needed by 2/25 - see sign up list in Narthex. Our theme this year "Color My World". "As time goes on, I realize, just what you mean, to me.." (better if sung).

SOCIAL HALL RENTAL

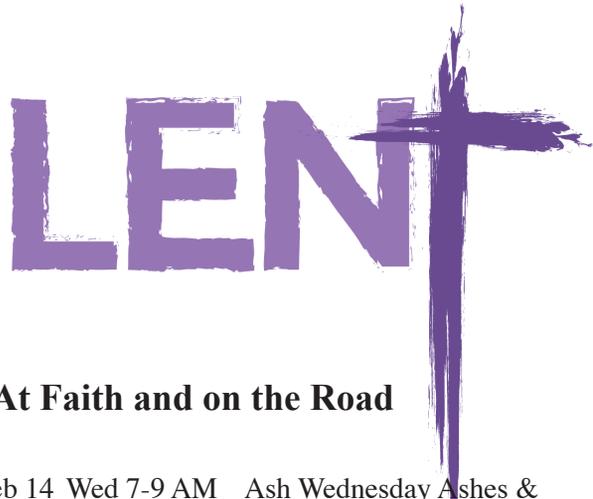
Please remember that our church social hall is available for rental by people and organizations both inside and outside of our congregation. Contact Building Superintendent Judy Hartzel at 459-2923 for rental information.

Book Sale and Soup too!

We are having our Annual Book Sale on Saturday March 24th 9-3. Please bring in your books, dvd's, puzzles and CD's between now and then. We will need help setting up the hall after Bingo on March 23rd (plus you can do some early shopping) and help cleaning up at 3:00 on Saturday (please see Sue Hennigan if you can help). We will be selling Homemade Chicken Noodle and Ham and Bean Soup by the bowl and quart too! No pre-orders. First come, first serve until we run out! Books and Soup – Perfect Together!



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At Faith and on the Road

- Feb 14 Wed 7-9 AM Ash Wednesday Ashes & Communion Distributed
- Feb 14 Wed 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday "Lift High Your Cross" Ashes, Communion and shared homemade crosses
- Feb, 20 4-7 PM Quiet Communion Service
- Feb. 21 7:00 PM Joint Lent Service at Faith-Creation
- Feb, 27 4-7 PM Quiet Communion Service
- Feb. 28 7:00 PM Joint Lent Service at Trinity Lutheran Hazleton - Flood
- March 6 4-7 PM Quiet Communion Service
- March 7 7:00 PM Joint Lent Service @Christ Lutheran Haz.- Red Sea
- March 13 4-7 PM Quiet Communion Service
- March 14 7:00 PM Joint Lent Service @ St. Peters Episcopal -
- March 20 4-7 PM Quiet Communion Service
- March 21 7:00 PM Joint Lent Service @ Holy Rosary
- March 29 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- March 30 12-3 PM Quiet Service Prayer Vigil
- March 30 6:30 PM Good Friday Tenebrae John 18:1-19:42
- March 31 4:30 PM Holy Saturday Easter Several Lessons /Holy Communion
- April 1 8 & 10 AM Easter Mark 16:1-8 "Now What?" /Holy Communion



Youth Hunger Fast

Our young people will be fasting and raising money for One Great Hour of Sharing offering in March, on March 2nd (after lunch) overnight at the church from 7:00 pm through Lunch on Saturday March 3rd. Everyone is invited to support them with your prayers, by fasting at the same time wherever you are and by donating \$5 towards the cause. If any young person would like to join us please see Rev. Hess for a registration form. Help feed the hungry by fasting! Irony!!



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.

Easter Flower/Blanket Order Form

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

Orders due March 18th with payment

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

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Past Easter Surprise - Butterflies!

Worship Opportunities thru Lent & Easter

Worship has become for us the 'heart of our life together' here at Faith! I hope each of you has had the chance to worship with us during Advent and Christmas with an underlying theme using Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" (weren't the decorations just lovely!) A very special thank you to our Minister of Fine Arts Mr. Lee Schaeffer! Now we are well into Epiphany and we hope you have been able to "Follow the Star" to worship Baby Jesus just as the Magi did of old. Wednesday, February 14th we begin the Season of Lent with Ashes! During Lent we will be "Carrying the Cross". We will participate with our Lutheran and Episcopal friends mid-week services at 7:00 Wednesdays during Lent as well. Holy week begins 3/25 with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 3/29 will be Last Supper and Taize Service of candles and prayer. Good Friday will include a Quiet Service 12-3:00 and a 7:00 Tenebrae service. Holy Saturday which includes Fire pit outside, water, and communion will be 3/31 at 4:30. New Heaven and a New Earth await us Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:00 April 1st (yes, April Fools Day!) April Easter Services will hold more New Heaven Surprises. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends!

February 3 4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion	March 18 & 10 AM	Lent V Jeremiah 31:31-34 Cross My Heart
Feb. 4 8 & 10 AM	Epiphany V Mark 1:29-39 Lights of Strength	March 20 4-7 PM	Quiet Communion Service
Feb. 10 4:30 PM	Vespers	March 21 7:00 PM	Joint Lent Service @ Holy Rosary
Feb. 11 8 & 10 AM	Epiphany VI Mark 9:2-9 Lights of Justice	March 24 4:30 PM	Vespers
Feb. 14 Wed 7-9 AM	Ash Wednesday Ashes & Communion Distributed	March 25 8 & 10 AM	Palm Sunday Mark 11:1-11 Cross Prayers
Feb. 14 Wed 7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday "Lift High Your Cross" Ashes, Communion and shared homemade crosses	March 29 6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Feb. 17 4:30 PM	Vespers	March 30 12-3 PM	Quiet Service Prayer Vigil
Feb. 18 8 & 10 AM	Lent I Psalm 25 1-10 Crosses of Love	March 30 6:30 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae John 18:1-19:42
Feb, 20 4-7 PM	Quiet Communion Service	March 31 4:30 PM	Holy Saturday Easter Several Lessons /Holy Communion
Feb. 21 7:00 PM	Joint Lent Service at Faith-Creation	April 1 8 & 10 AM	Easter Mark 16:1-8 "Now What?" /Holy Communion
Feb. 24 4:30 PM	Vespers	April 7 4:30 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion
Feb. 25 8 & 10 AM	Lent II Mark 8:31-38 Crosses of Commitment	April 8 8 & 10 AM	Easter II John 20:19-31 "Imagine a New Heaven"/ Holy Communion
Feb, 27 4-7 PM	Quiet Communion Service	April 14 4:30 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion
Feb. 28 7:00 PM	Joint Lent Service at Trinity Lutheran Hazleton - Flood	April 15 8 & 10 AM	Easter III Luke 24:36b-48 Imagine Christ Among Us/Holy Communion
March 3 4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion	April 21 4:30 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion
March 4 8 & 10 AM	Lent III 21st Church Anniversary "Coming of Age" Psalm 19	April 22 8 & 10 AM	Easter IV John 10:1-18 Imagine the Love/Holy Communion
March 6 4-7 PM	Quiet Communion Service	April 28 4:30 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion
March 7 7:00 PM	Joint Lent Service @Christ Lutheran Haz.- Red Sea	April 29 8 & 10 AM	Easter V John 15:1-8 Imagine a New Heaven/Holy Communion
March 10 4:30 PM	Vespers		
March 11 8 & 10 AM	Lent IV Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 "No Matter What - Lift High the Cross"		
March 13 4-7 PM	Quiet Communion Service		
March 14 7:00 PM	Joint Lent Service @ St. Peters Episcopal -		
March 17 4:30 PM	Vespers		

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

February March April 2018

**Mark your calendars!
The deadline for our May June July 2018
Newsletter is April 15th 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) 956-8370

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: faithucc.haz@gmail.com 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