

Words of Faith

Volume XXV, No 1

February Mar Apr 2019

Words of Faith from Jane..... and Rabbi Weinberg

Our Jewish sisters and brothers believe that there are two deaths. The first death is the death of the body, no more breath. The second death is when people forget you, no more life. It is rather profound. One of the (many) things that Faith United Church of Christ does well, is taking the time to remember those of our church family and those of each other's families. We do this religiously and with great care. It is good.

The yahrzeit is a one year anniversary of a person's death. Jewish tradition suggests that the family light a yahrzeit candle and reflect on that person's life. This is quite similar to what I have asked at many funerals of our loved ones – "If this person's life were a sermon, what is God trying to teach us through her/his life?"

January 13th was Rabbi Weinberg's 10th yahrzeit. On this occasion we were all asked to spend some time answering the following daily questions from him.

1. Are you confronting your fears and continuously stepping out of your comfort zone? Life is too short to play it safe. Get moving.
2. What are you living for? What is driving you to wake up early and tackle life? Know where you want to go and passionately work on getting there.
3. Have you given up unleashing your inner greatness? Don't settle on being a mediocrity. Work hard to bring out your inner light and dazzle the world.
4. Do you remember that the Almighty loves you, believes in you and is rooting for you? Get your ego out of the way and let the Almighty in.
5. Are you getting inspired by the beauty of the Torah (Bible) ? You have the blueprint of creation in your hands. Dive in!
6. How are you committing suicide in installments? Stop wasting time and get the most out of life. Remember, the battle for life is the battle for sanity. Words of encouragement, words of admonition and words of inquiry..... God calls us to live the life we have been given and live it fully not fool-ly. How will you be remembered?

Blessings! Shalom!
Jane

Ash Wednesday Services

Ashes and Communion will be distributed on Wednesday morning March 6th from 7-9 AM at the altar. Come and go anytime (maybe next year we can have drive through??)

Then our ½ hour service of Ashes and Communion will be at 6:30. During Lent we will learn how to "Push Pause", slow down, breathe and just Be Still. When our calendars are filled from morning til night 7 days a week, how do we fit in yet another 'to do' on our list. First we purge, then we pause. Be Still and Know that God Is Here. Ahhhhh yes.



New Time for Saturday Vespers

Many, many heartfelt thanks to ALL of YOU who took the time to contribute to our Advent appeal! We realized a gift of \$4,900+! Your generosity continues to fuel our shared ministry here at Faith!

Many of you also filled out the Opinion Poll concerning ways to give to Faith and times for the Saturday Service. There were only 2 out of 61 surveys who agreed we should have alternative ways of giving. Two does not a decision make. However, we will continue to bring this before you every couple of years (the tide may turn). Also the time change for Saturday services revealed a very close number between 5 and 5:30 start times. We were playing around with 5:15 to split the difference but the actual winner was the 5:00 time, so, starting March 2nd our Saturday Vespers Services will be at 5:00. Thank you again for your guidance.

VESPERS

New Email Address

Please make note: Faith UCC has a new email address:

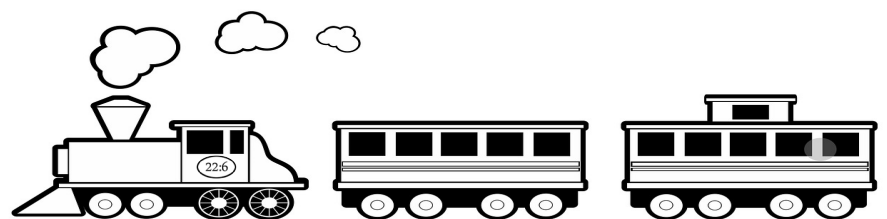
faithucc.haz@gmail.com

Also, please remember to 'Like' us on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/faithucc.hazletonpa> Thanks!

Come Celebrate Our 22nd Anniversary

On Sunday March 3rd we will be 22 years old/young? Compared to most of the churches around us, we are quite young! We are inviting you to get on board the Train – Choo Choo or Two Two. (I know, we here the moans and groans.) Because we are 22 we are asking for an extra \$\$ gift of twenty-two dollars! Come and share the joy that is our church family. It has been suggested that we plan day trips open to the congregation. Perhaps our first trip can be a Murder Mystery Train Ride or our own Steam Town Express?? Interested?? Let us know! All Aboard!!



Giving Tree (beyond January and February)

We are collecting items for the Women's Centers January and February (see SAMC article elsewhere in this Newsletter).

In March and April during Lent we are collecting items for Church World Service Disaster Clean-up Buckets. The following are requested in each bucket:

- 5 gallon bucket with lid if possible
- 4 scouring pads
- 7 sponges
- 1 scrub brush
- 8 reusable cleaning towels
- Easy Wipes
- 50 oz of liquid laundry detergent
- 28 oz. of liquid disinfectant soap
- 16 oz. bottle household cleaner
- 1 pack of 50 clothes pins
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair heavy duty dishwashing gloves
- 24 heavy duty (45 gallon) contractor type trash bags
- 9 oz. non-aerosol insect repellent

May and June we are looking to help the Homeless Center in Hazleton. We are not sure what they need. TBA We have been collecting items for our Giving Tree for 14 years. Thank you does not seem to express the depth of our thanks. "The Lord loves a cheerful giver!" God is so very pleased! Thanks Everyone!

Newly Secured Wi-Fi at church: sign-in faithhaz
Password faithhaz

Lay Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year Faith family!

While I'm not much for New Year's resolutions (they somehow get away from me too easily!), I am experiencing new adventures in my faith daily.

It's so challenging everyday beginning again to offer up the day to God, and before you know it, I've slipped somewhere. Sigh.

But I realized how real the struggle can be as I studied the scripture for this past weekend – the wedding at Cana. We are not alone. Even Jesus struggled. Looking at Mary's request for help with the wine, Jesus felt the conflict between the expectations of his heavenly parent and his human parent. Was that why he answered that way? Understanding that his wording was not unusual for that time period, it still sounds to me like the frustrated response that comes out of us when we are faced with an emotional conflict. This is us when we struggle to mediate between siblings, to express an opposite opinion lovingly to someone dear to us, to know we must choose the hard way because it's the right way.

Consistory Notes

Consistory mtg 1/13. It was reported that the 200 Club tickets were all sold and the Advent offering appeal went well.

However, we ended the year 2018 in the red. We transferred \$37,000 from the Money Market not only to help pay the extra \$2,300 per month on our mortgage but also to pay \$9,700 of our regular bills. The consistory put a freeze on spending and voted to make regular mortgage payments (\$10,700 per month).

We still have \$69,000 in Money Market and \$28,000 CD and \$37,000 CD invested with the United Church of Christ Cornestone Foundation the latter two CDs are earning better interest than the money market. The Halupki Sale will be held in February, Lucky Number Tickets in March and the Book Sale and Stuffed Pepper Soup in April are on track to 'up the income'.

We would like to thank the Consistory Members going off: Sue Hennigan, Larry Corra and Rev. Nasrani for their faithful service 2016- 2018!

Lenten Worship

Wed Mar 6 6:30 Ash Wed/Communion Psalm 46 Push Pause

Wednesdays through Lent, Wednesday night services at various churches TBA. Stay up to date in our Sunday bulletins.

Apr 13 5:00 Vespers

Apr 14 8 & 10 Palm Sunday Luke 19:28-40 Be Still in Holy Week

Thur Apr 18 6:30 Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17,31b-35

Fri Apr 19 12-3 Good Friday Quiet Service

Fri Apr 19 6:30 Good Friday John 18:1-19:42

Sat Apr 20 5:00 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Luke 24:1-12

Apr 21 8 & 10 EASTER SUNDAY John 20:1=18 I Can Only Imagine

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 **Linda Eigenbrod at 956-7927** for rental information.

It is a worthwhile fight. But Jesus also taught us not to beat ourselves up for experiencing the inner conflict. He dealt with it and moved on. He didn't entertain self-recriminations all day. New beginnings are everywhere – the beginning, end, and middle of each day, after each mistake, each hurt; each fear, each illness, after a divorce - even after each joy as we reach for the next. He gave us the examples and the tools to persevere.

We are God's epiphany stars in this life, and while we have our moments of flickering, we shine for God.

Let's embrace being fully human with God in this New Year. God's grace and peace be with all of you!

Pastor Sue

PS - I want to share with you the news of my position as pastor at Emmanuel's UCC in Nuremburg, PA. Thank you for your prayers, wisdom, and love in my journey. I look forward to seeing you whenever I can.

Peace and blessings and love to you!



HALUPKI SALE

We are selling Halupki's 3 for \$5. If you placed your orders (by January 31st) you may pick them up curbside of the Fellowship Hall on Saturday February 9th 10-2.

If you missed ordering, keep an eye out for this event next year, same time.

Thanks so much! Enjoy!! Halupki – That's the Way We Roll!



Rummage Sale

Don't forget our Rummage Sale May 1st and 2nd. This is a wonderful charitable ministry we hold for our community! Take a moment when you are purging during Lent, to think of how useful the items you are purging may be to someone else.

Dropoff will take place Apr 28th and 29th, setup Apr 29th and 30th. The sale takes place on Wed May 1, and ever-popular bag day is Thurs May 2. The we pack up the leftovers, and we're done by lunch!

Take advantage of spring cleaning and help your church all at the same time! THANKS BUNCHES!!

Property Committee

Property Committee needs help, now more than ever! Looking for some volunteers to help with shoveling and grass trimming. If you can come out and help please contact Bill Hines, 570-582-7346. We are definitely looking for new members. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.

Items for Women's Centers

January/February Giving Tree

We are collecting items that women and their children may need when they leave the Women's Centers to set up 'house'. New or gently used household items – sheets, towels, kitchen appliances, cleaning supplies and personal care items. These items will be given to the PNEC on Sunday March 3rd 3:00 pm at the Joint SAMC service at Trinity UCC Bloomsburg. There will be a joint choir that anyone is invited to sing in –practice is at 2:15 with Pastor Lou Aita directing. A reception will be held after the service. Please bring items to our Giving Tree by March 3rd. Thanks! Let us light up the world with Love this Epiphany Season.



Youth Hunger Fast

Our young people will be fasting and raising money for One Great Hour of Sharing offering in March, on NEW DATE March 8th (after lunch), overnight at the church from 7:00 pm through Lunch on Saturday March 9th 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!!**

Save the Date

Summer picnic

It's snowing and blowing, and we are about to enter a deep freeze this week! Take heart, winter won't last forever. In fact, you may already be thinking about your summer plans. If you are marking dates on your calendar, please save the date for Faith's third annual summer picnic to be held at Knoebels on Sunday, July 14th at noon. Pavilion T6 has already been reserved for us. The planning committee will keep you posted with updates and there will be sign up sheets as we get closer to the date. Hope to see you there!

FLOWERS-BULLETINS-CANDLES

You are invited to remember or honor loved ones any time 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.



MOTHERS' DAY TREE

This year we are looking to remember or honor our mothers by purchasing leaves on our Tree of Life for \$5. All donations will be given to the National Parks Reforesting Project. The gift of life will be honored and remembered for generations to come. Please see coupons on this page, and remember to send them in by May 5th in order to be processed for the Bulletin.

Trees

I think that I shall never see,
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Joyce Kilmer

Book Sale and Soup too!

We are having our Annual Book Sale on Saturday April 13th 9-2. 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 April 12th (plus you can do some early shopping) and help cleaning up at 2:00 on Saturday (please see Sue Hennigan if you can help). We will be selling Stuffed Pepper Soup by the bowl and quart too! No pre-orders. First come first serve until the soup runs out!

Books and Soup – Perfect Together!



\$100 BINGO

Sunday April 7th

The Property Committee is having a \$100 Bingo to raise money for a used truck on which we will attach a plow. We have two plow trucks currently, however one of those is on its last legs (or wheels). Please spread the word – Buy your tickets early (see any Property Committee person) for Sunday April 7th – doors open at 11:30, games begin at 1:00. Thanks for your support.

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

Did You Know Charitable Giving Opportunities??

Did you know if you are 70 years and 6 months or older your retirement fund is required by law to make distributions or RMD (Required Minimal Distribution)? If you were to inform your retirement fund manager that you wanted them to make a direct contribution of any dollar amount, called Qualified Charitable Distribution, to Faith UCC, they will do so AND you will not have to pay taxes on that amount. This is part of the 2018 Tax Law Change. If you are interested in more information on this please contact your accountant or your retirement fund manager. After you receive your distribution, it is too late to make that decision. However, if you receive monthly/quarterly disbursements you may decide before each disbursement.



YOGA

Yoga class is offered Monday evenings at 6:00 and lasts about an hour. The class is offered by Sarah Lucas-Nagy. Whether you are a beginner or experienced you are welcome.

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.

Bingo Help Always Needed!

Bingo Appreciates *YOUR* help!

Every Friday 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.



Zumba Class

**Cancelled until further notice. Please watch in the weekly church bulletin for updates!



Easter Flower/Blanket Order Form

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

Orders due Apr 14th with payment

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

Easter Flower/Blanket Order Form

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

Orders due May 5th with payment

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

Mother's Day Tree of Life Order Form

Your Name _____
In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____
Number of leaves at \$5 each _____ Total Due _____

Orders due May 5th with payment

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

Mother's Day Tree of Life Order Form

Your Name _____
In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____
Number of leaves at \$5 each _____ Total Due _____

Orders due May 5th with payment

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



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 The Light of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love (did you figure out the tune we used for Lighting the Advent Candles was “The Brighter Side” from a Starbucks 2018 Commercial!?!). Now we are well into Epiphany and we hope you have been able to discover the “Light of Love” and to worship Baby Jesus just as the Magi did of old. Wed, Mar 6th we begin the Season of Lent with Ashes! During Lent we will be “Learning How to Push Pause”. We will participate with our Lutheran and Episcopal friends mid-week services at 7:00 Weds during Lent as well. Holy week begins 4/13 with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 4/18 will be Last Supper and Taize Service of candles and prayer. Good Friday 4/19 will include a Quiet Service 12-3:00 and a 6:30 Tenebrae service. Holy Saturday which includes Fire pit outside, water, and communion will be 4/20 at 5:00. “I Can Only Imagine” await us Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:00 Apr 21st Apr Easter Services will hold more Easter Imaginations. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends!

Feb 2	4:30	Vespers/Communion	Mar 23	5:00	Vespers NEW TIME
Feb. 4	8 & 10	Epiphany V Luke 4:21-30 Light of Love & Prophecy Communion/Sunday School Christmas Program	Mar 24	8 & 10	Lent III Luke 13:1-9 Push Pause for Figs
Feb. 9	4:30	Vespers	Wed Mar 27		Mid-Week Lent Service TBA
Feb. 10	8 & 10	Epiphany VI Luke 5:1-11 Being Caught in the Light of Love	Mar 30	5:00	Vespers NEW TIME
Feb. 16	4:30	Vespers	Mar 31	8 & 10	Lent IV Luke 15:1-3,11b-32 Push Pause on Jealousy
Feb. 17	8 & 10	Epiphany VII Luke 6:17-26 The Light of Love in Teachings	Wed Apr 3		Mid-Week Lent Service TBA
Feb, 23	4:30	Vespers	Apr 6	5:00	Vespers/Communion
Feb. 24	8 & 10	Epiphany VIII Luke 6:27-38 The Light of Love in Your Enemies	Apr 7	8 & 10	Lent V John 12:1-8 Push Pause on Grief/Communion
Mar 2	5:00	Vespers/Communion NEW TIME	Wed Apr 10		Mid-Week Lent Service TBA
Mar 3	8 & 10	Luke 9:28-36 The Light of Jesus/22nd Anniversary Faith UCC	Apr 13	5:00	Vespers
Mar 3	3:00	@ Trinity UCC Bloomsburg SAMC Joint Service for Women’s Shelters	Apr 14	8 & 10	Palm Sunday Luke 19:28-40 Be Still in Holy Week
Wed Mar 6	6:30	Ash Wed/Communion Psalm 46 Push Pause	Thur Apr 18	6:30	Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17,31b-35
Mar 9	5:00	Vespers NEW TIME	Fri Apr 19	12-3	Good Friday Quiet Service
Mar 10	8 & 10	Lent I Luke 4:1-13 Push Pause Even When Tempted	Fri Apr 19	6:30	Good Friday John 18:1-19:42
Wed Mar 13		Joint Mid-Week Lent Service TBA	Sat Apr 20	5:00	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Luke 24:1-12
Mar 16	5:00	Vespers NEW TIME	Apr 21	8 & 10	EASTER SUNDAY John 20:1=18 I Can Only Imagine
Mar 17	8 & 10	Lent II Psalm 27 Push Pause for St. Patrick	Apr 27	5:00	Vespers/Communion
Wed Mar 20		Mid-Week Lent Service TBA	Apr 28	8 & 10	Easter II John 20:19-31 Just Imagine the Questions/Communion
			May 4	5:00	Vespers/Communion
			May 5	8 & 10	Easter III John 20:1-19 Just Imagine the Rumors/Communion/Mother’s Day
			May 11	5:00	Vespers/Communion
			May 12	8 & 10	Easter IV John 10:22-32 Imagine the Shepherd/Communion/Mothers Day

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February/March/April 2019

Mark your calendars! May/June/July 2019 Newsletter is April 14th. 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: Wed from 4-6 PM, Thursday from 2-4 PM, and Friday from 9-11 AM. Faith UCC e-mail address: faithucc.haz@gmail.com
Building Superintendent: Linda Eigenbrod-(570)956-7927.
Circle of Prayer -To add names, call Carol Koch at (570) 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