



Words of Faith

Volume XXVI, No 1

February March April 2020

Words of Faith from Jane ...

I love the phrase that “it takes a village to raise a child”. It really and truly does. I can attest to that truth. Our granddaughter Della just turned 2 years old and I have been blessed to have what I call Della days! It is just ‘Grandmamma and Della’ from getting up in the morning till bath time, reading stories and bedtime at night. Ahhh It fills my souls. Jeff and Elyse (aka Mom and Dad) are busy with their careers, building a house, managing two rental properties that they own and the list goes on... so when “Maw Maw” (Della shortened my name ha ha) can find a whole day to be with her, oh what joy there is all around. Jeff mentioned that with the new little one on the way in June could I retire and watch them both full time. Eke. That was not my idea of retirement and besides we have a few more things to do at the church. Ha

It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes all of us to grow a church! Look back at all of the community we have supported through these 23 years and that have supported us! It boggles my mind. Recently a new policy at Hazleton Lehigh Valley Hospital has me a bit concerned. Their policy up until December has changed. They no longer ask what congregation you belong to when you are admitted to the hospital. So as Pastors, we no longer know who in their parish is hospitalized. We literally have to depend on all of you to let us know when a family member or friend goes into the hospital. The policy up until now allowed us to access a list of our congregational members who were currently in the hospital. No more. So it is up to all of us when you read on Facebook, or get a text or phone call and learn about anyone from our congregation admitted to the hospital, please let Pastor Lynne 570-401-3737 or myself 570-401-2239 know. We are all on the Pastoral Care Team together now!

Also the CARES group – Community And Residential Empowerment Services (a group of special needs adults) have volunteered to clean our church for 1 ½ hours a week. Oh my goodness! What a blessing they are! We are down 2 Clean Teams this year. The 6 teams we now have, will clean every 3 weeks rather than every 2 weeks. I’ve been noticing that the church looks unkempt and dirty around the edges. So this CARES group that came to us is really an answer to prayer. Please add the CARES group to your prayers of thanksgiving as they help us in this very tangible way!

Along that same venue, I am calling for a Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday March 14th 9-2 and then we will share lunch together. So all Clean Teams need to be here and will be assigned the left ½ of the sanctuary or the Sunday School hall/class rooms to do a deep clean of the corners, cobwebs, and edges. And we are inviting any of you to come and join this work day. It literally takes all of us to care for our church building and our congregation!

The new Consistory has directed us to have our fourth (and final?!) Capital Campaign to pay off our mortgage. We had one 3 year Campaign, and two 5 year Campaigns. (It feels a little like Star Wars the Last Jedi!) So we are organizing and planning to open the Final Campaign on May 3rd and have everyone make their Faith Promise by June 28th with a celebration of us! A wise one from our congregation was chatting with me about how many regular givers have died in the last 5 years – they literally are in church one week and gone to heaven the next. So she has taken it upon herself to increase her weekly giving by \$1 a week when one of our flock joins the Good Shepherd in heaven. She went from \$35 a week in 2015 to \$75 a week in 2020. Oh my goodness. What a wonderful way to pay tribute (literally) to one of our own. So maybe we can’t afford \$1 a week per each Faith Saint that passes, perhaps just 25 cents or 50 cents, even a 10 cent increase a week is all we can offer, it’s all good, just like our God!

So please take a moment everyday to pray this prayer of Serenity written by a UCC pastor back in the 1930’s...

*God, grant us the serenity
to accept the things we cannot change,
to change the things that we can
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

We are better together than we could be alone,

Your Hope Filled Pastor, Jane (aka Maw Maw)

Make a Joyful (Musical) Noise!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sing with our Senior Choir? Maybe you belonged to a choir in the past or maybe it is something you’ve always wanted to try. What is holding you back? Maybe you have a fear of not being “good” enough, maybe you think your schedule cannot accommodate the time commitment....?

Please prayerfully consider our Easter musical challenge. We would like to invite you to join our Senior Choir for the services from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday. It is a smaller time commitment and it would give you an idea of just how great (and fun!) this ministry is.

Please join us for choir rehearsals starting the Thursdays in March. Rehearsals are at 6 PM in the choir room. Please see Tracey Smith to answer any questions or concerns you may have and to let her know you will be trying the musical challenge. Hope to see you there!



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!

Ash Wednesday Services

Ashes and Communion will be distributed on Wednesday morning February 26th from 7-9 am. Just drive thru the portico, stop your vehicle, don’t get out and Pastor will bring them to you!

The Ladies Night Out group will be hosting a **Mardis Gras** celebration of finger food, donuts and beads from 5:30-6:30 in the Double Sunday School Room.

Then our ½ hour service of Ashes and Communion will be at 6:30. Perfect start to our season of Lent! Shalom.

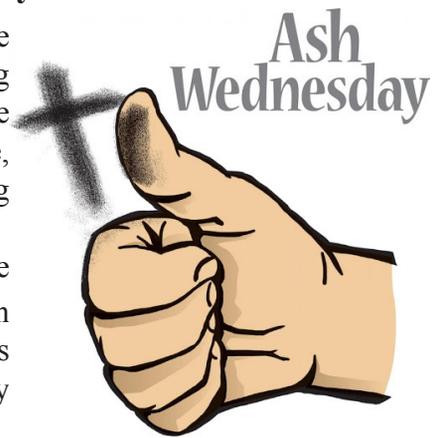
Come Celebrate Our 23rd Anniversary

On Sunday March 1st we will be 23 years old/young? Compared to most of the churches around us, we are quite young! We are “Coming of Age”. Because we are 23 we are asking for an extra \$\$ gift of twenty-three dollars! Come and share the joy that is our church family. Come and be counted!

Make a Joyful (Nonmusical) Noise!

You can drop off your pocket change ‘noise’ any week. The buckets are distributed in the church, and they are gathered on the first Sunday and deposited. Those pennies nickels and dimes have added up over the years!

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



Lay Pastor's Corner

Tea Bag Wisdom

I am a tea drinker. At any given time, I have a half dozen to a dozen different types of teas in my cupboard. I like my tea without sugar or milk but on occasion I will add some honey. I enjoy herbal teas, green tea, black tea, oolong tea, well, just about any kind of tea. The thing about drinking a cup of tea is you cannot do it fast. So, if I feel like I've been spinning my wheels all day, a cup of tea often helps to bring me back to my center.

Some tea brands print words of encouragement or wisdom on their tags. Recently I came across one with a quote by Yogi Bhaajan, "Live light, travel light, spread the light, be the light." And I thought what a great way to live! By the time you read this, Lent will be right around the corner. It is a time for self-reflection. Perhaps this quote will inspire you as you consider what your Lenten practice might be this year.

Live light. What does this mean to you? Don't sweat the small stuff? Don't be so attached to possessions and obtaining more stuff? Make better nutritional choices? All of it? Personally, I could check off each of these boxes, therefore I have decided to make living lighter a personal goal.

Travel light. Now that's a tough one. Most of us carry so much excess baggage around that we don't know what it feels like to travel light. As a teacher, I for one, never travel light. Whether we are coming or going teachers often have multiple bags to carry...a purse, a lunch bag, a bag with papers to grade, books for lesson planning, teacup, project materials, etc. On occasion there are days when I can walk out of school without a bag full of work to do... what a great feeling to walk out lighter than I

arrived! And that's just my professional bag! What's in your personal bag? Past hurts or resentments? Worries over finances or health issues? Relationship issues? This is where the words of the Serenity Prayer are helpful. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change (past hurts or resentments) the courage to change the things I can (financial or health issues, relationship issues) and the wisdom to know the difference (what it is that you have no control over).

Spread the light and be the light. I'm not sure if you can spread the light without first being the light. One thing for sure is that what this world needs now is more light. I think the general consensus is that we live in dark times. Imagine the possibilities if we each can be at least a glimmer of light in this world and if it could spread as quickly as the negativity! I think we can spread the light all over If we can get back to the basic of being kind humans... saying "please" and "thank you" and maybe just adding "very much" to that "thank you" shows a little extra appreciation. Hold the door for the person behind you, don't cut off another driver, look for and take the opportunity to be a kinder human and look for beauty, wonder, and light in all situations.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5: 14-16)

Blessings, Lynne

Rev. Nasrani's Daughter Honored

Reverend Nasrani has asked to share this update on his daughter Julia Wildfong, living in Massachusetts.

"Julia has been working hard at Mass Academy of Math and Science at WPI now for twelve years, and the collective effort and long hours has finally paid off. This year the school was named #1 in Massachusetts by niche.com and #10 in the country by Newsweek Magazine. All the faculty was honored last month at City Hall in Worcester for their hard work, and were presented with the key to the city at a ceremony with the mayor.

Youth Hunger Fast

Our young people will be fasting, starting at noon March 13 thru noon Saturday March 14th. They are raising money for One Great Hour of Sharing. Please see Rev. Hess for a registration form. Help feed the hungry by fasting! Irony!! You are welcome to join us by fasting on your own at home. Please keep us in your prayers. Thank You!



Totenfest Service – Remember Me

There have been oh so many of our church family that has 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 at the Saturday Vesper Service 5:00 PM on May 16th and Sunday Services 8&10 am on May 17th we will remember. 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

Giving Tree Update!

We are collecting non-perishable food items to replenish the United Charities Food bank that services ***500 families. We are going to feed the hungry February and March.



Women's Road Trip Washington DC

"Cherry Blossom Festival"

We are carpooling, leaving 5:30 or so on Friday March 27th and traveling to Silver Springs MD staying overnight at Hilton Garden Inn (\$40 per person for a double room). Then we are headed to Washington DC Cherry Festival for Saturday morning and afternoon. We hope to be back to the church by 7:00 PM. Please sign up in the Narthex by February 22nd with a \$20 deposit. All are welcome to come!!



Two Hundred Club/Lucky Number

The first round of the 200 club was a sellout! Thank you for your continued support!

If you weren't 'lucky' enough to get your 200 club ticket, you are able now to get the next round of Lucky Number tickets! The first drawing will take place on April 1st, no joke! The number then follow the 7 PM drawing for April May and June

Property Committee

Property Committee is still looking for some volunteers to help with shoveling snow and weed trimming. If you can come out and help please contact Bill Hines. We are also looking for new members. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.

Thanks to those who have stepped forward already!

Help to maintain OUR church!

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



RUMMAGE THROUGH YOUR DRAWERS!

Get ready to rummage!

Don't forget our Spring Rummage Sale will be held May 13th and 14th. Setup will take place the prior two days, May 11th and 12th.

Spring is a good time to purge your closets, attics and basements. We accomplish so much with this event, you get the opportunity to declutter, the church earns funds, and people are able to shop for items they could really make use of! Win Win Win! As always we could use your help, setting up and tearing down.

THANKS BUNCHES!!

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.

Book Sale and Soup too!

We are having our Annual Book Sale on Saturday April 4th 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 3rd (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 Homemade Soup by the bowl and quart too! No pre-orders. First come first serve until we run out! Books and Soup – Perfect Together!



Travels During Lent

Join our traveling troupe as well as members from other churches during Lent. Services begin at Faith on Ash Wednesday, and continue as follows:

- Feb 26th - Faith UCC Ash Wednesday
- March 5th - Holy Rosary
- March 11th - Faith UCC
- March 18th - Christ Lutheran Hazleton
- March 25th - Trinity Lutheran West Hazleton
- April 1st - Most Precious Blood

Don't forget Mardi Gras at 5:30 before church on Ash Wednesday, provided by our Ladies' Night Out group.

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.

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.



Faithfest - Just around the corner!

Our biggest single fundraiser for the year is our annual Faithfest. Even though it's not held until June 20th, it's time to begin getting ready. You'll have plenty of opportunities to support the Festival. Some of the features include:

The Quilt Raffle also known as the strip ticket. We will be looking for gift cards and items for that. If you wish, sign up in someone's honor or memory. If you know a business, perhaps you could acquire something donated. We generally have around 100 items on the ticket. Those need to be acquired early so they can be printed.

Tricky Trays, always popular, if you have anything on the order of \$25.00 or more think about bringing those in for tricky trays.

Kitchen and Bake Sale, you know about these, we make the best food, and baked goods.

Potato Pancakes, Fried Dough, and Hot Dogs, for fans everywhere.

Book Room, runs year round but we always have a nice selection for faithfest time.

Yard Sale, while the Festival is going indoors, we usually have our large yard sale in the lot below the social hall.

And don't forget the entertainment, which we always enjoy.

So, shake off the winter blues and get your mind ready for summer and FaithFest!

Was your Mom a Mary or a Martha?

For Mothers' day this year we are taking a poll.... Was your Mom a Mary (sits at Jesus feet and listen and learn to love) or a Martha (busy, busy, busy) or a bit of both or none of the above – she was unique. Please fill out the voting form below and let us know!

Your Name _____

Your Mom's Name _____

Mary Martha Both Unique

Tell us why: _____

Please hand these in by May 3rd! or mail to:

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

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Tell us why: _____

Please hand these in by May 3rd! or mail to:

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 March 29th with payment!

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

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	Lilies - \$12.00	_____

Orders due March 29th with payment!

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

Honor our Veterans with Flags!

Your Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Total Due \$5 per flag _____



Orders due May 17th with payment in the offering plate or church office, or:

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

Flags will fly until July 4th

Worship Opportunities thru Epiphany, 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 oldie “What the World Needs Now” song. We asked the question; What does the world need? It needs Hope sweet Hope, Peace, Joy and Love! (weren’t the decorations just lovely!) A very special thank you to our Minister of Fine Arts Mr. Lee Schaeffer! (Prayers are lifted up for his multiple eye surgeries, and by the way, he will be turning 60 years old on 2-20-2020!) Christmas was wonderful as we lifted up the Holy Darkness as a perfect gift. Now we are well into Epiphany and we hope to “Wonder as We Wander” using the “The Serenity Prayer”. Wednesday, February 26th we begin the Season of Lent with Ashes! During Lent we will be exploring the World Religions using “Holy Envy” by B.B. Taylor. We will participate with our Lutheran and Catholic friends mid-week services at 6:30 (note new time) Wednesdays during Lent as well. Holy week begins 4/5 with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 4/9 will be Last Supper and Taize Service of candles and prayer. Good Friday will include a Quiet Service 12-3:00 and a 6:30 Tenebrae service. Holy Saturday which includes Fire, Water, and Communion will be 4/11 at 5:00. Easter Angels await us Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:00 April 12th at 8:00 and 10:00 services. April and May Easter Services will hold more Angel Surprises. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends!

Feb 1	5 PM	Vespers/Communion			
Feb 2	8 & 10 AM	Epiphany V Matthew 5:1-13 Holy Wonder – Courage to Change	March 25	6:30 PM	Mid-Week Lent at Trinity Lutheran West Hazleton
			March 28	5 PM	Vespers
			March 29	8 & 10 AM	Lent V John 11:1-45 Finding God in Sikh, Jainism, and Shinto & Taoism
Feb 8	5 PM	Vespers			
Feb 9	8 & 10 AM	Epiphany VI Matthew 5:13-20 Holy Wonder – Wisdom to Know	April 1	6:30 PM	Mid-Week Lent at Most Precious Blood
			April 4	5 PM	Vespers
Feb 15	5 PM	Vespers	April 5	8 & 10 AM	Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11 Palms of Life
Feb 16	8 & 10 AM	Epiphany VII Matthew 5:21-37 Holy Wonder – Live One Day	April 9	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Passover Begins
			April 10	12-3	Quiet Service Prayer Vigil
Feb 22	5 PM	Vespers	April 10	6:30 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae John 18:1-19:42 At the Cross
Feb 23	8 & 10 AM	Transfiguration Matthew 17:1-9 Holy Wonder – Trust God	April 11	5 PM	Holy Saturday Easter Several Lessons /Holy Communion
Feb 26	Wed 7-9 AM	Ash Wednesday Ashes & Communion Distributed	April 12	8 & 10 AM	Easter Matthew 28:1-10 Angel Surprises /Holy Communion
Feb 26	Wed 6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday “Lent is My Ramadan” Ashes & Communion			
Feb 29	5 PM	Vespers/Communion	April 18	5 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion
March 1	8 & 10 AM	Lent I Matthew 4:1-11 Finding God in Hinduism	April 8	8 & 10 AM	Easter II John 20:19-31 Angels Among Us - Thomas/Holy Communion
March 5	6:30 PM	Mid-Week Service at Holy Rosary	April 25	5 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion
March 7	5 PM	Vespers	April 26	8 & 10 AM	Easter III Jesus as a Heavenly Being/Holy Communion
March 8	8 & 10 AM	Lent II John 3:1-17 Finding God in Judaism			
March 11	6:30 PM	Mid-Week Lent at Faith UCC	May 2	5 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion
March 14	5 PM	Vespers	May 3	8 & 10 AM	Easter IV Psalm 23 Angels Comfort Us/Holy Communion
March 15	8 & 10 AM	Lent III John 4:5-42 Finding God in Buddhism			
March 18	6:30 PM	Mid-Week Lent at Christ Lutheran Hazleton	May 9	5 PM	Vespers/Holy Communion/Celebrate Our Mothers
March 21	5 PM	Vespers	May 10	8 & 10	Easter V John 14:1-14 Angels in Heaven/Holy Communion
March 22	8 & 10 AM	Lent IV John 9:1-41 Finding God in Islam			

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

February March April 2020

**Mark your calendars! May June July 2020
Newsletter deadline is April 12th. Please be prompt
submitting your articles!!!**

Wish to submit an article for the newsletter? Email them to:
brianbolitsky@ptd.net

You may also 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 5:00 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