

Words of Faith

Volume XXIII, No ii

May June July 2017

Words of Faith from Dr Hess

Easter and Holy Week stress is behind me. You may not look at Holy Week as stress but from a mental point of view - all of the services to plan, sermons to write from Palm Sunday (who would have thought I'd preach on Jesus blood and those darn vests) through Good Friday (Sharoon's hoping for a militant Messiah) and Easter (Did Pastor really eat that flower) - and an emotional point of view (just walking with Jesus through Sedar meal, in the garden to pray, trial and death on the cross to the joy and celebration of Easter) - let alone a physical stand point - setting up the palms, rearranging the sanctuary for the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, 42 Home Communion and Easter, the chicks, and can you believe we actually did the Chicken Dance - ha ha it has been a stressful and wonderful week. Remember stress is positive and negative - even good stress like parties, and walks - go into the same vessel which is you!

The following is from the May 2017 Readers Digest article "Office De-stress Ideas". Great suggestions for all of us even if we don't work in an office...

- 1) Schedule Worry Time (don't keep thinking about it all the time. Ask why it worries me? What is the worst that can happen? Then put it aside.
- 2) Keep a Vacation File - just fun ideas that come to mind and keep looking at it until planning time comes.
- 3) Stretch breaks - every 20 minutes is ideal - especially those of us that sit for long periods of time,
- 4) Deal Directly with difficult people and do not let them control your happiness.
- 5) Read a poem or lyrics to a song out loud,
- 6) Draw, color or doodle on a daily basis,
- 7) Treat yourself like your own best friend,
- 8) Examine your real feelings - are you renting space in your brain to any one or are you being true to yourself.

Keep in mind the only true stress-free life is in heaven when we are pain free, and free from the stresses of this life. On that note I just want to remind everyone that I will be on Sabbatical in July and August - Don and I are planning a few hiking trips to find PA's waterfalls, and Dalice and I are going on a road trip to Portland (where Megan is living) - lots of water vials to fill - ha ha. I am going to learn Latin and find a couple of beaches to lie on.....ahhhh! Please keep me in your prayers (12:00 everyday) and I will do the same.

Summertime Blessings Await!

Jane

Anniversary Committee Update

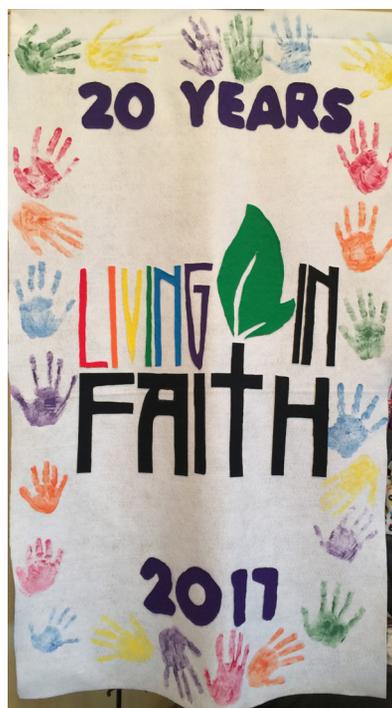
Greetings!

Sunday March 5th marked the beginning of what we all hope will be a year to remember. We thank Reverend Alan Miller, Reverend Nasrani, and everyone involved with the service, for helping us to start our 9 month celebration. The committee members wish to thank everyone for their attendance at the meal which followed in the Social Hall. Everyone we spoke with enjoyed the food and camaraderie.

Our pot pie and apple dumpling sale has received rave reviews - many thanks. We are pleased you enjoyed these tasty Amish dishes. The Red Cross is having a walk at Faith on May 20th. The walk will take place around our beautiful church. There will be signup sheets for all those who are interested in participating. In the month of June we can all pitch in to make our Faith Fest the best ever! Great food, great friends and great memories! This July the anniversary committee is sponsoring a church picnic at Knobels. This will be held on July 16th. Please save this date. Many of us have fond memories of past picnics, and look forward to beginning new ones this July. This event will be a covered dish. A signup sheet will be available. Upcoming August events will be posted in the next newsletter.

I would like to reach out to the congregation, their family and friends. Faith United Church of Christ is sponsoring a team to walk in the Alzheimer's Association Walk September 16th. We would like you to walk with us. For those who join our team we are having tee shirts made to distinguish us - Faith U.C.C. Forget Me Nots. Please register early and show your support for this worthy cause. Donation forms will be in the Narthex. Separate tee shirts to mark our anniversary will also be on sale soon. More details will follow.

The 20th Anniversary Committee is very thankful for our church family and all our friends we have made throughout the years as Faith United Church of Christ.. Thank you all for your support.



Yours in faith, Sandy Marsch

Living Waters of Faith

Easter we are expressing our Easter Faith through the Essence of Faith Creeds. What do we believe about Easter - Heaven - Faith - Family?? Come to worship through the end of May and find out what it is all about - question - doubt - rejoice - and sing our Easter Faith!

Then starting on June 4th Pentecost Sunday we will be wading in the waters of our faith! What does it mean to be 'catching people'? Rather than 'reeling them into our church' we will be exploring how we 'catch' people when they fall - when they need help - when they need us.

There will be a Fishing net displayed in the sanctuary upon which you can tie a ribbon prayer for someone. This will be displayed from June 4th through November 26th - the whole of the Pentecost season. In June you will receive a test tube vial with stopper. You are asked to take it with you on vacation this summer (take a couple of vials if going multiple places) and fill them with the water from wherever you go! You can fill them with your tap water too at your staycation! Then on August 27th we are having a Watershed Service where everyone will pour their waters into a large bowl. Then after we purify the water we will use it for Baptisms or Sprinklings and Blessings! These will literally become the waters of our Faith UCC! John 7:38 "Out of the believers hearts will flow living waters!" Come to the Living Waters that is our Faith!



Celebrate Student Pastor Sue

It has been a quick year for Student Pastor Sue! June 25th will be her last Sunday with us as a Student Pastor! Please come to worship and say thank you to Sue for being with us!

A card shower would be very welcomed! Now, she will not be leaving completely until September 2017 because she and Pastor Lynne will be covering for Dr. Hess who is going on Sabbatical June 26th thru August 26th. But then in September she will off to new Student Pastor opportunities! We will send her off with prayers of thanks!

LAY PASTOR'S CORNER

Since we have been celebrating 20 years of Living in Faith, I have found myself reflecting on the journey of these past twenty years or so. Christian education has been a big part of the journey for me. A Sunday School teacher for more years than I can remember, it continues to fill me with a joy that I cannot put into words. Currently I help teach the teenage class. When it is my turn to teach, I like to begin the class by asking them where they saw God during the week? I am eager to hear about their week and hopeful that they are becoming aware of the presence of God in their everyday lives. Sometimes, however, they will look at me with that deer in the headlights look.

Although most of us are not teenagers any more, we often move through the weeks, days and moments without much thought or awareness to the presence of God in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments of our lives. I believe that it isn't until time has passed and we reflect on what has happened that we become aware that God was there. Like Jacob we might say, "Surely the Lord was in this place and I did not know it!"

A few months ago, my dad was in the hospital for back surgery followed by rehabilitation. He then had to undergo an emergency surgery due to a hematoma on his spine which was followed by another two weeks in rehabilitation. A few weeks later he was back in the hospital for a condition known as pseudo gout which was then followed by another two weeks in rehabilitation. While this was all going on, my dad was overwhelmed by the cards, well wishes, and prayers from our church family, our bingo family, and other friends and family. *God is Love* and dad was feeling the love!

Meanwhile, I was traveling back and forth to Allentown several times a week. On auto pilot I was maneuvering through the weeks doing what needed to be done. Along the way, there were many earth angels that crossed my path. From friends who helped me with my pets, to folks who sent a text to let me know they were thinking of me, to my understanding principals and co-workers when I had to call off at the last minute or leave work in a hurry, I felt compassion and love from each one. *God is Love* and I was feeling the love!

Baseball Game

"Take me out to the ballgame!" Come and join your church family as we head up to see the Wilkes Barre Rail Riders play the Red Socks Pawtuckets on Sunday afternoon June 25th ! Fun for everyone! Game time is 1:00! Groups of 20 or more the price will be \$5/ticket... group of 10 or more price will be \$9. Please sign up at church or call the office and leave a message. 570-454-5982.

Plaaaaay Baaaaaalll !!!!

Beginners Yoga Class

Yes, we are having Yoga Classes at the Church! You probably heard about yoga, wondering, what is it? Or maybe you tried it already! Yoga has been around for more than 5,000 years. It will help you become more flexible and stronger while it increases blood circulation keeping your body younger. Yoga will relax the mind, sharpen concentration, and help manage stress. Yes, Yoga is for everybody!

I fell in love with yoga 30 some years ago, practiced regularly for the last 7 years, and graduated from Yoga Teacher Training in January of this year. I would like to share my excitement with you.

Classes are FREE! Donations are welcome & appreciated. Proceeds benefit the church. Come explore your mind and body...Classes are held on Saturdays following the 4:30 PM service from 5:15 PM till 6:15 PM.

I remember one night when I was leaving the hospital during dad's bout with pseudo gout, one of his nurses gave me a hug and offered words of thanks for helping dad with some things he could not do for himself. Her actions were genuine and sincere and I was truly touched. A few moments later I stopped in the cafeteria to pick up some dinner to go. The cashier was a young man who was familiar to me because I had been a frequent customer in the cafeteria for the past month or so. What was surprising to me was that I was familiar to him as well. He realized that I had been coming to the hospital for a long time now, longer than most folks do, and expressed concern for me and my dad. At that point, they still hadn't diagnosed my dad and I briefly shared that with him. As I was leaving he said, I will be praying for you and your family. This stranger I never saw again but surely God was in that place!

I am reminded of a song that the group Alabama called, "Angels Among Us" that is fitting for these situations:

Oh I believe there are, angels among us
Sent down to us, from somewhere up above
They come to you and me, in our darkest hours
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give
To guide us with the light of love.

When our paths cross in church, I would love to hear about your Jacob moments, those times when you wake up and find yourself saying, "Surely the Lord was in this place and I did not know it!"

Peace and grace,
Lynne



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.

Graduates Sunday

It's that time of year to celebrate Educational Achievements! If you would like to honor a Graduate or Educational Achievement that has occurred anytime this past year please submit their name, their graduation details (name, place, what received) or achievement/honor (name, what received) we will have a roll call of on June 10 and 11th weekend at all three services. Please submit the form below or we will be passing around a roster in worship for you to sign. The person does not have to be at the service for us to honor them! Prayers are lifted!

Graduate or Achievement Awards

Your Name _____ Phone # _____
Graduate/Honoree _____
School _____ Degree _____
Achievement _____

Please return to the Offering Plate or church by 6/4. Thanks!

Giving Tree

Many thanks for everyone's contributions to our Giving Tree projects. When we think of everything we have given and to all of the organizations, oh my! It is just wonderful! Currently we are collecting for Women's Center – so anything appropriate for a woman or children (male and female, baby thru teens) who have to leave their homes in a hurry are appreciated. Think personal care items, or comfort items (blankets, toys, books). We are taking items through the end of May.

June through September we are collecting pennies for the Guatemala Project. Together with churches in our Penn Northeast Conference we are helping the community in Guatemala build a Health Clinic and to get clean water. (Check out PNEC Guatemala Mission Project at p nec.org). To do this we are asking everyone to place a penny in a baggie, jar, or envelope every time we use water (brush teeth, wash hands, flush toilet, shower, drink, etc.) and then bring your pennies to church (on a weekly basis and we will put them on our Giving Tree!

The end of September we will have a representative from The Guatemala Mission to accept our donations! Pennies from Heaven for Clean Water from Heaven! Thanks!

Congregational Notes

The Consistory was given authority by the Congregation at a Meeting on April 22-23rd to refinance our mortgage. BB&T has agreed to refinance our mortgage at 4.9% for the remainder of our loan. This is a great deal – thanks to Dave McCarthy at our bank – because up until now our interest rate has changed every three years. It is based on the Prime Interest rate and whatever it happens to be at that moment of time is what our lot has been (for the past 16 years). It has been up and down quite a bit over the years and still we have managed to pay extra and have indeed paid off 1.2 million dollars (even with all of the interest). So having 4.9% interest on the remainder of the loan is a blessing AND we will have it paid off in 11 ½ years! If we continue to put extra on the payment we could have it paid off in 9-10 years! So please continue to pray, give generously (which has indeed paid the largest portion of our mortgage payments) and play Lucky Number, 200 Club or Bingo – come to help at Book Sale, Faith Fest or Holiday Bazaar! It all helps and IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!! God has called us each to this time and place, and we have all responded YES – YES we want to be the Church here and now!!

“Women of Faith” Upcoming Events

(Please also read the article below)

Rummage Sale:

Women of Faith will be holding a Rummage sale Wednesday May 10th from 9:00-4:00 PM. Bag day will be held Thursday May 11th from 9-12 noon. Anyone wishing to donate rummage can do so by bringing it to the church Monday May 8th from 6-8 Pm, and Tuesday May 9th from 9-4 PM.

Please Note- We CAN NOT not accept baby furniture, electronics or exercise equipment

Shoo Fly Pie Sale

Women of Faith will be selling Shoo Fly Pie. Anyone wanting a pie can call Janet Frye at 570-455-5135 or use the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Price is \$12.00 per pie. Deadline to order is May 28th. Pies can be picked up Saturday June 3rd between 11:30-12:30 at the church.



WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

The Women of Faith was formed in 1997 as a compilation of the women’s groups from our former churches. After 20 years of faithful and generous giving to our congregation they have voted to disband. It really is kind of a retirement. They are not leaving the church or doing so with sadness, but with grateful hearts for the privilege of serving our God and church. They are going to continue on an individual basis to have the Rummage Sales, Pie Sales, Holiday Bazaar but now they will be under the umbrella of our Fund Raising Teams. For about 5 years now, whenever we need to have a fund raiser we put together a team to handle individual Fund Raising events. The thinking is that no one wants to serve on a committee ‘til death do us part, so every year we approach folks to ask them to serve, It seems to be working,

So on Sunday June 11th at the 10:00 service we will be celebrating the Ministry that Women of Faith has enabled over the past 20 years! Please wear red if you have served with the women on any of their events (remember the Peach Festivals, the Chicken and Waffle Suppers, the Chinese Auctions, they purchased all of the equipment in the kitchen and just recently bought the freezer and refrigerator, etc., etc.) to church on 6/11 (including the Men who helped). Please bring any pictures we can display! Thanks for the memories and the generosity which was our WOMEN OF FAITH!

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. Make sure you BINGO! this summer with us!

Pet Blessings & Christmas

July is full of opportunities to worship! The weekend of July 15 & 16 there will be a Pet Blessing at all three services! Because your pet has blessed you with unconditional love, now we can lift them up to God and ask God to bless them! Bring your furry, feathered and/or ‘stuffed’ animal friends!

Knoebels Picnic will be held on Sunday July 16 and there will be a special worship service in the picnic pavilion at 12:00. Come and enjoy our Church Family and celebrate 20 years of Faith UCC!

Christmas in July will again be celebrated at all three services July 15 and 16th! Come and worship the Newborn Christ Child. What a wonderful to celebrate Christmas and all that it means then when we are not busy with shopping, cards, baking and our to do lists! O Come All Ye Faithful!

Faithfest Tricky Trays!

Faith Fest is right around the corner and we are once again preparing the tricky trays!

We are taking donations of new items to arrange into tricky trays, or.... if you are feeling creative, you can build your own themed tricky tray to donate! It’s all about fun. The value of each tray is at least \$25.

Items/trays can be given to Debbie Elliot, Lee or Sue Schaeffer.

They can also be placed in the Quilt room – please be sure to leave us a note with your name.

This is one of our most popular and successful fundraisers! As always, we thank you for your generosity and your willingness to share in the fun. Blessings!

Mothers’ Day

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mothers’ Day to be a national holiday in 1914. We have two great ways to remember or honor your Mothers

1 – Sign up for the Sunday School Mothers’ Day Tea! Anyone who has or had a Mother is welcome to come! It is a great way to celebrate Mothers! Call the office 570-454-5982 and leave a message – name, # of people you are bringing (just yourself if that is what you would like!?)

2 – Remember all of the flowers we have placed in the gardens around the church in memory or honor of our Mom’s? Well now we are going to finish them off with decorative stones. For \$5 you can purchase a ‘virtual’ Bucket of Stones in memorial of honor of your Mama! See the coupon in this Newsletter.

Mother’s Day (Virtual) Bucket of Stones (for the gardeners)

Your Name _____

In Memory of _____ **Number of Buckets of Virtual Stones @ \$5.00 per bucket** _____

In Honor of _____

Total Due _____ **Total** _____

Orders due May 7th with payment in the offering plate, or:

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

Father’s Day (Virtual) Bucket of Stones (for the gardeners)

Your Name _____

In Memory of _____ **Number of Buckets of Virtual Stones @ \$5.00 per bucket** _____

In Honor of _____

Total Due _____ **Total** _____

Orders due June 11th with payment in the offering plate, or:

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

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.



Faithfest 2017 is Sat. June 17th!

The Faith Fest Team has been busy planning a wonderful celebration of Faith! We will have Tricky Trays (need donations - see above), Quilt Raffle (you should have received these to sell – more available at church – thank you to all of the donations, over \$2,300!), Bake Sale (donated Baked Goods needed), Great Food – & SO much more – Make & Take Crafts for kids 11-2, Book Room, and Yard Sale 11-4. We are again trying senior discounts that were such a hit last year!

Fathers’ Day

Fathers’ Day was first organized by Sonora Smart Dodd in Spokane Washington on June 19 1910 after hearing about similar efforts to start a Mothers’ Day holiday. It was later made an official holiday by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966. #betterlatethannever Not to be outdone we also have two great ways to celebrate Fathers’ Day.....

1 – On Fathers’ Day, June 18th 8:30-12:30 - Bring your Dad to Breakfast at our Pardeesville Christian Association Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall. It is a wonderful variety of breakfast foods at the buffet style breakfast for \$7/person! Remember all of the profits they make go to support a variety of charitable organizations in our Hazleton Community!

2 – Purchase a bucket of ‘virtual’ stones for our Truck Shed in memory of or honor of your Dad.

We are about \$4,000 away from building our shed – pole barn on back parking lot for winter repairs of our snow plows. Please fill out the attached coupon. Happy Dad’s Day!

Worship Opportunities

May – The Essence of Easter

June thru November – Living Waters of Our Faith

May 6	4:30 PM	Vespers/Easter Communion	June 17	4:30 PM	Vespers
May 7	8 & 10 AM	Easter IV/Communion John 10:1-10 The Essence of Abundant Life	June 18	8 & 10 AM	Fathers' Day, Matthew 9:35-10:23 One Word Sermon
May 13	4:30 PM	Vespers/Easter Communion Pastor Sue	June 24	4:30 PM	Vespers
May 14	8 & 10 AM	Mothers' Day Easter V John 14:1-14 The Essence of the Way Pastor Sue	June 25	8 & 10 AM	Matthew 10:24-39 Weird Church
May 20	4:30 PM	Vespers/Easter Communion	July 1	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion
May 21	8 & 10 AM	Easter VI Psalm 66:8-20 The Essence of Prayer Life	July 2	8 & 10 AM	Communion/ Matthew 10:40-42 Pastor Lynne
May 27	4:30 PM	Vespers/Easter Communion	July 8	4:30 PM	Vespers/Pet Blessing Pastor Lynne
May 28	8 & 10 AM	Memorial Day Sunday Easter VII I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 The Essence of Ministry	July 9	8 & 10 AM	Pet Blessing Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30 Pastor Lynne
June 3	4:30 PM	Vespers/Pentecost Communion	July 15	4:30 PM	Vespers Pastor Sue
June 4	8 & 10 AM	Pentecost/Communion John 7:37-39 Living Waters of Our Hearts	July 16	8 & 10 AM	Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 Fertilizing Faith Pastor Sue
June 10	4:30 PM	Vespers	July 16	12:00 noon	at Knoebels Grove Pastor Lynne
June 11	8 & 10 AM	Graduate Sunday/Celebrate Women of Faith Matthew 28:16-20 Making Duh-sciples	July 22	4:30 PM	Vespers Pastor Sue
			July 23	8 & 10 AM	Christmas in July Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 Cohabiting Faith Pastor Sue
			July 29	4:30 PM	Vespers Pastor Lynne
			July 30	8 & 10 AM	Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 Pastor Lynne

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May/June/July 2017

**Mark your calendars!
The deadline for our August September October
2017 Newsletter is July 16th 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: 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