



Words of Faith

Volume XXII, No iv

November December 2016 January 2017

Simple Words of Faith from Reverend Hess

I am just back from a wonderful celebration of Pastor and People at Salem and St. Matthews United Church of Christ Weatherly where our former Student Pastor Sharon Frye was installed as their called pastor. It was so heartwarming to see many of our Faith family there with Sharon and it did my heart good to be a part of such a wonderful celebration. I brought greetings from Faith and the Susquehanna A.M.C. as well as the message in sermon. (My apologies to all of you who had to hear two sermons from me that Sunday – brahaha!)

Sharon was so very pleased with the celebration and it touched her heart to know that she and her churches are not alone in this venture we call ministry. There were representatives from her local Ministerium as well as four pastors from our Penn Northeast Conference at large. Rev. Alan Miller, always the consummate host of these services brought much love and laughter.

My favorited story Alan told was about his previous connection with Weatherly – being stopped by the local speed control monitor of Weatherly. He explained how he was chatting him up – do you know Salem church over here, or do you know Gil so and so (Alan’s roommate in college). Well he ended up giving a forced donation to the Weatherly borough to the tune of \$128. Everyone howled. It turned out that the police officer Ed who gave him the ticket is a member of Salem and was sitting there in the congregation. While Alan continued the service Ed texted his friend on duty and asked how fast Alan Miller was going. Then when he came through the receiving line he asked Alan if he knew how fast he was going. Alan said I think it was 62 mph. Ed said yes. EEEK..... cracked Alan up, and me. Alan went on to explain to those of us standing there that Ed did cut him a break and he got fined for pulling over without putting his four ways on rather than a speeding ticket with points. Well we all laughed and I said to Ed, “So he got a ticket for stupidity?” Ed said, “Yea, you’d be surprised how many times I give those out.” Brahaha

Alan is one of my favorite people. And what better compliment could there be to a Pastor then to hear those words – You are one of my favorite people. Thanks be to God for Alan Miller, for our beloved Penn Northeast Conference, for John Dorhauer our UCC President and to Sharon, one of our favorite people!

Faith U.C.C. Congregational Meeting

November 20th at 11:00 AM.

Agenda to include: *2017 Budget, *Appoint Constitution Committee, *Election of Consistory. Please plan to attend!



Christmas Tree People Needed!

We will need help as we head out to Wolk’s Tree farm on Saturday November 26th at 9:00 am. Please sign up in the Narthex. Thanks!! We can’t have a beautiful tree like this without YOUR help!

Bereaved Parents Christmas Candle Light Service

On Sunday, December 11th at 7:00 PM we will have Christmas Candle Light Service. This is sponsored by the Bereaved Parents Chapter that meets in our church on the first Monday of each month. At this same time across the United States, all of the Bereaved Parents will light their candles too. It is in memory of the children they have buried. The Holidays can be especially arduous when you are grieving. Anyone is invited to come, but this service is especially geared toward those who have lost children.

P.S. From Rev. Hess – I know that some of you have asked what else you could be doing to ‘help’ at church. Well, I’d like to suggest you come to this service, to be there for these grieving parents. Come to Worship and be available to hand out tissues, candles or just to listen. This service is part of our caring ministry that God has called us to.



Giving Trees



Food items Nov

November concludes our fall Giving Tree Project - gathering nonperishable food items for the local Food Banks. We will collect until November 13th

If you haven’t done so yet, please pick up an Angel tag for our Angel Giving Tree. Each tag has a child’s first name, age and wish list on it. Go and purchase a gift, wrap it up, place the tag on the outside of the package and bring it in to the

Giving Tree. THANKS!!!

We also collect Non-perishable Food items until November 13th, Golden Books for the Head Start Pre-schoolers through Dec. 11th, and Shoes for the homeless through Dec. 31st.



Angle Tree Dec

Sunday School Announcements

Our young people are busy practicing with Miss Tracey and sang on Sunday October 30th at the 10:00 service. Hope everyone was there! There are tentative plans for a Sunday school fun day planned for Sunday afternoon Nov. 6th.

November 27th they have declared as Pajama Sunday as we begin our Advent Season. They will be coming into the 10:00 AM service every Sunday in Advent right at the beginning to teach us about A Weary World Rejoices! Nov. 27 all youth in PJ’s, Dec. 4th just the Teens, Dec. 11 the Beginner’s class and Dec. 18th the Middle class.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Will take place after worship services Dec. 10 & 11th. It’s the Sunday Schools only fundraiser!! We will need donations of cookies! Thanks!!



All youth will be learning the Sign Language for Silent Night. This will be ‘sung’ on Christmas Eve at 7:00 Service.

LAY PASTOR'S CORNER

My alarm goes off at 5:40 AM weekday mornings just in time to tune in to the daily weather forecast. It gives me a few moments to decide how to dress for the day as my body transitions from sleeping to waking by gently stretching out all the kinks that have settled in from sleeping in one position all night. My favorite meteorologist is so animated, upbeat, and creative. I find it inspiring to watch someone who seems to love his job so much, especially that early in the morning! One of the things that I love about his forecast is the words that he often ends with, "It's a great day to be alive! The rest is up to you!" It's a gentle reminder to me that although there are many things in our lives, like the weather, that we have no control over, we do have choices and whatever is going on around us does not have to define us.

When we decided to follow Jesus, we chose to define ourselves as Christians and as such we are part of God's kingdom. In his book, The Parables of Paul, J. Ellsworth Kalas reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is "a sort of kingdom-if-you-want-it idea." He goes on to say that, "we have a choice as to whether or not we want God's kingdom to set

up headquarters in our personal lives. This personal kingdom happens only when you or I choose to let the King come in. We have to step off the throne of self and ask Christ to take the throne." Each day comes with blessings as well as challenges that may try our spiritual dedication. Nevertheless we realize that our spiritual journey affords us the opportunity to "discover a fullness of life that is beyond description."

"Today is a great day to be alive!" What will you do with it to help bring the kingdom of heaven to pass? Let these beautiful words by Og Madino inspire you.... "I will greet this day with love in my heart. And how will I do this? Henceforth will I look on all things with love and be born again. I will love the sun for it warms my bones; yet I will love the rain for it cleanses my spirit. I will love the light for it shows me the way; yet I will love the darkness for it shows me the stars. I will welcome happiness as it enlarges my heart; yet I will endure sadness for it opens my soul. I will acknowledge rewards for they are my due; yet I will welcome obstacles for they are my challenge."

Peace and blessings, Lynne

Proposed Cleaning Plan.

On Sunday Nov 6 there will be a special Congregational meeting at which we will decide about the cleaning of our sanctuary. For the past 12 years we have used refillable candles on our altar. These last 2 1/2 years the plastic inside the refillable was burning along with the oil and caused a black soot. This soot was attracted to the beams on the front wall of sanctuary and also infiltrated the air/heat ducts as well as covering the sound panels on the back wall, the ceiling fans and all the other surfaces. We have an estimate of \$11,000 to clean this from 15' up. We will clean ourselves everything below 15'. In order to do this we will need to borrow from our CD's (we have \$40,000 in CD's). Then next year's 2017 budget has a plan to pay ourselves back. This is all a Proposal to the congregation from The Dirty Dozen Task Force and the Faith Consistory. At the writing of this newsletter we do not have the outcome of the Nov 6th congregational meeting.

Faith-full Opportunities

Thanksgiving Dinner

A Thanksgiving Dinner that is being served at St. Gabriel's Church, Wyoming Street, Hazleton needs help.

Please call 570-455-4994 Ext. 103 to volunteer!

Christmas Dinner

A Christmas Dinner this is being served at Holy Rosary Church, Poplar Street, Hazleton, also needs help.

Please call 570-455-9551 ext. 13 to volunteer for that dinner.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Did you know that some of our Youth have never been Christmas Caroling? Oh No! We need to help them with some wonderful Christmas Memories. Please sign up in the Narthex for this wonderful Inter-Generational Event! On Sunday evening December 18th we will leave the church at 6:00 in car caravans to travel to different destinations to share this wonderful Christmas tradition. We will return to the church at 8:30 to enjoy hot chocolate, hot cider and Christmas Cookies. We will need drivers, singers, and hostesses back at the church. Please sign up in the Narthex for this Holy Fun event. "O Come All Ye Faithful"!

Anniversary!

2017 20th Anniversary

Faith UCC

Don't forget, mark your calendars and pitch in to make the celebration a success!

Please Note Office Hours

The Office Hours vary slightly from week to week. Please check the calendar for times. Thank You!

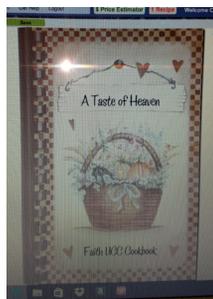


LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Anyone interested in going on a Women's Retreat is invited to come out to eat on the fourth Wednesday of each month, November 23, December 28th and January 25th at 6:00. We will plan a destination (Perkins is a favorite), pick some dates and have some good food (for body and soul). Every month we have a different fun and soul filling theme. Please sign in the Narthex. Thanks Good food and GREAT company!

Cookbook Correction!

Speaking of food, our very own Taste of Heaven Cookbook, has a correction on page 26, Portobello Mushrooms. It should be pepper, wine not "pepper wine" as stated. (Not sure there is such a thing as pepper wine)



Rest Stop Coffee Break

I-80 North Nov. 26 & 27, Help is needed to cover the station.

We also need homemade baked goods, gallon jugs of water to make the coffee (just tap water is fine we just can't use the rusty water that comes out of the hose on site) We could also use hot chocolate mix, and crock pots of soup!!

2016 Remaining Consistory Meeting Schedule:

Sun. Nov. 13 @ 11:10 AM

Thurs. Dec. 8 @ 6:30 PM



WINTER BINGO

As always, Bingo needs you, or rather the Bingo volunteers need you to 'spell them.'

There are plenty of opportunities to help out, by cooking or baking, soups are good on a cold night, or a nice crock of bar-be-que or chili?

Food items should be brought to the church by 3:30-4:00 p.m. Friday if not the night before.

Contact Judy Hartzel at (570-459-2923) or (570-956-1981) to book a date to work, cook or donate food or drinks.

WE APPRECIATE WHATEVER YOU CAN BRING...A CAKE, SPECIALTY ITEM OR YOURSELF!

When you aren't working, enjoy Bingo in our smoke-free atmosphere where the coffee is still free!

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.



Holiday Bazaar November 20th

Please mark your calendars and tell your friends

Our Holiday Bazaar will be held Saturday November 20th 9-2.

Tricky Trays - always a favorite, might contain that special gift to yourself or someone else, when you win one



Children's Shopping Room, no adults allowed! - here is where the children shop for family and friends, very reasonable items, and they're gift-wrapped!

Great food - everyone knows our kitchen helpers produce great food items, so skip lunch and join us!

Book room - As always the book room will be open during the Bazaar

20++ vendors - various craft and other vendors, someone will have just that right item for you. But the most important part is every member's participation in coming out to support this event. It's a great day and a fun way to support the church!

200 club
Got your number?

200 Club 15th Drawing Winners		
1	\$50	Ken Ott #151
2	\$50	Sara Krohn #05
3	\$50	Mossa Family #171
4	\$50	LaReda Hartzell #182
5	\$50	Sandra L Marsch #040
6	\$50	Charlotte A Eroh #066
7	\$50	James Rossi #050
8	\$50	Bernice Samler #073
Gr	\$400	Anna Drobnock #053
Thanks to all who participated!		

Please note: of the 200 possible tickets, only 165 were sold, 35 unsold. The result netted \$850.00 profit to the church instead of the maximum \$1200.00

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 Gift Certificates

Still a bargain at -\$15.00
See or call Dotty Burrell at 570-788-3910

Faith UCC Consistory 2016

Class of 2016			
Marty Karchner E	384-3628/401-0714	mckarch@frontier.com	Communication Committee
Marijo Penkala E	455-2743/436-0359	jpenk1@verizon.net	Fundraising
Mary Ribarchik D	570-582-3216	flyersgirl26@yahoo.com	
Harold Warg E	570-956-2133		Property Committee
Class of 2017			
Dawn Hydock E	570-956-3735		Staff & Personnel
Sara Lukacs-Nagy D	454-3999/579-8726	slnagy@yahoo.com	Deacon's Fund
Dean Schlauch D	459-1276		Worship Committee
Gary Marsch E	570-956-8950	gmmarsch@gmail.com	
Class of 2018			
Larry Corra D	578-2789	coachlarry@verizon.net	Christian Edu/Youth
Sue Hennigan D	215-378-3419	mrsh1@mac.com	Lucky Number/200 Club
Nancy Waters D	441-7881	nwaters19090@yahoo.com	Bingo Committee
Rev. Nasrani E	454-1982		Women of Faith
Jane Hess	570-401-2239	jdhess@frontiernet.net	Pastoral Care Team
			Outreach Committee
			Elders

FAITH CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFERS

Looking for a unique gift for a friend, or a stocking stuffer (to help good old St. Nick) we have some suggestions.

*We have Bingo Certificates for \$15. This will allow the bearer admittance to Bingo on Friday night, a full set of regular games and the 4 special games, plus the ticket for extra cash (if you win a regular game on a Special Number). See Dotty or call the church office 454-5982

*TASTE OF HEAVEN Cookbooks from Faith UCC \$12 each. Please see Carl or Rev. Hess These time tested recipes come from our kitchens (better than taking a risk on the internet). Buy a couple of books for all of your friends! The proceeds from this sale are put toward the building of a truck shed.

*Blankets for Church World Service – for a \$5 donation you can have an All-Purpose Blanket

delivered to a person in an under-developed country in special need of this Blanket/Tent/Tote AND you will have your loved one listed in our Christmas Eve Bulletin! Please fill out one form for each blanket in the Narthex and submit with your donation.

*Poinsettias – although these may not fit into a stocking, you are welcome to purchase a Poinsettia in honor of a loved one or in memory of a departed loved one. Please fill out one form for each poinsettia (in the Narthex) and submit by December 18th.

SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER AND SUPPORT THE CHURCH ALL IN ONE!! THANKS!



Blankets (\$5) and Poinsettias (\$12.50) for Christmas

Your Name _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Total Due _____ Phone _____ Blanket/Poinsettia _____

Orders due by Dec. 11th with payment. Put in collection plate or mail to: Faith UCC, 21 Faith Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202. Please use a separate form for each.

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

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 PERMIT NO. 277

November/December 2016 January 2017

Worshipful Words

As we end the Pentecost Season we are still focused on Being the Church! The weekend of November 19th and 20th we will have a quick walk thru the Christian Year. The service is designed to take us from Advent around the Christian calendar and back to Advent. It is a Journey of Faith. Then, November 27th we begin the four preparation Sundays of Advent, as we know "A Weary World Rejoices" (Can you name the Christmas carol that has this line in it?). Christmas is on a Sunday this year, so we will have a Prayers and Carols Service at 10:00 (no 8:00). On Christmas Eve we will have 4:30 PM and 7:00 Christmas Eve services. Both services will have Special Music, Communion and Candle Lighting. Our Christmas theme this year is "Be Present". On New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31st we are inviting anyone who wants to partake of the Quiet Service or Watchnight Service from between 4 and 7. This is where you come and go when you want, sit quietly and reflect on this past year and the coming year. And then when you are ready, you come forward to receive communion at the altar. Sunday, January 1, 2017 we will have a Communion Service at 10:00 (no 8:00). Lots of opportunities to Worship! Come and Behold the Living God! Epiphany begins a season of "Stars of Wonder". Come and Wander with the Wisemen as they find their way to the Christ Child.

November 5	4:30 PM	Communion/Vespers	December 17	4:30 PM	Vespers
November 6	8 & 10 AM	Communion XXV Pentecost I Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 Be the Church with Good Hope Special Congregational Meeting	December 18	8 & 10 AM	Advent IV Matt. 1:18-25 The Weary World Needs Love
November 12	4:30 PM	Vespers Pastor Lynne	Sat December 24	4:30 PM	Christmas Eve Service/Communion/Candle Lighting
November 13	8 & 10 AM	XXVI Pentecost Isaiah 65:17-25 Be the Church with Infinite Possibilities - Pastor Lynne	Sat December 24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-20 Christmas Present
November 19	4:30 PM	Vespers	Sun Dec 25th	10 AM (no 8)	Worship the Christ Child
November 20	8 & 10 AM	XXVII Journey thru the Christian Year – Annual Meeting	Sat December 31	4-7 PM	Quiet Watchnight Service (come and go, partake of communion)
Wed November 23	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Queen of Heaven Rabbi Michelin Preaching – Everyone please bring non-perishable food items for offering.	Sun January 1st	8 & 10 AM	Christmas Communion Matthew 25:31-46 Sharing Christmas Presents
November 26	4:30 PM	Vespers	January 7	4:30 PM	Vespers
November 27	8 & 10 AM	Advent I Matt. 24:36-44 The Weary World Needs Hope	January 8	8 & 10 AM	Epiphany Matt. 3:13-17 Stars of Epiphany
December 3	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion	January 14	4:30 PM	Vespers
December 4	8 & 10 AM	Advent II/Communion Matt. 3:1-12 The Weary World Needs Peace	January 15	8 & 10 AM	Epiphany II Isaiah 49:1-7 Epiphany Stars of Endorsement
December 10	4:30 PM	Vespers New Members weekend	January 21	4:30 PM	Vespers
December 11	8 & 10 AM	Advent III Luke 1:47-55 The Weary World Needs Joy & Justice	January 22	8 & 10 AM	Epiphany III Matt.4:12-23 Epiphany Stars for the Journey
December 11	7:00 PM	Bereaved Parents Candle Light Service	January 22	3:00 PM	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity @ St. John's Byzantine
			January 28	4:30 PM	Vespers
			January 29	8 & 10 AM	Epiphany IV Matt.5:1-12 Epiphany Stars of Vision

**Mark your calendars!
 The deadline for our Feb March April 2017
 Newsletter is Jan 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) 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