

# Words of Faith

Volume XXIII, No iv

November December 2017 January 2018

*Words of Faith from Reverend Doctor Hess*

After reading and discussing the book "When the Emperor Was Divine", a novel by Julie Otsuka, my colleagues and I at the Reading Sabbath Retreat I attended, continued our conversation about the internment of Japanese Families during WW II over lunch. How did they survive? Why did they not get angry or even outraged at the US Government?

After lunch we were privileged to speak with Mary Davidson who was 14 years old, living in California when she and her brothers, mother and father were required to report to the facility to be processed as directed for all people of Japanese descent. From there they were taken by train to the 'Camp'. They were only allowed to take what they could carry in 2 hands. Mary spent the next 3 1/2 years living in a 20' X 20' room with her family (6 in total). When they were released they were each given \$20 to go 'home'. They got home to find there was no such place - it had been burned to the ground. As we gently asked her the above questions about her time in 'camp' (there were 10 such camps with 8-10 thousand people in each) she said "shukokoo gahnee" (trans- literation) which means - "you do what you have to do".. She explained that they 'went along with' the required internment to show the respect they had for their country (which is the United States). If they would have fought or resisted it would not have changed anything except their own mental and emotional health.

Oh my! What grace and wisdom that seemed to reflect. As we head into this season of Hallothanksmas I have been asked 'how do we survive' especially if we are mourning children or spouses this Holiday?? I think Mary is speaking to all of us.

Shukakah Gahnee.

Do what you have to do and thank God for all of our blessings!

Blessed Thanksgiving!

Very Merry Christmas!

Your Pastor, Jane

## Giving Tree for Thanksgiving and Christmas



For the month of November, please bring non-perishable food items to be distributed to local food banks. The deadline for this important sharing even is November 19th. Directly after, we will once again have our Angel Tree.

This outreach benefits many local children who otherwise have little for Christmas. You

know the drill by now, but here it is once again. Pick an angel from the tree and buy a gift for the child described on the tag. Wrap it, add the tag, and return to our Giving Tree by Dec. 10th.



## Fall greetings from the 20th Anniversary Committee!

On October 29<sup>th</sup> (Reformation Sunday) our choir presented a Cantata comprised of renditions of inspirational Broadway tunes. Also on this date the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee concluded their festivities to mark the 20th Anniversary of Faith United Church of Christ. The committee members are very grateful to the entire congregation for their generous support with all of our activities held over the past 6 months.

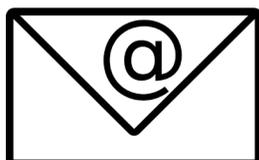
Breaking bread with so many of you at the "kick off" meal in March (we hope you had as much fun and received as much inspiration as we did) was one of the highlights. So many of you shared delightful stories of the past at our picnic at Knoebels and I finally got to place a face with your names! Several of us walked side-by-side against Alzheimer's disease while wearing our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary shirts. This was a solemn event and also uplifting. I would be remiss if I did not mention our "Zook's" pot pie/apple dumpling sales! Um so good! Lastly, thank you for taking the time to share your beautiful smiles with us for our commemorative pictorial directory. I hope you will be pleased with the end results. We are all blessed by each other's kindness! I leave you all "Living in Faith".

Sandy Marsch

## New Email Address

Please make note: Faith UCC has a new email address: [faithucc.haz@gmail.com](mailto:faithucc.haz@gmail.com)

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



## Worship and Celebrations

Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord!! (Psalm 100) November's worship includes our conclusion the Living Waters Theme for Pentecost. Our Amen Choir will be singing on November 5th and we will have Drumming on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. On Sunday, November 26th we will be speeding through the Christian Year, all in one service (everything from Christmas to Easter and beyond!).

The Community Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Eve Service will be hosted by St. Peter's Episcopal Congregation. The service will be at 7:00 PM. We are asking for donations of nonperishable food items for the Food Bank. This will be an Inter-Faith Service so we will have folks from our Sister Christian congregations, Brother Jewish congregations and perhaps even the Cousin Muslims will join in as well.

In Advent, we will be asking "What the Dickens?!" based on the Charles Dickens "The Christmas Carol". The first Sunday in Advent is the first Sunday of December and the fourth Sunday is December 24th. There will be no 4:30 Saturday Dec. 23rd or 8:00 Sunday morning on December 24th. The 4th Sunday of Advent will be a "Baby Shower for Jesus" sponsored by our Sunday school. Everyone is asked to bring a NEW baby item to put into the manger. These items will be donated to Catholic Social Services.

This year we will again be hosting the Bereaved Parents' Christmas Candle Lighting Service, on Sunday, December 10th at 7:00 PM. This is sponsored by the PA Northeast Chapter of Bereaved parents. Everyone is invited to come and remember a loved one who is celebrating Christmas in heaven.

Two Christmas Eve Services will be held, one at 4:30 and one at 7:00 PM. "Merry Christmas Baby Jesus." Both services will include communion, carols and candlelight!

Watchnight Service will be held New Year's Eve from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. This is a quiet meditative service where you may come and go anytime during this 3-hour period. Sit quietly, pray, and then come forward by yourself or with your family to receive Holy Communion. Let us Celebrate the New year with God, "All is calm, All is bright".

## Congregational Meeting Scheduled

Sunday, November 12th after the 10:00 service we will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will be looking at the 2018 Budget (get copies now in the Narthex), changes to our Constitution, Nominees for Consistory and representatives to PNEC reports.

The last Sunday of January, the 28th after the 10:00 service we will meet as a congregation to review the Annual Reports and elect new officers of the Congregation.

Note to all Committees and Groups: Please submit your reports (with \$\$ if applicable) by 1/14/18. Thanks to you!

## Lay Pastor's Corner

About twenty years ago or so, I responded to God's call to lay ministry. At one point, I was trying to discern if God was calling me to do more. One Sunday afternoon I offered it up in prayer while walking a prayer labyrinth. I was disappointed that I did not receive an answer. Or at least I didn't think I did. "Keep doing what you're doing" was not the answer I was looking for. It wasn't long after that I was leading a worship service at Providence Place one Sunday afternoon. After the service, while I was greeting those who came to worship, one woman said to me, "Keep doing what you're doing, honey." I wasn't sure what she said, so she repeated it and I immediately knew that I had my answer. So, I kept doing what I was doing and every now and then an opportunity came along to do more and this summer was one of those opportunities.

As a teacher, I realize that there are times that someone must fill in for me, and the day may not be exactly the way I would have liked it or the way my students expect it to be. As a former substitute teacher, I also know that it is very hard to fill the shoes of the regular classroom teacher. That being said, as I was filling in for Rev. Hess this summer, very quickly it became

apparent that it would be very difficult to fill her shoes and the best I could do was to try to help keep things as normal as possible.

The good news is that there is no normal around here! So that made it easy for all of you to accept Sue and I as we stepped in and tried to keep things normal. Thank you for the love, support, and encouragement that you provided during that time. Through it all I realized, once again, that we truly are partners in Christ's service.

This summer was filled with many special moments. From baptisms to funerals, from home communions to hospital visits, from putting together the newsletter to putting together the bulletin for worship, from Bible Study to Widows Web to Ladies Night Out, from leading worship at church or at the park, each and every moment was indeed a special moment. Whether there was laughter or tears, joy or sorrow, each moment brought us closer together as people of God.

Although a few months have passed now, I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and to say once again how blessed I feel to be part of this family of God.

Grace and peace, Pastor Lynne

## Ladies' Night Out

Wednesday, November 29th, December 27th and January 24th at 6:00 PM all the Ladies (18 yrs and older) are invited to come out and have a good time! We are having dinner together at Perkins. We will be doing lots of laughing, you can count on it! We have set April 6-8 for our Cherry Blossom Retreat to Washington DC. Mark Your Calendars.



## 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

## Happy Hearts Warm Hands Collection

We will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves and socks for those in need. United Charities will be distributing the items collected. There will be a tree set up in the back of the church and the items can be placed on or under the tree. Items can be brought in starting the first week of December through and into January. Any questions please contact Rev. Hess or call the church office



## Bereaved Parents

This year we will again be hosting the Bereaved Parents' Christmas Candle Lighting Service on Sunday December 10th at 7:00 PM. This is sponsored by the PA NorthEast Chapter of Bereaved Parents.

Photos of children who have passed away will be displayed. If you would like a picture of your child(ren) displayed either mail it to Bereaved Parents c/o Linda DeAndrea 191 North Lee Ct. Hazleton, PA 18201 or bring it with you the evening of the service. Please no larger than 5" x 7".

If you have any questions you can email [nepachapterbp@yahoo.com](mailto:nepachapterbp@yahoo.com) or contact Linda at her personal email [bellalynn55@hotmail.com](mailto:bellalynn55@hotmail.com) put in subject area Bereaved Parents.

Everyone is invited to come and remember a loved one who is celebrating Christmas in heaven.



## Golden Books Collection

We will be collecting books for the Head Start Program. The books will be given out to the children the last day of school before Christmas vacation. You can purchase Golden books or books equal to that size. Books can be placed in the basket located in the narthex. Books should be brought in by December 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact anyone on the Outreach Committee, or by calling Becky Bredbenner at 570-636-2404. Thanks so much!



## New Director of Children's Ministry

Please welcome Alyssa Miller (soon to be Mizenko – wedding shower 11/4 and wedding 1/20) as our new Director of Children's Ministry! Alyssa comes to Faith as a former Director of Youth Ministries in the Presbyterian church of America. She will be directing our Children's Ministries on the first and third Saturdays of each month starting 11/18. Welcome to Faith Alyssa!!

## Children's Ministry

Attention all children and all parents! Faith UCC is initiating a NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY the first and third Saturdays of the Month from 5:30-7:30 PM Starting 11/18! Drop your children off and enjoy 2 hours to Christmas shop or just have a meal together! Our children will enjoy a light supper, crafts, games, and singing (and lots of fun!). Call the church Office and leave a message to let us know your children are coming. Your first time there will be a few papers to fill out. P.S. Come to 4:30 Vespers Service and this Children's Ministry – then sleep in or whatever on Sunday Morning! Sign-up list is in the Narthex! Upcoming Dates: 11/18, 12/2, 12/16, 1/6

## Ash Wednesday Already!

Feb. 14th 6:30 Ash Wed. Service Lift High Your Cross (Everyone is to make a cross, put your name on it and bring it to the altar. We will each pick a cross and pray for that person during Lent.)



## 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.**

## 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.

## 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.



**Susquehanna Area Mission Project**

**Luci Lights**

Global Ministries and your Susquehanna A.M.C. are excited to introduce the low-cost and highly practical opportunity to provide light to global partners. Luci lights, made by MPOWERED, Inc. are inflatable, lightweight, and affordable light sources that can emit light for up to 12 hours on each charge.

\$15 provides light for one person with a Luci inflatable, solar light.

The 26 congregations in our A.M.C. are collectively gathering funds for our Global Ministries which will purchase the Luci Lights and distribute them where they are desperately needed. We will be collecting for this SAMC Project in Epiphany – January 6th thru February 11th at which time we will have a Joint Worship Service 3:00 at Christ UCC Conyngham on Sunday February 11th.

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**Sunday school Briefs**

Joint Classes to be held on Nov. 5th, Dec. 3rd and Jan 7th. There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 31st

Also, the Sunday school classes will be helping to lead Worship during ADVENT. Parents please bring your children to 10:00 Service. Thanks!

- Dec 3rd – Greeters – be there by 9:30
- Dec 10th – Confession
- Dec 17th – Statement of Faith
- Dec 24th – Baby Shower for Jesus!

Our one and only Fun'd Raiser "Cookie Sale" for our Sunday school will be held, Sunday, December 9th and 10th immediately following worship. Please feel free to donate cookies as well as purchase a few for yourself. There will be a Sunday School Teachers' meeting. on Monday, November 20th at 6:30 pm. Thanks!



**Penn State Cookies!**

Speaking of cookies! On Monday Dec. 11th we need help distributing cookies to the dorms at 7:00 pm. Everyone is asked to bake home-made cookies, put them into baggies of 6 and bring to the church Sunday, Dec. 10th. We will put labels on them and deliver them! Please sign up for baking and for the Distribution. Thanks!!

**Drivers Wanted!**

Concerned about our older folks who no longer drive at night, we are asking for volunteers to help out. If you would like to come to Christmas Eve Service but are no longer able to drive at night, please call Rev. Hess who will be coordinating the drivers. If you would like to help out and drive, please sign up on Rev. Hess' office door. Thanks!!



**Holiday Bazaar November 18th**

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!



**Blankets (\$5) and Poinsettias (\$10.00) for Christmas**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Blanket/Poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_

Orders due by Dec. 17th 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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**Luci Lights \$15.00 Light Up Someone's Life!**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

# of Luci Lights \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



Orders due by Feb 4th, 2018 with payment. Put in collection plate or mail to: Faith UCC, 21 Faith Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202. Please use a separate form for each.

**Luci Lights \$15.00 Light Up Someone's Life!**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

# of Luci Lights \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



Orders due by Feb 4th, 2018 with payment. Put in collection plate or mail to: Faith UCC, 21 Faith Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202. Please use a separate form for each.

## Worship and Celebrate with Us

Nov 4	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion	
Nov 5	8 & 10 AM	Worship/1st Communion Matthew 23:1-12 "Living Waters –Partners in Service"	<b>Dec 23rd</b> <b>Dec 24 10 AM only</b>
Nov 11	4:30 PM	Vespers/Veterans	<b>No 4:30 PM Service</b> Advent IV "What the Dickens Can We Do?" A Baby Shower for Jesus
Nov 12	8 & 10 AM	Worship/Veterans/Cong. Mtg. Matthew 25:1-13 "Living Waters Light Show"	Dec 24 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Luke 2:15-20 "Christmas Angels"
Nov 18	4:30 PM	Vespers/Drumming	Dec 24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Luke 2:15-20 "Who Put the Holy into the Night?"
Nov 19	8 & 10 AM	Worship/Drumming Matthew 25:14-30 "Living Waters Extravagant Opportunities"	Dec 30 4:30 PM Vespers
Nov 22	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve - "For the Beauty of the Earth" @St. Peter's Episcopal	Dec 31 8 & 10 AM 9th Day of Christmas Luke 2:41-52 The 12 Days of Christmas Party (with Snow Birds' Prayers)
Nov 25	4:30 PM	Vespers	Dec 31 4-7 PM Watchnight Service – "All is calm, All is bright!"
Nov 26	8 & 10 AM	Worship/Reception "Through the Seasons"	Jan 6 4:30 PM Epiphany I Vespers /Communion
Dec 2	4:30 PM	Advent I/ Communion	Jan 7 8 & 10 AM Epiphany I/Communion Mark 1:4-11 Luci's Lights
Dec 3	8 & 10 AM	Advent/ Communion Psalm 80 "What the Dickens is Hope?"	Jan 13 4:30 PM Epiphany II Vespers
Dec 9	4:30 PM	Advent II	Jan 14 8 & 10 AM Epiphany II Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Lights of Being
Dec 10	8 & 10 AM	Advent II Mark 1:1-8 "What the Dickens is Peace?"	Jan 20 4:30 PM Epiphany III/Vespers
Dec 10	7:00 PM	Bereaved Parents Christmas Candle Lighting Service	Jan 21 8 & 10 AM Epiphany III Mark 1:14-20 Lights of Invitations
Dec 16	4:30 PM	Advent III	Jan 27 4:30 PM Epiphany IV/Vespers
Dec 17	8 & 10 AM	Advent III Psalm 126 "What the Dickens is Joy?"	Jan 28 8&10 AM Epiphany IV Mark 1:21-28 Lights of Human Doings

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

November/December 2017, January 2018

**Mark your calendars!  
The deadline for our February March April  
2018 Newsletter is January 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: 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