



Words of Faith

Volume XXI, No iv

November/December 2015 January 2016

Simple Words of Faith from Dr. Hess

I love the plethora of guests we have at Faith every week. Some of them do decide to stay and continue their faith journey with us, and others seem to be passing through. It's all good. I was just wondering what folks who are not versed in 'church speak' think of all that we do.

I do know it is baffling to some that we have such an open relationship with our Pardeesville Catholic Christians (letting them use our facility for free – although they do insist on paying us something every month, as well as the charity of the month larger donation). Their breakfasts have produced thousands of dollars for charitable organizations every year. They raise the money to give it away! It sounds like the perfect Christian church to me. I cannot fathom why we wouldn't support and welcome them?

There was a little girl (about 5 years old) who came to a Baptism with her Grandmother who was also a visitor. She came forward for the Special Moment, plopped right down in front of me, looks up at the cross and says rather matter-of-factly, "You have a lower case 't' on your wall." I laughed out loud and said, "You are right. We do have a lower case 't' on our wall." Then I thought, 'how sad that she doesn't know the lower case 't' is a powerful symbol in our Christianity, but that really is on us, not her!'"

As we approach the season of Christmas I am thinking that there are a lot of folks who celebrate Jesus' birth without knowing the humbling truth about God so loving us that He sent Jesus to us as a babe. It's all about the Babe, 'bout the Babe, 'bout the Babe. I am not proposing we all start preaching, or pounding the truth into folks, or (God forbid) pretend that we are the only ones that can celebrate Christmas. It's such a wonder filled season of giving and serving and sharing and loving. I hope we can serve our community by opening the doors to the visitors who are already 'doing good' in their lives and lend them our support in their faith journey. Come out and support the Bereaved Parents service on December 13th at 7:00. OR Pick a name from our Angel Tree and purchase a Christmas wish for them. OR Bring in a donation of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves or socks for our 'Cold Hands, Warm Hearts' project. OR Visit the local Nursing Home and ask which of the residents do not receive visitors. OR Donate homemade cookies to our Penn State students during finals week. OR Volunteer at the Christmas Dinner we make for the needy on Christmas morning at Holy Rosary.

Faith UCC Annual Meetings

Sunday November 8th at 11:00 am we will have our Annual Congregational meeting. We will review the suggestions from our Constitution Committee (pick up a copy in Narthex), our annual proposed 2016 Budget, and vote for new Consistory and Congregational Officers. Then on January 31st at 11:00 am we will review all of the reports from committees, groups and staff. Please Note: the reports are due in to the church office by January 10th so we can collate them and put them in the Narthex for distribution by January 17th THANKS!

Cold Hands Warm Hearts Collection

We will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks for those in need. 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 do not need to be wrapped. Items can be brought in starting the first week of December. Any questions please contact Elizabeth Haraschak at 570-455-4024.



Jan/Feb Giving Tree

The theme for the January and February Giving Tree will be the "Undie 500" (Think Indy 500 but with adult underwear). We'll be looking to collect *NEW* adult underwear during that two-month stretch. Would a goal of 500 pairs be too much to consider? Not for this church!

Ladies Day Away

We are again planning a "Ladies Day Away" for Saturday December 5th to Lititz. We will leave at 8:00 am and return by 4:00 pm. Come and enjoy the Christmas village with shops and fun. We will car pool. Please sign up in the Narthex. P.S. Our Ladies Night Out will continue January 27 and February 24 6:00 pm at Perkins unless the weather is inclement. Our Ladies Retreat is scheduled for May 13-15th in Baltimore - "Mudhouse Sabbath".

Faith United Church of Christ, the church that serves the community!

May your lives be full of wonderful Christmas opportunities,

Your Very Merry Pastor, Jane

Clef Notes

The history and lore behind liturgical music fascinates me. It's interesting and often times touching to get a behind-the-scenes understanding of some of our favorite hymns.

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day...



This is the beginning of a well-loved and favorite Christmas carol. Over all the years that I've sung this carol, I've placed the comma between the words "you" and "merry." So my interpretation of this song has always been – God give you rest, happy men.

It came as quite a surprise to realize how often this carol is misspelled (most likely because of its use in Dickens' A Christmas Carol.) Virtually all music historians agree that this was not the first sense of the line. It originally read, "God rest you merry, gentlemen." To "rest someone merry" means to keep them happy. This makes a lot of sense as the birth of the Christ Child would bring rejoicing, not rest.

So as we enter this musically rich season of Advent, I pray we all have the experience of "God rest you merry." May God give you the joy of this season and all the happiness only He can provide.

Confirmation Class News

Our regular class meetings are the first and third Sundays from 11:30-1pm. November 1st at 10:00 service we will receive a gift Bible from the Women of Faith. Parents and guests you invite will be welcomed to share First Holy Communion with you! We have scheduled a Confirmation Retreat from Sunday December 27th 2:00 pm through Monday December 28th 10:30 am. We will take a "Tour of Your Life" starting with a visit to the hospital to see the newborns, we will visit all four of our former churches that went together to form Faith, on to college, working years and then retirement and end our tour at the funeral home. Please bring \$\$ for a stop at McDonald's (no tour of your Life is complete without fast food – ha ha). Besides \$\$ for food, please bring a snack to share, your favorite drink and breakfast will be provided. Oh, and all parents must talk with Rev. Hess before this Retreat please.

Weather Alerts and More!

For cancellations this winter, check the church answering machine, call or text Pastor Jane, or:

Check Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/faithucc.hazletonpa>

LAY PASTOR'S CORNER

You may or may not remember that a little over a year ago I invited you to join me as I embarked on a personal journey to cultivate a heart of gratitude. My personal challenge was to keep a Gratitude Journal and to take time to list at least three things that I was grateful for each day. As I look back over the last year, I realized that in a year's time I received a multitude of gifts and blessings, and if we're counting... there were at least 1095! (365 times 3)

I have learned that "God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:3) It's easy to take the gifts of life for granted, to accept them casually, as if we deserved God's generosity. It's also easy to get weighed down by the burdens of life that we close our eyes and do not see the multitude of gifts and blessings that fill our lives. Cultivating a heart of gratitude

helps you to become mindful of the fact that no matter what kind of day you are having, there is always something to be grateful for. Author Melody Beattie suggests that "*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.*"

Nurturing an attitude of gratitude teaches us that our personal happiness and contentment in life is a result of being grateful, not because we receive what we want but because we appreciate what we have. It is through gratitude that we are able to see the many blessings we have been given.

With gratitude, Lynne Wallace

Sunday School News

Sunday school is in full swing and the teachers and students are busy as squirrels preparing for winter. Regular classes meet each Sunday from 9-9:45am. The first Sunday of each month is joint Sunday school where the youth from all three Sunday school classes come together for fun learning, interacting, creating and of course the all-important snack time! Anyone wishing to enroll their child, grandchild, niece, nephew or whomever is encouraged to do so.

We are having another "Trunk or Treat" event on Saturday October 31st from 2-4pm on the church parking lot. All are invited to attend. This is our second year doing this and we are hoping the event will continue to grow for years to come.

Advent brings more activity for the Sunday school and this year is no different. Beginning in November and continuing through December

20th Sunday school will have joint classes, each with its own Advent story. The Sunday school lessons will culminate with the Sunday school assisting at the 10 am service on December 20th. There will be kids, costumes, songs, and who knows what else for the entertainment of the congregation and the Glory of the Son of God! In preparation of the service, there will be practice and a party on December 19th from 10-12.

The Advent season also brings the Sunday school's one and only fundraiser, the annual cookie sale! This sale will take place before and after the services on December 12th and December 13th. We need cookies to sell and customers to buy so please plan to help out any way you can.

SPECIAL NOTE- there will be no Sunday school classes December 27th.

Marijo is working on a system to alert families if Sunday school is cancelled due to inclement weather. Families are encouraged to supply Marijo with their cell phone number or email address. We will be working on a Sunday school Facebook page and information will be available there when complete. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

2015 Consistory Updated

President—Robert Eigenbrod

Vice President—Gary Marsch

Secretary—Mary Ribarchik

Treasurer—Sara Lukacs-Nagy

Consistory Notes:

1) The Women of Faith reported that they have purchased a new refrigerator and a new freezer for the kitchen. The old ones have been installed into the shed behind the Hall. The Property committee then had to put a ventilator into the shed because of accumulated heat. The Women of Faith paid for all of this. THANKS LADIES!!

2) The Deacons came up with two approaches to increase income because of the \$7000 we are short in our budget this year due to the Hispanic congregation who has paid off Emmanuels. Double Dipping Sundays (giving twice as much in offering on the first weekend). They reported that offering giving is up \$5,200 when compared to last year's same time period. Also they instituted take-out-only, curb-side-only dinners for July, August and September. These will be continued in April, May and June of 2016. Note: Halupki's were the best money maker but it was also the only Saturday supper we advertised to the community. The other two (spaghetti and pizza) were only offered in-house to our members.

3) The property committee is busy getting bids for gutter work, lights in the sanctuary and fans in the sanctuary. Also they discovered a problem with the air conditioning fan in the roof unit. We paid \$2,191 to get it fixed by our new Energy Tech services.

4) The Elders are reviewing the church roles on their regular bi-annual schedule. They will recommend to the Consistory who should be taken off the roles because of no support given (either money or attendance or helping out) for 4 years. They reported that every other year we erase about 15-20 folks after having contacted them twice as per our constitution.

5) Our Student Pastor will be leaving us sometime in January having served with us for one year. It has been a great experience for her and for us! A good-bye reception will be scheduled. Watch the bulletins for the date.

6) The Christian Education folks reported that all of the teachers have updated their PA State Police clearances. Also, the youth will participate in a CROP Walk, a Trunk or Treat, and an Advent Program for the 10:00 Service on Dec. 20th. The Youth Group will hold a Lock In Black Friday through Saturday.



What's missing is U

Blind Faith Youth Group

We are going to hold a Lock-In from 7:00 pm Friday November 27th through Saturday November 28th noon. Come and recover from your Black Friday Shopping. Bring your friends. We will have projects to do, including going out to cut down our Christmas tree for the sanctuary and hauling it in! We will also be planning for our Winter Youth Retreat with PNEC and possible Mission Trip to New Jersey this summer? Should we do the Wildwood Retreat "Closer Walk" again? Come and let your voices be heard!



Class of 2015			
Robert Eigenbrod E	788-6976/956-2573		Lucky Number
Pat James D	359-3233/401-2338		Women of Faith
Neil Manganelli E	570-790-3945		Property Committee
Robin Olenick D	455-3200/436-6481	wobbin1211@gmail.com	200 Club
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	Christian Edu. Committee
Mary Ribarchik D	570-582-3216	flyersgirl26@yahoo.com	Deacons
Harold Warg D	570-956-2133		Bingo Committee
Class of 2017			
Dawn Hydock E	570-956-3735		Staff & Personnel
Sara Lukacs-Nagy D	454-3999/579-8726		Youth Committee
Dean Schlauch D	459-1276		Worship Committee
Gary Marsch E	570-956-8950		Fundraising
Jane Hess	570-401-2239	jdness@frontiernet.net	Pastoral Care Team
			Outreach Committee
			Elders
Sharon Frye	570-427-2463	sharonf@pa.metrocast.net	Student Pastor
	610-739-1920 (c)		

Holiday Bazaar

This year's Holiday Bazaar will take place on Saturday November 21 from 9 AM until 2 PM.

There are many, many opportunities to help out on the second biggest Festival of the year. Beginning Friday night at the end of Bingo, when we set up the social hall, through Saturday teardown, things are happening!



The following will be going on during the festival itself: Tricky

Trays (see Donna Otter), Rada Knives (Linda Hoffman), Children's Room (Danielle Manganeli), Kitchen (Judy Hartzel and Danielle), Bake Sale (Carol Drumheller), and the Book Room (Dottie Burrell). A large number of local craftsmen will also be on hand to help you find just the right items for the Holidays! Sorry, Olaf can't attend.

Please see any of the above to help out, or just show up and enjoy the day with us. Happy Holidays everyone!

200 club Got your number?

200 Club Latest Winners		
1	\$50	Rhonda Barker #164
2	\$50	Bob Koch # 187
3	\$50	Robert W. Eigenbrod Jr #120
4	\$50	John Drobnock III #184
5	\$50	Anna Drobnock #186
6	\$50	Patricia James #107
7	\$50	Gary Marsh #9
8	\$50	Dawn Hydock #38
Gr	\$400	Robert Koch Sr #188
Thanks to all who participated!		

Thank You Note

I would like to thank everyone that sent cards, said prayers, and started prayer circles for me during my recent injury. If it wasn't for all of you doing that, I don't think I would be here today. Thank you again and God Bless!



Elizabeth Haraschak
(Editor's note, we're glad you're back!)

Bingo Gift Certificates

A night in the warm friendly social hall might be the ticket on a cool fall evening.

Cost-\$15.00

Includes:

*Admission

*Magic Number

*Bonanza Special

See or call Dotty Burrell at 570-788-3910

On a related note, help is desperately need and much appreciated at Bingo. Please plan to pitch in at least one Friday per month!

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.

Come Walk the Labyrinth!



We will begin our church year with a walk through the Labyrinth! It will be set up Saturday November 28th through Wednesday December 2nd. Anyone is welcome to come and walk or pray their way into Advent! It will be open from 11:00 am through 7:00 pm Saturday through Wednesday.

"Labyrinth Tutorial" – Our Student Pastor Sharon Frye will be holding a Labyrinth Tutorial – how to walk the Labyrinth – on **Sunday Afternoon November 29th from 2-3:30** followed by a reception of hot chocolate and goodies. There is no charge, but please sign up in the Narthex (so we know how many goodies to make) ☺ 'Tis the season to be prayerful.'

PSU COOKIES NEEDED

The Penn State students at our Hazleton campus really appreciate homemade cookies during finals week.



Please bake some cookies, put 6 in a bag and bring them to church by Sunday December 13th.

We will hand deliver them on the 14th at 7:00 PM at South Dorm.

Anyone who would like to hand these out to the students in the dorms at PSU, please contact Rev. Hess.

"I'm dreaming of achocolate chip cookie?"

FLOWERS-BULLETINS-CANDLES

You are invited to remember or honor loved ones anytime this year by sponsoring **f l o w e r s**, 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.

Bingo Update

Bingo needs EVERYONE'S help!!!

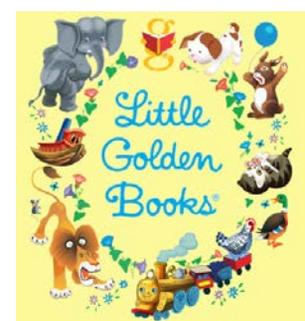
Every Friday night we need at least two cakes, a specialty food item (crock pot size), and five people to work in the kitchen. Please if there is a night that you could work or make something please call Judy at 570-459-2923 or 570-956-1981. Remember Bingo is an ongoing fundraiser for "Our" church, and to keep it going we need the support of our church family.

Special Thank You

I would like to send out a special "thank you" to Mary Ribarchik for the wonderful job she did restoring the chairs in the Primary Sunday school room, they look marvelous!

Marijo

Golden Book 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. A total of 130 books are needed. You can purchase Golden books or books equal to that size. Books can be placed unwrapped in the basket located in the Narthex, and should be brought in by December 6th. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Haraschak at 570-455-4024

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

Your Name _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Total Due _____ Phone _____

Orders due by Dec. 13th 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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November/December 2015, January 2016

“Come Before the Lord with Singing!”

Come to Faith and Worship the Lord with gladness! We will finish the Church Year with the final Pentecost Sundays and continue to discover – “Love Grows Here!” November 20 & 21 we will travel through all of the church seasons in one service (buckle your seat belts to be installed in each pew – wink wink). We will join with our Interfaith Community on Thanksgiving Eve for a service on Wednesday November 25th at Beth Israel Temple (Please note: the last two years we have tried to have this service here at Faith and both years we had to cancel because of ice and or snow.) Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving and we will explore the Songs of Advent culminating with our Sunday school youth leading the 10:00 service on the Sunday before Christmas. Everyone is invited to come to our Bereaved Parents service Sunday evening December 15th at 7:00 PM. Christmas Eve Services will be held at 7:00 PM and Midnight Mass at 11:30 PM. We will ring in Christmas with “Christmas Bells” theme. All services will include Communion, Candles, and Carols. The 7:00 service will begin with a 30 minute musical Prelude with a variety of musical offerings. All Christmas Services (12/26 4:30 PM, 12/27 10:00, 1/2 4:30 PM and 1/3 will include Christmas Communion! Don’t forget to include our quiet Watchnight Service New Year’s Eve 4:00-7:00 PM. Stop by anytime between 4 and 7 to enjoy a quiet prayer and individual communion at the altar. It’s a great way to end 2015 and begin 2016. Epiphany begins 1/9 and 1/10 with the Baptism of our Lord. We will be inviting any and all children we have baptized in the last two years to a “Homecoming” on 1/10 at 10:00 service. “Let the children come to me!” Jesus said! The rest of the Epiphany Season we will enjoy a “Homecoming” for everyone. (PS Lent begins with Ash Wednesday 2/10). “Come we who love the Lord!”

10/31	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion	12/24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve 7-7:30 Musical Prelude, Luke 2:1-14 Christmas Bells
11/1	8 & 10	Pentecost XXIV /Communion Mark 12:23-33 Love Grows Here with Saints	12/24	11:30 PM	Mid-night Mass Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-14 Christmas Bells
11/7	4:30 PM	Vespers	12/26	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion
11/8	8 & 10	Pentecost XXV Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Love Grows Here with Ruth – 1 st Person	12/27	10:00 AM	(no 8:00) Christmas/Communion Luke 2:41-52 Christmas Bells De’ Ja View
11/14	4:30 PM	Vespers – Pastor Lynne	12/31	4-7 PM	Watchnight Quiet Service Come and go anytime during these 3 hours
11/15	8 & 10	Pentecost XXVI – Pastor Lynne	1/2	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion
11/21	4:30 PM	Vespers – Pastor John	1/3	8 & 10	Christmas II Matthew 2:1-12 Christmas Bells De’ ja view
11/22	8 & 10	Through the Church Year	1/9	4:30 PM	Vespers
11/25	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service @ Beth Israel Temple	1/10	8 & 10	Baptism of Our Lord Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Homecoming (for all the children we baptized the last two years)
11/28	4:30 PM	Advent I Luke 1:67-80 Songs of Advent – Zechariah Song	1/16	4:30 PM	Vespers – Pastor Lynne
12/5	4:30 PM	Vespers/Communion – Pastor Sharon	1/17	8 & 10	Epiphany II John 2:1-11 - Pastor Lynne
12/6	8 & 10	Advent II/Communion Luke 1:46-55 Songs of Advent – Mary’s Song	1/23	4:30 PM	Vespers
12/12	4:30 PM	Vespers	1/24	8 & 10	Epiphany III Luke 4:14-21 Homecoming for Jesus
12/13	8 & 10	Advent III Luke 1:26-28, 2:8-14 Songs of Advent – Angel’s Song	1/30	4:30 PM	Vespers
12/13	7:00 PM	Bereaved Parents Service of Light	1/31	8 & 10	Epiphany IV Luke 4:21-30 Homecoming with Jesus on the Edge
12/19	4:30 PM	Vespers			
12/20	8 & 10	Advent IV Isaiah 9:2-7 Songs of Advent – Our Kids’ Song			

Upcoming: February 10th Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Mark your calendars! The deadline for our Feb/March/April 2016 Newsletter is Jan 10th 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