

# Words of Faith

Volume XXV, No iv

November, December 2019, January 2020

*Simple Words of Faith from Dr. Hess,*

Have you ever lost something and found it right where it was supposed to be – in some place obvious? They call it – hiding in plain sight. I preached recently about losing my glasses for six hours – not fun. I knew they had to be in my bedroom because it was the last place I had them. You don't know how many times I checked the top of my head because of that 'ole comic about the little old lady who looks all over her house for her glasses which were on the top of her head the whole time. Ha Ha not funny. (Well, my glasses were in a box which I had thrown into the trash as I was cleaning the room looking for them. Geez Louise!)

Bill Green writes about the story told by Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter" in which an important letter was stolen. The thief knew the police would assume that he had concealed the letter in an elaborate hiding place. So he hid it in plain sight. Eventually an amateur detective discovered it on the mantel in the living room – plain sight.

How much hides in open sight – like an awareness of God? I often want a stronger sense of God's presence as though it is elaborately hidden, perhaps available to people more mystical than I am. Meanwhile, I sit in church and appreciate Lee's new altar design, the colors and flowers and banners. But there are two things staring me in the face, clear as the wooden chest of God's commandments that David placed before the people, even pitching a tent over it: an open Bible and the Cross – the essence of God's presence.

Poe's police detective searched all over to find what was in plain sight. I do too. Heaven knows God can be found in more than one place. But as George Orwell put it, "To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle." I want to think more carefully about what's in front of my nose, in plain sight, every Sunday.... and every day... every moment of every day,

Prayer: May I quit looking everywhere else to find You, God, when so often You are right before me. Amen.

*Your Be-spectacled 2020 Pastor, Jane*

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Sunday afternoon December 15th the Sr. Choir under the direction of Mrs. Trace Smith will be traveling in caravans (cars not camels) to visit folks in their homes and at nursing facilities to share the Christmas Spirit in song with them. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit, please let Rev. Hess know so that she can add them to our routes. We will leave the church at 3:00 in caravans to travel to different destinations to share this musical Christmas tradition. We will return to the church at 5:00 to enjoy a catered meal by Sam's Space! Another Holy Fun event. "Joy to the World!" PS Any one is welcome to come and "Make a Joyful Noise" – that means you do not have to be able to sing! Just come with bells on!!

### Holy Fun after Special Moment

Holy fun continues in the months of November and December! Bring your children to worship, and they will leave right after children's time to work on a small 15 minute project. Mark your calendars for November 24th and December 22nd! See the family in church!

### Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday November 27 7:00 – Place TBA, check the Sunday Bulletins or perhaps our Facebook page

### Bereaved Parents Christmas Candle Service

On Sunday, December 8th at 7:00 we will have a Bereaved Parents' Christmas Candle Lighting Service. At this same time across the United States, all of the Chapters of 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 loved ones.

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; 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.

### Sunday School Cookie Sale

The Sunday School will have its one and only fund raiser on Dec. 14th and 15th after worship. We will need both Homemade Cookies and people to purchase them. It's all good – Hmmm good!

### 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!

## New Members Invited to Come

How good are you at keeping a secret? If you are like most of us, it is not an easy thing to do. Well, what we do here at Faith UCC is not a secret. Sometimes it seems like the best kept secret – We do have a lot of fun, or as Pastor would say – Holy Fun. And we want others to join our fun. Spread the Good News! There are no entry level tests to pass. There is no blood test requirement. There are no profiles to fill out – no matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome here! We no longer have a designated Sunday for New Members, every service or every weekend is New Members' Sunday. God is still speaking and we are each invited to be a Still Speaking Voice. Here is a list of our job descriptions:

- Be attentive to God's voice in the world and in others
- Watch for each person God will send our way
- Listen for an appropriate moment to share a Stillspeaking word
- Share the good news of extravagant welcome
- Invite others to join us at church this week
- Give thanks for the opportunity to be a Stillspeaking Voice for the United Church of Christ

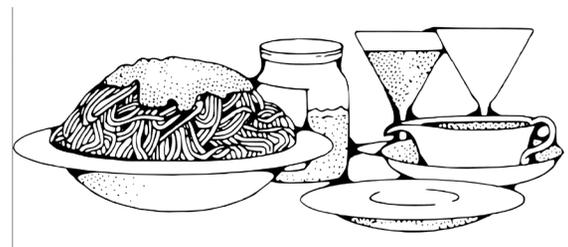
Prayer for a Stillspeaking Voice:

*Dear God, with grateful heart, we pray Your blessing of strength to be a United Church of Christ Stillspeaking Voice. Today's world is filled with those who need to hear a still-speaking word of life and love. Guide our steps, God, to reach friend and stranger with Your extravagant welcome. Open our ears to hear Your voice; open our eyes to see You in all Your beloved children; and anoint our lips to speak Your love and grace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.*

## Faith U.C.C. Congregational and Covered Dish Meeting

**November 10th at 11:00 AM**

Agenda to include: 2020 Budget, Election of Consistory and Congregational Officers, report of Constitution Committee and appoint PNEC reps. There will be an Italian theme for our covered dishes! Please add your name to the sign-up in the Narthex. Yum!



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

## Lay Pastor's Corner

When I get overwhelmed with stuff that needs to get done, it is often helpful for me to make a "to do list". It gives me a sense of accomplishment to cross items off the list as I complete them. A list also helps me to stay organized and on task. And it helps me to not forget what I plan to do, as long as I don't lose the list! If you are a regular list maker then I think that you will agree with me that this is the time of the year you really get down to business. There's the Halloween "to do list": decorations, check; costume, check; treats, check. The Thanksgiving "to do list": plan the menu, check; clean the house, check; grocery shop, check; preparations for the feast, check. And then there's the Christmas "to do list" which would probably take up the rest of the space for this article!

One day while perusing Facebook I came across this "to do list" from the She Rises Ministry site. I love it and it reminds me daily of what is truly important.

God bless you in your list making and doing!

Pastor Lynne



### Giving Tree(s) KEEP on GIVING

Giving Tree - now thru November 10th is non-perishable food items for United Charities.

Giving Tree - Golden Books for Headstart kids. Nov. 3rd - December 8th

Giving Tree - Angel Gifts Nov. 10 thru Dec. 8th

Giving Tree - Cold Hands Warm Hearts project for our community December 8th thru January 12th (new hats, gloves, scarfs and socks)

### to do list

- Wait Patiently: Psalm 27: 14 (Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.)
- Have faith: 2 Corinthians 5: 7 (for we walk by faith, not by sight)
- Pray: Philippians 4: 6 (Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.)
- Think of others: Philippians 2: 4 (Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others.)
- Trust In the lord: proverbs 3: 5 (Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.)
- Read god's word: psalm 119: 12 (Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.)
- Give thanks: Psalm 136 (O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever...)



### Christmas Story Bible Study

Every Sunday in Advent 8:45-9:45!

What a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for Christmas!

### Volunteer Bookkeeper Needed

Donna Otter has handed in her resignation, effective 12/31/19 and we are so sorry to see her go (She's not leaving the church, just her responsibilities - think retirement!). If you or someone you know would like to volunteer in this vital capacity please see Rev. Hess for an application and a full job description. P.S. We would like to have a card shower for Donna to say thank you. Please mark your calendars and send her a Thank You Card for her last day, Wed. December 31st! "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant!"

## Ladies Night Out

Tuesday November 19th 6:00 will be our Ladies Night Out for November at Smith Floral where we will make Christmas/Advent Wreaths. Cost for materials, instructions and snacks plus wine/beer is \$30. We are also looking at Wednesday December 11th as a Ladies Night Out at the Pines Eatery 6:00 pm for our Christmas Candles diner! Mark your calendars! Come and Join the Ladies! Fun! Fun! And More Fun! January 22nd 6:00 @ Perkins will be a regular Ladies Night Out. March 27th to 28th, we will be headed to DC for the Cherry Blossom Festival. We will leave late afternoon Friday, stay overnight outside of DC, visit the Festival Saturday, and return that evening. Please sign up in the Narthex with deposit for hotel. The 2nd possible trip for 2020 is back to Sight and Sound to see "Queen Esther" May 16th or 23rd. Please let Rev. Hess know if you are interested (we need to purchase tickets now. We will car pool to this event as well. Thanks Ladies!



### Apple Crumb Pie Sale

The Apple Crumb Pie Sale will happen on Saturday November 9th 7 AM Lots of help will be needed to make this happen. We need peelers, and boxers and lift lug and carriers! If you are willing to help in any way, please let Carol Drumheller know. You may contact her at 570-455-5102. By the way Carol, happy birthday, did you think it'd get by us?

### National Donor Sabbath

An Interfaith Celebration of Life and Thanksgiving will be celebrated November 15-17, 2019. Every major religion in the United States of the Americas supports organ and tissue donations as one of the highest expressions of Compassion and generosity. Speak out and help educate our families, friends and communities. Materials for your donations are in our Narthex. Please be willing to live our faith by making this commitment. And thanks.



### Bingo Gift Certificates

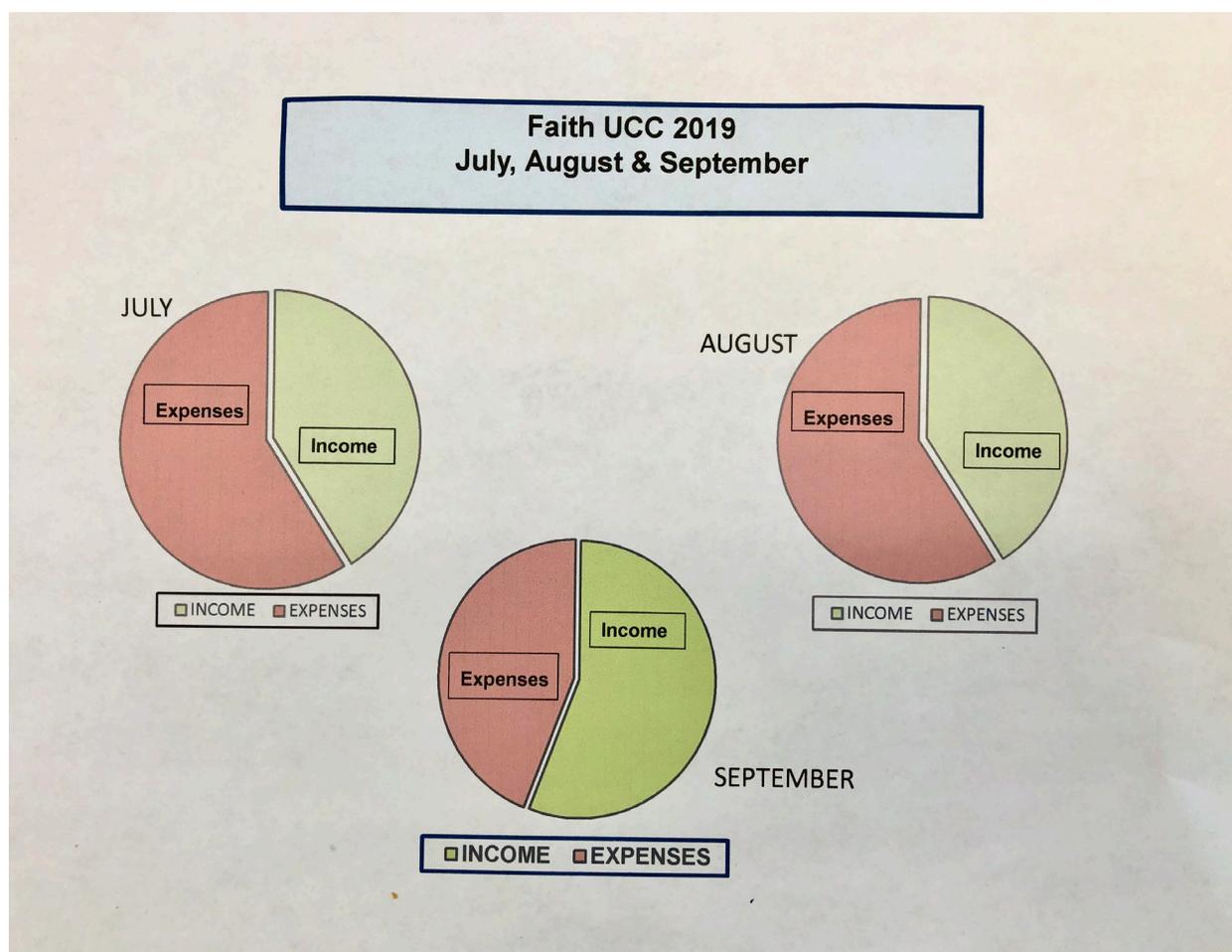
Still a bargain at -\$15.00, includes admission package plus a bonanza game, See or call Dotty Burrell at 570-788-3910

### Property Committee

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

### SOCIAL HALL RENTAL

Please remember that our church social hall is available for rental by people and organizations both inside and outside of our congregation. Contact Building Superintendent **Linda Eigenbrod at 956-7927** for rental information.



It was the wish of the consistory to provide all our members with this chart that represents our previous quarter, July, August and September revenues vs expenses. Please take a look.

## Holiday Bazaar

It's that time of year for fun and work to make the Holiday Bazaar a success. Volunteering is the way to go and don't forget to tell everyone you know! November 23rd is the date. Mark your calendars now, 9:00 till 2:00 don't be late! It's a fun filled day with lots to enjoy. For starters the food will fill your bellies while the company fills your hearts. Take a chance or 2 or 3 to win a beautiful tricky tray. Get your baked goods while they last. If you wait too long to buy them, they will be a thing of the past. The crafters have gifts, to get you started on that list. Even the children can shop for a special gift while their parents relax to Christmas music. All this wonderful occasion doesn't happen on its own so pitch in wherever you can.

- Help for an hour or 2 in the kitchen.
- Make a tricky tray to donate.
- Buy a gift or 2 for the kids shopping room.
- Bake your favorite goodie for the bake sale.

For further help with your donation of time, tricky trays, kids' items or baked items call: 570-790-3944. But most of all come and enjoy the Bazaar! The Church thanks you for all you do!

Be the Church!

### Hospital Info

Did you know that the Hospitals cannot tell either Pastor or the church when you are in the hospital?? As pastors we had received a list of our parish members who were currently hospitalized. This service is no longer viable. So please, Please, PLEASE let Rev. Hess or Pastor Lynne know when you or a family member or friend are in the hospitalized. Thank you so much for your help.

### All Youth Invited to Lock In

On Friday, November 29th thru Saturday November 30th all youth (11 yrs -18 yrs.) are invited to stay at the church overnight! Please bring a snack to share and your own drink. We will be exploring our Faith Life thru games (think 'Man Hunt') and Crafts and a Service Project! Please text Rev. Hess if you are coming 570-401-2239, or send a tweet #HolyJane, email her are faithucchaz@gmail.com.

### Can Pull Tab Report

Anna and Ben Drobnock helped deliver this year's collection of can tabs to the Geisinger Danville Ronald McDonald House in July. Thanks to all who save the tabs and bring them to church. Please continue to do so as they are greatly appreciated and provide funds to continue the ministry of the House.

### Safety Committee

Did you know that the Safety Committee is there for our safety during Worship? They lock the sanctuary doors once the service starts and then remain in the back to open the doors for any late comers. They are trained in First Aid and are ready help. You will recognize them by their red name tags with Safety Committee on them. Thanks Guys!

### Yoga

If you are looking for a way to reduce stress, improve your strength and flexibility, or just to feel better in general perhaps you would like to join us on Monday evenings at 6:00 for a gentle yoga practice. You can practice yoga on the floor or on a chair. The floor poses can be modified to be done with a chair and to your special needs. It's an hour of relaxation just for you. This summer we were fortunate enough to enjoy some classes outside. Many thanks to all students who have supported yoga class. Whether you can participate regularly, occasionally, or perhaps you only came for a class or two, I would like to thank you for your support. As always there is no charge for the class, but we accept any donation which goes to the church.

Namaste, Sarah

### 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 200 Club Tickets for \$10 you will have 9 chances to win \$800 in prizes. Only 200 tickets sold. Please see Bill Hines 570-582=7346 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 15th.

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

### Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday, Dec 8th

### CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

Help is needed to serve a Christmas Dinner to the community on Christmas Day. Details to follow in our church bulletins.

### FLOWERS-BULLETINS-CANDLES

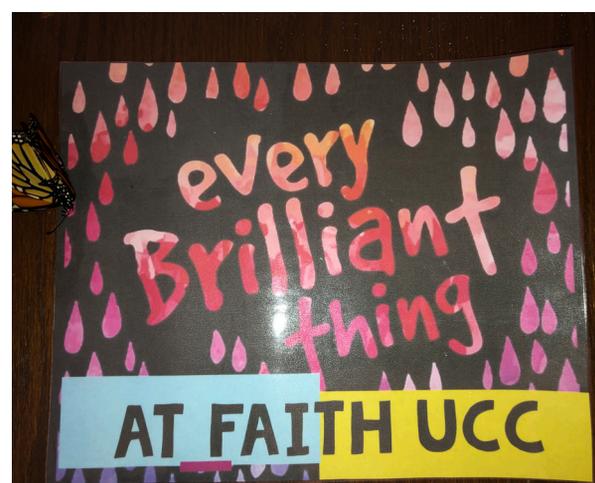
You are invited to remember or honor loved ones any time this year by sponsoring flowers, bulletins or candles. The chart is posted on the wall outside the choir room.

Pick a Sunday that is significant to you and your loved ones: anniversaries, birthdays, death days, graduations or any other special days.

Please sign up for your special Sundays and then follow the instructions posted.

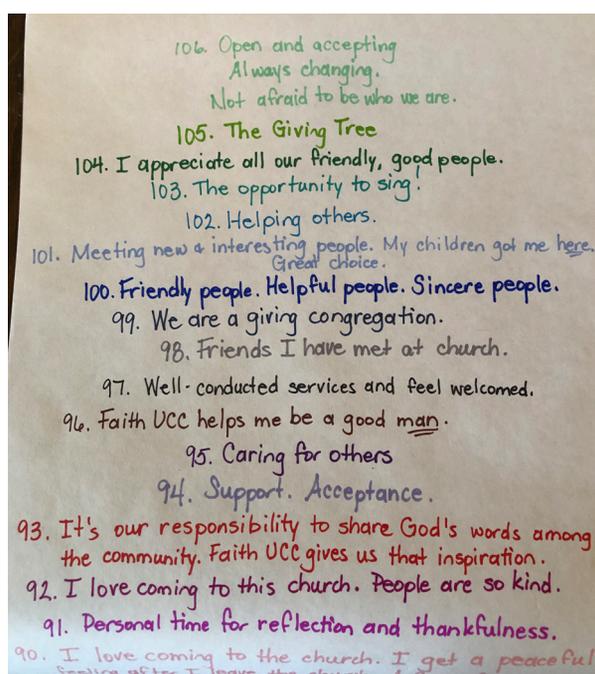
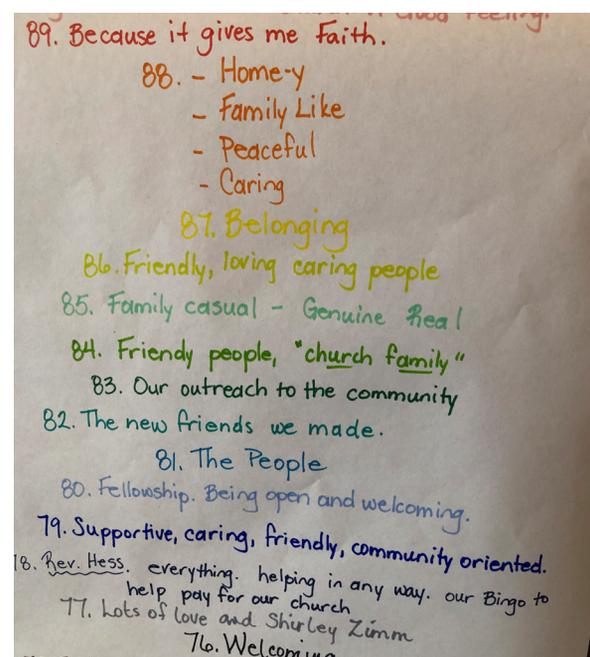
Bulletins are \$10 per Sunday, candles \$15, table bouquet \$27.00, and altar flowers are \$37.50.

Your sponsor message will be listed in the bulletin on the appropriate Sunday.



### Every Brilliant Thing... update!

We have a list of well over 100 'things' about Faith UCC that we find are 'bloody brilliant'! We are continuing this list through November 24th and hope to have more and more. How would community be different if Faith UCC did not exist? How have we individually and as a congregation impacted the Hazleton Community and the world? It's you... And you...And you...And you...And you! Please check some of the brilliant things in the photo in this edition, and also feel free to add your own!



### Bingo Help Always Needed!

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

### RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

The Fall rummage sale was a great success with over \$1,000 deposited. Great work, all who helped and donated!

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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 HAZLETON, PA 18202  
 PERMIT NO. 277

November, December 2019, January 2020

## Come and Worship!

The Worship of God is the heart and soul of our congregational life! It's a time when we can say together – "We believe in God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!" November will be the final growth spurt of the Pentecost Season. Highlights include – All Saints Celebration 11/2&3, PNEC Fall Worship at St. John's Northampton 11/2nd 9-4, Veterans Day 11/9&10, and Thru the Christian Year 11/23&24. Advent promises to be a "Thrill of Hope" with our Bereaved Parents Christmas Candle Lighting Service 12/8 and both Christmas Eve services at 7:00 & 9:00. We will end 2019 and begin 2020 with Quiet Watchnight service 12/31 from 4:00 thru 7:00 pm. Come and Worship! PS Freeland Choir will have their Christmas Cantata January 12th. Epiphany will be a Time of Holy Wonder with the Serenity Prayer. Ahhhh it is time! Come and Worship! Come and Worship! Worship Christ Our New Born King!

Nov. 2	5:00	Vespers Communion	Dec. 24	7:00	Christmas Eve Svc Luke 2:1-20 "O Holy Darkness"
Nov. 3	8 & 10	Communion All Saints Celebration Luke 19:1-10 "Ask for What You Need"	Dec. 24	9:00	Christmas Eve Service Matthew 2:1-12 "O Holy Night"
Nov. 9	5:00	Vespers/Veterans	Dec. 28	5:00	Vespers
Nov. 10	8 & 10	Veteran Day II Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 "Ask for What You Cannot Predict"	Dec. 29	8 & 10	Christmas II Psalms 148 "O Holy Lights"
Nov. 16	5:00	Vespers	Dec. 31	4-7	Quiet Watchnight Service - Come and Go at your leisure for meditation and communion at the altar, a wonderful way to end one year and begin the next.
Nov. 17	8 & 10	Worship II Thess. 3:6=13 "Welcome the Day"	Jan. 4th	5:00	Vespers/Communion
Nov. 23	5:00	Vespers	Jan. 5th	8 & 10	Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12 Holy Wandering
Nov. 24	8 & 10	Worship Thru the Year in One Day John 18:33-37	Jan. 11	5:00	Vespers
Nov. 27	7:00	Thanksgiving Eve Service (joint with Lutherans/Episcopal /Catholics/Jewish) Place T.B.A.	Jan. 12	8 & 10	Matt. 3:13-17 Holy Wonder..."God grant me the serenity"
Nov. 30	5:00	Communion Vespers	Jan. 12	3:00	Freeland Community Choir Christmas Cantata
Dec. 1	8 & 10	Advent I Matthew 24:36-44 "A Thrill of Hope...in the End of Time"	Jan. 18	5:00	Vespers
Dec. 7	5:00	Vespers	Jan. 19	8 & 10	John 1:29-42 "Holy Wonder... Accepting the Unchangeable"
Dec. 8	8 & 10	Advent II Matthew 3:1-2 "A Thrill of Hope....in the Turmoil" Also, Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday	Jan. 25	5:00	Vespers
Dec. 8	7:00	Bereaved Parents Christmas Candle Lighting Service	Jan. 26	8&10	Matt. 4:12-23 "Holy Wonder...Courage to Change"
Dec. 14	5:00	Vespers	Feb. 1	5:00	Vespers/ Communion
Dec. 15	8 & 10	Advent III Matthew 11:2-11 "A Thrill of Hope... with Justice"	Feb. 2	8&10	Matt. 5:1-12 "Holy Wonder...Grant Wisdom"
Dec. 21	5:00	Vespers	Feb. 8	5:00	Vespers
Dec. 22	8 & 10	Advent IV Matthew 1:18-22 "A Thrill of Hope...Home By Another Way"	Feb. 9	8&10	Matt. 5:13-20 "Holy Wonder...Living 1 Day, Enjoying 1 Moment"

### Mark your calendars! February March April 2020 Newsletter is January 12<sup>th</sup>. Please be prompt submitting your articles!!

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

You may also drop off articles at the church office. Church office hours are: Wed from 4-6 PM, Thursday from 2-4 PM, and Friday from 9-11 AM. Faith UCC e-mail address: faithucc.haz@gmail.com  
 Building Superintendent: Linda Eigenbrod-(570)956-7927.  
 Circle of Prayer -To add names, call Carol Koch at (570) 788-1038

**Worship Services:**  
 Saturday 5:00 PM  
 Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 AM  
 Sunday School: 9:00 AM  
 Church Office Phone: 454-5982  
 Kitchen Phone: 454-8427  
 Rev. Hess Cell Phone: 401-2239  
 Address: 21 Faith Drive  
 Hazleton, PA 18202