

		THIS WEEK AT FAITH UCC
TODAY	10:45 AM	Worship (S) followed by fellowship and refreshments (RH)
	1 PM	Red Ribbon Aids Walk
MONDAY		FAITHWORKS Newsletter Deadline
	7 PM	Evening Guild at the home of Jean Cole
WEDNESDAY	7 PM	Education & Spiritual Growth Ministry Team (AB)
THURSDAY	12:30 PM	State College Area Interfaith Clergy at the Autoport
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Church School (AH), Confirmation (AB) & Adult Forum (ML)
	10:45 AM	Worship (S) followed by fellowship and refreshments (RH)
	1:30 PM	Worship at Foxdale led by Rev. Prosser
	4:15-4:45 PM	Eleven Year Anniversary Party for Friendship Tutoring

AH = Asendorf Hall; ML = Meyer Library; RH = Romig Hall; S = Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 26	NOON	Daytime Guild Meeting
APRIL 27	6:30 PM	Penn State Baseball Faith Night (gates open at 5:30 pm)
APRIL 28	7 PM	Membership & Fellowship Ministry Team (AB)
MAY 4	4 PM	Friendship Tutoring Board (AH)
MAY 5	3:30 PM	Worship at the Atrium led by Rev. Prosser
MAY 8	10 AM	Baptism of Chelsea Vielhauer (S)
MAY 10	9:30 AM	Ministerium in Tylersville
		Annual Reports Due in Church Office
MAY 11		Caring Team Gathering at the home of Sandy Miller
	7:30 PM	Worship and Care Ministry Team (AB)
MAY 14	EVENING	Lock-In at the church for the Youth
MAY 16	10:45 AM	Youth Sunday with Richard Benninghoff
MAY 17		Newsletter Deadline for June and July events
MAY 19	NOON	United Campus Ministry Meeting (RH)
	7 PM	Education and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team (ML)
MAY 20	6 PM	Church Leaders' Banquet at Penns Valley High School
MAY 21	6 PM	Rehearsal for Wedding (S)
MAY 22	1:30 PM	Wedding for Rebecca Dewitt and Thomas Clouser
MAY 22	1-3:30 PM	Birthday Party for Clint Hegeman at St. Peter's UCC
MAY 23	10:45 AM	Confirmation Sunday
MAY 25	7:30 PM	Interfaith Mission meets here (RH)
MAY 27	9 AM	Group leaves for trip to Homewood Homes

Unless otherwise noted, Choir Practice is at 7 pm on Thursdays, Friendship Tutoring is from 3:15-5 pm on Sundays, and Al-Anon is at 7 pm on Sunday evenings.

Faith UCC is an open and affirming church, embracing diversity in our congregation and community, and affirming the dignity and worth of every person. We are an inclusive community of faith that celebrates God's presence through worship and the sharing of God's word. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of the church, regardless of race, ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, capability, or circumstance of life.



Faith United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Third Sunday of Easter/Earth Sunday

April 18, 2009

10:45 a.m.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

We welcome you to our church and invite you to sign the registration pads at the end of the pew on the center aisle. Also, please join us following worship for fellowship and refreshments. Note to parents: There are special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12, along with a clipboard and crayons in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.

***Please stand at those places indicated by an asterisk.**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

Call to Worship

(Responsively)

(Adaptation of Genesis 1)

L = Liturgist, C = Congregation

- L: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless and void and darkness covered the face of the deep while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
- C: Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning. The first day.**
- L: And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." The second day.
- C: And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was good. The third day.**
- L: And God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night." The fourth day.
- C: And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the sky." And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." The fifth day.**

L: And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to every kind; cattle and creeping things and wild animals of every kind.” And God saw that it was good.

C: It was good: the light, the sky, the land, the waters were good. The plants, the fish, the birds, the animals were good. But creation was not complete.

L: Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over all the earth.” So God created humankind in God’s image, male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

C: But what has happened since we who were created in the image of God have taken dominion over all the earth? The balance in the heavens is being disturbed and good light is becoming a threat. Good skies are being choked with toxic fumes. Good lands are losing their nutrients. And good waters are being poisoned.

L: Good forests are disappearing. Good creatures of the sea are vanishing. Good birds are being exterminated for sport. And good animals are losing their homes in the wild. When God sees everything God has made, and what we who were created in God’s image have done, is it still good?

C: God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. Though we may destroy and pollute, we cannot remove the goodness of what God has made. Nor can we escape our calling as creatures made in God’s image to be good stewards of the earth’s resources and to live peaceably upon the earth.

All: God’s creation is still good. Let us give thanks to God and listen to God’s word for us this day. Let us join together in worship.

*Hymn 567 *Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit* (vss. 1-4)

*Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)

Creator God, the source of life and energy, we ask your help in defending our planet Earth. Teach us to conserve and not to squander the riches of nature, to use wisely the heritage of former generations, and to plan for the well being of our children’s children. Renew our wonder, awaken our concern, and make us better stewards and more careful tenants of the world you lend us as our home. Draw near to us we pray as we seek your will. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, greet and welcome those around you and share “the peace of Christ”; then be seated.

Anthem *A Parting Blessing: Walk Softly Upon the Earth* Music & Text: Alfred V. Fedak
*Walk softly upon the earth. May its beauty forever surround you,
Its wonders forever astound you, Its wisdom delight you,
Its music invite you to dance and to play and to sing.
May you love and be loved by all that you meet. May you know and practice compassion.
Rejoice in the earth and in all of creation. Rejoice in life.
Walk softly upon the earth, walk softly.*

A Time for Children Chris Swim Davidson and Jeff Davidson
After this, all children up through grade 3 may leave for the Nursery; fourth graders and older are invited to remain in the service. To get to the nursery, go through the door to the right at the front of the sanctuary, up the half flight of stairs and around the corner to the yellow room.

*Hymn 557 *Pray for the Wilderness*

Scripture Reading Psalm 8:1, 3-9 and Colossians 1:15-20

Sermon *The Integrity of Creation*

Choral Call to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer followed by Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering

In gratitude for life itself and for God’s many gifts to us and to all humankind, we take this opportunity to offer up our gifts to God. Let us give generously and with grateful hearts.

Offertory

*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

We’re grateful, O God, for our senses by which we can see the splendor of the morning, and hear the jubilant songs of birds, and smell the fragrances of springtime. These are all your gifts to us. Accept these gifts that we return to you and use them to bring healing and new life to all that you have made. Amen.

*Hymn 569 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response and Postlude

If you’d like a large print bulletin or earphones for hearing assistance, please speak with an usher.



Our Ministry

Ministers—All the Congregation *Pastor*—Rev. Dr. Diane Prosser
Organist—Keith Diehl *Choir Director*—Jacki Hunt *Church Secretary*—Karen Gilmore
Church School Coordinator—Cindy Neidigh *Church Custodian*—Scott Luzier
Liturgist—Lois Bair and Confirmants *Sunday Trustee*—Dan Pfaff *Nursery*—Lois Bair
Coffee Hosts—Sue Doran & JoAnn Edwards *Head Usher*—Neil Christy *Ushers*—Dan & Eileen Pfaff

WELCOME to Faith United Church of Christ. *We're a church that "seeks to be a dynamic and inclusive faith community embodying the love of Jesus Christ as we grow through worship, learning, fellowship and service." We're glad you chose to worship with us today. Please join us after worship for conversation and refreshments downstairs in Romig Hall.*

The altar flowers were given by Joe & Carolyn Meyer and Carolyn & Walter Cunningham in memory of Donald C. Meyer.

Our Special Offering for April is for the Clear Water Conservancy. The Conservancy works to preserve land and clear water for the use of area residents. One of their programs is an annual Watershed Cleanup Day, which was organized this year by Chris Finton of our congregation. Checks should be made out to Faith UCC with "ClearWater Conservancy" written in the memo line.

13th Annual Red Ribbon AIDS Walk steps off today at 1 p.m. (reg. 12 p.m. at Sidney Friedman Park, formerly Central Parklet) The AIDS Walk is one of the AIDS Project's major fundraisers. Faith Church members are joining folks from St. John's UCC in Boalsburg for this event! Please see Brent Frank to make a donation or join our team.

April 25 is our Spring Choir Program. This is one of our favorite services of the year, when the Chancel Choir leads worship through the singing of some of their favorite anthems. The Choir is led by Jacki Hunt and accompanied by Keith Diehl.

Friendship Tutoring, our Sunday afternoon tutoring program for children in the State College area, is celebrating its eleventh year on April 25. Thanks to Maureen Dunham, Peggy Salamon, Bob Dunham, Edna Bicehouse, and many others in the church who started this program and kept it a vital ministry through the years. There will be a special anniversary picnic from 4:15-4:45 pm in Romig Hall for the parents, tutors, members of the Friendship Tutoring Board and any people in the church who have worked with FT through the years. A very happy Anniversary!!!!

There is a sign-up sheet on the round table for a Penn State baseball game on April 27. We have 25 people signed up from our church to go and sit together at the game. Pastor Diane and Tom Juhnke will hand out tickets at the entrance to the stadium beginning at 5:30 pm. Please make your check out to Faith Church for \$3 per person. The stadium opens at 5:30 pm and game begins at 6:30 pm.

Mid-Week Lunch, Wed., May 12, 12-1 p.m. Come enjoy a lunch of homemade soup, bread, veggies, and dessert while listening to a presentation by Dr. Janet Swim entitled "Taming Wicked Problems: How Psychology can help us understand and address climate change." This is based on a presentation given in South Africa several months ago. Sponsored by the Education and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team.

The Church Leaders' Banquet is Thursday, May 20 at Penn Valley High School. Dr. Daryl Hollinger is speaking on "How Can We Keep From Singing? Enlivening Our Faith Through Song." The dinner is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children. Please make your reservations through the church office and write your check to Faith UCC. Reservations are due by Sunday, May 2. A freewill offering will also be received that evening to help complete the Northern Association Cabin renovation at Hartman Center. For more information, talk with Terri Krabill at remkrab@verizon.net

Help!!!!!! We need your help to complete the work on our Northern Association Cabin by the first of May when there are groups scheduled to use the cabins. We still need to put up paneling and a false ceiling. Because of the limited space, it is best to have a group of no more than 4 people at a time. Joe Krabill and Lois Lunetta have been organizing work groups from our church. Please talk with them about possible times and dates to help with this important project.

Time to Sign Up for Summer Camp at Hartman Center in Milroy, PA. Many different kinds of camps for people of all ages. Camp Brochures are on the small table in the Gathering Space.

The Daytime Guild continues to welcome your contributions for Hygiene Kits and Baby Kits to be distributed by Church World Service in Haiti and Chile. The list of items needed is on the round table in the Gathering Space. Please place items in the red bin next to the Pastor's Office.

Save the date! The Daytime Women's Guild is planning a trip to Homewood Homes on Thursday, May 27. We will meet at the church at 9 am and plan to return late afternoon. This will include a tour of their Independent Living units as well as the Assisted Living and Nursing areas.

Regarding Parking in the lot behind the 310 East College Avenue Building. The spaces by the dumpster are not available for church parking. The spaces by the building (on the east side of the lot) can be used for church parking during evenings and weekends. Thank you for observing these restrictions. From the Trustee & Stewardship Ministry Team.

Are you interested in being one of our church's delegates to the Penn Central Conference's 48th Annual Meeting from June 11-13? If so, please talk with Pastor Diane.

Come celebrate a 90th birthday party on **Saturday, MAY 22 for Clint Hegeman** from 1-3:30 PM at St. Peter's UCC on West College Avenue. Everyone in the church is cordially invited.

Come walk with us to benefit the work of Habitat for Humanity! The walk is on Sunday, May 2 beginning at 2 pm, starting at Faith United Methodist Church in Bellefonte. For more information, call 814-353-2390 or email tom@habitatgcc.org

The Outreach & Service Ministry Team will NOT be selling Spring flowers.

Church Consistory (Elders of the Church)

Davin Carr-Chellman—*President* Kees Brandse—*Co-Vice President*
Cyndi Vincenti—*Co-Vice President* Brent Frank—*Secretary*
Don Asendorf, June Irvin, Sue Cromwell, Edna Bicehouse, Carlton Miller, Mary Jane Wild, Vaughn Shirk, Jean Weller
Ex-Officio: Rev. Dr. Diane Prosser—*Pastor* Barbara Chellman—*Financial Secretary & Church Treasurer*