

THIS WEEK AT FAITH CHURCH

TODAY	9:30 AM	Adult Forum (ML)
	10:45 AM	Worship & Christmas Cantata (S) with Reverend Dr. Lois Martin, followed by fellowship (RH)
	7-8:00 PM	Al-Anon
MONDAY	11:30 AM	Ladies Lunch Out at Taco Bell – All are welcome to join us!
	7-8:00 PM	Take a ‘Study Break!’
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Outreach & Service Ministry Team (AB)
	7-8:00 PM	Take a ‘Study Break!’
WEDNESDAY	10:30-11:30	Spiritual Conversation (S)
	12:15 AM	Scripture & Prayer (S)
	7:00 PM	Advent Vespers (S)
	7-8:00 PM	Take a ‘Study Break!’
SATURDAY	8:45 AM	Consistory (RH)
NEXT SUNDAY	10:45 AM	Worship and Children’s Program (S) with Reverend Dr. Lois Martin preaching, followed by fellowship (RH)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 21	7:00 PM	Advent Vespers (S)
DEC 31	2:00 PM	First Night Program: Deacons of Dixieland (S)
	4:00 PM	First Night Program: Trombone Chowder (S)
	4-6:30 PM	Chili Café (RH)
	7:00 PM	New Year’s Eve Watch Night Service (S)
	8:00 PM	First Night Program: Nittany Knights (S)
	10:00 PM	First Night Program: Summit Hill Bluegrass (S)
		Happy New Year!

AB = Antoinette Brown Room; AH = Asendorf Hall; ML = Meyer Library; RH = Romig Hall

USHERS	Dec 18	Jean Cole , Ben Harris, Jeff Filko, Jean Frank
	Dec 24	Neil Christy , Alva Chellman, Wayne Bicehouse, Vaughn Shirk
	Dec 25	Clint Hegeman , Marcia Hegeman, Jane Childs, Davin Carr-Chellman

Church Consistory (Elders of the Church)

Davin Carr-Chellman—*President* Cyndi Vincenti—*Vice-President* Brent Frank—*Recording Secretary*
 Don Asendorf, June Irvin, Sue Cromwell, Edna Bicehouse,
 Carlton Miller, Mary Jane Wild, Vaughn Shirk, Lois Bair, Paul Hallacher
 Barbara Chellman—*Financial Secretary & Ch Treasurer*
 Cyndi Vincenti and Carlton Miller—*Assistant Church Treasurers*

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 Advent & Chancel Choir Concert

December 11, 2011

10:45 a.m.

Whoever you are, and wherever 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 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Charles W. Ore (b.1936)

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

Call to Worship (Responsively) L = Liturgist, C = Congregation

L: We gather to worship with expectations: God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

C: God comes to us in real time. God comes to us in dreams.

L: Sometimes God’s presence is hard to take in – difficult to believe.

C: Oh God, we long to believe. Help our unbelief!

L: God is present here. God is working in our midst.

C: Then our mouths are filled with laughter, Our tongues shout out with joy!

***Hymn 116** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)**

Holy God of Advent, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. We need Jesus as much today as in times of old. Many sow in tears, and go out weeping. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, wipe away the tears of despair. As we worship today, we tilt an ear to listen close. Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new understandings. We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

One: The words of the angel were frightening to Mary.

Two: *She didn’t know what to imagine. I can’t blame her, can you?*

Three: **When she realized the truth of Gabriel’s words; Mary sang, Mary danced, Mary praised God for the Holy Spirit blooming within her.**

One: We rekindle the candles of paz, peace and amor, love. Today we also light the candle of espiritu, spirit. May this light brighten the Advent season reminding us that God is peace, God is love and God is Spirit. In the spirit of Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-1; Canticle of Mary, p. 732; John 1: 6-8, 19-28*

A Time for Children

Rev. Dr. Lois Martin

After this, children up through grade 3 may leave for the Nursery; 4th graders and older are invited to remain in the service. To get to the nursery, go through the door toward the front of the sanctuary on the right, and up the stairs. Activity packets for older children are available in the narthex.

Gospel Reflection

***Hymn 118** “Of the Parent’s Heart Begotten”

Call to Confession

Leader: God loves justice and despises wrongdoing, yet God is faithful in recompense and has made an everlasting covenant with those who turn from sinful ways and strive earnestly for righteousness. May the whispers of our hearts be pleasing to God.

People: We bow our heads in holy reverence. Oh God, we long to be free of burdens that hold us captive. We long to be bearers of good news to the oppressed. We long to return to your favor. Forgive us our transgressions; loosen the chains of doubt that bind us. Hear our prayers... Silent Prayer

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Leader: You are forgiven! God loves you. God blesses you with new beginnings and new life. Put aside your old ways and become new! God gives a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Sing, dance, rejoice! Never forget the gift of God’s redeeming grace. **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.

Christmas Cantata

Chancel Choir

Prayers of the People — please respond “**Hear Our Prayer**”

Lord’s Prayer (In Unison)

**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: As Mary moved from tears to acceptance she sang, “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... surely from now on all generations will call me blessed.” Mary said yes to God. Mary accepted the burden and the responsibility of being God’s chosen. She gave her whole self over to God. God calls to each of us. How do we respond? What do we bring? In the spirit of Mary’s “yes,” let us bring forth our offerings and gifts.

Offertory: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Paul Manz (1919-2009)

***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)**

Holy God, our answer too, is “Yes!” Yes, we will serve only you. Yes, we will bring our whole selves to the effort. Yes, we will sing your praises to the universe. Accept these offerings as tangible proof of our collective “yes.” May they be magnified for your use in our time. Amen.

***Hymn 110** “Now Bless the God of Israel”

***Benediction**

P: Go from this place to spread God’s peace.

C: We go planting seeds of peace in the world.

P: Go from this place to share God’s love.

C: We go laughing and shouting Good News.

P: Go from this place to live God’s spirit.

C: We proclaim God’s liberty; God’s spirit set free in the world! Amen!

***Benediction Response**

***Postlude** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Charles W. Ore

**CHRISTMAS
CHOIR**

We give thanks to the Chancel Choir for the beautiful music they give us each week and especially for their Christmas Cantata today. Much appreciation is extended to Jacki Hunt for her gifts and faithfulness, to the Section Leaders and to Mark Harries, accompanist.

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Our Ministry

Ministers—All the Congregation *Pastor*—Rev. Dr. Lois Martin

Nursery—Larry & Lois Bair *Trustee*—Tom Daubert *Liturgist*—Meta Meckstroth

Fellowship Host—Jean Cole

Ushers—Tom Daubert, Mike Hogan, Lisa Hogan, Cyndi Vincenti

Church Staff: *Church School Coordinator*—Cindy Neidigh *Organist*—Mark Harries

Choir Director—Jacki Hunt *Secretary*—Karen Gilmore *Custodian*—Scott Luzier

WELCOME to Faith UCC. 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.

Don & Betty Asendorf, in memory of their parents, *Rev. Albert & Ruth Asendorf and Edith and Roderick Cary*, today, gives the flowers on the altar.

It's time to join the **Homewood Retirement Auxiliary for 2012**. See Jean Weller for details.

Make a Global Connection. See the **yellow** flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and search for Faith United Church of Christ, State College, PA. Another essential addition to your media diet is our web page: <http://www.faithucc.info>.



HURRY! The Terri Lynn nuts and candy sold by the Daytime Women's Guild as a fundraiser are going fast! Some items are sold out. Come to Romig Hall following worship.

2ND SUNDAYS WITH STUDENTS Faith UCC welcomes students to a lunchtime gathering after church today. Join us in the Gathering space and we'll find a place for a study break. **Additionally, join us in Romig Hall this week on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday (or all three) for a study break from 7-8pm.** We'll have coffee, goodies, conversation, and maybe even some games to help you take a break from studying for exams.

Women of the church, come join us for lunch at Taco Bell on Dec 12th! We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 AM and walk to Taco Bell. This is our way of supporting our "neighbor" and each other. Tell *Edna Bicehouse* if you plan to attend.

The special offering for December is Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross.

This fund supports those who serve the UCC, helping low-income Pastors and staff. To contribute, please write "Veterans of the Cross" on your check and place in the offering plate on the table in the Gathering Space. Please consider supporting this great mission.

Wednesday mornings, Pastor Martin will have a time for 'Spiritual Conversations' from 10:30 to 11:30 AM. Initially, we will meet in the pastor's office. We will begin with prayer, a quiet time of centering prayer, a short few verses of scripture and then conversation which will be defined by what you bring, what is on your heart, where your spirit is leading you to question, to affirm, to seek. Also on Wednesdays, there will be a quiet prayer service in the Sanctuary from 12:15 until 12:45 a. Please join me for prayer and time to listen with God.

Chili Café

Don't forget to sign up for this year's Chili Café! The blue sign-up sheet is on the Gathering Space table—and all help is welcomed! The time is from 4:00 PM until 6:30 PM on Dec. 31. Do encourage all of your family and friends to attend. Also, the New Year's Eve Watch Night Service at 8:00 PM. in the Sanctuary. The timing is such that you can work in/on the café and still have time afterward to attend the service and other events that evening. The beneficiary of the receipts from the Chili Café is our own Friendship Tutoring Program.