

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

We are grateful, O God, for the promise in Christ of a new creation. Even as we join with your Spirit in recreating our own lives, help us to share in recreating the world about us. As we depart from this table, may the love we receive from you become a fountain of love that flows from us to others. Amen.

*Hymn 77 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

*Benediction

*Benediction Response and Postlude

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

Ushers—Dan & Eileen Pfaff, Neil Christy Liturgist—Cindy Neidigh Trustee—Dan Pfaff

Coffee Hosts—Martha Thompson & Sue Doran Nursery—Mark & Meta Meckstroth

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 are given by Clara Pletcher in loving memory of her husband, Charles Pletcher.

Special Offering for March: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). OGHS is the special mission project of the UCC to help people throughout the world in their time of need. Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. It helps refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. It aids impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water, and helps provide medical care and education in poor communities. Please find the OGHS offering envelope in the pew or write your check to "Faith UCC" with OGHS on the memo line.

Please keep the Biloxi Team in your prayers as they travel to Mississippi to work with the BackBay Mission in rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina (March 13-21). This year's team includes: *Joe and Terri Krabill, leaders; Mark & Meta Meckstroth, Brent Frank and Steven Romig, June Irvin, Larry, Micah, and John Bair;* and from St. John's UCC in Boalsburg: *Marion McCullough.*

A "big thanks" from the Church School for your generosity in providing socks for the people of the Back Bay Mission! Our Mission Team will be taking down 178 pairs of socks including 74 for men, 36 for women and 68 for children. These will be much appreciated—especially given this cold winter.

Do you have clothes that might be used for a prom? Five years ago, two Penn State students started a program called "the Prom Attire Event" in State College. The goal of the program is to get donations of gently used gowns, tuxes, suits, shoes, or jewelry to give free to any student in a high school in this region in need of prom wear who can't afford the costs of going to the prom. This year's event will be held on March 19/20 and 26-27 at the Fairmount Elementary School Cafeteria. Prior to that, donations may be taken to The Second Mile or Simply Elegant Gowns.



Faith United Church of Christ

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Third Sunday in Lent/Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 7, 2010

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, crayons and plain paper 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) From Isaiah 55

L = Liturgist, C = Congregation

- L: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- C: let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;**
- L: let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- C: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.**
- L: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- C: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth,**
- L: making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
- C: so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,**
- L: but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Let us join together in worship.

*Hymn 43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)

Holy God, there are many things that stand between us and the lives you intend us to lead. Like frozen ground stifling a bulb's expression of life, these things subdue our spirits struggling to bloom. Through all the chill of our anxieties, indifference, or lack of courage, we feel the life-giving warmth of your love. Open our hearts to your spirit. Feed and restore our souls, and help us to thrive and grow as followers of Jesus. 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 *Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs* Music: John Carter Text: Isaiah 53:4,5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.
He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
And with his stripes we are healed.

A Time for Children Cindy Neidigh, Church School Coordinator

After this, all children up through grade 3 may leave for the Nursery; fourth graders and older are invited to remain in the service. Children's bulletins and crayons are available in the narthex and on the round table in the Gathering Space.

Commissioning of Mission Team Going to Biloxi, Mississippi from March 13–21, 2010

*Hymn 433 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

Scripture Reading Luke 13:1-9

Sermon "God Doesn't Ask a Fig Tree to Grow Bananas"

Choral Call to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer, followed by the 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 and Offertory

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.

*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 give you thanks, O God, for all those things that open our eyes and hearts to the wonders of your love. Accept the gifts of our time, talent, and treasure, for these are yours, and have only been put into our care for a little while. Grant us the joy of giving and the delight of doing your will. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Communion Hymn 465 *Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way*

Please remain seated during the singing of the Communion hymn.

Invitation to Communion *This table is for all Christians who seek to serve God and to share in the community of God's people.*

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Holy and ever merciful God, we thank you for your invitation to journey with Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Sometimes on this dusty road of life, we feel lonely or fearful. We worry about what lies ahead, or about our ability to meet the challenges set before us. We also worry about our families, about friends, about the future of the earth. And yet, with all this weight upon our hearts, you continue to call us forth out of the winter of our despair to re-imagine our lives and re-build the communities within which we dwell. Confessing those times when our faith is weak and our actions unworthy of your kingdom, we continue to draw closer to you as you lead us forward. Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. May they be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by Christ's blood. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Words of Institution for the Bread and the Cup

Sharing of the Elements

Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread from the loaf, dip it into the cup and partake. Then return to your pew by the side aisle. If you would like to be served at your pew, please indicate to the servers. (The juice is grape juice.)

THIS WEEK AT FAITH UCC

TODAY	10:45 AM	Worship (S) followed by fellowship and refreshments (RH) Birthday Table in Romig Hall for all March birthdays!
MONDAY	9:30 AM	Ministerium in Solona, PA
	5 PM	Outreach and Service Ministry Team (AB)
THURSDAY		No Choir Practice (S)
SATURDAY	9:30-3:15 PM	Stronger Churches Conference, Harrisburg, PA
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Church School (AH) & Adult Forum (ML)
	10:45 AM	Worship (S) followed by fellowship and refreshments (RH)

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 15		Deadline for articles for April "Faith Works"
MARCH 16	6 PM	Finance Committee (AB)
	7 PM	Trustee & Stewardship Ministry Team (AB)
MARCH 17	7 PM	Education & Spiritual Growth Ministry Team Meeting
MARCH 18	12:30 PM	Interfaith Clergy Lunch at Autoport
MARCH 20	9-11 AM	Consistory (RH)
MARCH 22	NOON	Women's Guild meeting (RH)
MARCH 23	7:30 PM	Worship & Care Ministry Team (AB)
MARCH 24	7 PM	Future Task Group (AB)
MARCH 28	9 AM-1:30 PM	Faith UCC Planning Retreat (RH)
MARCH 31	7 PM	Membership & Fellowship Ministry Team (AB)
APRIL 1	6-7:15 PM	Seder Service and Meal in Romig Hall

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 28 at 10:45 am

Chancel Choir and Church School Singers will sing "Ain't No Rock Gonna' Shout for Me." Palms will be distributed.

Seder Service and Meal on Maundy Thursday, April 1 from 6 – 7:15 p.m.

A rendition of the Passover Meal that Jesus shared with his disciples at the "Last Supper." Includes readings, prayers, and a simple meal of soup, veggies and unleavened bread. Please sign up on round table in the Gathering Space.

Good Friday Community Service on April 2 from noon to 3 p.m.

Held at Grace Lutheran Church. Rev. Prosser will preach at 12:25 p.m.

Easter Sunday Celebration at 10:45 a.m. on April 4

The Chancel Choir will sing and instruments accompany congregational singing. Come and celebrate Christ's resurrection and the power of God over death and despair.

There is a sign-up sheet on the round table in the Gathering Space for our Seder Service and Meal on Maundy Thursday, April 1. Please indicate whether you will be able to help with set-up, serving, or clean up. Also, are you able to bring something? Pastor Diane will contact you closer to that date to let you know how you can help.

There is a sign-up sheet on the round table for a Penn State baseball game on April 27. We are trying to get a group of at least 20 people from our church to go and sit at the game together. There will be activities at the game for all ages. 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.

The Adult Forum continues to discuss Karen Armstrong's "Charter for Compassion." The Forum meets each Sunday at 9:30 am in Meyer Library (upstairs next to Asendorf Hall).

The Women's Guild is putting together Hygiene and Baby Kits for Church World Service to be distributed in Haiti, in Chili, and other places of need. See the list of items on the green sheet on the round table in the Gathering Space. Items can be put in the red box by the Pastor's Office.

Forms for ordering Easter flowers are on the round table in the Gathering Space. Please fill out and put them with your check in the offering plate or in the Church Office. Deadline is March 21.

The Confirmands want to thank all those who supported the "Souper Sunday" and "Almost Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast." Enough funds were raised to send them to Hartman Center this weekend for an all-conference Confirmation Retreat. Thank you!

Don't Forget!!!!!! Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 14. Set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday evening.

Church Consistory (Elders of the Church)

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

Please ask an usher if you would like a large print bulletin.

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.