

**WELCOME TO:**  
**FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
711 Seventh Ave (at 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge), Altoona, PA 16602  
Ph: 814-943-0713  
Website: [www.FaithUCCAltoona.com](http://www.FaithUCCAltoona.com)  
Email: [faithuccaltoona@verizon.net](mailto:faithuccaltoona@verizon.net)

9:30 AM Adult Christian Education  
10:45 AM Worship  
*Fellowship Hour Following Worship*

Rev. John L. Emig  
Pastor  
814-244-1602



*No matter who YOU are or where YOU are on life's journey,  
YOU are welcome here.*

*“Never place a period where God has placed a comma” –  
Gracie Allen*



**Let no one feel like a stranger here. We all have  
the same Creator who loves us unconditionally.  
Welcome, children of God! Greet one another  
joyfully!**

**Christ Jesus didn't reject anyone neither do we. God is  
Speaking!**

**Sunday, August 30, 2026**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**\*Those who are able are invited to stand.**

**BOLD print – congregation participates.**

**Hymns are in the New Century Hymnal unless otherwise indicated.**

*Happy are we, O God, when our hearts are full, our ways are Yours, and  
our spirits are enlivened by Your call. Happy are we, O God, when our  
lives are guided by delight. We gather here today for just that, Holy God.  
We gather to draw on all You would give us to be more fully Yours. In  
Jesus's name. Amen.*

Organ Chimes

**Joys, Concerns, and Announcements**

**Greeting:**

**L:** No matter who YOU are or where YOU are on life's journey,

**P:** YOU are welcome here!

Prelude

**Lighting the Altar Candles**

**Call to Worship: “Be Still and Know That I Am God” #743**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16: 21 – 28

**Response: “Praise be to you, O Christ”**

**\*Hymn of Adoration: “Incarnate God, Immortal Love” #414**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

L: Jesus Christ overcame evil with good  
so that all people might be saved from sin.

**P: Let us then confess our need for grace,  
confident of God’s forgiveness.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

God of mercy,  
we confess that, like the disciples,  
we set our minds not on divine things  
but on human things.  
Doubting your loving care, we grab for  
more than we need.  
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink  
from living as your followers.  
Doubting your loving plan, we become  
stumbling blocks in your creation.  
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you,  
for it is in Jesus’ forgiving name we pray. Amen.

**\*Kyrie**

(The Leader says)

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

(The People sing)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation.  
In return for our old life of sin,  
he promises a new life of grace.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**\*Gloria Patri**

First Lesson: Exodus 3: 1 – 15

Psalter: Psalm 26, page 636

**\*Hymn of Preparation: “There Is a Balm in Gilead” #553**

SERMON

Amen.

### **A Creed from a Peasant Woman**

I believe, Lord,  
that everything good in the world  
comes from you.  
I believe in your great love for all people.  
I believe that, because you preached love,  
freedom and justice,  
you were humiliated,  
tortured and killed.  
I believe you continue  
to suffer in our people,  
I believe that you call me  
to defend your cause,  
but I also believe you accompany me  
in the task of transforming this world  
into a different one  
where there is no suffering or weeping;  
a world where there is a gigantic table  
set with free food  
where everyone is welcome.  
I believe that you accompany us  
in waiting for the dawning of a new day.  
I believe that you will give us strength  
so that death does not find us  
without having done enough,  
and that you will rise  
in those who have died seeking a different world.

### **\*A Call to Prayer**

L: The Lord be with you

**P: and also with you.**

L: Let us pray: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**P: and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: Cast us not away from Your presence

**P: And take not Your Holy Spirit from us.** (Please be seated)

### **Morning Prayer: The Lord's Prayer**

Offertory

### **Doxology**

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore;**

**One God, Triune, whom we adore.**

### **\*Dedicatory Prayer**

Holy God of holy ground,

like Moses, we question our fitness to serve  
heaven's purposes on earth.

Overcome our qualms with the assurance  
of your presence;

bless these offerings that, through them,  
we may do your will;

in the name of the triune One. **Amen.**

\*Hymn of Response: “O Grant Us Light” #469  
\*Benediction

\*Masithi Page 760

Postlude



**Participating in Today’s Service**

YOU – the members and ministers in Christ’s family

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Music Director   | Claire White                |
| Lay Reader       | Grace Raihl                 |
| Church Secretary | Christina and Shane Schmitt |
| Minister         | Rev. John Emig              |

**Attendance: 8 – 23 – 26      Sunday School: 8      Worship: 18**

**OUR STEWARDSHIP FOR August 23, 2026**

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Current       | \$525.00        |
| Sunday School | \$ 15.00        |
| Plate         | \$ 20.00        |
| Altar Flowers | \$ 40.00        |
| Memorials     | \$125.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$725.00</b> |



**Grace Raihl    9/4**  
**Emma Masic   9/4**  
**Austin White   9/4**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

|                                   |          |               |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Sunday, September 6 <sup>th</sup> | 9:30 AM  | Sunday School |
|                                   | 10:45 AM | Worship       |

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated next Sunday during sacred worship. Please remind your friends and family to be with us. Thank you.

**The Mountain “Back Pack” Program is seeking everyone’s help needed for student meals.** 10 oz cans of soup, cans of Spaghetti-O’s, cans or packets of tuna and chicken, or any single-serve nutritional food items would be acceptable. Donations are due by Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Dates Ahead**

**September 8** – Faith Fellowship  
**September 20** – Juniata Association Meeting at St. John’s, Martinsburg  
**September 27** – “Dip Sunday” – after worship  
**October 18** – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Faith UCC

**The Flower Calendar** for 2026 is available on the board above the water fountain.

**Don't forget to like us and follow us on Facebook.**

([www.facebook.com/faithuccaltoona](http://www.facebook.com/faithuccaltoona)) and subscribe to our YouTube channel (@faithuccaltoona).

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!** In an effort to keep our prayer list as up-to-date as possible, we request that you **personally notify the office** any time a name needs to be added or deleted from the list. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

**Friends and Neighbors needing our Prayers:**

Janet Weyer  
Cindy Edmiston  
Phil Keth  
Kevin Leiden's Family (grieving)  
Alesandro Bond Family (grieving)  
Dave Zimmerman  
Donald Imler  
Jeff Cain  
Richard Port  
Gracie Raihl  
Rick Plowman  
Heather Guthrie  
Nick Lonsinger  
Baby Ridge  
Dallas Webb  
Peggy Mapes  
Zach Lonsinger Family  
Donna Skelley  
Linda Hollen  
Carol Marlett  
Our sick and shut-ins



We offer up our prayers for any of our **church family** not listed here who may be in need

Please pray for our men and women in the military.



