

WELCOME TO:
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 Seventh Ave (at 8th Street Bridge), Altoona, PA 16602 Ph: 814-943-0713
Website: www.FaithUCCAltoona.com Email: 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



There is joy in the Lord's presence. We welcome every worshiper present and invite everyone to discover the joy of God's unending love.

Christ Jesus didn't reject anyone neither do we. God Is Still Speaking!

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter



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

BOLD print – congregation participates.

Hymns are in the New Century Hymnal unless otherwise indicated.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us strength to face the raging storms of life. Grant us faith to trust in Your Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we may rise above the tumult and persevere in serving until Your reign is established forever; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

L: In the wilderness, water brings life.

P: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

L: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

P: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

L: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

P: Seek us out, O God, and give us Yourself.

L: Here is the water of life, the Word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

Gospel Lesson: John 21: 1 – 19

Response: “Praise be to You, O Christ.”

***Hymn of Adoration: “Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven” #243**

***Call to Confession**

L: The One who calls us to repent hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God’s forgiveness.

***Prayer of Confession (In Unison)**

**God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts,
when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world,
forgive us and help us to find our voice.
When we are afraid to forgive and to love again,
forgive us and give us the power to forgive.
When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority,
join with the weak to make us all strong.
When we are confined to our hurts,
touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.
When we are locked behind our doubts and fears,
pass through our barricades, open our hearts , and give us peace. 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**

L: You have already been cleansed by the Word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: Praise be to God!

***Gloria (tune: Weise Flaggen)**

**“Come, O Christ, and reign among us, granting love and joy and peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
Jesus Christ we have Your pleading that Your people should be one.
Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition; here on earth, Your will be done.”**

Anthem: “He Is There” – Mary Kay Beale

First Lesson: Acts 9: 1 – 6

Psalter: Psalm 30, page 639

***Hymn of Preparation: “Listen to Your Savior Call” #250**

SERMON

Morning Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

***Invitation to Holy Communion**



*** The Dialogue**

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**This is the day that You have made, O Lord – the first day of the week,
when You created light out of darkness by the power of Your Word and Spirit,
when You created life out of death, raising Jesus from the grave.**

**On this first day of the week, we await the coming of Your new creation,
when we will be glad and rejoice forever, singing,**

***Seraphic Hymn (Spoken)**

**“Holy, holy, holy, God of the heavenly host;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest”**
(Please be seated)

Words of Institution (Pastor)

Prayer of Consecration (Pastor)

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

**Gracious and loving God, You have made us one in the body of Christ
and nourished us at Your table with holy food and drink. Now send us forth to
be Your people in the world. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil and
to proclaim in all we say and do Your Good News in Christ Jesus, our Savior.
Amen.**

*The Blessing

*Hymn of Response

*Benediction

*Masithi

Postlude



Participating in Today's Service

YOU – the members and ministers in Christ's family

Music Director

Claire White

Acolyte

Nick Lonsinger

Lay Reader

Janice Lonsinger

Church Secretary

Christina and Shane Schmitt

Minister

Rev. John Emig

Attendance: 4 – 27 – 25

Sunday School: 10

Worship: 27

OUR STEWARDSHIP FOR April 27, 2025

Current	\$543.00
Plate	\$ 8.00
Sunday School	\$ 14.00
Flowers	\$ 40.00
TOTAL	\$605.00



Nick & Christina Lonsinger **5/4**
Jerry & Virginia Paul **5/7**
Shane & Christina Schmitt **5/10**



**IHO Jerry & Virginia Paul's
Anniversary**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 11th 9: 30 AM Sunday School
 10: 45 AM Worship

We practice “extravagant” welcome here at Faith UCC, just as Jesus would invite and encourage us to do. So **WELCOME** to each and every one!

Pastor John would like to start a Membership Class. Several people have expressed an interest in church membership. The date and time will be arranged, but if interested, please mention so to the pastor. Thanks.

“Levity”, on 11th Avenue, has “Open Mic” on Tuesday beginning at 6:00 PM. Folks are welcome to come and hear Rod Skelley play. He usually sings the first set.

“Salad Sunday” is next Sunday, Mother’s Day. Please join us after worship for this special meal. Everyone is cordially invited.

The next Friday Night Worship will be held on May 16th at 6:00 PM. All are most welcome.

Penn West Conference Annual Meeting will be held June 7th at Saint Paul’s United Church of Christ in Somerset from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We are looking for visitors and delegates to participate. The cost is \$35.00 for registration, materials, and noon-time meal. If interested in attending, please speak with Pastor John. Thank you.

The Church Yard Sale is June 28th. Please mark your calendars, and please be collecting items to donate. There will be plenty of opportunity to contribute, and we will need your help. Thank you.

Dates Ahead

May 13 – Faith Fellowship
May 28 – Consistory
June 28 – “Yard Sale” (with vendors)
July 22 – Curve Game
August 17 – Church Picnic

Credit card/debit card slips are available.

Sign-up sheet in fellowship room for Altoona Curve game.

The Flower Calendar for 2025 is available on the board above the water fountain.

Large-print Daily Bread devotionals are available in the narthex (hall). Please help yourself.

Friends and Neighbors needing our Prayers:

David Raihl
Rick Plowman
Richard Port
Vivian Fitzsimmons
Craig Meyers
Heather Guthrie
Nick Lonsinger
Janet Weyer
Beverly Emig Family, grieving
Baby Ridge
Dave Zimmerman
Lettie Allen
Sally Sprow
Joe Stubby
Dallas Webb
Peggy Mapes
Zach Lonsinger Family
Donna Skelley
Linda Hollen
Shawn Ellis
Scott Weyer
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.

