

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 A.M. Adult Christian Education

10:45 A.M. 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



It's gratifying to have each worshiper here today. Greetings and blessings in the name of Jesus!

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

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

Amistad Sunday



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

BOLD print – congregation participates.

Hymns are in the New Century Hymnal unless otherwise indicated.

Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw Your children back to Your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to You that we may become ambassadors of Your reconciling love to all the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. 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:

L: The message of the cross sounds foolish to the world;

P: But to us it is the power of God!

L: We proclaim the scandal of Christ crucified.

P: The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than our strength.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13: 1 – 9

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

***Hymn of Adoration: “O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free” #209 (verses 1–4)**

***Call to Confession**

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting God’s wisdom and strength rather than our own.

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

Merciful God,

**Forgive us in worshipping anyone or anything except You;
keep us faithful.**

**Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships –
with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors.**

**Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness,
rather than words that belittle or destroy.**

Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness.

**Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power,
for You are the God who made us, led us out of slavery,
and brought us into the community of faith.**

**Help us to depend on You alone
and to rest in Your peace.**

In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

***Kyrrie**

(The Leader says)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

(The People says)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

**Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again,
we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one
another! Thanks be to God!**

***Gloria: “O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free” # 209 (verses 5 – 6)**

Extinguishing the Lenten Candles

Anthem: “Come All Who Thirst” – L. Cherubini/H. Hopson

First Lesson: Isaiah 55: 1 – 9

Psalter: Psalm 63: 1 – 8, page 660

***Hymn of Preparation: “Forty Days and Forty Nights” #205**

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 10: 1 – 13

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.

***Prayer of Dedication (In Unison):**

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have poured out your love for us
through the life and death of Jesus Christ.
Teach us to pour out our love for others,
sharing your deep goodness and grace
with a world that is thirsty for new life;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn of Response: “Before Your Cross, O Jesus” #191**

***Benediction**

***Masithi Page 760**

Postlude



Participating in Today’s Service

YOU – the members and ministers in Christ’s family

Music Director	Claire White
Acolyte	Nick Lonsinger
Lay Reader	Becky White
Church Secretary	Christina and Shane Schmitt
Minister	Rev. John Emig

Attendance: 3–16–25 Sunday School: 6 Worship: 30

OUR STEWARDSHIP FOR March 16, 2025

Current	\$545.00
Friday Worship	\$ 33.00
Penn West Academy	\$ 20.00
Plate	\$ 36.00
Sunday School	\$ 19.00
<u>Easter Flowers</u>	<u>\$ 60.50</u>
TOTAL	\$713.50



Carol & Jeff Marlett 3/23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., March 30th	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!

Choir rehearsal will follow worship today.

We continue this Sunday our special Lenten offering for Penn West Academy to “help pay” tuition for students, Bonnie and Christina, who are studying to become licensed ministers! Thank you for support their efforts.

We are extending Easter Flower orders until today. Please make sure to make your order by today if this is your wish.

Many thanks to those who lent a hand to clean up the church’s front port this past Tuesday.

OGHS is next Sunday. This is one of our 5 X 5 special offerings.

Credit card/debit card slips are available.

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.

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:

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.

