



1656 Lincoln Way, McKeesport, PA 15131 + (412) 673-2296 + faithwhiteoak.com

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 8, 2026

The Lamp Is Already Lit



“This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine” (ELW 677). There’s nothing quite like the joyous call and response of a whole congregation singing together the words of this beloved African American spiritual. The text and tune make it very hard to keep any lamps under a bushel basket!

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Many congregations use these words during the rite of Holy Baptism. But “Let *your* light shine” doesn’t imply that the light belongs only to us or to the church. The first chapter of Genesis clarifies this. At the beginning of creation, God speaks light into existence, making light God’s first gift to the whole world. In that light, God creates everything, including humankind, which is made in the divine image, according to God’s likeness.

Living in harmony with God’s word, letting our light shine with “good works” that glorify God, is not about striving for perfection. Because God’s light has existed from the beginning, it is not something we earn or achieve for ourselves. We don’t provide the spark that lights the lamp—it is already lit by God. Our job is to let the light shine. To be light for the world, then, is to be none other than who we have been from the beginning. Therein lies not only the fulfillment of God’s word, but also our own fulfillment as God’s children and light-bearers in the world.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Melanie Thomas
Lector: Kathy Morgan
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman

Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his grandmothers, Marie Nelson and Josephine Bohman.

The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his grandmothers, Marie Nelson and Josephine Bohman.

The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his grandmothers, Marie Nelson and Josephine Bohman.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance Hymn **ELW 665 Rise, Shine, You People!**

Hymn of the day **ELW 673 God, Whose Almighty Word**

Communion Hymns **ELW 510 Word of God, Come Down on Earth**
ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light

Sending Hymn **ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine**

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, stay in your pew, and the Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is a complete and valid reception.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any congregation activities, and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your membership request.

February 1, 2026 Attendance: 33

Bible Study Attendance: 20

Offerings:

Weekly Need: \$3,300.00

February 1, 2026: \$2,095.00

Faith Announcements:

There is a revision copy of the 2026 church directory in the narthex. Please edit your information as needed. Thanks!

Super Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 8 – Once again, we will be collecting a Noisy Offering for Mission Agape. Time to clean out your pocket change! Remember, dollar bills make noise, just not as loud as coins.

Mardi Gras – Pancake and sausage dinner will be Saturday, February 14th, from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. Free and open to the community. No takeout and no delivery. There will be crafts and supplies to make masks. There will be two sign-ups for the dinner in the narthex: one for those helping with setup, cooking, cleaning, serving, and another for those attending. Please invite friends, neighbors, etc.

Coffee Hour- February 15th, after the worship service with Mission Agape! They will provide literature on the programs and services they offer.

Ash and Dash- February 18th, starting at 6 am to 9 am. Walk-ins can come in for ashes from 9 am to 6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday Worship Service will start at 7 pm.

Property Meeting on February 22nd, after the worship service.

Saturday, March 7th, will be the Faith Quilters Quilting Day from 9 am to 2 pm. All are welcome to attend, no experience necessary. Invite your neighbors! We will be working on knotting quilts, laying out tops to be sewn, and pinning the layers together for knotting. Please sign up and bring a covered dish for lunch.

Lenten Project for 2026 will be Bucks for Backpacks! Mission Agape has taken on a backpack program, providing weekend backpacks of food for children within the McKeesport School District. The cost to provide backpacks is \$5 a weekend or \$20 a month. Currently, there are 100 children on this list, which means \$2,000 a month is needed for the backpacks. Requests have been made to Mission Agape to double the number of children, which means \$4,000 a month to cover the costs of the backpacks. Mission Agape plans to work with local legislators to gain support. But we at Faith can help too!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 21st, and April 18th from 4-7 pm. Sign-ups for spaghetti dinners will be posted. Set up, bake sale, servers, kitchen help, kitchen prep, and clean up are all needed to make spaghetti dinners a success.

Field trip opportunity - It's a field trip to Mission Agape to see what they do and the community they serve! Food distributions are on Fridays. We can coordinate a carpool. No date set yet but keep a lookout for the future.

New Gratitude List is located on the bulletin board in the narthex! Pick up a pen and jot down anything that you're feeling grateful for.

We are looking for a used wooden dining room table with several chairs in good condition to create an extra meeting space in the lounge area. Please contact the office or Pastor Wendy if you have one.

Nominating Committee for New Council Members

The following Nominating Committee, chosen at last year's Annual Meeting, will present names for new council members: **Kristen Byzek, Margie Miller, Kristi Howard, and Joyce Thomas.** If you are interested in serving on the council, please get in touch with Pastor Wendy or the Nominating Committee.

Annual Meeting Date: March 1, 2026, after worship.

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!

Understanding Church: Using the Gifts that God Gave You
<https://www.belc.org/podcast/> or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Welcome, Visitors and Guests,

We are glad you are here! We welcome you to participate fully in worship and to engage in all church activities. If you are considering joining as a member or have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Wendy Farone at (412) 443-9122 (c), the Church Office at (412) 673-2296, or email flcpastorwendy@gmail.com. We look forward to speaking with you soon.

Everyone needs a church home and family. We hope to be yours!
Pastor Wendy

Council Meeting: February 19, 2026, at 12:30 pm.

Bible Storytelling Updates!

On February 10th at 10:00 am, we will be reviewing Hebrews 11. The lesson topic is faith

Synod Announcements: (further information at swpasynod.org)

Lutheran Disaster Response Trip

May 3-9, 2026

Camp Lutheridge: Asheville, NC

Our Synod's Lutheran Disaster Response Team will be traveling for a second time for a week of mission work to help restore and rebuild communities across Western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene. This trip is open to adults (18 and over), all experience levels welcome! Cost will be \$200 per person; a deposit of \$100 will be collected at registration to secure your registration. Pastor Roger Steiner is coordinating our registration process and can be reached at 412-913-9391 for questions. **Register by February 28th.**

Save the Date:

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026

Friday, June 12 & Saturday, June 13

In-Person at PennWest California

(Registration Opens March 15)

Synod Youth Mission Trip

July 5-8: Johnstown, PA

Open to youth who have completed grades 6-12, with an opportunity for rising juniors and seniors to serve as Disciple Leaders. Our team will also meet up with the Nebraska Synod youth. More information is coming soon.

Community Announcements:

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church is having its Shrove Tuesday

Pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 17th, from 4-6 pm. All at Faith are welcome to attend!

White Oak Senior Activities

- Chair Yoga**-Every Monday & Wednesday-11:00 am
Cardio Drumming- Tuesdays- Feb 3, 10, 17, & 24-1:00 pm (must pre-register)
Gentle Exercise- Tuesdays- Feb 3, 10, 17, & 24-2:30 pm
Coffee Hour- Thursdays- Feb 15 & 29- 9:30 pm
Monthly Meeting- Wednesday, Feb 11th at 2:00 pm- Motown sounds by tenor vocalist Brian Mahan

Prayer List January - March 2026

<u>Nikki</u> Amhurst	<u>Teresa</u> M
<u>Katie</u> Bachinger	<u>Berty</u> McMillen
<u>Becky</u> Ball	<u>Georgina</u> McMarlin
<u>Jean</u> Bickerstaff	<u>Marlene</u> Newman
<u>Jean</u> Bodenlos	<u>Hanna</u> Pitchford
<u>Barry</u> D	<u>Helen</u> Pula
<u>Kara</u> Eaton	<u>Corey</u> Rhodes
<u>Rose</u> Gombas	<u>Tracy</u> Scott
<u>Heather</u> Grantz	<u>Sandy</u> Seitz
<u>Bill</u> Grimm	<u>Maxine</u> Smith
<u>Jerry</u> Groves	<u>Steven</u> T
<u>Eric</u> Harshman	<u>Patty</u> Warnick
<u>Renee</u> K	<u>Linda</u> Weese
<u>Ken</u> K	<u>Theresa</u> Zell
<u>Ellio</u> Keiser	<u>Nick</u>
<u>Nancy</u> Kimling	<u>Filapose Family</u>
<u>Bill</u> Kimling	<u>Quinn Family</u>

*Please email flcwhiteoak@gmail.com for any additions or removals from this list.

Upcoming Commemorations

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs

Saturday, February 14, 2026

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.