



300 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

*A Congregation of the New England Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Pastor
The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs

Minister of Music
Mijin Choi

Office Administrator
Robin Aldieri

May 3, 2020

An Abundant Life

Abundant life is promised to those who follow Jesus. But what is meant by abundant life? Some Christians, and much of contemporary American culture, interpret an abundant life to mean the “good life” of many fine things, an opulent lifestyle. Much of our economy and leisure time revolves around consumerism—shopping and buying things which we hope will make us happier and our lives better. But an abundance of things does not necessarily lead to an abundant life.

What does Jesus mean when he says that he came so that we may have an abundant life? Psalm 23 provides us with a good illustration of what Jesus is promising to his followers. The psalm imagines an abundant life not in material terms but in relational terms. An abundant life is one lived in the presence of God, in the company of the Lord. Whether one is in green pastures or the darkest valley, there is nothing to want, because God is present. We are in the gracious and generous care of our Lord through times of material abundance and in times of want and scarcity. This relationship between our Lord and us who are his followers is a relationship with one who knows us abundantly, who knows us by name, and who knows what we truly need to be fulfilled. The image of Jesus as our shepherd reminds us that he is with us at all times, and our relationship with him provides us all we need.

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Washington Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Pastor, The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs Minister of Music, Mijin Choi

May 3, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

P Presiding Minister **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation

Welcome! Peace be with you. While the world is addressing the COVID 19 pandemic, keep your focus on God our Father in heaven who will never leave you nor forsake you. Please do not take any unnecessary risks and wash your hands before you leave your house, when you enter your house, after using the rest room, after touching your face, after touching someone else. Sanitizing your phone is a good idea also. When you feel afraid pray this prayer: "When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you, Lord." (Psalm 56:3)

If you would like to receive Faith Lutheran Church's monthly newsletters, email the church office at churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org. If you would like to join our Zoom online worship services, please email the church office or call us at 860-347-6068 and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you.

For pastoral emergencies, please text or call Pastor Cathy Rohrs (pronounced "roars") at 717-321-6799.

May God bless you and keep you.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Lee Kozlowski
SOLOIST: Robert Cinnante
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting

Gathering Hymn:

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" ELW #385

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.
Text © 1952, ren. 1986 Hymns *Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in the font,
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Kyrie

"In peace, let us pray..." ELW pg. 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

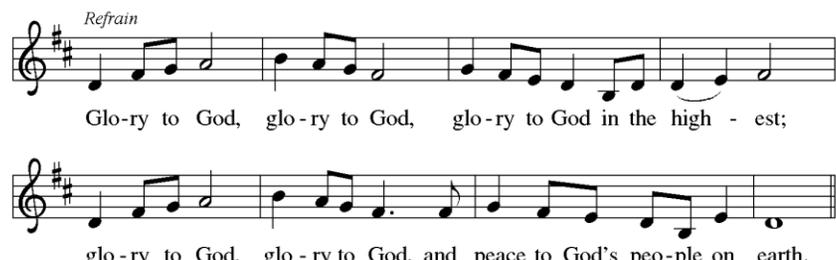
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God...” ELW pg., 213

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

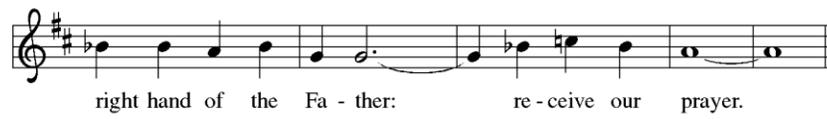
1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



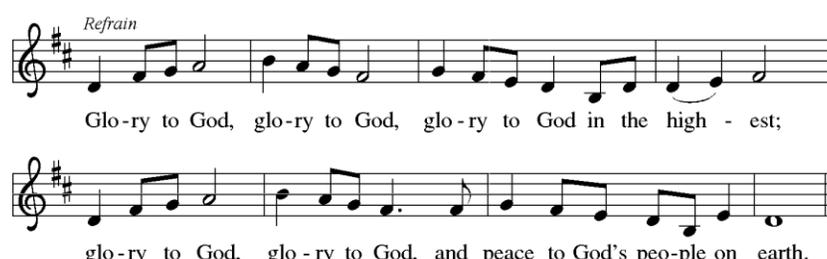
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

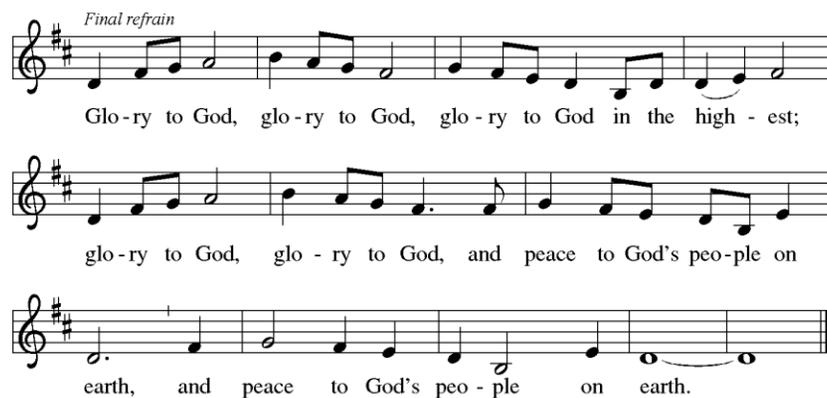
Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on
earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

☐ Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

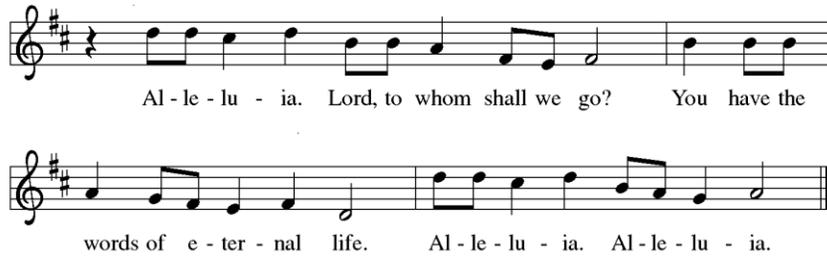
²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John, the First Chapter.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

☐ Here ends the Gospel.

☑ **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “The King of Love, My Shepherd Is” ELW #502

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

We Offer To God

Apostles Creed

**☒ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**
Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

☐ In these days of both sorrow and joy, we are uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection. We join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

☐ Shepherding God, we thank you for the new online ministries of your church. Enrich the work of technicians, musicians, and assisting ministers in directing our thoughts to you. Lord, in your mercy,
☒ hear our prayer.

☐ Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate all the food systems that keep our society running well; for local farms, for grocery workers, for convenience store clerks, and truckers. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ hear our prayer.

☐ Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ hear our prayer.

☐ Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering *especially...* Lord, in your mercy,

☒ hear our prayer.

☐ Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations, especially the local work of St. Vincent de Paul, Amazing Grace, and Welcome Table Wednesday. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ hear our prayer.

☐ Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death, *especially ...* We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ hear our prayer.

☐ With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

☒ Amen.

Sharing the Peace

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☒ And also with you.

Offering

Opportunities for giving: Please put your offering in our *locked mailbox*, mail your offering to the church, give from your *online banking* app, or use our church *website* www.faiithelcamiddletown.org to donate by clicking on the “donate here” button.

Musical Offering “*God Save the King*” by Beethoven

Offering Song: “*I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*” ELW #860

- 1 I’m so glad Jesus lifted me.
I’m so glad Jesus lifted me.
I’m so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Text: African American spiritual

The Offering Prayer

A Let us pray.
Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.
C Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

P Let us pray.
Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of our self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; though Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

Benediction

☐ May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn: “*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*” ELW #536

1 God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,
till we meet, (till we meet again,
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,
till we meet, (till we meet,
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904, alt.

Dismissal

☐ Go in peace. Remember the poor.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Parts of the service reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress; from Words for Worship, copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress; from Lutheran Book of Worship copyright 1978, Augsburg Fortress license #3014-L; from Words for Worship: Year B 2014-2015 copyright 2014, Augsburg Fortress; from Graphics for Worship copyright 1996 Augsburg Fortress license #3016-G. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY, May 10, 2020

ASSISTING MINISTER: Faith Twining
SOLOIST: Robert Cinnante
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Lessons & Psalm

Acts 7:55-60

(The martyrdom of Stephen)

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

(God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts)

John 14:1-14

(Christ the way, truth, and life)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(*events are presented via Zoom)

Sunday, May 3	9:00 a.m.	Worship*
Monday, May 4	7:30 p.m.	AA*
Wednesday, May 6	6:00 p.m.	WTW To Go
Friday, May 8	7:30 p.m.	AA*
	10:00 p.m.	Until the Wheels Fall Off NA*
Saturday, May 9	5:30 p.m.	Basically Lit NA*
Sunday, May 10	9:00 a.m.	Worship*

Prayer Requests

Worshippers are encouraged to speak the names of loved ones in need of prayer during the Prayer of the Church. You are also encouraged to remember all the following in your prayers. Names can be added to the prayer list by informing the church office once permission has been received from the person being added to the prayer list. O Lord, hear our prayers!

Mission Partners: Genesis Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT and Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, MI.

Mission Supporters: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, New England Synod Bishop James Hazelwood, Director of Evangelical Mission Kim Bergstrand, and Associate to the Bishop Mark Winzler.

Church Council: Donna Barney (Secretary); Ellen Cassady; Margaret D'Aquila; Mark Diehl (Assistant Treasurer); Heather Karpe; Lee Kozlowski (Vice President); Tom Kugeman (Treasurer); Steve McDermott (President); Pastor Cathy S. Rohrs; Bill Tacke (Financial Secretary); and John Twining.

Prayer Team: Donna Barney, Margaret D'Aquila, Sue Girard, Janet Hayn; Liz Helbig, Heather Karpe, Rick Karpe, Carolyn Krenz, Tom Kugeman and Janet Wright.

Health Issues: Rich Radziwon, Beverly Radziwon, David Gionfriddo; Fred Rau; Rich Radziwon; Earl Woike; and Giulio Giuffrida as well as our fellow Americans residing in Flint, MI who are still living with inadequate water quality, our NA and AA attendees, ACES families, and the people of United Pentecostal Church.

Life issues: The family and friends of Beverly Pitkin, Ruth Anderson, Stephanie Wagar, Anthony Matthews, Winnie May, Ed Blasco, Joseph McDermott, Archie Smith, David Albanese, Megan Brancifort.

Please remember Faith Lutheran Church in your estate and funeral donation planning.

Purpose of Faith Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our new church is to unite unconditionally, sharing God's love through our growing faith and mission with everyone in the name of Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles of Faith Lutheran Church

- Committed to serve*
- Forward thinking, future oriented*
- Welcoming*
- Guided by faith*
- Fun, relevant, cool—a place people want to be*

Our Church's Strategic Direction

*Addressing Hunger in Middletown;
Sharing Knowledge;
Serving & Empowering Youth & Seniors;
How? Coordinating assets in our Community to meet needs;
and Communicating about resources & events.*

Contact Information

Website: www.faiithelcamiddletown.org

Church Phone: (860) 347-6068

Church Email: churchoffice@faiithelcamiddletown.org

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs, Pastor

Please call or text Pastor Rohrs - cell phone: (717) 321-6799 or

email: pastorcathyrohrs@gmail.com