



8651 Boston State Road, Boston, NY 14025 • 716-941-3529 • info@faithunitedchurchucc.com • faithunitedchurchucc.com

Newsletter for April 2026

Pastor's Ponderings

Some of my most vivid memories of church as a young boy in the 1960s are of Easter Sunday. Attached to those memories are a mixture of feelings: discomfort, impatience, anticipation, pleasurable enjoyment, comfort, belonging. Gathering in the church parking lot at sunrise, already shivering before the service even started, I remember being impatient for the promised hot chocolate and donuts after the service. Shifting my meager weight and lifting one foot and then the other, I stood on the cold pavement in my polished church shoes, a clip-on tie clipped at my neck, my hands pocketed uncomfortably in my buttoned-up coat, as the preacher stammered on interminably over my head. And yet I felt no objection to being there, with my family, in the gathered crowd, amid the familiar congregation, undergoing this shared ordeal. As my now 66-year-old self looks back at my 6-year-old self, it strikes me that I did not then understand or have any real interest in the meaning of Jesus' resurrection. For that matter, I don't think I understood death as such, or life, really. Certainly, I did not understand what it meant to have Christian faith. But I did understand I was part of a church community, I was part of something beyond myself, and beyond my family. I belonged to a community of people who stood out in the cold on an early spring morning to mark some special occasion that had to do with some deep and deeply important meaning of life, and then had donuts and hot drinks together while smiling at each other.

And now, after 60 additional years of life experience—after 60 more Easters, after 10 years of full-time study in Christian theology, and 9 years of teaching in a post-graduate theological institution, and 16 years as a pastor—as my 66-year-old about-to-retire self reflects on my now 66-year-old self, it strikes me that not all that much has changed since I was 6. I understand and value that I have lived my life deeply emersed in a community of people trying to attend to deeply important matters and trying to live in meaningful relationship with that which is most important or ultimately important in life (the theologian Paul Tillich called God our “ultimate concern” and pointed out that whatever is of “ultimate concern” in one's life is in fact functioning as one's God). But I still don't think I really understand resurrection, or death, or life, or Christian faith. I know I'm expected to understand these things, and I sometimes sound as though I understand these things. But what I truly understand is that these are not things to be understood. These are things to be experienced, and they are best experienced in community. And sometimes they are best experienced by standing uncomfortably out in the cold very early in the morning.

What are some of your most memorable church experiences as a child?

What are some of your most memorable experiences as a part of Faith Church?

I think one of the experiences I will most remember from my time at Faith is the Maundy Thursday service, when we gather in solemn memory and reflection on the final days of Jesus' life.

As I have gotten older it has become more and more meaningful to me that Jesus', God as one of us humans, struggled and suffered, and experienced anguish and pain in the extreme. In the Garden of Gethsemane, while surrendering to the will of God, the Gospel of Luke tells us Jesus prayed and pleaded that he would not have to go through what he was about to go through and "in his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). According to the Gospel of Matthew, in his suffering and anguish on the cross just before he died Jesus cried out "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). On Easter, Jesus rose victorious over the powers of death and darkness, but during his life, especially in his final years and days and hours, he experienced the very depths of human suffering—physical pain, mental anguish, spiritual despair. God in Christ has experienced these things—*does* experience these things and therefore understands and has deep compassion for these experiences. Sometimes it's good to let this realization settle in as the darkness falls and surrounds us. Sometimes it's good to just sit in silence for a time and allow the suffering and the compassion of our God and of our world and ourselves be what they are.

Blessings to all,

Ted

News about our neighbors and friends

- Barb Fink is currently at Elderwood in Hamburg and appreciates your cards and prayers. Her address is: 5775 Maelou Drive, Hamburg, NY 14075.
- Janet Taber is at home. She appreciates our prayers and calls. Cards may be sent to her home address: 5845 Scherff Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127.
- Eleanor Kraft is at Elderwood Assisted Living. Her address: Elderwood Assisted Living, 76 Buffalo Street Apartment 124, Hamburg, NY 14075
- Sally Schutt is now living with her son D.J. and his wife at 6181 Rice Road, Boston, NY 14025.



CONCERNS & PRAYERS



For peace in our country and the world, for our military, for those whose needs we may not know. For those who have lost loved ones recently and are grieving.

For Vickie Bieger, Stephen Dearth, Barb Fink, Scot Kish, Eleanor Kraft, Carol Mueller, Claudia Renzi, Leroy Rockwood, Chuck & Sheila Recktenwalt, Tom & Marilyn Rucker, Joe Ryan, Sally Schutt, Janet Taber, and family & friends of Gary Cook. **Those in the Military:** Jacob Braun, Zachary Braun, Justin Buczek, Teagan Partridge, Caydan Skinner, Justin Slighter, Jamie-Lynn Smerka, Mary Solak, Joe Solak, Justin Slighter, Aaron Wellman, and Mark Williams.

Prayer Concerns

Please email your prayer concerns to Pastor Ted
(pastor@faithunitedchurchucc.com)
or stop by the church office when it is open and write your concerns on the prayer request sheet in the narthex.





Update on Sunday school activities... - Cris Palczak, Sunday School Superintendent

The children participated in a Palm Processional on Palm Sunday. The children enjoyed themselves. We hope it put a smile on your face.



No Sunday School on Easter and Memorial Day. The last day of Sunday school is May 31st.

Vacation Bible School is June 7th and 14th.



Farewell to Pastor Ted

As we prepare for Pastor Ted’s retirement, a memory book is being compiled. This will include events that happened while Ted was pastor at Faith Church. If anyone would like to share a memory, a picture, or just wish Ted luck in his new phase of life, forms will be available on the table across from the door to the sanctuary starting in the middle of March. All forms must be returned by May 10th (Mother’s Day). Forms should be returned to the church office.

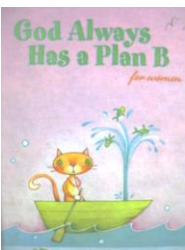
*If you are sending a photo, please remember to send a copy as photos will not be returned. Also, if you do not have the form to fill out, any suitable paper will do.



FELLOWSHIP

Men’s Group – In March the Men’s Group changed clocks ahead one hour, inspected the fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and emergency lighting. The Men’s Group meets on Saturday, April 11th at 9:00 a.m. As always we will talk about the small tasks at hand and then proceed to complete the tasks if possible! Then we gather back in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, pastries and conversation. If you have any questions, feel free to speak to Bruce Lounsbury on a Sunday morning or call him at 716-662-7357.

Women’s Support – There will not be a women’s support group meeting for April, but all who are able, please help with the chicken BBQ on April 18th.



Library - No matter how much you plan, sometimes things go wrong. On to plan B (and sometimes C). God knows this. In the book God Always Has a Plan B For Women, by Sarah M. Hupp, inspiration can be found to help lessen the load and stress that comes with having to change plans.

This book can be found in the Church Library, located in the Gathering Room.



EVENTS

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd 7:00 p.m. communion service.

Sunday, April 5th – **Easter** Communion service. No Sunday school.

Saturday, April 11th – **Men’s Group** meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 12th – There will be a **congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, April 12th** for the purpose of discussing and approving the expenditure of approximately \$2,900 for installation of two additional windows at the parsonage which were overlooked in the original agreement with Comfort Windows. All the other windows on the lower level of the house were replaced on March 4 & 5. This additional expense, as with all the other windows, is being covered by individuals in the church and will not come out of the church’s budget. Congregational approval is required according to our bylaws because the expense exceeds 2% of the annual budget.

Tuesday, April 14th – **Board Meeting** at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 18th – **Chicken BBQ**

Sunday, April 26th – **Senior Recognition Sunday, Stewardship Committee** will sponsor coffee hour following worship.



“Senior Recognition Sunday”

April 26th will be “Senior Recognition Sunday” when we honor long-time members as well long lives and marriages. Please help us be sure our list is complete by putting your name on the list on the bulletin board outside the church office or contacting our Church Secretary Angella Bennett (716) 941-3529, secretary@faithunitedchurchucc.com) if you have been a member of Faith Church for 50 or more years, or married for 50 or more years, or 80 or more years old.



NEWS

Saturday, May 2nd – **Men’s Group** meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 3rd – Communion service.

Sunday, May 10th – **Mother’s Day**.

Thursday, May 14th – Ascension Day.

Tuesday, May 19th – **Board Meeting** at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 21st – **Game Night** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Saturday, May 23rd – **Bob Tills Memorial** Service, and reception at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, May 24th – No Sunday school.

Monday, May 25th – **Town of Boston** parade.

Sunday, May 31st – Communion service. **Pastor Ted’s reception** following service.

Last day of **Sunday School**.





Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday is March 29th. Our 10:15 a.m. worship service will be a festive commemoration of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. join us in the Fellowship Hall for a somber service recollecting the Last Supper. There will be a short skit, and Communion will be served at tables.

Good Friday, April 3rd, there will be a 7:00 p.m. service at Churchill United Methodist Church for those who wish to attend.

Easter Sunday, April 5th, 10:15 a.m. worship, no Sunday school. Come and celebrate the Easter Resurrection!



**Quiet Your Mind,
Find Your Peace**
Intro to Meditation : Compassion

Join to learn different methods to be present & center yourself in peace with compassion .
Learn the joys of sitting with yourself, taking a pause from the outside world.
We will practice observing our body & mind, bringing in self-love & love for all around you.

FREE
Mondays 7pm-8pm
Starting March 16th - April 20th
With Katherine

Register anytime during the program.
To register or ask questions email Quietyourmind.Km@gmail.com

Follow on Instagram for updates!
[@QuietYourMindFindYourPeace](https://www.instagram.com/quietyourmindfindyourpeace)





Located at Faith United Church
8651 Boston State Rd. Boston NY



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 – Adaline LaVenture | 18 – Marcia Herren |
| 2 – Sam Partridge | Chuck Bratek |
| 4 – Heather McEwan | 21 – Carissa Allbritton |
| Brian Logel | Pastor Ted Brelsford |
| 7 – Dominic Allbritton | 23 – Adam Plewik |
| 12 – Genevive LaVenture | 27 – Kyle Mueller |
| 14 – Josephine Palmiero | 26 – Gail Berger |
| 15 – Linda Smerka | Shannon Cook |
| Cris Palczak | Emma Giordana |
| 16 – Alania Muraco | 28 – Sean Forney |
| 17 – Helen Mueller | 29 – Emily Powley |
| Michaela Mueller | 30 – Betsy Phillips |

Happy Anniversary To:

- 25 – Kyle & Lee Cool
- 30 – Brad & Shelly Pyle

Congratulations to all!

BOARD MEETING Recap

March 17, 2026

Consent Agenda

The meeting was opened at 7:02 p.m. by church board president Cathy Kobel. Ted led us in prayer to start the meeting.

A motion was made by Corky and seconded by Zach to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2026 meeting – All in favor, minutes approved.


Discussion Agenda

Reports: Financial Secretary's Report given by Corky: Income for February 2026: \$19,603.85. The income included multiple yearly pledges paid in full.

Treasurer's Report given by Cathy: Expenses for February 2026: \$15,111.39.

\$2,209.57 was given from the Endowment Fund to buy the fireproof file cabinet. This is an unbudgeted expense and not reflected on the Itemized Budget report.

A motion was made by Tim, seconded by Ken to approve all reports. All in Favor, all reports approved.

-  **New Board Member Orientation** - new board member packets – a reminder to sign papers in the packet and get them returned to Ted.

Old Business:

• **Search Committee Update to include interim pastor pay expectations**

The committee will be meeting with Rev. Gary Ferner April 12th from 3 – 5 p.m.

We received a lengthy set of guidelines from the conference about interim pastors. There is a possibility of having Rev. Lynn Morgan as a “bridge” minister between Ted's retirement and having an interim pastor. Costs for an interim pastor estimated at \$400/week – ½ to ¾ time or having supply pastors for \$150/ week who would just do a sermon.

• **Parsonage repair committee** – The new windows were installed March 4th – 5th.

Many thanks to the anonymous donor who paid for the windows through a designated donation. Ken Ottaway and Bob Bishop were able to get several minor repairs at the parsonage completed while windows were being installed.

• **Church Refreshing Committee** - Gail has made a list of suggested repairs or upgrades. The sanctuary light fixtures are at the top of the list as they are original to the church and repairs may not be able to be made. Many of the other items on the wish list can be done inexpensively by the Men's Group or other volunteers.

• **Chicken BBQ** – Saturday, April 18th – 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. or until sold out Tickets are \$15.00 See Kevin Biddle for tickets or to volunteer.

• **Pastor's retirement party – date update and planning** – Sunday, May 31st from 12 noon – 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is also the last day of Sunday school until September. Gail will handle the publicity – get info to Zenia to get on Facebook.

• **Easter music** – Experienced organist Dan Schroeder will be filling in for Robin (who will be out of town as per plans she made before being hired). Dan came with some impressive resume.

New Business:

· **Roof & gutter damage** – After the high winds and very stormy winter, there are some shingles blowing off and sliding off the church roof. Ken Ottaway and Bob Bishop have been in contact with the contractor that put the roof on. They will be meeting with him later this week. There is also some ice damage to the gutters.

· **Piano** – While having the piano in the sanctuary tuned for \$150, it was brought to our attention that there are some repairs that need to be done regarding – sticking keys. The repair estimate is \$200 - \$300. Zach made a motion to spend the money to make the piano operational. Gail seconded. All in favor, motion passed,

· **Congregation feedback** – There have been a few questions asked of board members by congregants:

- Will summer services be at 9:30 this year? After discussion the board will check attendance records from last year to see where more people attended – at 9:30 or 10:30.
- Will summer services be held jointly with Churchill Memorial as was done in the past with services at only Churchill or only Faith UCC? Again, after discussion, this might be difficult to do this year with having an interim who hasn't even been hired yet. We would like to do services with Churchill like the upcoming Maudy Thursday service and Good Friday service whenever possible.

Email phishing – Ted reported some phishing that has come in to both Angella and Ted – spoofing names looking for the church directory. Zach is working to be able to trace the emails.

Phone problems – The church's phone line is not working. Spectrum has been contacted. They will be coming out this week to check the problem.

Maudy Thursday Service - Ted shared that he invited Good Shepherd Lutheran (as well as Churchill & Coldon United Methodist Churches) to come to this service. They responded that they would have some people attending.

Policies change – at last months' meeting, it was brought up to have the fellowship Hall rules and form added to the Policies document. Ted has been working on this and will send out to board members.

Parsonage windows – there were 2 windows that didn't get replaced when all the other windows were replaced, a garage window that had gotten overlooked and the kitchen window that had been replaced, not sure how long ago. Now the kitchen window is leaking. An offer has been made by 3 families to donate the funds to replace the windows. Quotes for the replacement cost have been gotten \$2,877.07. Since the cost of the windows exceed the rules for spending, there will need to be a congregational meeting to approve the expense. A congregational meeting is planned for Sunday, April 12th to vote on getting the windows installed. Cathy will make the announcements about the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Ted closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meet our new board



Pictured: Tim Plewik, Zach Munger, Frank "Corky" Forney, Ken Ottaway, Gail Berger, Katherine Meckes, Mary Beth Dauer, Ginny Taber, and Linda Bishop.
Missing: Cathy Kobel

February 2026		TREASURER'S MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY					
Operating Fund	Start Balance	Receipts	Interest	Total Income	Expenses	End Balance	
Current Account	15,104.22	19,475.85		34,580.07	15,111.39	19,468.68	
Benevolent Account	265.44	128.00		393.44		393.44	
Operating Fund Total	15,369.66	19,603.85	0.00	34,973.51	15,111.39	19,862.12	
2027 Prepaid Pledges						0.00	
Other Funds (not included in Operating Fund or Budget)						0.00	
WACIC Grant (Griefshare, Grace for the Journey) \$2643	1,489.71	0.00		1,489.71		1,489.71	
Special Benevolent	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00	
Major Repairs Long Term Fund	63,675.50	0.00		63,675.50		63,675.50	
Memorial Fund	7,429.79	0.00		7,429.79		7,429.79	
Other Funds Total	72,595.00	0.00		72,595.00	0.00	72,595.00	
Total of All Funds	87,964.66	19,603.85	0.00	107,568.51	15,111.39	92,457.12	
Asset Accounts - Evans Bank - Checking, Savings, CDs	87,964.66	19,603.85	0.00	107,568.51	15,111.39	92,457.12	
Weekly Income	2/1/2026	2/8/2026	2/15/2026	2/22/2026		Total	
Current Account	1,715.00	14,368.85	2,069.00	1,323.00		19,475.85	
Benevolent Account			95.00	33.00		128.00	
Operating Fund Total	1,715.00	14,368.85	2,164.00	1,356.00	0.00	19,603.85	
2027 Prepaid Pledges						0.00	
PayPal fees						0.00	
WACIC Grant (Griefshare, Grace for the Journey) \$2643						0.00	
Special Benevolent						0.00	
Major Repairs Long Term Fund						0.00	
Memorial Fund						0.00	
Total Weekly Income	1,715.00	14,368.85	2,164.00	1,356.00	0.00	19,603.85	

ITEMIZED BUDGET AND EXPENSE REPORT										2026	
	BUDGET AMOUNT	EXPENSES January	EXPENSES February	EXPENSES March	EXPENSES April	EXPENSES May	EXPENSES June	EXPENSES July	% Spent to Date	Remaining Budget Amount	Totals
CURRENT ACCOUNT											
1. Pastor's Salary	39,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00						33%	26,400.00	13,200.00
2. Pastor's Medical	2,000.00	500.00	500.00						50%	1,000.00	1,000.00
3. Pastor's Travel	400.00	208.60							52%	191.40	208.60
4. Pastor's Professional Expenses and Continuing Education	500.00		125.00						25%	375.00	125.00
5. Pastor's Pension 14% of salary	3,000.00	631.17	631.17						42%	1,737.66	1,262.34
6. Pastor's Disability 1.5% of salary	150.00	67.63	67.63						90%	14.74	135.26
7. Parsonage Utilities - Electric, Gas, Water	2,700.00	365.37	411.11						29%	1,923.52	776.48
8. Supply Pastor	1,500.00		150.00						10%	1,350.00	150.00
9. Organist and Choir Director	9,600.00	800.00	800.00						17%	8,000.00	1,600.00
10. Church Office Secretary (18.00/hr.)	15,000.00	1,026.00	1,140.00						14%	12,834.00	2,166.00
11. Church Sexton (\$300 per month)	3,600.00	300.00	300.00						17%	3,000.00	600.00
12. Social Security and Medicare	2,600.00	736.70							28%	1,863.30	736.70
13. Workers' Compensation and Disability Insurance	2,000.00								0%	2,000.00	-
14. Church & Office Supplies	2,000.00	580.35	39.38						31%	1,380.27	619.73
15. Church School Supplies and Program	500.00								0%	500.00	-
16. Music Supplies	200.00	-							0%	200.00	-
17. Sexton Supplies	400.00								0%	400.00	-
18. Church Fellowship/Invitation Team	200.00								0%	200.00	-
19. Church Utilities	9,000.00	1,552.66	2,308.89						43%	5,138.45	3,861.55
20. Insurance (Fire, Theft, Liability)	13,500.00	3,333.00							25%	10,167.00	3,333.00
21. Taxes - County and Town	2,500.00								0%	2,500.00	-
22. Maintenance and Repair	2,250.00								0%	2,250.00	-
23. Grounds Maintenance - Snowplowing and Yard Maintenance	4,200.00								0%	4,200.00	-
24. Our Church's Wider Mission	1,500.00								0%	1,500.00	-
25. Churches in Covenant	750.00								0%	750.00	-
26. Dunkirk Conference Center	500.00								0%	500.00	-
27. Love INC	400.00								0%	400.00	-
28. Bread of Life Outreach	400.00								0%	400.00	-
29. Boston Valley School	400.00								0%	400.00	-
30. Colden Elementary	400.00								0%	400.00	-
31. Plymouth Crossroads	750.00								0%	750.00	-
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	122,500	16,701.48	13,073.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32%	92,725	29,774.66

New Windows!

Fifteen windows were replaced at the parsonage on March 3rd and 4th. A big thank you to the anonymous donor who covered this expense, which was approved by the congregation last fall. This is a great improvement to the house since the old windows (more than 60 years old) were in bad shape and these new windows will make the house more comfortable and more energy efficient. In the process of replacing these windows two other windows were discovered that should be replaced, one in the garage and one over the kitchen window, which is newer than the other windows that were in the house but is now leaking. There will be a congregational meeting after worship on April 12th to approve installation of these two windows. This additional expense, as with all the other windows, is being covered by individuals in the church and will not come out of the church's budget.



APRIL GREETERS 2026

Date	Elevator Entrance	Main Entrance
April 5	Mary Beth Dauer Herb Berlin, Linda & Bobby Bishop, Kathy & Bruce Lounsbury	Lorey Delia
April 12	Kathy & Bruce Lounsbury Herb Berlin, Bobby Bishop	Linda Bishop
April 19	Donna Lisowski Herb Berlin, Linda & Bobby Bishop, Kathy & Bruce Lounsbury	Lois Thurnherr
April 26	Sandy Jordan Herb Berlin, Bobby Bishop, Kathy & Bruce Lounsbury	Leslie Brelsford

Please call the church office, 716-941-3529, or Lois T., 716-941-3248, should you need to change the schedule. We appreciate you taking time to share your love of Christ with others by welcoming them to our worship service.



Missions

The mission team thanks you for your generous donations for VALOR, an organization that helps veterans.

Christian Education

The Christian Education meeting was held on March 22nd following the worship service. Representatives from the Women's Group, Men's Group, Health Group, Library, Historian, Newspaper publicity, Dunkirk, and the Sunday School attended and gave their updated reports. See Gail Berger if you have any questions or concerns.



Publicity: Pictures taken at church events are often used for publicity, especially on the church's website. If you do not want you or your child's picture used, please contact the church office. It will be assumed that it is okay to use your picture if we do not hear from you.

PHISHING EMAILS

Can you spot a fake phishing email? Recently Pastor and Angella have received phishing emails requesting information that look like they are being sent from a member of the congregation. These are commonly referred to as “phishing” emails.

A phishing email is a fraudulent message designed to look as if it comes from a legitimate source, such as a bank, workplace, trusted service or in this case a trusted contact, aiming to steal sensitive data. These scams often use urgent language, malicious links or attachments to manipulate you into divulging sensitive data or passwords.

Here is how to avoid becoming a victim of a phishing email.

1

INSPECT THE SENDER'S EMAIL ADDRESS

Phishing involves using email addresses that contain suspicious elements to target victims, even sometimes spoofing a well-known site or brand. Be on the lookout for changed or added words or characters, as well as misspelled words within a domain name.

2

EXAMINE THE MESSAGE'S GREETING AND TONE

Be wary of emails that utilize a generic greeting and an urgent tone. Phishing emails target many people at once and implore the recipient to take immediate action, usually without a personalized opening line.

3

LOOK FOR VERIFIABLE SENDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Avoid responding to emails that don't contain any return contact information for the sender, such as a phone number, email address, or office location.

4

DON'T SEND SENSITIVE INFORMATION VIA EMAIL

Even if the email has an urgent tone, never divulge confidential information in reply to an email. Cyber criminals leverage social engineering techniques to obtain personal data like names, addresses, banking information, and more that can be used for fraudulent activity.

5

AVOID CLICKING ON UNEXPECTED LINKS

Don't click on links that come from unfamiliar email senders or organizations. You may be redirected to a website or start a download that can compromise your data or infect your device.

6

AVOID OPENING UNTRUSTWORTHY EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

Avoid opening email attachments from untrustworthy senders or simply to satisfy your curiosity. Suspicious attachments can be carriers of malware and ransomware payloads that can corrupt your data and harm your device.