



The Beacon

“See, I am making all things new.”
Revelation 21:5

The Newsletter of
St. Paul’s
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
McConnellsburg

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon

APRIL 2014

Deadline for March News **Wednesday, April 23**
Church Pick-up/Email **Sunday, April 27**
Postal **Monday, April 28**

If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with your name to: mcbucc@embarqmail.com and help us save paper and postage.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 17: Worship around the table with Holy Communion and a simple meal at St. Trinity, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18: McConnellsburg Community service at St. Paul Lutheran church with area pastors preaching on the Seven Last Words of Christ, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Fort Loudon Community service at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.

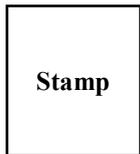
Please join us to meditate on what Jesus Christ has done and continues to do for us.



This month: **April 22 is Earth Day!**
These are some tips to help save the planet AND help you save money!
Adjust thermostat by three degrees (down in winter, up in summer).
Turn off lights and electronics when leaving the room.
Set refrigerator to warmest setting.
Install low-flow showerheads.
Don't run water while brushing teeth or shaving.
Stop buying disposable plates, cups, utensils.
Buy used clothes, books, toys, instead of new.
Drink tap water instead of bottled water.
Share newspapers and magazines with your neighbors.
Insulate your water heater and windows.
Make your own nontoxic cleaning products with baking soda and vinegar.
Avoid short trips in your car.



The Fort Loudon-McConnellsburg Charge
of the
United Church of Christ
228 North 2nd Street
McConnellsburg, PA 17233



Message from Your Pastor
“See, I am making all things new.”
Revelation 21:5

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was touched by the following statement I read recently:

“I grew up with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones.

Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away.

I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dish-towel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. **Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.**

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more.

Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away...never to return. So... While we have it..... it's best we love it.... And care for it... And fix it when it's broken..... And heal it when it's sick.

This is true. For marriage..... And old cars..... And children with bad report cards..... And dogs with bad hips.... And aging parents..... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with.

There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special..... And so, we keep them close!”

This month, we will be celebrating at Easter that God makes all things new: God takes a wounded, dead body and brings it back to life. God takes broken spirits and heals them. God takes despair and turns it into hope. God takes sinners and gives them another chance.

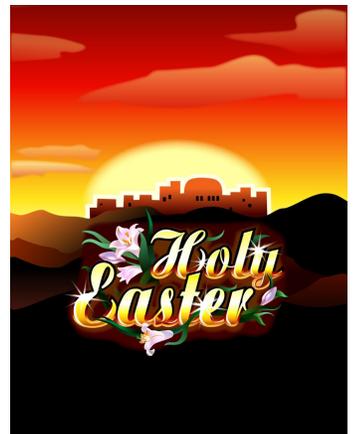
There are so many layers to taking something old and making it new: From the environmental aspect of saving resources, to the practical aspect of saving money, Jesus’ appeal of giving that money to someone who has next to nothing – and the spiritual aspect of a God who can take a dead end and turn it into an open door.

What if we actually lived like that, here and now? What if we valued the things and people that we have in our lives, instead of giving up so quickly and throwing them away?

“Old” does not have to mean lifeless or worthless. Some things and people actually get better with age. And if they don’t, we could just love them anyway. Like God loves us anyway.

If we live as Easter people, God will make us new. God will never give up trying to lead us away from death, and on the path to a new life.

Yours in His Name,
 Pastor Valeria.



Lenten Studies: Flunking Sainthood

So far, we have discussed Fasting, Lectio Divina (a meditative approach to reading the Bible), and Simplicity. Our study continues with a focus on Centering Prayer and Generosity. We will meet at Trinity on **April 6**, and St. Paul's on **April 13**, at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



Easter Sunrise Services

The **Fort Loudon** Community Easter Sunrise service will be held at Freedom Lighthouse Ministries, at 6:30 a.m. – outside, weather permitting. A light breakfast will follow.

The **McConnellsburg** Community Sunrise service will also be held at 6:30 a.m., at St. Paul's, outside - weather permitting. Bring your lawn chairs. A light breakfast will be served.

*Experience the Son
rise!*



Easter Egg Hunt at St. Paul's

On Easter Sunday, April 20, all children are invited for an egg hunt at the church, following our 11:00 a.m. worship.

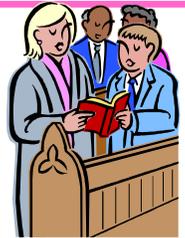
Please invite your family and friends to join us in celebrating LIFE!

Getting Ready for St. Paul's Yard Sale

St. Paul's Yard Sale will be held **Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16**, from 8 – 5:30. Donations of items will gladly be accepted starting in May. Keep this in mind when doing your spring cleaning! We will also be selling baked goods.

Hymn Requests

Is there a hymn that you love and would like to sing during worship? Pastor Valeria is always open for suggestions. Email or call, or write down your request on Sunday morning. You may suggest a certain Sunday (birthday, anniversary, or any day), to ensure that you will be present when your request is sung.



Christian Social Services of Fulton County

Christian Social Services, located at 416 Rear Lincoln Way East (behind H&R Block), is asking for donations of the following items that cannot be purchased with food stamps, to be distributed once a month to those in need:

Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers (infant, child and adult), feminine products, laundry detergent, fabric softener, deodorant, lotion, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels.

They are also accepting used furniture in good condition such as beds, dressers, kitchen table and chairs, sofas, good working appliances, stoves, etc. Collection times are Mondays from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. or call 485-5796. Please support this important ministry in helping our community!



Trinity's Spring Festival on May 17

We are discussing whether we should be offering a yard sale again during our Spring Festival on **Saturday, May 17, from 8:00 – 2:00**. We are giving yard sale vendors the opportunity to set up for a small fee. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Pastor Valeria at 485-3369. Spaces are limited.

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF MARCH MEETING

Submitted by: M. Haubrick, Secretary St. Paul's Consistory

All consistory members present except Jonna Baker and JoAnn Sheffield.

BILLS TO BE PAID: The Pension/Health for Pastor - \$3,795.00 (half will be reimbursed by Trinity) First quarter payments to OCWM - \$800.00, Building Fund \$1,000.00, and Christian Social Service \$300.00.

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT: The Memorial Fund, balance for distribution is currently \$180.00. No action taken.

CHURCH WOMEN: The community Sunrise service for Easter on April 20 is scheduled to be held at St. Paul's UCC this year. Church Women will be serving a light pastry breakfast with beverages following the service. The Women's Group is also planning a Yard Sale on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16, 2014. They are planning to participate in the Strawberry Festival scheduled for June.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: All is going well with both Adult and Children's Sunday School.

CENTURY LINK PHONE/INTERNET: the new Century Link internet system had been installed and was operating.

NEW HEATING SYSTEM: The replacement of the church's heating system and air conditioning system needs to be under consideration. This subject had been discussed February 2013 at which time the following was reported:

Kirk Cover gave a detailed explanation of a Ductless heating/air conditioning system that could be installed in the basement. This unit would also control the humidity/mold problem in the basement which is of a high concern. The humidity control would function separate from the air conditioning of the unit and therefore be more cost conservative. This system would operate separately from the current heating/air system of the church; thus allowing the current heating system to function more efficiently. Cost for the system installed with new ceiling tile for the basement would be \$7,000.00 Electric work for installation to be completed would be \$800.00. This would also replace the current air conditioning for the church. (Copied from Feb 2013

minutes)

Kirk stated that the oil furnace that heats the church was 33 years old and the Air Conditioning was 24 years old. He also stated that both of these systems do not operate efficiently and parts for repairs are not available. The furnace is controlled by only one thermostat which is located in the main sanctuary; therefore the entire church is heated when only the Sunday School room or church office is being used. Option for replacement would be two heat pumps that would heat the SS room and office on separate thermostats, and installing a more efficient oil furnace to heat just the church sanctuary. Kirk also recommended that a Feasibility Study to calculate the heat loss of the church and replacement recommendations for the best system would be helpful. For many years, Kirk has used the services of Air-Con Company, who use York Heating/Air conditioning supplies. A lengthy discussion followed about finding a source for this study and the cost. Hillary offered to do a search on the Internet to find a local source for a feasibility study. Kirk also stated that he would contact the Air-Con company. John Glazier also stated that he had checked the heating system of the old High School Alumni Building and he would look into getting more information about

PARSONAGE WATER HEATER: The water heater at the parsonage quit working and had to be replaced. Kirk Cover and Charlie Baker did the installation and Kirk reported that the entire cost of this replacement had been paid in full by a generous church member.

STEEPLE LIGHTING Loy Garber reported that he had been contacted by the Preston Mellott family concerning this project. The family would like to give something to the church in memory of Arnetta Mellott, and they offered to pay for the \$2,000.00 cost of installing this lighting system. Loy also stated that a plaque could possibly be ordered and installed to represent this memorial gift. Loy will be in contact with the family regarding the project and plaque which will be started around June.

CONTINUED ON TOP OP NEXT PAGE...

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY CONTINUED...

MOVE PIANO: Permission given to move the electric piano, which is not being currently used, from the upstairs S.S. room to the church basement to replace the old piano located there. It was also suggested that the old piano in the basement could be offered for sale at the church Yard Sale in May.

ENERGY AUDIT: Greg Reineke of the Fulton Co. Conservation District has offered to conduct a free energy audit for the church. Approval was given by consensus.

COMMUNION ELDERS: Pastor Valeria asked if a better coordination could be made prior to a Communion Service to avoid any confusion during the service. Consistory Elders agreed that this could be done immediately before the church worship service begins.

EXTRA TABLES: Fort Loudon Trinity has been contacted by a church in Chambersburg offering free used large folding tables. This offer was also extended to us. After inspecting our tables, it was decided to request four tables as replacements.

GOALS AND TACTICS FOR 2014: Due to the late hour of the meeting this subject would be tabled until the April meeting. Loy emphasized the importance of giving this serious thought and offer ideas and opinions. Pastor Valeria asked if another goal could be added about Church Stewardship.

St. Paul's Financial Information Treasurer's Report

Income for Feb.	\$ 5,147.14
Expenses for Feb.	\$ 6,593.55
Interest on Account	1.19
<u>Loss for month</u>	- \$ 1,445.22
<u>Deficit for year to date</u>	- \$ 4,405.08



Free Food and Clothing at Trinity

Our free food and clothing event will be **Saturday, April 12, from 10 to 12 a.m.**

We will be taking donations of food and clothing (adult's and children's, seasonal for spring and summer, including socks and underwear), bed linens and towels, **in good, clean condition, on Sunday morning, April 6, and Wednesday, April 9, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Suggested food items to donate are: spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, bread, potatoes, granola bars, apple sauce, juice, canned goods (experience shows canned meats and pastas like ravioli are more popular than vegetables), etc. Fresh fruit and vegetables are also welcome.

Set-up will be Friday, April 11, at 1:00 p.m. We will also need help on Saturday to greet and assist people. Help us share the love of Christ with our community!



Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget	Expended
Jan.-Feb.	\$12,223.66	\$ 7,885.78	\$ 9,982.00
March 1-23	\$ 3,290.96	\$ 3,072.31	\$ 4,895.34
TOTAL	\$15,514.62	\$10,958.09	\$14,877.34

The harsh weather conditions of early 2014 seem to have had an adverse effect on church attendance and finances. But heating costs have risen, and upcoming quarterly bills for property and pastoral health insurance are arriving soon. Any extra monetary support which you might be able to offer at this particular time would be greatly appreciated.

Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt

stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com
(717)-485-3369

Secretary - Pam Carmack

buckpcar@embarqmail.com

St. Paul's UCC

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

(717)-485-5554

mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Now on Facebook & www.uccmccb.org

Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street

Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

trinityuccfloudon.webs.com

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

Lenten Envelopes

Lent is a special time of fasting, repentance and prayer. As we contemplate the suffering and hardships Jesus Christ went through, we try to give up some of our own luxuries or bad habits and re-focus on what really matters in life.

Almsgiving traditionally is a part of fasting. When you spend less money on food (or any other item you consume less of), you have more to give. Our Lenten envelopes are a way of dedicating some of what we give up to those who need it more:

At **Trinity**, your donations will go towards purchasing food for our next Food and Clothing Event on April 12.

At **St. Paul's**, they will go to Christian Social Services.

Please return your Lenten envelopes by **Easter Sunday, April 20**.



Save the Date

Sunday, June 1

Sunday, June 22

Sunday, July 13 – Friday, July 18

Saturday, August 9

Saturday, August 16

Sunday, September 14

Sunday, September 28

Sunday, October 5

Joint Picnic at Cowans Gap, 12:30 p.m.

Trinity's picnic at the pavilion behind church after Sunday morning activities

Fort Loudon Community Vacation Bible school at Freedom Light house

Fort Loudon Back to School Rally at Freedom Lighthouse, 5:00 p.m.

Peach Festival at the Fort Loudon Community Grounds

Joint Worship and Picnic at the Garbers'

Trinity's picnic at the pavilion behind church after Sunday morning activities

CROP Walk

Trinity Consistory Minutes

The Evangelism Committee reported that the pot pie supper is scheduled for [April 5, 2014](#). Our food and clothing event will be [April 12, 2014](#). Our Spring Festival will be [May 17, 2014](#). Yard sale vendors will be able to set up at the church for this event.

Old Business:

1. St. Luke's outhouse was not removed yet due to the ground being too wet to do so.
2. There was a discussion about cleaning out old items in the church basement. It was decided to have several people check it out before bulky item day in May at Peters Township or taking certain things to Wall's Salvage yard for money.
3. Thank you to Linda Best for creating our current altar flower arrangements. Ed & Kathy Hess will pay for red, white and blue arrangements to be made by Linda in memory of Kathy's father, Clair Higgins, Jr., who passed away [May 15, 1992](#). These can then be used for Memorial Day, Flag Day and [July 4th](#).
4. Our trash collection contract with Worthy's will end [March 26th](#). One family per month will be able to sign up to take the trash after coffee and conversation each [Sunday](#) and put it with their own garbage for pick-up. If you sign up and are going to miss a [Sunday](#), please contact someone to take the trash that day for you. Also the trash barrel at the BBQ pit at the pavilion will be removed since other people not affiliated with the church are using it to put trash in.

New Business:

1. An inventory of items in the church was completed and a copy placed in the minutes binder. This inventory included all areas of the church except the sanctuary.
2. The membership list is being updated. Let Pastor Valeria know if any changes are necessary before the final copies are made.
3. A replacement for Roger Byers as Elder will be sought due to Roger's recent passing. Glenn will talk to someone in our congregation to see if they would be willing to take the remaining 10 month term.
4. The church organ will be serviced and tuned on [March 12, 2014](#).

Other Business:

1. Glenn contacted Lois Byers about a new dusk to dawn light that Roger had purchased for the church. Their son-in-law, Todd Molchan, will install it when he has time to do so.
2. Before Glenn had a chance to contact the Fox & Pine men about shoveling church sidewalks, their wives had volunteered their husbands to take care of this when needed.
3. The gentleman from Gladhill Services contacted Glenn to see if we are ready to proceed with the church basement, but we are not quite ready yet.
4. There are some big pine trees outside of the large [Sunday](#) School room that have pine needles that keep dropping into the spouting clogging it up. It was discussed whether we should have them cut down or Roy suggested a cover over the spouting to prevent needles from going in. This should be less costly than cutting them down but before we proceed either way, we need to contact the owners of the neighboring property to see if the trees are on them or us.

Submitted by Kathy Hess, Secretary



HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY

- 2 Paul Stevens
Mark Washabaugh
Shaylee Kuyendall
- 5 Janis Cutchall
- 6 Cindy Armstrong
Jenna Armstrong
- 8 Lori Rotz
Gary Shives
- 10 Amanda Daniels Neal
- 12 Jo-Ann Sheffield
- 14 Gene Bricker
- 17 Dody Hopkins
- 19 Pastor Valeria
- 20 Dennis Carmack
- 21 Tamela Mellott Bard
Jillian Lassen
- 23 Heidi Myers
- 26 Reanna Jo Richards
- 27 Meril Fetters
- 28 Hayes Alexander
- 29 Glenn Crouse



St. Paul's Flowers

Jo-Ann Sheffield

Pam Carmack

Call the above person(s) if you wish to order flowers
in memory/ honor of someone.

St. Paul's Ushers

Skip Daniels

Kirk Cover

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Zereau Higgins

Corinna Rotz

Thank You for Serving!

PRAYER LIST

Bob Carmack
Warren Daniels
Bertha Byers
Betty Daniels
Bob and Nancy Lawyer and family
Dorothy and Paul Stevens
Gene, Elsie and Barb Bricker
Harold and Betty Keefer and family
Joyce and Thurman Hassler
Military and families
Sponsored Children: Adrianus, Marc
Philip, Thierry, Marcela
Thelma Miller
Zeis family
Jean McLucas
Diane Baxter
Janis Cutchall
Sarah Gordon
Kylene McLucas Arwood
All individuals and families affected by
cancer
All Sunday school classes
Family of Susan Ott
Family of Arnetta Mellott
Family of Roger Byers

*Please let us know of any changes, additions or
corrections to the Prayer and Birthday lists.*

*Thank
you!*



APRIL 2014

Wednesdays	Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.; Prayer and Praise, 7:45 p.m. EXCEPT APRIL 16	
Thursdays	<i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m. EXCEPT APRIL 17	
Saturday, April 5	Trinity's Pot Pie Supper at the Fort Loudon Community Center, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.	
Sunday, April 6	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Soup Sunday Lenten Study at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, April 8	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday, April 9	St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.	
Saturday, April 12	Free Food and Clothing at Trinity, 10:00 – 12:00	
Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center Lenten Study at St. Paul's, 6:30 p.m.	
Monday, April 14	St. Paul's Girls' Group, 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	
Tuesday, April 15	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.	
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.	
Friday, April 18	McConnellsburg Community Good Friday Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Fort Loudon Community Good Friday Service at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.	
Sunday, April 20	Fort Loudon Community Easter Sunrise Service at Freedom Lighthouse Ministries, 6:30 a.m. McConnellsburg Community Easter Sunrise Service at St. Paul's, 6:30 a.m. Holy Communion during regular Sunday services Trinity's Special Offering for the Building Fund	
	Tuesday, April 22	Earth Day! 
	Sunday, April 27	Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center
	Sunday, May 4	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Salad Sunday