



# The Beacon

**“Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.” Psalm 25:4-5**

The Newsletter of  
St. Paul's  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
McConnellsburg, PA  
Trinity  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
Fort Loudon, PA  
**April 2022**

**April 15th. McConnellsburg Good Friday Services, hosted by St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 228 North Second Street McConnellsburg, Pa. 12-1 p.m.**  
***“The Seven Last Words of Jesus”***

"Were You There" is an American spiritual that was first printed in 1899. "Were You There" was likely composed by enslaved African-Americans in the 19th century. It was first published in William Eleazar Barton's 1899 Old Plantation Hymns. In 1940, it was included in the Episcopal Church hymnal, making it the first spiritual to be included in any major American hymnal. As reported in Howard Thurman's autobiography, the song was one of Mahatma Gandhi's favorites. The song has been recorded by many artists. A critic from the Indianapolis News wrote about Paul Robeson's rendition of "Were You There", saying that "It was as startling and vivid a disclosure of reverent feeling of penetrating pathos as one could imagine."

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

**STAMP**



# *Blessings*

## *from the Pastor*

*Rev. Marleen Shepherd*

Dear Church, what a blessing to enter the joyous season of Easter with no restrictions on gathering! We continue to maintain clean sanctuaries and Covid is still a lingering threat, but we have come so far from the start of the pandemic. We closed the doors in March 2020 and put all of our Holy Week services online only.

There was much lamenting at this first time in history when churches around the world closed their doors. It was devastating. We grappled with the reality that we would not be gathering for Easter Sunday, not at church and not with family near and far. But, for me, it was reassuring to hear people speak so sincerely about how upset they were, about how much the church really meant to them.

I had high hopes for "The Return to Church." I imagined the sanctuary doors flinging wide open and welcoming in a stream of people: all the people who were missing, friends and family, and perhaps some new faces. But that never materialized. There was never that moment of victory over Covid. The church doors didn't fling open, they creaked open as we masked, sanitized, distanced, and renegotiated all of our spaces. And not everyone came back.

My question for you, and my challenge to you, is why. I asked the youth at St. Paul's this last Sunday, and I ask it to everyone now. Why come to church? Why is church important to you? What difference does it make if you come here on a Sunday or if you don't?

I look forward to hearing what you have to say, and I am so grateful to be church with all of you in-person, online and in community with the Holy Spirit. You are a blessing to me and to so many others! May God richly bless you this Holy Season and Always!

*"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"*

# Join us for **EASTER**



*Sunday, April 17, 2022*

**6:30 a.m. Fort Loudon Community Sunrise Service**

Freedom Lighthouse Fort Loudon

**9 a.m. Holy Communion**

Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

**11 a.m. Baptisms & Holy Communion**

St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

## *Holy Week 2022*

**April 10 Palm Sunday**

Family-Friendly Palm Procession

**April 14 Maundy Thursday**

**7 p.m.** Table Communion Service at Trinity

**April 15 Good Friday Service**

**"The Seven Last Words of Jesus"**

**12 p.m.-1 p.m.** McConnellsburg Community Good Friday Service at St. Paul's

**7 p.m.** "The Seven Last Words of Jesus" at Trinity

## *Candidates for Baptism & Confirmation*

Reese Alexander

Jacob Hann

Bodie Shives

Submitted by Mary Haubrick

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE – UKRAINE HELP

“God calls us to go into crisis areas to help those who are most vulnerable,” said Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan’s Purse. “As the conflict escalates in Ukraine, our international disaster response teams with doctors, nurses, and other specialists are equipped and ready to help people in Jesus' Name. We want them to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them.”

Samaritan’s Purse continues to provide medical relief to displaced Ukrainians, serving them at their Emergency Field Hospital on the outskirts of Lviv, in western Ukraine. The hospital opened on March 14. They are also operating a 24-hour medical clinic at a train station in Lviv and have opened an additional clinic in one of the city’s major bus stations. A fourth medical intervention has been set up as an Emergency Outpatient Clinic in Southern Ukraine.

Their DC-8 cargo plane airlifted the initial phase for our medical response—an Emergency Field Hospital—on March 4, along with Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) members—including doctors, nurses, and logistics and other personnel. After landing in Poland, the team and equipment were transported overland into the war-torn nation of Ukraine. An additional DC-8 flight on March 8 and a chartered 747 flight on March 10 brought more materials for the hospital. Airlifts aboard their DC-8 March 17 and 24 carried medical supplies destined for Ukrainian hospitals as well as relief supplies to assist families during their travails with food, warmth, and hygiene.

**Donations to support this cause can be sent to:**

**SAMARITAN’S PURSE, P.O. BOX 3000, BOONE, NC 28607-3000.**

**Mark on the check FOR UKRAINE FUND.**



### ST. PAUL’S CHURCH WOMEN YARD SALE TIME !

Each spring brings the work of the annual "spring cleaning" of households. When you tackle this job in the next weeks, consider donating those items that you no longer use or need to St. Paul's Annual Yard Sale scheduled for Thursday May 12 and Friday May 13 from 8 to 4 at the former Morton’s Attic Building located adjacent to the church. Clothing, especially children's sizes, is also accepted. Please make sure the clothing is clean and in good repair. Along with the items for the kitchen, bedroom and bath, also needed are books, CD's and DVD's, children's toys, electronic items, craft materials, decorating items, etc. Any "vintage or antique" items are always a big hit at yard sales. Here is your chance to "down-size" and at the same time support St. Paul's Yard Sale. There will be a bake sale along with the Yard Sale and donations of baked goods will be appreciated. For more information, or if you need someone to pick up the donated items, please call the church at 717-485-5554 and leave a message, or contact Pam Carmack 717-485-4795, Mary Haubrick 717-987-3604 or Donna House 717-485-4732.

**Church Yard  
sale**

## In-Person and On-line...The New Normal ???

Throughout history, the mere fact of meeting together in person to sit, sing and talk to others was always a great way to be with people. One of the best things about being together in a room of worshipers is that we have to sit with people of different ages, social backgrounds, personal and political beliefs, as we strive to praise and serve one God.

At an in-person church gathering there is something very special about bread and wine at a Lord's Table, familiar faces, spontaneous conversations, smiles; and maybe even an occasional hand shake greeting and hug.

Throughout the Covid crisis we provided virtual services of worship and Zoom meetings that kept us functioning as a church on a limited basis. And now with the passing of time (some two years), our church program is featuring both in-person and virtual experiences for our membership. We have also come to realize the value of what in-person learning experiences and socializing provides our children in the classroom. So, even though the virtual streaming of our worship services needs to continue for our homebound, sick or distant members who cannot participate, it should not become an excuse for other members to skip the in-person opportunities for wholesome social interaction with other followers of Jesus Christ.

Of course, until we are given the complete "all-clear" assurance that the invisible virus is under control, our community of believers must continue to practice safe in-person guidelines. While at the same time continuing to provide a virtual outreach.

In-person and on-line, that seems to be what the "new normal" will be for God's chosen-ones now and in the future.

*Submitted by Loy Garber*



## The Faith & Fellowship Center Up Date

The CES Engineering group called a meeting with the Faith & Fellowship Center Project committee on February 10<sup>th</sup> to complete the final amount of information that needs to accompany the engineering drawings to be presented to the would-be general contractors for bids.

The committee responded to over fifty-some questions concerning such things as: electrical hookups, HVAC for the facility, type of flooring in various parts of the Center, the trim for the windows, interior door materials, the size of the sidewalk, and many more questions to help the contractors to estimate their final bids.

The final bid package should be ready for distribution at some point during the month of March. The bidding process will be overseen by the CES group, and the acceptance or not acceptance of the final bid will be determined by the F&F Center Project committee.

The F&F Center Project committee is grateful for the generous funds and pledge commitments that have been received so far. Hopefully, there are other members and families who would like to join us in helping make this Center become a reality, and/or who would like to discuss dedicating a room within the Center for a loved one and former congregation member. Contact a committee member to discuss the possibilities (Committee members: Todd Alexander, JoAnn Sheffield, Denny Buterbaugh, Loy Garber, Kirk Cover, Marleen Shepherd, Scott Arwood).



WISHING YOU  
A BLESSED  
**GOOD  
FRIDAY**  
WE REMEMBER

[Catholic.org](http://Catholic.org)

Trinity United Church of Christ's  
**BEEF, HAM, and CHICKEN**  
**SLIPPERY POT PIE**

**~\$7.00 TAKE-OUT QUARTS~**

at the Fort Loudon Community Center on the  
corner of Hawbaker Drive and Mullen Street



**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 9, 2022**



**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM (or sold out)**

**Baked Goods will also be available!**

**Pre-orders for quarts are strongly encouraged.**

**Call (and leave a message) or text Heidi at  
717-360-6582 to easily pre-order by Thursday, April 7,  
or to check availability on the day of the event. Pre-  
orders not picked up by 4:30 PM on the day of the  
event will be re-opened to the public.**

This Fundraiser benefits **Trinity United Church of Christ Programs**

Sponsored in-part by **Thrivent Financial**



- 2 Mark Washabaugh  
Shaylee Kuykendall
- 6 Cindy Armstrong  
Jenna Armstrong
- 8 Lori Rotz  
Gary Shives
- 9 Theo Arwood
- 10 Amanda Daniels Neal
- 12 Jo-Ann Sheffield
- 17 Dody Hopkins
- 20 Denny Carmack
- 21 Tamela Mellott Bard  
Jillian Lassen
- 23 Heidi Myers
- 26 Reanna Jo Richards
- 28 Hayes Alexander
- 29 Glenn Crouse



The healing of our nation+world

Amanda Mitchell  
Linda Sowers  
Lana Pine  
Kylene McLucas Arwood  
Elizabeth Kerlin  
Chase Andrews  
Bernice Crouse's 96 yr. Aunt Marie and family  
Korbyn Rotz  
Skip and Betty Daniels  
Nicole Hummel  
Carl and Carol Mellott  
Dennis Hess  
Robert Door  
Nancy Barmont  
Ann Hays  
Jessica McLucas Truax  
Bernice's friend Christa  
Chris Myers' uncle..... Ed Vance  
Military and families  
Our Church & ministries, Sunday school classes  
Teachers and students, front line workers  
Emily Rotz  
Leah Hamil  
Linda Garber  
Eileen Troutt-Ervin and Bob Perry  
Kathleen Pappas  
Patrick McCarthy  
Summer Hoover and daughter Ruby  
Daniel Harper, grandson of Linda Best.





## UCC officers share prayer for Ukraine

by [UCC Leadership](#) | published on Feb 24, 2022



*“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” Proverbs 6:16-19*

As the attention of the world turns to the ignored cries for peace from the people of Ukraine, we the officers of the United Church of Christ join our prayers with those of churches and people of faith all over the globe that the attack against Ukraine will cease. As a Just Peace Church, the United Church of Christ calls for the de-escalation of violence and a return to diplomatic negotiations, the only true way conflict ever ceases. We urge our members to pray throughout the day for peace and protection against the evils of war for the people whose lives and well-being are in danger, and to make this Sunday a day of collective prayer and fasting for a peace that only God can bring.

*Holy God,*

*Hear our prayers for all those who will die today because of war in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in You.*

*We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed can be avoided and a new, just peace can be forged out of this crisis. We ask God grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, calling them to end provocation on all sides and invest instead in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions (Luke 19:41-2).*

*We pray for an end to the deep insecurity and mistrust on all sides, and call on leaders to build trust, based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity. Now is a time in which past harm should be acknowledged and addressed, and new partnerships can be envisioned.*

*We pray for and call on our leaders to have the courage to take small, verifiable, and independent steps toward peace, inviting others to reciprocate. Now is time to invest in conflict resolution, diplomacy and international cooperation — not more weapons which only escalate tension in the region.*

*Continued.....*

*Be with those suffering in ways that we cannot.*

*Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not. Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them. Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.*

*Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world.*

*Make us a people who love our children, all of our children, more than we love greed, power, and control. Overturn governments of tyranny wherever they are found. Disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control. Grant that peace and justice come to warring nations by the hands of those courageous enough to stand and study war no more. Let Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Give to Support Ukraine through the United Church of Christ  
Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as citizens of more than 125 other countries living in Ukraine. All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for "Ukraine Relief."



**To Give By Mail:** Check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section.

**To Give Online:** [www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/](http://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/)

Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.



# 2022



**Saturday, April 9**  
**ers**

**Sunday, April 10**

**Wednesday, April 13**

**April 14**

**April 15**

of the Great Dinner

**Trinity Pot Pie Supper Fundraiser, contact Heidi My-flyer included in newsletter**

**Palm Sunday**

**Trinity Consistory Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. Table Communion Service at Trinity**

**Good Friday "The Seven Last Words of Jesus" The Parable**

<sup>15</sup> One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. <sup>17</sup> At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' <sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' <sup>19</sup> Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' <sup>20</sup> Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' <sup>21</sup> So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' <sup>22</sup> And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' <sup>23</sup> Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you,<sup>[b]</sup> none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

12-1 p.m. at St. Paul's: McConnellsburg Community Good Friday Service

7 p.m. "The Seven Last Words of Jesus" at Trinity

**April 17**

**Easter Sunday!**  
6:30 a.m. Fort



**St. Paul's UCC** (717)-485-5554

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Facebook & [www.uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://www.uccmccbg.weebly.com)

**Trinity UCC** (717)-256-2703

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224

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[www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com](http://www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com)