



# The Beacon

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’  
This is the first and most important command. And the second  
command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love  
yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-39 (ICB)

The Newsletter of  
St. Paul’s  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
McConnellsburg, PA  
Trinity  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
Fort Loudon, PA

**AUGUST 2019**

**Saturday, August 17... 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

**Fort Loudon...9th annual Peach Festival**

Anyone interested in volunteering to help at the Festival...We need people to serve in the kitchen and also sell food tickets. Any help would be appreciated. The more that help, the lighter the load.

**This is a great event to share in...**

**Please support Trinity  
in any way you can!**



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

**STAMP**

AUGUST 2019

# BLESSINGS

FROM THE PASTOR

I'm thrilled that I will be able to serve another year as your designated-term pastor! It's hard to believe that I've already been serving Trinity and St. Paul's for eight months. As a new pastor, I've had a lot to learn, and your support and encouragement has meant so much. Thank you!

I plan to make the next year together one of vitality and growth. I began the process of visioning with both consistories. We are taking a close look at where we're at now, and doing some planning for the future. We're using a business tool, a SWOT analysis, to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Then we can consider how to maximize our strengths, minimize our weaknesses, take advantage of opportunities, and avoid threats to our churches' survival and mission.

We started the process by identifying the things we love about our church, and the things we don't like. While the consistory is doing this work, we would like to hear from you. Please don't be afraid to give your opinions of our strengths and weaknesses to your consistory. The more members we hear from, the better picture we get.

Often we are hesitant to call out the things we think need to change. On the other hand, we can fail to recognize the amazing gifts and resources that we have to do God's work. An honest assessment goes a long way to helping us grow stronger.

The goal is to be dynamic witnesses to Christ in our communities and to see our churches grow and thrive. Let's keep a lookout for where the Spirit is leading!



TRINITY UCC CHURCH PICNIC JULY 28

**REV. MARLEEN SHEPHERD**

**[marleen.shepherd@gmail.com](mailto:marleen.shepherd@gmail.com)**

618-521-3541



# CONGRATS

ST. PAUL'S



## FULTON COUNTY IN BLOOM

**First Place Winner of Favorite Church Gardens**

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our garden grow!

A special thanks to the youth who helped.

You do your church proud!



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

The Fulton County Catholic Mission will again be offering a Free School Supply distribution day before the school year begins. The Mission is able to obtain book bags and basic supplies through the Salvation Army; however they do depend on local churches/organizations to contribute some of the supplies that can be distributed. The distribution will take place on Friday August 16, 9-12 noon at St. Stephen's Social Hall. Donations of school supplies can be brought to the upstairs Sunday School room at St. Paul's UCC now through August 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help !

### NEEDED SUPPLIES:

#2 pencils, Pencil Cases, Pens, black & blue ink; Three Ring Binders, Loose-leaf Filler Paper, Erasers, Crayons, Colored Markers, Composition Notebooks. High-Lighters, Two Pocket Folders, One Subject Notebooks and Glue Sticks.



### The Eraser Devotion

#### Lesson

There once was a little girl who was in 2nd grade. Whenever she made a mistake at school, the teacher would write her name on the board and put a check mark next to her name. If she made another mistake, the teacher would put another check mark next to her name. Then another check mark. The little girl kept looking at those check marks and felt horrible. Nothing she did could make them go away. Just as school was about to end, there was a knock at the classroom

door. The door opened and in walked Jesus. He walked right up to the board, picked up the eraser, and wiped away the check marks that were next to the little girl's name. Then He drew a big red heart around her name. From then on, no one could put a check mark by her name because the big red heart was her protection.

#### Activity

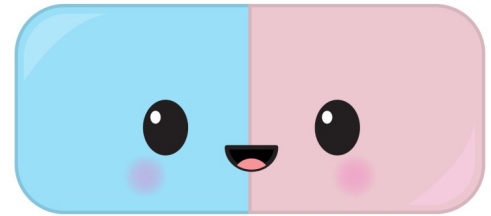
Give each child a piece of paper. Have them write their name in the middle. Brainstorm a few examples of ways they had sinned or fallen short that day. When they say them out loud, have them draw check marks next to their name. Then tell them the Bible verse below and have them erase the checkmarks and put a big red heart around their name.

#### Bible Verse

"So turn away from your sins. Turn to God. Then your sins will be wiped away. The time will come when the Lord will make everything new." Acts 3:19

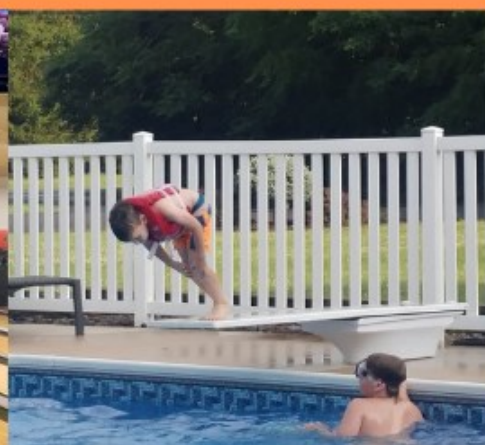
#### Just for Fun

Get a whiteboard and write the word SIN on it in Sharpie marker. Discuss how sometimes our sin can feel like a Sharpie - permanent and not going anywhere. Bring out a red Expo marker and explain the power of Jesus' blood shed on the cross to remove all of our sins. Take the marker and slowly go back over the Sharpies lines. The Sharpie lines should disappear. That is the power of Jesus' blood!





# summer FUN





# Fort Loudon 9th Annual

9a.m. to 3p.m.  
**AUGUST 17, 2019**



## Shows:

Reptile Show 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Puppet Show 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Magic/Balloon Twisting Show 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Food:

Peach Pies, Peach Cobbler  
Peach Ice Cream Sundaes,  
Funnel Cakes, Snow Cones,  
Sandwiches, French Fries,  
Kettle Corn & BBQ Chicken.

**Saturday**  
August 17, 2019  
9a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Something for all age groups including;

Cotton Candy  
Face Painting  
Bounce/Slide House  
McConnellsburg FFA  
bringing 'Petting Zoo'  
Pony & Barrel Train Rides

50 Plus Crafts & Home Based Businesses

Bring your lawn chair and  
spend a relaxing day in the



## Entertainment:

Kenny Fetterman 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Bradley Bomberger 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Dee Straley 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Rick & Dee Straley will be DJing throughout the day.

Sponsored by Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon

**FREE ADMISSION - FREE PARKING**



## Hartman Center Lifelong Learning Opportunities

A new set of lenses are needed when looking at programs offered at Hartman Center. It's time to put on bifocals and not just see Hartman Center as a place for children and youth. We want you to see the possibilities of year round programs for adults as well. If you have any questions about the Lifelong Learning Opportunities in this brochure or suggestions for future events contact Dave Bushnell at [abushnell@aol.com](mailto:abushnell@aol.com) or 717-371-2593.

### Labor Day Weekend Fishing

Friday, August 30, 2019 beginning at 7 p.m. - Monday, September 2 ending at 9 a.m.

Fishermen and Fisherwomen are invited to come join George Robertson, Mike Landis, and Dave Bushnell in the kind of fishing experiences they have shared with campers earlier in the summer. George will demonstrate fly fishing at the pond. Mike and Dave will trailer the camp canoes to the Juniata River (Saturday and Sunday) for some great smallmouth bass fishing.



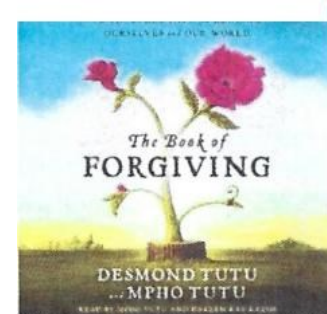
Evening time will be for fishing tips and fishing techniques. Dave will demonstrate how to make your own spinning rod. **No matter what the weather we will find places to fish.** Bring your own canoe if you have one (with an up to date launch permit). The camp has seven canoes. Fishing licenses are needed for anyone age 16 and older. Leaders: Fishing Camp Directors Mike Landis, Dave Bushnell and George Robertson

**The cost per person is \$120. Lodging will be in the A Cabins.** (Children need to be accompanied by a parent or grandparent.) Registration deadline is August 23, 2019. Make check payable to Penn Central Conference and mail to Dave Bushnell, Lifelong Learning Opportunities, 330 Spencer Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603 or register online at [www.hartmancenter.com](http://www.hartmancenter.com)



### Forgiveness: A Path for Healing

Monday, September 23, 2019 beginning at 2 p.m. - Wednesday, September 25, 2019 ending at 3 p.m. This Lifelong Learning Opportunity using "The Book of Forgiving" by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu will offer participants an opportunity to understand forgiveness as a path for healing ourselves and our world. The time together will include presentations, meditations and journaling exercises, films (Into the Woods and Railway Man) and free time to enjoy Hartman Center. Each participant will receive an outline and resources to take home to use as a small group experience or adult church school class. Leaders: Rev. Dave Bushnell and Rev. Herb Bomberger



***The what-ifs in life only have power over me when I forget what-is: God is with us.***

The cost per person is \$150. Commuter cost: \$65 (includes meals and materials) Lodging will be in Michaux Lodge Registration deadline is September 16, 2019.. Make check payable to Penn Central Conference and mail to Dave Bushnell, Lifelong Learning Opportunities, 330 Spencer Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603 or register online at [www.hartmancenter.com](http://www.hartmancenter.com)



**A Marriage Enrichment Weekend - tilt's a Wonderful Life"**

Friday, November 8, 2019 beginning at 7 p.m. - Sunday, November 10, 2019 ending at 3 p.m.

Using scenes from the classic film "It's a Wonderful Life", Anne and Dave Bushnell, a certified leader couple with [www.BetterMarriages.org](http://www.BetterMarriages.org) will offer couples marriage enrichment exercises they have shared on retreats and seminars for over 35 years. Group presentations will be followed by couple time. Topics include: A Marriage Enrichment Inventory, Family of Origin Issues, Creative Communication, Creative Use of Conflict (includes a Christmas Inventory), Affirmation and Affection, and Your Faith and Your Marriage. Plenty of free time too! Accommodations in Michaux Lodge are limited to eight couples but there is Best Western Motel near camp as well.



Leaders: Anne and Dave Bushnell

The cost per person is \$120. Commuter cost: \$75 per person (includes meals and materials) Lodging will be in Michaux Lodge. Registration deadline is Nov. 1, 2019. Make checks payable to Penn Central Conference and mail to Dave Bushnell, Lifelong Learning Opportunities, 330 Spencer Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603 or register online at [www.hartmancenter.com](http://www.hartmancenter.com)



**COMING IN NOVEMBER.** The FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT is planned for Nov. 15-17. (Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. to Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.) Leaders will be Sue D'heedene and Winnie Kowalik.



**COMING IN JANUARY 2020.** The FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT January 24-26. Planned by pastors and laymen of the Conference. Possible theme: Seasons of a Man's Life. Watch for details this fall.







# NOTES

## St. Paul's Christian Education Committee Meeting: Planning New Term

July 22, 2019

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

**Attendees:** Seleen Shives, Renee Earley, Kylene Arwood, JoAnn Sheffield, and Rev. Marleen Shepherd

### ➤ Establish Sunday School Classes & Teachers

- **Donna (K-4 to 1st grade):** Boone & Brynley
- **Linda (2nd to 4th grade):** Canon & Cruz, Hayes & Esty, and Blaire
- **Loy (5th to 8th grade):** Clint & Reese, Bodie, Shaffer, Jake, Kendall, and Henry
- **Jo (9th to 12th grade):** Nevaeh, Bronson, Abby, Theo, Hannah, and Ashley
- **Substitutes:** Seleen & Renee; the teens may be able to help too

### ➤ Class Locations

- Marleen said the teens could continue to meet in the basement of the parsonage, so class locations will be the same as last year.

### ➤ Funds

- **Current fund balance available:** \$1,629.75
- **Discussed needs for classes:** Jo is looking for a used Keurig for the teen class

### ➤ Curriculum & Materials

- Same as last year? Jo will take care of getting materials for teens; Loy will order curriculum for other classes.
- **Discussion about Middle School (Loy's) class:** Would it be possible to incorporate some type of fun, hands-on learning activity (an experiment, challenge or demonstration) that pertains to the lesson? Something really simple, like the cloud demonstration that Loy did for the group last term. A couple of the boys have expressed that they would like to do something other than worksheets. These kiddos are smart and have an interest in science, technology, engineering and

math. It was suggested that perhaps there are books out there with these types of activities. A couple of us will do some research and share findings with the group.

#### ➤ **Schedule**

- **Start date:** September 15th
  - **Kickoff event or activity?** Think about this and come to the next meeting with some ideas.
- **End date:** May 17th
- **Time:** Discussion was held regarding a change up in the morning routine when the kids get there. Sunday School starts at 9:30 AM, but the kids trickle in from 9:30 -10:00. Getting them to sing/participate some mornings can be a challenge because they're not quite awake. It was suggested that maybe we play some praise & worship music and let the kids come in and have their snack first and interact with each other, maybe share a "rose and a thorn" from their week... and then have their lesson. Renee will work on creating a space ("the snack shack") for the kids to sit together and do this.

#### ➤ **Communications**

- **Private Facebook group** - encourage dads to join this group too!
- Compile list of **cell phone numbers** to text parents
- Utilize the **automated calling service**

#### ➤ **2018/2019 Projects**

- A discussion was held on the projects that the students would participate in this year and will include both local and worldwide projects:
  - **FALL Local Project: Adopt-an-Adult Secret Pal** - Have the kids randomly draw the name of an adult from the congregation to adopt as a secret pal. Come up with a list of adults and a list of ideas for the kids. Maybe challenge them to do something kind for their secret pal once a month? A group of siblings could adopt someone too, if this would be easier for some parents. Ask Christian to put these things together for the next meeting.
  - **FALL Worldwide Project:** Encourage the kids to participate in Miss Mary's Shoebox Ministry. Schedule a day during Sunday School or after church for the kids to fill the boxes. Maybe after a luncheon? Boxes were due on November 12th last year.



- **SPRING Local Project: Fulton County In Bloom** - Replanting the kids flower pots and possibly creating some new areas for plantings.
  - ◆ We also discussed preparing the current flower pots and beds for winter. A "work day" will be planned following the contemporary worship service and luncheon on October 6th? We did it in November last year.
- **SPRING Worldwide Project: Heifer Project** - we will likely kick this off with another Board Game Olympics in January or February.

### ➤ **Activities**

- **Back-to-School Bash - August 13th - Todd & Renee Earley's**
  - Renee stated that the kids could swim from 3:00 - 5:00 PM; food at 5:30 (Seleen will create a sign-up sheet). They will have volleyball and cornhole for the kids to play. Parents are also invited to attend. Bring lawn chairs.
- **Monthly Memory Verses**
  - We have done the Random Acts of Kindness for the past two years, but Seleen feels it is time to do something else.
  - Discussion was held on giving the kids a simple, practical verse to memorize each month and display it somewhere in the basement (bulletin board?).
  - Perhaps at the end of each month, have the kids share how they actually lived out the verse in their daily lives (in conjunction with Sunday Funday?).
  - It was suggested that the kids could also create a picture (supplies?) of what the verse means to them and these could be displayed in the church and/or shared with the congregation? Perhaps these memory verses could somehow be incorporated into the children's message during worship service?
  - Come up with a list of scriptures. At the end of the term, we could give the kiddos some laminated 3x5 cards of all the verses on a ring to take home.
  - Everyone was asked to give this idea some more thought until the next meeting.
- **Sunday Funday**
  - Last year, we got the kids donuts as a reward for filling the Random Acts of Kindness jar and did a fun activity.
  - It was suggested that we *simplify* things and maybe set a schedule for a fun day each month, for example...
    - ◆ SEP - Wear Your Favorite Color; OCT - Funny Hat or Hairdo; NOV - Plaid or Polka Dots; DEC - Red and Green; JAN - Pajamas; FEB -

Sports Team; MAR - Crazy Socks; APR - Rainbow; MAY - Beach Party

- ◆ The kids could create their memory verse pictures and have a fun snack (create parent sign-up sheet) on a certain Sunday each month. Maybe the first Sunday of the month in conjunction with Contemporary Worship Service?
- **Kids Takeover Service** - We definitely want to do this again!
  - Discussion was also held on how to incorporate the kids into our worship services in general. Perhaps the call and response? Scripture reading? Marleen mentioned that a Worship Committee will be formed to discuss how we want to worship; this committee will meet a half-hour before the Consistory meeting on the third Tuesday of each month.
  - It was suggested that maybe we could have a service each month where the kids could participate more? The first Sunday of the month in conjunction with Contemporary Worship Service?

➤ **Youth Group**

- Renee reported that an August date will be scheduled for the next meeting. 6th graders will be invited to attend; the older kids will be assigned younger kids to mentor.

◆ **Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 28th at 6:30 PM**





# 2019 August

2 John Glazier  
4 Fredrica Laxson  
Diana Rotz  
9 Mary Haubrick  
11 Jeff Best  
Mike Best  
Tara Will  
13 Jody Shimer  
14 Jessica Long  
15 Carl Mellott  
24 Edgar Hess  
27 Molly Fox  
30 Michelle Baker  
Misty Strait  
31 Sally Cover



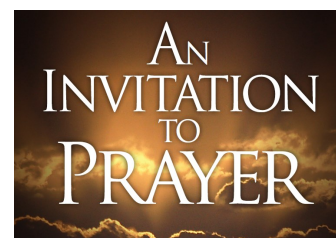
**Trinity's Ushers:**  
**Molly Fox and Lana Pine**

**St. Paul's Ushers:**  
***Donna House and Pam Carmack***

**St. Paul's Flowers:**  
***Betty Daniels***



**The Gerald Peck family**  
**Bill and Ann Hays**  
**Donna Keefer**  
**Betty Keefer**  
**Barb Hurst and family**  
**Linda Best's niece, Liza**  
**Lana Pine and family**  
**Karen Fox and family**  
**Corinna Rotz and family, Ryder, Korbyn**  
**Crystal Ellsworth**  
**Mary Haubrick**  
**Skip and Betty Daniels**  
**Pam and Denny Carmack**  
**Darren Hamil**  
**Nicole Hummel**  
**Carl and Carol Mellott**  
**Evelyn Zeis and family**  
**Bernice Crouse's Aunt Marie**  
**Dennis Hess**  
**Robert Door**  
**Nancy Barmont**  
**Sawyer and Jan Bye family**  
**Meril Fetters**  
**Military and families**  
**All Sunday school classes**  
**Our Church & ministries**  
**Prayers for the following pregnancies:**  
**Jenna (Armstrong) Wilhelm**  
**Bethany (Crouse) Wynn**  
**Jill Yaich (Bernice's friend)**  
**Amanda Zeis**



*If you have any additions or corrections to the prayer list or the birthday list, please contact the church office.*



*If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with your name to: [mc Bucc@embarqmail.com](mailto:mc Bucc@embarqmail.com) and help us save paper and postage. Thank You!*

# 2019

# AUGUST



**Thursday, August 1**

Trinity Peach Festival planning meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, August 4**

Trinity Worship, 9:00 p.m., with congregational meeting about exterior painting and Eldercare Collection, Sunday School, 10:30 p.m.

**Thursday, August 8**

Trinity pool party from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, August 11**

Worship with Holy Communion, 9:00 p.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, August 13**

Pool Party at the Earley's—pool time from 3:00—5:00 p.m. and dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Trinity Worship Committee at 6:15 p.m.

Trinity Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, August 17**

Trinity Peach Festival, volunteers needed from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., please sign up on the schedule with Linda Best

**Sunday, August 18**

Swimming at the Garber's at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share.

**Tuesday, August 20**

St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Worship Committee, 6:15 p.m.

**Sunday, September 8**

Joint Worship and Picnic at the Garber farm, 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, October 12**

Trinity Fall Potpie Supper



### **St. Paul's UCC**

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

(717)-485-5554\*\*\*mcbucc@embarqmail.com

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

### **Trinity UCC**

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773\*\*\*Find Us on Facebook

**[www.pccucc.org](http://www.pccucc.org) (Penn Central Conference)**

**[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)**

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