

The Beacon

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



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God.....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John 11:1, 14



December 2019

Trinity UCC Fort Loudon:

For those of you that know Nathan Rosenberry, he will be overseas during the holiday season and will be greatly missed during this time of the year!!! For anyone who would like to send Nathan a Christmas card, his address is:

Nathan Rosenberry
379 EAES
Unit 61203
APO AE 09309-1203

Thank you!!
Karen Rosenberry



Come and Worship

Dec. 15 "Christmas Around the World Program" at St. Paul's

Dec. 22 "Christmas Around the World Program" at Trinity

DO NOT BE NAUGHTY AND MISS THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTATIONS FOR US!!!



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

STAMP

Worship

TOGETHER



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

TRINITY AND ST. PAUL'S

Join us for a beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24. Worship will take place at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's and 8 p.m. at Trinity United Church of Christ.

*"The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep
darkness
a light has dawned.*

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government
will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
~Isaiah 9: 2,6*

DECEMBER WORSHIP

- Dec 1** First Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Hope Candle
- Dec 8** Second Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Peace Candle
- Dec 15** Third Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Joy Candle
Christmas Program at St. Paul's UCC
- Dec 22** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Love Candle
Christmas Program at Trinity UCC
- Dec 24** Candlelight Christmas Eve
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Holy Communion



JOIN US!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

Contact the pastor at 681-521-3541 or marleen.shepherd@gmail.com. We'd love to have you become a member of our church family!

DECEMBER 2019

ADVENT BLESSINGS

from the Pastor



While We Are Waiting, Come

As we enter the season of Advent, counting down the days until Christmas, we wait for Christ to come. It seems odd to prepare again each year for the birth of Jesus, and to wait for the coming of someone who already came, and that we claim is already here, and that we say will come again.

It's one of the paradoxes of our Christian faith, this already-but-not-yet Reign of God that begins with the birth of Jesus. So, what exactly are we waiting for?

We are waiting for the coming of Christ and with Him the "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All" that has been promised by God and which remains unfulfilled...

Except! It was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, whose life on earth showed us what God's Kingdom is like so that we could experience it now.

Except! It is fulfilled in us when we follow the way of Jesus so that others can see and experience the Kingdom through us.

And! It will be fulfilled when Jesus comes again, and the world is fundamentally made right with God and with all of creation.

For now, we are in process. The focus in Advent becomes on how we wait, and the four candles that we light each Sunday remind us to do so with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Our Advent Hymn, "While We Are Waiting Come," invites Jesus into our lives and hearts while we wait for God's vision to become reality. We celebrate Emmanuel, "God With Us," yesterday, today and tomorrow as we rest in the hope of what is to come, and we give thanks for what is already ours through our Savior Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son...

A special Thank You to all those who helped Deck the Halls of Trinity and St. Paul's!



Donna House's beautiful smile helps light up the sanctuary at St. Paul's Hanging of the Greens

NEW YEAR'S EVE LOCK-IN 2020

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The youth at Trinity want to revive the tradition of a New Year's Eve lock-in to welcome in 2020. We're planning games, dancing, food and, of course, the ringing of the church bell at midnight!

To pull this off we need help! If you can give a couple hours in the evening or morning, food or a monetary donation, please let Sharyn Zeis know.

And thank you to all of those who contributed to our Christmas Party this year. We so appreciate all you do for our kids!

LET'S GO CAROLING!

IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE CHURCH

Help us spread some Christmas Cheer to the residents of the Magnolias on Sunday, Dec. 8. We'll meet at the entrance at 2 p.m. The address is 745 Norland Avenue in Chambersburg.

Please also join us for Carol Singing in the Sanctuary of Trinity UCC at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18.

We'll have dinner together at 6 p.m. and then gather in the sanctuary to sing our favorite carols together. Feel free to come with your requests. St. Paul's is most welcome to join in!

Fa La La La La...

POINSETTIA ORDERS FOR ST. PAUL'S

Pam Carmack and Mary Haubrick will be receiving orders for purchasing poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The poinsettia may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. A donation of \$6.00 is requested per six-inch pot. Any amount over \$6.00 is gratefully accepted by Church Women to fund their church activities. Information and an order form will be included with the Sunday Bulletins. You may also order by phoning Pam or Mary.

Give money and order form to Pam Carmack (485-4795) or Mary Haubrick (987-3604 by Sunday, December 15, 2019.



THANK YOU FOR FILLING A SHOEBOX

By: Mary Haubrick

Since the year 2007, St. Paul's United Church of Christ has participated in the annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry through Samaritan's Purse. This year a total of 50 shoeboxes were filled bringing a total of 554 filled boxes given by St. Paul's since 2007. Several generous donations were also made to help cover the cost of shipping the boxes. A special thank you to the Adult and Children's Sunday School for a successful "Shoebox Packing Morning on Sunday, Nov. 3rd". The young adult Sunday School Class and teacher Jo-Ann Sheffield helped to assemble the special Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes. Christian Hann loaded all the boxes and delivered them to a local drop off location at Tri-State Fellowship Church in Hagerstown, MD. Thank you to everyone for your generous support of this outreach ministry that shares the Good News of Jesus and touches the lives of millions of children in need worldwide.



A One-Word Prayer

crosswalk.com

Dear Heavenly Father,

This is my one word prayer: PEACE.

I can't see ahead. I don't know what to do.

Here are all my fears and my questions... [share yours]

I want to experience your perfect peace.

Let it be with me. Just as you say.

Hold me, God, so I can hear you whisper to me, "You don't have to know the way. I do."

In Jesus' name, Amen

~ Bonnie Gray, from "[Praying for Perfect Peace When We Can't See How](#)"

First, Some Simple Things to Pray For During Advent:

1. Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
 2. Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
 3. Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
 4. Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
 5. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of loving community.
 6. Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
 7. Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
 8. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
 9. Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
 10. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
 11. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
 12. Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
 13. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
 14. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
- Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

~ Edited from Whitney Hople's "[Pray for Simplicity this Advent](#)"



2019

DECEMBER

4 John Duffey
8 Terry Pine
10 Betty Keefer
Tina Wood
12 Roger Higgins
14 Ronald Bricker
Paul Dietrich
Mary Ellen Ott
15 Hannah Dick
16 Judy Dietrich
17 Deb Dick
19 Ryder Richards
20 Seleen Shives
21 Ethan Barclay
23 Betty Newman
29 Ann Hays
30 Mark Crouse
John Hornbaker
Karen Fox



Trinity's Ushers:

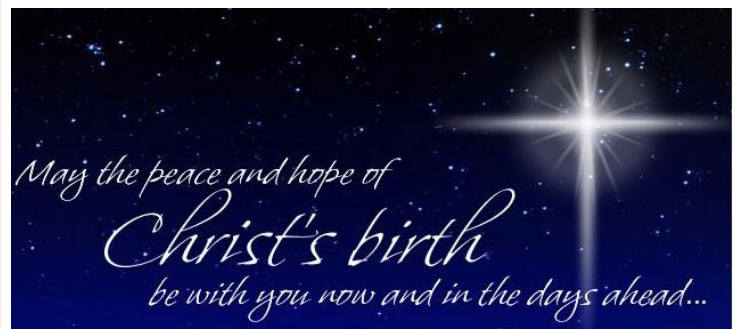
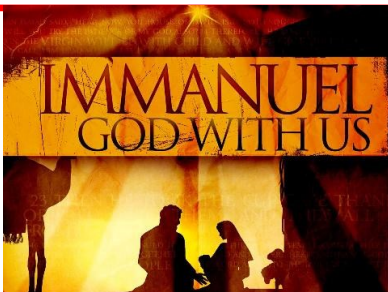
Sharon and Justin Zeis

St. Paul's Ushers:

Todd and Shaffer Earley

St. Paul's Flowers:

Mary Haubrick and Pam Carmack



**John Burns family
Sue Fox family
Alex, Bethany and Eleanor Wynn
Evelyn and George Zeis
Bill Anderson
Chase Andrews
Bill and Ann Hays
Donna Keefer
Korbyn Rotz
Mary Haubrick
Skip and Betty Daniels
Nicole Hummel
Carl and Carol Mellott
Zeis family
Dennis Hess
Robert Door
Nancy Barmont
Sawyer and Jan Bye family
Meril Feters
Mary Lou Fritz
Military and families
All Sunday school classes
Our Church & ministries
Prayers for the following pregnancies:
Kara Hess
Katy Hess
Jenny Earley**

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



*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. Thank
You!*

2019

December

Sunday, December 8

Trinity Eldercare Collection

Caroling at The Magnolias (Chambersburg), 2:00 PM

Tuesday, December 10

Trinity Consistory meeting, 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 15

Trinity Building Fund Offering

St. Paul's Christmas Program during 11:00 AM worship

Tuesday, December 17

St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 18

Trinity Community Caroling Events: Supper at 6:00 PM, caroling in sanctuary at 7:00 PM, at Trinity, St. Paul's welcome

Sunday, December 22

Trinity Christmas Program during 9:00 AM worship

Tuesday, December 24

St. Paul's Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service 6:00 PM, \$100.00 of the offering plate will be sent to Hoffman Home for Youth

Trinity Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service, 8:00 PM, Plate offering for Hoffman Homes for Youth

Thank you for joining us in worship today...if you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak with Pastor Marleen or any member.

Things to be on the look out for...



St. Paul's UCC

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(717)-485-5554***mcbucc@embarqmail.com
Facebook & www.uccmccbg.weebly.com

Trinity UCC

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(717)-369-4773***Find Us on Facebook
www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)
www.ucc.org
www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com