

The Beacon

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

Isaiah 43:18-19

"Forget the former things: do not dwell on the past, See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

"Shoe Fundraiser" for the Lion's Club Park, copied from Facebook. St. Paul's U.C.C. participated in this and a special thanks to everyone who donated towards this great success.

Shoe Donation Success.....by Sarah Paylor Cutchall

The time has come! The check for the shoes came and we killed it! After collecting over 6,675 pair of shoes in 267 bags, the money raised was \$3,324.00 toward our park! How amazing is that!?!

I'm so proud to live in a community where this was so successful. Numerous members of the Funds2orgs organization noted that this was an extremely successful fundraiser for a small town, and I absolutely agree! Thank you for every donation, every pair of shoes and every like and share to spread the word! Also a HUGE thank you to the local businesses and churches who willingly collected shoes for what felt like forever. And of course thank you to my family who jumped in to help collect, tie, rubber band, bag and heave giant, heavy bags full of shoes over and over! I look forward to playing on the new playground with my kids for years to come!! ❤️

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

STAMP

January 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

It was Christmas Day, and I was filled with joy. I wasn't really expecting it. The week before, I had been thinking about who I was missing this year. I am grateful for the family that I have, even if they are far away, but the holidays have a way of reminding you of who is missing from the table.

On Christmas Day, after all the many services and busy preparations were over, I awoke with joy. This Christmas spirit continued throughout the day as I connected with friends via message, video, and phone call. Still, it's not the same. Nothing is the same as actually being together, a lesson I learned the hard way these last two years.

But when I heard the church bells ring this Christmas, I was really feeling the joy of the season... despite my losses. I thought of that familiar carol with the same name, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

The hymn was written by poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day 1863. Longfellow was at the end of his rope. Two years earlier he had lost his wife. Fanny's dress had caught fire in a freak home accident. Longfellow tried and failed to save her from the flames. He grew his trademark beard to hide the burn scars. It's said that after the loss of the love of his life, his whole demeanor changed. Worried that he was losing his mind, Longfellow begged not to be sent to an asylum.

In the spring of 1863, his 18-year-old son ran away to fight in the Civil War. In December, Longfellow received a telegram notifying him that Charley had been severely injured in battle. A bullet to his back had missed his spinal cord by an inch. Charley was alive, but the doctor warned that he could be paralyzed for life.

"Blessings" continued...

But on Christmas Day 1863, when he heard the bells peal out, something changed. In the midst of personal tragedy, civil war, loss and grief, Longfellow somehow felt the presence of God, the God he had written off, the God he was convinced was either dead or asleep. That Christmas, Longfellow returned to the faith he had lost. He heard the bells and he believed.

Longfellow went on to live a long, happy and really fascinating life, as did his son, Charley, who after a rigorous healing process, was able to walk again. You can read the lyrics to "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" on the next page. Longfellow wrote several more verses than what is printed, but this shortened version has become the standard Christmas carol that has touched hearts for the last 150 years.

I hope that you find the comfort I did in reading it. Whatever loss or grief you may be suffering this season, I pray that you hear the bells. I pray that you remember the promises of God, the hope and future that God has for you, and that God has for all of us who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose. Grace and peace to you this season of Christmas and Epiphany, and of course, Peace on Earth, Good Will to All People Everywhere!

*In Christian Love,
Pastor Marleen*

Online Study Returns in February

What started out two years ago as a weekly online Bible study has become so much more. We have done Bible studies, book studies, and an online devotional. The most important thing, I think, is that we hold space each week. Even though some of us are quarantined, or stuck at the office, or far away from home, we can still gather and learn together, growing closer to Christ. It really is a special time. I so appreciate, the insights you share each week, and your precious prayers! Let me know if you want to be added to our email list for updates. Just send "Add Me" to marleen.shepherd@gmail.com or 618-521-3541.

Christmas Past...



Youth perform "Light the Candles All Around the World"
at Trinity's Christmas Program 2019.

(Gr. 6-8)

JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Meeting Schedule

2 Sundays/month typically 3pm-5pm* Meet @MUMC's main lot / youth room

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Activity</u> |   (Church / Out) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday, Jan 9 | New Year New Me |  |
| Sunday, Jan 23 | MLK Service Day |  |
| Sunday, Feb 6 | Chili Night Fundraiser! |  |
| Sunday, Feb 20 | Snowtubing at Whitetail |  |
| Sunday, Mar 6 | Gaga Ball Tournament |  |
| Sunday, Mar 13 | Family Night! |  |
| Fri-Sun, Mar 18-20 | Weekend Camping Trip |  |
| Sunday, Apr 10 | Holy Moly It's Holy Week |  |
| Saturday, Apr 23 | Spring Clean Up Day (10AM) |  |
| Sunday, May 8 | Mother's Day |  |
| Sunday, May 22 | Summer Finale |  |

Contact information:

Youth Pastor - Peter Billings
 YouthPastorMUMC@comcast.net
 (717) 485-4815 x204

*Any changes will be communicated



Christmas at St. Paul's 2019



Advent 2021

Cookies for the Truckstop Ministry.
142 bags! WTG Trinity!



Trinity Poinsettias 2021



In Memory of:

- *Our beloved parents & grandparents who have passed before us
By Crouse, Myers and Wynn Families
- *Our beloved children & grandchildren who have passed Debbie & Jonah
By Crouse, Myers and Wynn Families
- *William & Jane Houghland, Genevieve & Arthur Best & Ruth Guyer Mellott
By Barry & Linda Best
- *Robert M. Lawyer, Sr., Nancy Lawyer & Margaret V. Lawyer (Aunt Peg)
By The Lawyer Family
- *William (Bill) Armstrong
By Rodney & Machine Armstrong & Family
- *Thelma Miller
By Nicholas, Anne, EJ & Olivia
- *Lawrence Newman
By Betty Newman
- *Leonard & Helen McLaughlin
By Betty Newman
- *Justin Armstrong, Rich Hurst, Edward, Isabel, Helen & Ronnie Armstrong,
Ginger & Cory Jones & Helen Milhouse, Joseph, Pauline & Ruthie Rotz
By Jerry & Cindy Armstrong & Family
- *Tom Hamil & Callie & Ethel Truax Charles and Louise Sweeney
By Leah Hamil & Gary and Jeanne Sweeney
- *Clair Higgins, Jr
By Zereau Higgins
- *Rodney Richard Higgins
By Zereau Higgins
- *Clair Higgins, Jr
By the Higgins, Hess & Rosenberry Families
- *Zereau Higgins
By the Higgins, Hess & Rosenberry Families
- *Ethel & Martha Fries; Catherine & Ron Buterbaugh, Joe & Anna Rotz
By Sam & Corinna Rotz
- *Joe and Anna Rotz
By their Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren
- *Lynn Gehr, Louise Gehr Bivens, Bill Bivens & the Jones, Rotz & McLaughlin Families
By Chandra Rotz & Family
- *Arthur (Sam) Woods
By Wanda Woods & Family
- *Marvin D. Trott & Jerry Owings
By Rev. Marleen Shepherd
- *Jennie, Mary & Agnes
By Rev. Marleen Shepherd
- *Dale Rice
By Sharon Daugherty & Tesha Keefer Family
- *Harold & Terry Keefer
By Betty Keefer & Family
- *Percy Hays & William Hays, Donna Keefer
By Anna & Edward Hays

In Honor of:

- *Barb Hurst
By Jerry, Cindy Armstrong Family



January 2022



9 am Trinity UCC Fort Loudon
[Facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon)
11 am St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg
[Facebook.com/UCCMcCbg](https://www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbg)

Join us in person and online for Sunday worship!

Jan 2 Holy Communion

Jan 9 Celebration of Epiphany

Chalk your doorpost with 20+C+M+B+22 to bless your home for Epiphany, beginning January 6.

Jan 16 Sunday Worship

Congregational Meeting at Trinity follows shortened service.

Jan 23 Sunday Worship

Rev. Loy Garber leading worship at Trinity and St. Paul's.

Jan 30 Sunday Worship

Congregational Meeting at St. Paul's follows service.

January 2022



Sunday School at Trinity

9 a.m. Children's Sunday School begins in worship.

10 a.m. Adult Sunday School follows worship.

Sunday School at St. Paul's

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

10 a.m. In-person Sunday School for all ages, pre-K through Adult.

"Ignite Teens" **Online at 10 a.m.**

<https://meet.google.com/rgp-zudv-nfe>

Adult Sunday School **Online at 10 a.m.**

Zoom.Us

Meeting ID: 876 0047 5397

Phone: 301-715-8592

Updated Info at: uccmccbg.weebly.com

"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Proverbs 3:13-18



"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

By Henry W. Longfellow

**1 I heard the bells on Christmas day, Their old familiar carols
play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace of earth,
good will to men.**

**2 I thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all
Christendom, Had rolled along th'unbroken song Of peace on
earth, good will to men.**

**3 And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on
earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace
on earth, good will to men."**

**4 Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead,
nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With
peace on earth, good will to men."**

**5 Till, ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night
to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, Of peace on earth,
good will to men.**



Many Hands Make LIGHT Work

St. Paul's

Saturday, January 8th. at 8:30a.m.

***We will be undecorating and giving the church a good cleaning and some light maintenance, there are supplies here, but if you have something you really like to clean with, bring it along.**

****If you are not up to this, please still come and have donuts and coffee with us for moral support**

The Faith & Fellowship Center Up Date

A member of the CES Engineering firm recently met with the Faith & Fellowship Center Project committee to go over final construction plans. Now the drawings and documents are being prepared to be released later in January to various general contractors in order to begin the bidding process. A deadline for the bids will be set, and then we should have a realistic grasp of what the actual construction costs will be. CES Engineering will be guiding us through this bidding process.



With leading indicators showing signs that construction costs are “softening”, it is hopeful that an acceptable bid can be received, and that construction can begin at some time during 2022.

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).

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION....

Before you Speak....T.H.I.N.K.

T = Is it True? H = Is it Helpful? I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary? K = Is it Kind?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY BABIES!



- 4 Esty Alexander
- 11 Charlie Pryor
- 13 Hunter Buterbaugh
Denise Grissinger
- 14 Eric Hess
- 16 Charlie Baker
Madison Koontz
Bodie Shives
- 20 Pam Carmack
Ashley Souders
- 21 Shaffer Eugene Early
- 24 Linda Grissinger
- 29 Henry Arwood
- 31 Bernice Crouse



Please send additions and corrections to the church office.



The healing of our nation+

- Amanda Mitchell
- Linda Sowers
- Ed Hayes
- 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
- All affected by Covid-19, health, life, livelihood
- Emily & Brad 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. (He has left for basic training for the Marines)
- Arrow Rose Johnson
- The family and friends of Zereau Higgins



forfourreadinglist.blogspot.com

2022



Third Sunday each month

Trinity's Building Fund Offering

Sunday, January 2

Holy Communion

Thursday, January 6

Chalk your doorpost with 20+C+M+B+22 to bless your home for Epiphany

Saturday, January 8

St. Paul's undecorating, cleaning, light maintenance 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 11

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 16

Trinity Congregational meeting following a shortened service

January 18-22

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Tuesday, January 18

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

Sunday, January 30

St. Paul's Congregational meeting following the morning service
Please have reports to the office no later than January 20, 2022, if possible, so information can be available on the 23rd.

5 Minutes a Day!

That's the time it takes to copy one single verse from the Bible each day.

It's a small daily habit that has ripple effects throughout the day, week, month, and year.

We've just posted a printable copywork calendar that can get you started on this small (*yet oh so powerful*) daily routine:

<https://teachsundayschool.com/i/copyworkcalendar/>

Minutes of copywork each morning can change the entire tone of the day.

It's a time to PAUSE.

It's a time to REMEMBER what is really important.

It's a time to BUILD positive momentum for the day.

We've designed a 365 day copywork calendar for you to begin using right away. (no need to worry about January rolling around to begin).

Each & every scripture verse was carefully selected to highlight a specific monthly theme.

