

# The Beacon

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,. For apart from me you can do Nothing. *John 15:5*

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

## A [Daily Prayer](#) for Joy and Strength

Dear God, at the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you, and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us, and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. We love you Lord...we need you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

~ Debbie McDaniel/Crosswalk.com



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

STAMP

## Sunday Worship

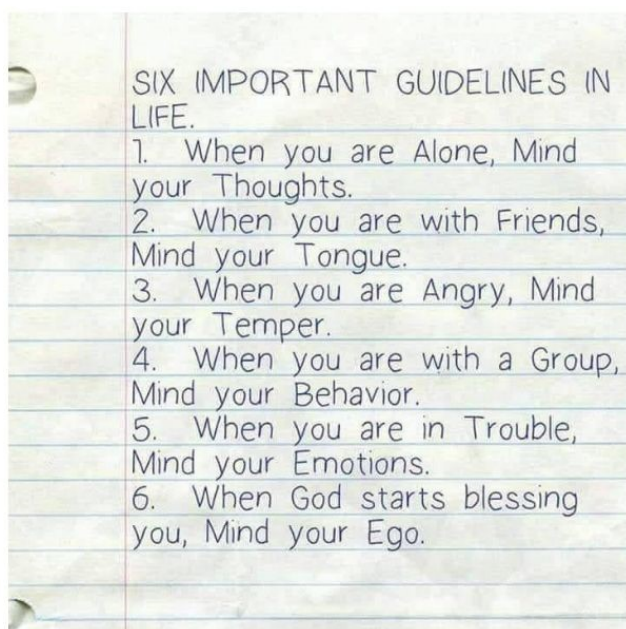
9 am Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

[www.facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon](http://www.facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon)

11 am St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

[www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbg](http://www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbg)

*Join us!*



## Sunday School

**Sunday School at Trinity**

10 a.m. Fellowship & Adult Sunday School follows worship.

**Sunday School at St. Paul's**

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

10 a.m. Adult Sunday School, in person and online at Zoom.Us

Meeting ID: 817 1146 3313

Passcode: 17233

*Children's Sunday School is on summer break. Enjoy this time with family and friends!*



## Online Share & Prayer

July 7 and August 11, 2022

We'll gather online at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom.Us for a time of sharing and praying together. Can we pray for you? Let the pastor know.

Direct Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87646471304?pwd=WUVFWDB3ZHVhSERKN0wwdHRGWlVMdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 4647 1304

Passcode: C9E4kz

# BLESSINGS FROM THE PASTOR

*July 2022*

Dear Friends,

I lament that the majority of my time as your pastor was during Covid. Thankfully, we weren't out of church long because we could worship safely in small numbers, but we were socially curtailed. One of my own lifelines was the online study group. Still not the same, but so much better than not being together at all.

Thankfully, many of us who had Covid lived to tell about it, but the church has not recovered. Experts say church attendance patterns are following the 30-40-30 hypothesis. Thirty percent of those members lost during the pandemic are gone for good. They aren't coming back. About 40 percent are marginally committed, attending with less frequency than before and less overall involvement in church life. The last 30 percent are the committed. They returned to church after lockdowns and remain as active as previously.

I don't have to tell you that's bad news. I'll leave that to the church treasurers, but as they struggle with less money in the plate, many of us are really struggling with less people in the pews. We miss familiar faces. We worry about the future of our churches and the future of church in general. We struggle with whether we should invest in growth or scale down. We argue about what needs to stay or change or come back. We wonder if we should walk away. Thirty percent of us already have.

I wish I had answers. I don't know what it takes to stay alive, let alone grow, but I know that God does. And I know that trials, in the church and in our lives, can actually strengthen us. They can teach us and lead us. The Apostle Paul says that perseverance produces character, and that character produces hope. "And hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Rom 5:4)

Perseverance. Character. Hope. These three go a long way. I'm holding them close today, and I hope you are too as we pray for the church, the world, and one another.

In Christian Love,  
Pastor Marleen



# *Pentecost in the Park*



*June 25, 2022*

## *Cowan's Gap Joint Communion Service*





- 3 Stephanie Crouse  
9 Jason Armstrong  
14 Jeff Lawyer  
17 Preston Mellott  
21 Chelsi Burns  
23 Colin Warren Neal  
25 Todd Alexander



*Please send additions and corrections to the church office.*

# Prayer Request

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.



*Our Thoughts  
and Prayers  
are With you*

# 2022



## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:**

The first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM at the McConnellsburg United Methodist Church in McConnellsburg.

**Third Sunday each month: Trinity's Building Fund Offering**

**Monday, July 4**

**Independence Day**

**Wednesday, July 13**

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

**July 10-16**

**Franklin County Fair**

**August 20**

**Peach Festival**

***\*\*\*NO St. Paul's Church Women until September!***



*Starting Your Day Right/Joyce Meyer  
Change, Don't Complain*

***God wants you to enjoy a beautiful life with simplicity, sanity and clear direction. That only comes by spending time with Him, reading His Word, talking to Him and listening for His response. If you are too busy to get alone with Him each day, then set some boundaries in your life. Say no to whatever is keeping you from starting your day with God.***



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