



The Beacon

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

Trinity
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
Fort Loudon, PA

March 2022

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our

GAGA BALL TOURNAMENT

WITH THE 522 JR HIGH

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 @3PM - MUMC GYM
(MCCONNELLSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)
121 N 2ND ST

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

STAMP

BLESSINGS FROM THE PASTOR

MARCH 2022



QUEEN FOR A DAY

It's not everyday that adults get to play dress-up, but the 2021 Pop-up Christmas pageant was an opportunity for me to get into character. At Trinity I was an angel, and at St. Paul's a wise woman. Most days I don't feel particularly wise or angelic, and the truth is we all fall short of the glory of God. We all have a lot to learn, and a lot of sin to conquer, no matter how long we've been walking with Jesus.

And that is what the season of Lent is all about. As disciples, we recognize that we have not arrived. We still have a lot to learn and a long road ahead. How do we continue this difficult journey with integrity? In Lent, we pray, we fast, we give. We carve out time to sit at the Master's feet.

But like those first disciples, we often prove to be bad listeners and poor followers. We deny, betray and abandon our Lord as often as we glorify him. And yet if we are willing to stay the course in Christ, we will be transformed in Christ.

Though the way may grow dark, and our feet may grow weary, Christ bids us to take up our own cross and follow him. I pray we are courageous enough this Lenten season to accept the invitation.

Rev. Marleen Shepherd

618-521-3541

marleen.shepherd@gmail.com

REACHING OUT IN LOVE



Thank you to the Myers family, Trinity UCC and the Fort Loudon community for helping to provide 40 Sunshine Packages to the Chambersburg Hospital for patients admitted for Covid-19!



Thank you St. Paul's Sunday School for creating something beautiful to share with the congregation this Valentine's Day.

(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	

*Any changes will be communicated

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

Love Your Enemies

Dear God,

Today, I pray for my enemies, I do not pray that they will change their ways.

(Although I secretly believe that they should.)

I do not pray that they become more like me.

(Although that is a mighty temptation.)

I do not pray, even, that they cease to exist.

(Although I may, in my heart of hearts, desire this.)

Instead my prayer for my enemies looks a lot like a prayer for myself.

Help me Holy One, to stop drinking poison, hoping it will hurt another.

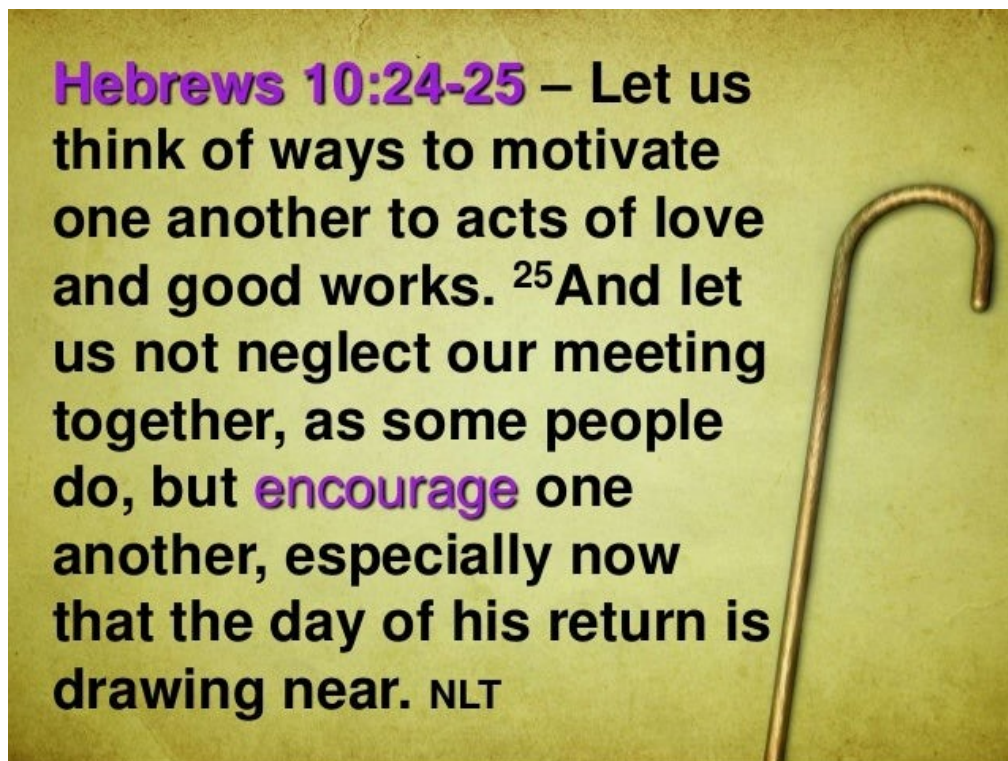
Help me instead to be more like you.

Truthful. Powerful. Compassionate.

Remind me today and every day that my prayer for my enemies makes Me-not them- more faithful. Stronger. Whole-er.

Today I pray for my enemies, which is really a prayer that I, myself, grow every day more and more into Your Divine Image, the Image in which I am created and meant to be. Amen

Requested by Mary Haubrick



The CES Engineering group called a meeting with the Faith & Fellowship Center Project committee on February 10th 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 to 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 the 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).



The St. Paul's Consistory is currently accepting applications for awards from the Retha Glazier Memorial Scholarship Fund. Awards will be for the 2022-2023 academic year.

To be eligible, candidates must be a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ and accepted to a post-secondary educational institution as a full-time student.

First time and returning students are welcome to apply.

Applications will be accepted through April 30, 2022.

Contact Scott Arwood via email at.....

smarwood@outlook.com for additional information or to request an application.





The Daffodil of golden yellow
Signifies great wealth,
Your birthday has the bloodstone
To show strong mind and health
And ever shines your bright star
Good cheer from near and far.

- 3 Gary Sweeney
- 6 Robert Will
- 8 Zachary Long
- Nathan Rosenberry
- 10 Taylor Myers
- 15 Beth Ann Daniels
- 16 Chris Myers
- 17 Mechele Shives
- 19 Eileen Hornbaker
- 21 Jessica Pryor
- 25 Hillary Alexander
- 30 Clint Alexander
- Jayne Buterbaugh

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



Prayer Request

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
- 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





**kids
take-over**

Join Us
March 13, 2022
11 am
St. Paul's Ucc
McConnellsburg, PA



**spread
love**

**Joint Lenten Bible Study
March 6, 2022 at St. Paul's**

Alternating between the two churches starting at 6:30 p.m.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine delves into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus' life. She sets the narrative in historical context and analyzes the risks and motives of the story's characters. She explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences.

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

PLEASE ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE BOOK, THE CHEAPEST I FOUND WAS \$7.69 AT THRIFT-BOOK.COM , USED . SEARCH THE TITLE AND CLICK IMAGES ACROSS THE TOP, IT SHOULD BRING UP THE PLACES YOU CAN ORDER AND THE PRICE.

I Worried
Mary Oliver

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall I correct it?
Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?
Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well, hopeless.
Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?
Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.



2022

MARCH

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*

Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday...Community Ash Wednesday "Drive-Thru Ashes" across from St. Paul's. Soup supper follows at Presbyterian church at 5:30 p.m. ALL welcome!

Friday, March 4

World Day of Prayer

Sunday, March 6

Ash Sunday.....Trinity will be celebrating Holy Communion Lenten study at St. Paul's 6:30 p.m.

Monday, March 7

Deadline for Easter flowers, please see Corinna Rotz: tulips \$9.75; hyacinths \$9.75, lilies \$9.99, mini daffodils \$10.95. If order less than 12 total plants, each pot will be \$1.00 more.

Wednesday, March 9

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 13

Daylight Savings Time begins

Don't be late for a very important date...Worship

Kid's Takeover Service...please come and

support the youth and future of this church

Lent study will start, alternating between the two churches

Please consider joining the sharing of ideas, love, fellowship is PRICELESS

Tuesday, March 15

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

June 6-11, 2022

Penn Central Conference 60th Annual Meeting
"Mission In Focus"

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mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Facebook & www.uccmccbg.weebly.com

Trinity UCC (717)-256-2703

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224

***Find Us on Facebook

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference) www.ucc.org

www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com

MARCH

