



The Beacon

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast
love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.”
Psalm 100:3-5*

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

NOVEMBER 2014

Deadline for Nov. News **Tuesday, Nov. 25**
Church Pick-up/Email **Sunday, Nov. 30**
Postal **Monday, Dec. 1**

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.

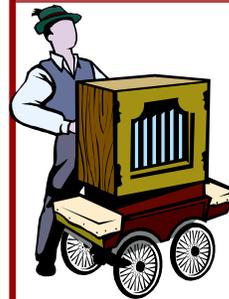


Volunteers Needed at Fulton County Food Basket

The Fulton County Food Basket now provides bags of food to children that are on the free and reduced lunch program in all three school districts, to take home over the weekend. The number of children signed up for this program is increasing, and they need to prepare almost 400 bags. St. Paul’s Church Women committed to pack bags on the **second Tuesday of each month, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** We will need four individuals each time. Please see Pastor Valeria if you are willing and able to help.

This month: Clean green.

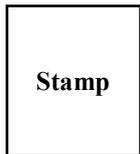
Heavy-duty scrub, great for rust stains on porcelain or enamel sink and tubs. Dip ½ a lemon into ½ a cup of borax (a laundry booster; find it in the detergent aisle) and scrub surface; rinse. (Not safe for marble or granite.)



Trinity Searching for an Organist

Trinity is looking for a new organist. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Pastor Valeria for more information.

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



Message from Your Pastor

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.”*

Psalm 100:3-5

‘Tis the season to be thankful.

Those who attended our Women’s Retreat last month talked about how gratitude is an important step towards finding happiness. If you appreciate what you have, you will find contentment and peace in your life. But we all know how difficult that is. Sometimes we don’t know what we’ve got until it’s gone. Sometimes we get so caught up in our daily struggles that we neglect to stop and say “thank you”. And sometimes “thank you” is just an empty phrase that we say as an automated response to any compliment or friendly gesture. It’s not as easy as it sounds, being thankful!

And in our culture where the holiday season has become so busy and stressful, it is even more difficult to make room for gratitude.

I have made it a habit to begin every prayer with “God, thank you...”. That way, before I ask for something, I make sure that I give thanks first. Because every single day is a reason to be thankful - even if just for the fact that we are alive.

In the tradition of the Church, November is also the month to remember those who have passed away, and to be mindful of our own mortality. Grief is painful, and some people’s death leaves an emptiness in our lives that can never be filled. But on the other hand, we can be thankful that we knew them and that we loved them, and they loved us. And we can be certain that they are always with us in a way that no living person can ever be.

The Thanksgiving holiday is not a joyful one for all. For those who are missing a loved one, it may be a sad and lonely day. Things change, and Thanksgiving this year may not be the same as it was years ago or even last year.

So we may need to push ourselves to be thankful not *because*, but *in spite of*.

Be thankful in spite of the fact that we miss someone.

In spite of the fact that we are growing older and no longer able to host a big family meal.

In spite of the fact that our family is not perfect and sometimes it is hard to get along.

In spite of the fact that we are worried about our own health or someone else’s, or our financial situation.

In spite of the fact that there are wars raging and families torn apart.

In spite of all the suffering and heartache that we see.

Still, I am thankful.

I am thankful for music – the kind that makes me cry, and the kind that makes me want to dance.

I am thankful for chocolate, coffee, pasta, and all the other foods I enjoy. (And I’m sure you are thankful that your list is a little different!)

I am thankful that I don’t know everything and that in the end, God will take care of it.

I am thankful for YOU. ---- I could go on and on, but I am running out of room.

What are you thankful for?

Start your list now, give it to God in prayer, and share it on Facebook, or “live” in church or Sunday school.

You have been blessed. Be a blessing!

Pastor Valeria.

Pastor Valeria's Absence

Pastor Valeria will return on November 8. Please contact Loy Garber in case of urgent pastoral needs (call 485-4902).



Daylight Savings Time Ends November 2



Turn your clocks back an hour on November 1 and enjoy an extra hour of sleep!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Bethany (Crouse) and Alex Wynn who were married on October 4. May God bless the happy couple as they begin their life together!



Baptisms at Trinity

We were happy to welcome Jase and Korbyn Rotz into our church and the body of Christ on October 5. May God bless them, their parents, Arin and Joey, and their family!



Dedication of Steeple Lighting at St. Paul's

The steeple lights and commemorative plaque given in memory of Arnetta Mellott were dedicated during worship on October 12. Thank you to the Mellott family for making this possible, and to Loy Garber for overseeing the installation.

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on November 9

During worship on November 9, we will give thanks for our loved ones who have passed on to their eternal resting place. You are invited to bring a photo and/or personal item that reminds you of your loved one(s).

Trini-TEA

Join us for the annual tea at Trinity on **Saturday, November 22 at noon** in the social room. Experience wonderful food and fellowship in a special atmosphere. The cost is \$20.00. Space is limited. Please contact Anna Rotz at 717-369-3318 or arotz@comcast.net to make reservations before November 10.

Ornament of Remembrance Workshop

The workshop provides an opportunity to make a new memory as participants create an ornament in memory of their deceased family member. Materials will be provided and sample ornaments offered, but attendees are encouraged to bring in items of special significance to incorporate into this unique and personal holiday decoration.

Tuesday, December 2nd from 1:30-3:00 p.m. OR 6:00-7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2695 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA.

Due to the popularity of this activity, **advance registration is required by Monday, November 24th.**



Trinity's Pork and Sauerkraut Supper

Trinity will be serving Pork and Sauerkraut on **Saturday, November 8, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**, in the Fort Loudon Community Center (Hawbaker Drive and Mullen Street). You may eat in or order carry-outs. Adult meals are \$7.50. Meals for children ages 7 to 12 are \$5.00 and children under 7 eat free. The menu includes mashed potatoes, peas, applesauce, cake, punch, and coffee. The meal is all you can eat, served buffet style. Join us for good food and fellowship!

Lions Club Dinners

This month, the Mt. Parnell Lions Club dinner will be served **Thursday, November 13**, at the Fort Loudon Community Center. **Help is always needed.** Please see Rosie Shives.

Photos from Trip to South Dakota

Pastor Valeria will give a presentation about her experience traveling to our Native American partner churches in South Dakota on **Monday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's.

Trinity's Thanksgiving Service

This year, the churches in Fort Loudon will each celebrate their own Thanksgiving Service, hoping to come together again as a community in 2015. Join us on **Wednesday, November 26, at 7:00 p.m.** at Trinity to give thanks and praise to God!

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF OCT. MEETING

Submitted by: M. Haubrick, Secretary St. Paul's Consistory

All consistory members present except Jonna Baker, Hillary Alexander and Nancy Barmont.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: The Fulton Fall Folk Festival Bake Sale, Fair Trade Sale and Yard Sale was a success with a reported profit of \$1,285.67. Upcoming events include a Trick or Treat night at the church during the Halloween Parade and Hanging of the Greens scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7 following a Soup/Sandwich lunch. The church women are also designing a card that can be sent by the pastor of our church to people on our prayer list.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The children's Sunday School is going well and the teacher rotation schedule for the nursery class is also working out well.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: A letter and also a photo brochure were mailed to eight inactive members.

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT \$80.00 available...no action taken

OLD BUSINESS: NEW CHURCH FURNACE: The old furnace has been removed, and the new furnace delivery is pending for Thurs or Friday of this week. Complete installation will take several days.

BASEMENT OLD WALL ELECTRIC HEATERS. It was suggested that these heaters be disconnected for safety. Loy will check with Brian Mellott, electrician, when he comes to check on installing an electric outlet for the downstairs piano.

NEW BUSINESS- MERCERSBURG ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING: Pastor Valeria announced that the fall meeting of the Mercersburg Association will be held on Sunday Nov. 2 at Landisburg. She further stated that she will be on vacation at this time and hoped that someone would attend the meeting to represent our church.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONSISTORY MEMBERS:

Three members of the consistory will be completing their terms this year: Mary Haubrick, Jo-Ann Sheffield and Jonna Baker. Both Jo-Ann and Mary have found replacements for their Elder and Trustee positions...Jonna Baker will be contacted regarding her Deacon position.

OFFERING DESIGNATIONS: The Thank Offering collection will be donated to the Fulton County Food Basket...on a motion made by Jo-Ann Sheffield, seconded by Carol Mellott. All members approved.

The Advent Offering will be donated to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Fulton County Fund on a motion made by Mary Haubrick, seconded by Jo-Ann Sheffield. All members approved.

ADVENT CALENDARS: Approval was given by general consensus for Pastor Valeria to order the single sheet Advent calendar for church members/friends.

CHURCH SIGNS: It was noted that the signs for our church located on Route 522 north and south and Route 30 west of the borough are very faded and need replaced. Loy will check with Dana Signs concerning a replacement and costs.

INTERNSHIP: Pastor Valeria announced that her God daughter from Germany will be participating in an internship requirement of her school in Germany and has chosen to visit with Pastor Valeria from January 10-25, 2015, to learn and observe her duties as a pastor. All consistory members voiced positive comments in regard to this and will welcome Miriam Adleff, age 15 to our parish.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: A discussion was held concerning the decline in attendance for church worship. It was suggested one of the ways to increase attendance would be to encourage members to personally invite family and friends to attend church.

St. Paul's Financial Information Treasurer's Report

Income for Sept.	\$ 4,766.63
Expenses for Sept.	\$ 7,129.31
Interest on Account	1.50
<u>Loss for month</u>	— \$ 2,361.18
<u>Loss for year to date</u>	— \$ 790.77

Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to Date
January-September	\$47,759.44	\$55,006.47	\$49,767.71
October 1-31	\$2,821.67	\$4,231.26	\$4,789.85
TOTAL	\$50,581.11	\$59,237.73	\$54,557.56

As the year progresses, expenditures continue to outpace receipts. Please consider how you might be able to reduce the deficit in the coming weeks. *Let's keep the church's programs on track! You would be surprised how small changes on the part of many can improve the church's financial position.*

Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt

stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com
(717)-485-3369

Secretary - Pam Carmack

buckpcar@embarqmail.com

St. Paul's UCC

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
(717)-485-5554

mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Now on Facebook & www.uccmccbg.weebly.com

Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street

Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

trinityuccftloudon.webs.com

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

Bob Lawyer

Trinity mourns with the family of Bob Lawyer who passed away on October 21. We pray that Nancy, their children and grandchildren will find comfort in our Lord who said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
(John 16:33)



Advent Envelopes

For most people, the weeks before Christmas are spent with shopping, decorating and preparations for family gatherings. In the history of the Church, Advent is a season of **fasting, repentance and almsgiving** – very much like the season of Lent. The idea is to make room in our lives and our hearts for the Son of God to come in; to consider what we might do differently in order to fully welcome God into our lives. Our Advent envelopes are an opportunity for you to set aside some of the money you might spend on gifts or food (probably for someone who already has more than enough!), and instead give it to someone who has very little. The envelopes will be distributed on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30. You may return them around Christmas as a gift to the Son of God, our Savior.

At **Trinity**, your gifts will support the Franklin County Prison Ministry. At **St. Paul's**, they will go to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Fund, for their ministry in Fulton County.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Wrapped shoeboxes are available in the upstairs Sunday School room for members and friends of St. Paul's to pick up and fill with gifts for this annual project. *"Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child."* ...Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse.

A donation of \$7 or more is requested for each shoe box to help cover shipping and project costs. If you are not able to shop to fill a shoebox, you can still participate by your donations that will be a great help to this special ministry. For more information, contact Mary at 987-3604 or mhaubrick@embarqmail.com.

DEADLINE TO RETURN THE FILLED BOXES TO ST. PAUL'S IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23.

Weekly Giving if the Percentage Is

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
\$8,000	\$667	\$154	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$23.00
12,000	1,000	231	5.00	9.00	14.00	18.00	23.00	35.00
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101.00
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115.00
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130.00
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144.00
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115.00	173.00
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115.00	144.00	216.00
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115.00	154.00	192.00	288.00
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144.00	192.00	240.00	361.00

Giving Calculator

God encourages us to tithe, to give 10% of the fruits of our labor back to him. Please refer to the table below to determine what percentage of your income you wish to dedicate to God.

Thank Offering

On the **Sunday** before Thanksgiving, **November 23**, we will be taking up a special collection at both churches to thank God for what he has blessed us with, and to share it with those who have less. At **Trinity**, the offering will go to the church's General Fund, and at **St. Paul's**, to the Fulton County Food Basket.



December Dates to Remember

Monday, December 1	Photos from Pastor Valeria's trip to South Dakota at St. Paul's, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 2	Fort Loudon Community Women's Christmas Party at the United Methodist Church, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 7	Hanging of the Greens at St. Paul's after lunch
Sunday, December 14	Hymn sing at Trinity followed by light refreshments, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve service at Trinity, 6:00 p.m.; St. Paul's, 8:00 p.m.

Food Basket Blitz 2014

A 3-week challenge to Fulton County Churches to collect non-perishable food items for the Fulton County Food Basket*

Kick-Off Date: Sunday, November 2, 2014

Delivery Date: Sunday, November 23, 2014

Deliver items to the Food Basket between 1-3 p.m. on November 23. (They will be counted, if you wish, before being shelved.)

Congregation members should sign in before touring the facility. Children are welcome. The Congregation having the most persons attending will receive special recognition.

The Food Basket is located at the rear basement entrance of McConnellsburg Senior Center, 100 Woodside Drive. A brief time of Prayer will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Food Basket stockroom.

*Expired food items and home-canned goods cannot be accepted.

All canned items must be USDA approved.

Suggested Food Items Are:

Canned fruits and vegetables, Canned meats (tuna, chicken, chili, Manwich), Canned soup, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti, Boxed Mixes (Scalloped Potatoes, Hamburger Helper, Macaroni & Cheese, Taco Dinner Kits)

Suggested Items Useful for Holiday Boxes:

Canned corn	Canned green beans	Canned fruit	Canned Pumpkin
Canned Pie Filling	Box Pie Crust	Box of Stuffing	Can or Jar of Gravy
Canned Cranberry Sauce	Canned milk		

Whole turkey or chickens are appreciated as well as bags of potatoes. These can be donated at any time.

TRINITY'S CONSISTORY NOTES:

Trinity Consistory met on [October 14, 2014](#). Opening prayer was given by Pastor Valeria. The minutes and Treasurer's report were both approved.

The Deacons reported that the children's [Sunday](#) School has grown large enough to split into two classes. Bernice and Sharyn will teach these classes, one for the older children and one for the younger ones.

The Trustee's reported that we do plan to get the trees cut but the bucket truck is not working. We are on the list and not forgotten. The closet in the basement may be finished by the end of October. We have an exterior door problem in the basement. It will be fixed temporarily but we will probably need a new door. Our window sills need another coat of paint sometime. Roy gave us figures about the new sign out front. This totals \$208.50. We discussed the possibility of light for night visibility and also putting glass or something over the letters. We will look into this in the spring. The people who worked on the basement have tried to contact Sam but have not been able to talk to him yet about the water problem that still remains.

The Evangelism Committee did not meet since the last Consistory meeting. They did mention that 17 families came for the free food and clothing event held on [October 11th](#). Thank you to everyone for your donations. Pork and sauerkraut posters will be available Sunday, [October 19th](#).

Under old business, St. Luke's rental agreement is due to expire in November. Glenn will contact them about this. The Stewardship Committee has drafted a letter to be sent to church members in reference to the church budget and pledges for 2015 for church offerings. It was approved to send this letter as written.

Under new business, nominations for Consistory will be needed for Sam, Anna and Glenn. There was a discussion about having the Community Thanksgiving Service at Freedom Lighthouse or hosting it here at Trinity. It was decided to stay at Freedom Lighthouse since they have plenty of room to have both the meal before the service and the actual service. Our organist, Heidi Myers, is asking to be relieved of her duties as organist by the end of the year. She has had health issues and would also like to be able to sit with her family. We will announce this during church here and at McConnellsburg and then advertise in the Public Opinion if we don't get a response by our next meeting. Pastor Valeria's oldest goddaughter will be coming to the states to do an internship with Pastor Valeria as part of a requirement by her school. She will be here from January 10-25, 2015. The Mercersburg Association Fall meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2nd from 3-5 p.m. in Landisburg, Pa. The discussion will be about a congregational assessment tool. Our Thank offering will be collected November 28th and will be given to our church's general fund this year instead of the Women's Guild. Our Advent envelopes will be given out November 30th which is the first Sunday of Advent. This money will go to the prison ministry.

It was approved to order the Advent calendars like we had last year. These are the sheets that have daily readings and scripture verses on them.

Under other business, Anna has requested to use 50 chairs from the church at the fort on [November 16th](#) for their Colonial [Christmas](#).

Glenn will order 30 church offering envelopes for 2015. There are some changes for insurance coverage for 2015. Health insurance is increasing by \$160.50. Dental is staying the same. Vision insurance will now be available starting [April 2015](#) if Pastor Valeria wants it. The cost would be \$95.00 yearly or \$47.50 for each church. Terry and Jason are willing to shovel sidewalks and take care of the parking lot this winter at no cost. This would include snow and ice removal. Thank you to them for being willing to do this for us.

Our meeting was adjourned with the praying of our Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Kathy Hess, Secretary

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY

- 1 Bryan Rosenberry
 3 Jonna Baker
 Richard Rotz
 4 Eric Buterbaugh
 7 Andy Washabaugh
 8 Harold Keefer
 9 Lisa Harris Skiles
 Ed Weller
 10 Joey Rotz
 12 Tesha Keefer
 17 Richard Hurst
 18 Bertha Byers
 20 Robert Koontz
 23 Russell McLucas, Jr.
 26 Mindy Headley
 28 Michael Dietrich
 29 Nancy Barmont



St. Paul's Flowers

*Call the above person(s) if you wish to order flowers in memory/
 honor of someone.*

Ruth and Jennifer Brubaker

Thank You for Serving!

St. Paul's Ushers

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Lana Pine and Karen Fox

Thank You for Serving!

PRAYER LIST

Family of Bob Lawyer
 Family of Sarah Gordon
 Family of Thelma Miller
 Family of Warren Daniels
 Family of Susan Ott
 Family of Arnetta Mellott
 Family of Roger Byers
 Bob Carmack
 Bertha Byers
 Betty Daniels
 Dorothy and Paul Stevens
 Gary Stevens
 Gene, Elsie and Barb Bricker
 Harold and Betty Keefer and family
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler
 Military and families
 Sponsored Children: Adrianus, Marc
 Philip, Thierry, Marcela
 Zeis family
 Jean McLucas
 Diane Baxter
 Janis Cutchall
 Kylene McLucas Arwood
 All individuals and families affected by
 cancer
 All Sunday school classes

*Please let us know of any changes, additions or
 corrections to the Prayer and Birthday lists.
 Thank you!*



NOVEMBER 2014

Wednesdays	Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.; Prayer and Praise, 7:45 p.m.
Thursdays	St. Paul's <i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice, 6:00 p.m.
Through Friday, November 7	Pastor Valeria on vacation. Contact Loy Garber for urgent pastoral needs (485-4902)
Sunday, November 2	Daylight Savings Time ends. Soup Sunday at St. Paul's
Saturday, November 8	Trinity's Pork and Sauerkraut supper at the Fort Loudon Community Center, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 9	Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center
Monday, November 10	Trinity's Evangelism Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 11	Volunteers at Food Basket, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 12	St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 16	Trinity's special offering for the Building Fund
Tuesday, November 18	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 22	Trini-tea, 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 23	Holy Communion Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center Thank Offering Food Basket Blitz, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 26	Trinity's Thanksgiving service, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 27	Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!
Sunday, November 30	First Sunday of Advent Advent envelopes distributed

