

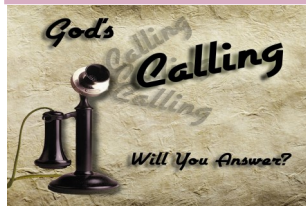


# The Beacon

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

Trinity  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
Fort Loudon, PA

April 2021



**Hebrews 22-25** So let's *do* it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

**Romans 4-6** In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

**6-8** If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face. (Msg.)

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

**STAMP**



*Alleluia!*  
**Easter Sunday**  
*Christ is Risen!*

*Family & Friends*

*You are cordially invited to join us for Holy Week & Easter Sunday services, in-person and online.*

*Holy Week 2021*

**March 28 Palm Sunday**

**April 1 Maundy Thursday**

Table Communion Service

*St. Paul's 7 p.m.*

**April 2 Good Friday**

*Trinity 7 p.m.*

**April 4 Happy Easter!**

**Easter Sunrise Service**

*Freedom Lighthouse 6:30 a.m.*

**Easter Sunday Services**

*Trinity 9 a.m.*

*St. Paul's 11 a.m.*

*Sunday Worship*

**9 am** Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

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

**11 am** St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

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

*Sunday School*

**St. Paul's 9:30 a.m.**

K-3: Donna House

4-6: Linda Garber

7-9: Loy Garber

10-12: JoAnn Sheffield "Ignite Teens"

Adult: Pam Carmack

**Trinity 10 a.m.** (following worship)

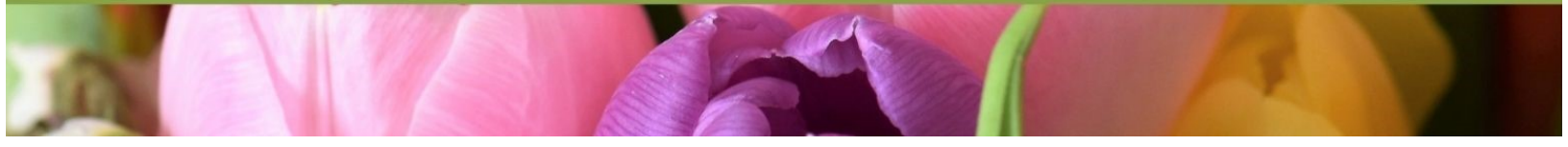
Adult: Glenn Crouse

*Online Bible Study*

**3:30 P.M. Thursdays on Zoom**

Meeting ID: 828 9251 4169

*For more information, contact the pastor at  
618-521-3541 and [marleen.shepherd@gmail.com](mailto:marleen.shepherd@gmail.com).*



## Trinity Easter Flower Dedication 2021

In Memory of Ruth Guyer Mellott & Emily Knight

From: Barry and Linda Best

In Memory of Joe & Anna Rotz, Ron Buterbaugh, Ethel & Martha Fries

From: Sam and Corinna Rotz

In Memory of Family Members who have gone before us, Parents and Children.

From: Glenn and Bernice Crouse

In Memory of Justin Armstrong, Helen Millhouses & Mr. & Mrs. Ed Armstrong

From: Jerry & Cindy Armstrong

In Memory of Parents, Willard & Naomi Mellott

From: Denise Mellott

In Memory of Geraldine Moyer

From: Cheryl Moyer

In Memory of Lauran & Elizabeth Funk

From: Cheryl Moyer

In Memory of Helen "Ruth" Helman

From: Glenda Helman

In Honor of Liz Helman

From: Glenda Helman

In Memory of All My Family in Heaven

From: Rev. Marleen Shepherd

In Memory of "Mommy & Daddy & Ronnie", Gene, Elsie & Ronnie Bricker

From: Barb, Bonnie, Greg & Marcy Bricker

In Memory of Harold & Terry Keefer

From: Betty Keefer

In Memory of Rich Hurst, Justin Armstrong & Grandma Helen & Deceased Rotz Family Members

From: Barb Hurst



From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith  
and Vibrant Faith in the Congregation

by David W. Anderson

The greatest insight in “The Great Omission” is my amazement that there is actually a 6-5-4-3 “recipe” for vibrancy in congregations that makes real sense.

Working with Pastor Marleen and other church leaders I can see short excerpts from the books that could be easily shared at the beginning of consistory meetings to inspire that core group to modify the approach of members to better fulfill the church’s mission. Even before COVID, Trinity was shrinking. Now they are seriously wondering how long the church can continue. It is a great time to push a reset button in our church to develop deeper relationships with those around us.

I took time out to find Trinity’s “purpose”/mission statement: **The avowed purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the Sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity with this church and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward mankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.**

“Doing less but going deeper” is a huge benefit to a congregation where only 20 people are currently coming through the doors each week. It is an approach that is manageable with a small core group of disciples.

I am excited to learn that refocusing on our families and homes can make such a huge difference and that teens and young adults really want caring relationships with adults. I have worked with youth assets in the community and on teams with youth who want to be leaders. I have seen youth in caring Christian relationships with adults at our church. I am, however, surprised that the youth are receiving the introduction of cross+generational relationships in a more positive light than adults are in many locations. Great food for thought!

Milestone Ministry is a totally new concept to me. It has frequently saddened us when some members of the church only enter the doors for Christmas, Easter, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Milestone is an amazingly positive approach of using those teachable moments. I am delighted to find a faith formation approach for connecting with families, homes, and individuals that you only see once or twice a year.

This is something that I believe the members of our church can do. We can reconnect and connect anew without casting such a broad net that we overwhelm ourselves. While I have experienced some of these concepts, I have not seen them applied to Christianity for a long time. Starting small has huge benefits.

Submitted by: *Bernice Crouse*



Dear Church,

It's been a long hard winter, but in many ways things are looking up. Infection numbers are down. Vaccinations are here. People are starting to get out. Spring has sprung.

Just hearing the birds these last few weeks and watching those hopeful shoots become flowers has meant more to me this year. I think I desperately needed some signs of hope. I think we all do. Not just in Covid days, but on so many days, especially those days when we get dragged down by daily life, when we are exhausted from demanding schedules and never-ending obligations.

So I hope this Lenten season has been a time for you to catch your breath, a time to step away from the daily grind and step into deeper discipleship. Of course, that's not just the recipe for Lent; it's the recipe for life. And while things aren't anywhere close to comfortable, we know that Easter is coming. No matter how dark or dreary things may seem, we know the promises of God are being fulfilled.

I hope that you are seeing some of those signs of new life. And I pray that you will share them with others.

This new season of Easter, as we celebrate the Good News, I hope we all find ways to share the Good News. More than that, I pray that we become the Good News. I hope we're shining a light in the dark places, and that were lifting a load off those who are heavy-laden.

We have been given a shot of hope in Jesus Christ. We have been vaccinated against sin and saved from death, We have inherited eternal life in the fellowship of the saints and angels. Christ has made a way for us. Let's share it!

Yours in Christ,  
*Rev. Marleen Shepherd*

“  
**THE REAPPEARANCE  
OF THE LIGHT  
IS THE SAME  
AS THE SURVIVAL OF THE SOUL.**

*Victor Hugo*



## *GIVING*

Thank you so much for your continued support of the mission and ministry of our church!

### **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*Please make checks payable to the church and mail to:*

**Seleen Shives**

208 Cooper Lane  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Give online at:

**<https://uccmccbg.weebly.com>**

### **Trinity United Church of Christ**

*Please make checks payable to the church and mail to:*

**Jerry & Cindy Armstrong**

5453 Forest Lane  
Fort Loudon, PA 17224

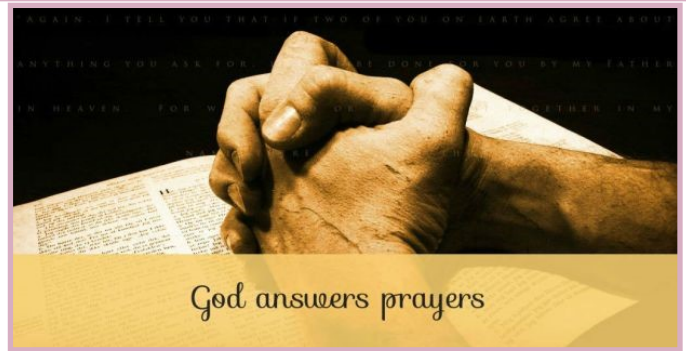
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL BABIES!



- 2 Mark Washabaugh
- Shaylee Kuykendall
- 6 Cindy Armstrong
- Jenna Armstrong
- 8 Lori Rotz
- Gary Shives
- 9 Theo Arwood
- 10 Amanda Daniels Neal
- 12 Jo-Ann Sheffield
- 17 Dody Hopkins
- 20 Denny Carmack
- 21 Tamela Mellott Bard
- 23 Heidi Myers
- 26 Reanna Jo Richards
- 27 Meril Fetters
- 28 Hayes Alexander
- 29 Glenn Crouse



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU



**The healing of our nation+**  
**Amanda Mitchell**  
**Ruth Brubaker's family**  
**Linda Sowers**  
**Ed Hayes**  
**Lana Pine**  
**Kylene McLucas Arwood**  
**Elizabeth Kerlin**  
**Chase Andrews**  
**Bernice Crouse's 96 y.o. Aunt Marie and family**  
**Korbyn Rotz**  
**Mary Haubrick**  
**Skip and Betty Daniels**  
**Nicole Hummel**  
**Carl and Carol Mellott**  
**Dennis Hess**  
**Robert Door**  
**Nancy Barmont**  
**Sawyer and Jan Bye family**  
**Meril Fetters**  
**Ernie Tarner**  
**Jessica Truax**  
**Corinna Rotz**  
**Zereau Higgins and family**  
**Sarah Baker**  
**Carole Grissinger Seiber**  
**Bernice's friend Christa**  
**Zeis family**  
**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**  
**Bill & Ann Hays**  
**Leah Hamil**  
**Kathleen Pappas**  
**Dee & Ken Hupp**  
**Summer Hoover and daughter Ruby (3)**  
**God's people**



# 2021



Sunday morning worship

Trinity 9:00 a.m. St. Paul's 11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday each month

Trinity's Eldercare Offering

Third Sunday each month

Trinity's Building Fund Offering

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday, Passover begins

Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m. @ Trinity (last in our study)

Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday Table service at St. Paul's 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 2

Good Friday service at Trinity 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 3

Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 4

*Easter Sunday*, Passover ends

Tuesday, April 13

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14

St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.

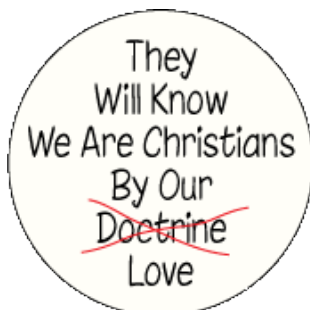
Tuesday, April 20

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

**\*\*\*watch for date and information about Trinity's April pot pie fundraiser \*\*\***

Four good reasons it's important to be part of a local church:

- 1) We tend to drift spiritually when not connected relationally.
- 2) Christianity was never intended to be an independent endeavor.
- 3) Our shared gifts, talents and resources make us stronger.
- 4) God ordained the Church as His organized plan for redemption.



**St. Paul's UCC** (717)-485-5554

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Facebook & [www.uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://www.uccmccbg.weebly.com)

**Trinity UCC** (717)-369-4773

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224

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[www.pccucc.org](http://www.pccucc.org) (Penn Central Conference)

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)