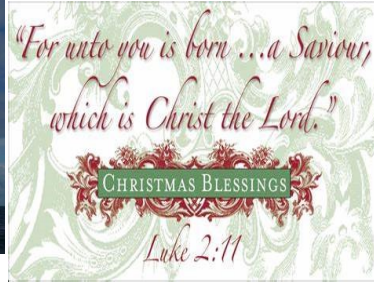


The Beacon

The Newsletter of
St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
McConnellsburg, PA
Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon, PA
December 2021



“The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people.”

—
Titus 11

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins:

***to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.”***

UCC Sermon Seeds



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

STAMP

Advent 2021

Blessings from the Pastor

Rev. Marleen Shepherd

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the holiday season sweeps in, so will the many busy moments of cooking, cleaning, decorating, shopping, visiting and celebrating. It's a fun and exciting time, and we are so fortunate to have good friends and family to share it with.

Nevertheless, in the Christian calendar, Advent is meant to be a quiet time. The weeks leading up to Christmas are a time for meditation. A time to slow down and stay in. On these cold, clear nights, the constellations shine so brightly that we can imagine that night in a manger so long ago, and that great star that led straight to Jesus.

As the day draws nearer to Christ's birth, I pray that you will take a few quiet moments to seek him. Seek him in the busy days ahead, but also seek him in the silent nights. Come to him in the quiet and the stillness. I know he will meet you there.

As you return to the busy tasks of so many busy days, take the peace of Christ with you and share it in Jesus' name!

Rev. Marleen Shepherd



Online Advent Devotional 2021

Thursdays in December
3:30-4:45 pm
Zoom.us
Meeting ID: 828 9251 4169
By phone: 301-715-8592

Take a break from the holiday bustle for a time of Advent devotion and prayer. We will meet online at 3:30 pm each Thursday in December. There is no prep and no obligation. Just come as you can for a time of quiet prayer and meditation.

Wise Ones Still Seek Him...



Happy Golden Anniversary!

November 2021



November 1971

November 1971, Rev. Loy Garber officiating



*Congratulations
Buck &
Pam Carmack*

*Celebrating 50 years of
Holy Matrimony*



December Worship 2021

Join us in-Person or Online!



Worship

9 am Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

Facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon

11 am St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

Facebook.com/UCCMcCbg

Pop-Up Christmas Pageant

Dec. 12, 2021 @ Trinity 9 am

Dec. 19, 2021 @ St. Paul's 11 am

The whole congregation is invited to join in the fun of telling the Christmas story during this Do-It-Yourself Christmas Pageant. Grab a halo or animal ears at church, or make your own nativity costume by dressing up as angels, shepherds, wise ones, animals, or anything related to the Christmas story.

*Thank You for spreading some
Christmas cheer!*



Operation Christmas Child 2021



Advent & Christmas Worship Calendar

- Nov 28** First Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Hope Candle
- Dec 5** Second Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Peace Candle
- Dec 12** Third Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Joy Candle
Trinity's Pop-Up Christmas Pageant
- Dec 19** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Love Candle
St. Paul's Pop-Up Christmas Pageant
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Holy Communion
6 p.m. at St. Paul's
8 p.m. at Trinity
- Dec 26** First Sunday after Christmas
Lessons & Carol Service

Sunday School

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.

Online Sunday School at St. Paul's

"Ignite Teens" 10 a.m.

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

Adult Sunday School 10 a.m.

Zoom.U.S

Meeting ID: 876 0047 5397

Phone: 301-715-8592

Updated Info at

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

"O Come All Ye Faithful..."



- 4 John Duffey
- 8 Terry Pine
- 10 Betty Keefer
- Tina Wood
- 12 Roger Higgins
- 14 Ronald Bricker
- Paul Dietrich
- Mary Ellen Ott
- 15 Hannah Dick
- 16 Judy Dietrich
- 17 Deb Dick
- 19 Ryder Richards
- 20 Seleen Shives
- 21 Ethan Barclay
- 23 Betty Newman
- 24 Zach S.
- 25 Jesus Christ our Lord
- 29 Ann Hays
- 30 Mark Crouse
- Karen Fox
- 31 John Burns



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
- Meril Fetters
- Jessica McLucas Truax
- Corinna Rotz
- 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
- Dee & Ken Hupp
- Eileen Troutt-Ervin and Bob Perry
- Kathleen Pappas
- Patrick McCarthy
- Summer Hoover and daughter Ruby
- Daniel Hopper, grandson of Linda Best. (He has left for basic training for the Marines)
- Arrow Rose Johnson (preemie in Hershey NICU)





FREE PRINTABLE




Christmas Ice Breaker and Conversation Cards

Think of as many Christmas songs as possible that have the word "Angel" in them. 🎵




Pretend you are a Christmas tree. Can anyone guess what you are?




Call someone and tell them this Christmas joke:


Q. What do you give a reindeer with an upset tummy?
A. An "ELK" a seltzer!




Act out the Shepherd and sheep's reactions to when the angels appeared in the night sky with the Good News.



The secret phrase is "Joseph and Mary."
Give clues and see who can guess it.



Everyone must give their best version of Santa's famous "Ho Ho Ho!"




Sing "Silent Night" as quietly as you can.



happy home fairy
HELPING MOMS BUILD HAPPY HOMES

Act out your best interpretation of a snowman melting.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX PROJECT

Once again, St. Paul's UCC participated in the annual Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. Items were donated and the children's Sunday School filled 36 boxes on Sunday, Nov. 7th. Other members from both St. Paul's and Trinity also filled and donated an additional 20 boxes for a total of 56 boxes donated this year.

A special thanks to everyone who supported this worthy cause through your participation and also several generous cash donations to help cover the cost of shipping.

After receiving the shoe box gift, many children participate in the follow-up discipleship program called "The Greatest Journey". Through this 12 lesson Bible-based course, millions of children are coming to know Jesus as their Savior, growing in their faith, and sharing the Gospel. St. Paul's UCC has been participating in this project since 2007, and have donated a total of 646 filled boxes in these 14 years. To God be the Glory !



"Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples"----Psalm 96:3

Submitted by, *Mary Haubrick*



ANNUAL DUES FOR HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY

St. Paul's UCC supports the Homewood Retirement and Nursing Home located at Williamsport, MD. Each year annual dues to be a part of the Homewood Auxiliary is collected. These funds help support the auxiliary and their ongoing projects at the facility. Dues are \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per couple, and can be paid to Donna House. Thank you for sharing your support

Christmas Candy Glove Race



Players are given a bag of Christmas-colored Hershey Kisses and a pair of large gloves. Players put on gloves and race to see how many Kisses they can unwrap in 1 minute. An alternative to this would be to hand players a pair of oven mitts and a wrapped present and have them race to see who can open the gift the fastest.

2021



Third Sunday each month

Trinity's Building Fund Offering

Thursdays in December 3:30—4:45p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 828 9251 4169

By phone: 307-715-8592

Take a break from the holiday bustle for a time of Advent devotion and prayer. We will meet online at 3:30 P.M. each Thursday in December. There is no prep and no obligation. Just come as you can for a time of quiet prayer and meditation.

Wise Ones Still Seek Him...

Tuesday, December 14

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21

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

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

St. Paul's 6:00 p.m. and Trinity's at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 25

Merry Christmas to all

Friday, December 31

New Year's Eve, please stay safe

St. Paul's UCC (717)-485-5554
228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
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



The Star
that led the
Wise Men then
still Shines
to guide the
Hearts of Men