



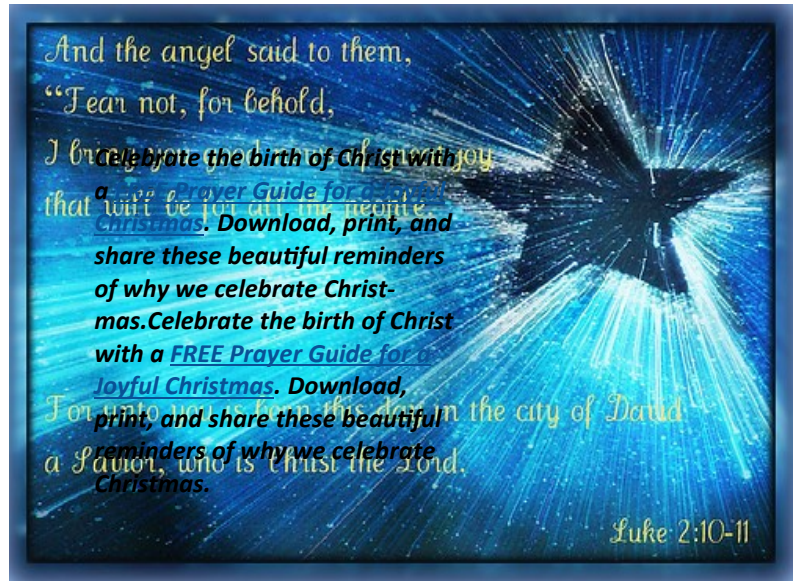
The Beacon

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

Thank you, Father, for this beautiful time of year and the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. I am in awe of the wonders of Your love.

Give God your heart and tell Him what this time of year means to you.

John 1:9-14 "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."



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

POINSETTIA Giving

Thanks to everyone who purchased or donated to the Poinsettias this year to decorate the church sanctuary. Remembering and honoring our loved ones is a Christmas tradition both inside and out of the church. In the church, this is a ministry that can involve everyone and be a shared blessing to all.



THANK YOU FOR FILLING A SHOEBOX

By: Mary Haubrick

Since the year 2007, St. Paul's United Church of Christ has participated in the annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry through Samaritan's Purse. This year a total of 61 shoeboxes were filled bringing a total of 707 filled boxes given by St. Paul's since 2007. Several generous donations were also made to help cover the cost of shipping the boxes. A special thank you to the Adult and Children's Sunday School for a successful "Shoebox Packing Morning on Sunday, Nov. 6th". The young adult Sunday School Class helped to assemble the special Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes and organize donated items. Christian Hann loaded all the boxes and delivered them to a local drop off location at Needmore Bible Church, Needmore, PA. Thank you to everyone for your generous support of this outreach ministry that shares the Good News of Jesus and touches the lives of millions of children in need worldwide.

Let us not give up meeting together

as some are in the habit of doing



*but let us encourage one another-and
all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:25

The "Holiday Season" the best present we can give God and each other is our presence. You do not know the power of your presence in our midst of worshipping together! Your absents leaves a hole in our journey together.

In Max Lacado's book, *Cosmic Christmas*, there is a scene where God is talking to Gabriel, "*your greatest work lies ahead of you. Your next assignment is to carry a gift to earth. Behold.*"

Gabriel lifted his eyes to see a necklace, a clear vial on a golden chain. The Father said to Gabriel "*though empty, this vial will soon contain My greatest gift. Place it around your neck.*"

It is then that we know that Satan is in the room!

There is dialog between Satan and God, Satan is in disbelief at what God is about to do...God shows Satan what he is about to

do...*Immanuel*...Satan speaks "no, not even you would do that, not even you would go so far...you don't know how dark I've made it, it's putrid. It's evil. *"It is mine proclaimed the King. And I will reclaim it as mine. I will become flesh. I will feel what MY creatures feel. I will see what they see... I will bring mercy...I will give life."* Satan asked God why he would do this? The Father Answered "*Because I love them.*"

St. Paul's Church Finances Treasurer's Report – October 2022

ACCOUNT SUMMARY:

General Fund

Total Income October, 2022	\$5,340.73
Total Expenses October, 2022	\$2,635.69
Interest Earned GF October, 2022	<u>\$25.98</u>
Net GAIN	\$2,731.02



January thru October 2022 – Net LOSS - \$ 8,441.80

Please remember.....church expenses continue in your absence!



Caring and Change Can Stimulate

Recently a friend told me the following joke:

“How many people does it take to change a light bulb in the church?” The answer: four...one to change the bulb...and three to reminisce about how good the old bulb was”.

Change is not a popular word in many churches. The motto seems to be: “As it was in the beginning, it now and ever shall be.” And yet, occasional changes can break up the routine monotony, raise interest, and actually produce some productive growth.

Harvard University conducted an experiment a number of years ago in the world of business and industry that turned up some rather remarkable insights and results. They did some experiments on ways to increase the production at a Midwestern factory.

They began by piping in music to the production floor...and production rates increased and went up. Next, they added extra bright lighting...and production went up. Then after a few weeks, they took away the music, and production stayed up. The lighting was lowered, and production stayed up.

After interviewing the factory employees, it became apparent that it wasn't the individual changes (music and lighting) that were making the difference. It was the fact that the factory supervisors and leaders were willing to show interest in the employees...taking the time and effort to care about them... by making changes in their work environment. The employees responded positively...and on the job attendance remained strong, and production went up.

The conclusion was that change and caring about people can stimulate growth, and definitely perk up human interest. With this information in mind, and many congregations struggling with attendance and membership participation... could God be sending us a message???

Submitted by, *Loy Garber*

News worth...Trinity and St. Paul's United Church of Christ...Linda Best

At the joint meeting of the Consistories of St. Paul's and Trinity the possibility of switching the times of Sunday services was discussed. St. Paul's is interested in having their service at 9:00 am with Trinity starting at 10:30 or 11:00 am. The advantage to St. Paul's would be that an earlier time would make it easier for families with children in sports to attend their practices which are often held on Sunday's. For Trinity the advantage would be that having a later time would make us less likely to cancel due to bad weather because of treacherous early mountain conditions for either our pastor or organist and also give us more time with our pastor who now has to leave pretty quickly to get to the second service. We know that traditions are hard to change but we hope you will think about this and let us know your thoughts concerning a possible change. No change will be made without congregational approval. The subject will come up at our annual meeting in January and a vote will be taken at that time. In the meantime, you can let Scott Arwood or Linda Best know your thoughts on this. We appreciate your input.



Christmas Prayers and Blessings for Family and Loved Ones

Compiled & Edited by Crosswalk Editorial

Staff Crosswalk.com

Celebrate the birth of Christ with a [FREE Prayer Guide for a Joyful Christmas](#). Download, print, and share these beautiful reminders of why we celebrate Christmas.

A Prayer to Keep Christmas Simple

Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this [Christmas](#) season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

~ Melanie Chitwood

To Remember What Christmas is All About

Lord, I thank You for coming to earth so You could redeem me. When I think of the extent to which You were willing to go in order to save me, it makes me want to shout, to celebrate, and to cry with thankfulness. You love me so much, and I am so grateful for that love. Without You, I would still be lost and in sin. But because of everything You have done for me, today I am free; my life is blessed; Jesus is my Lord; Heaven is my home; and Satan has no right to control me. I will be eternally thankful to You for everything You did to save me! I pray this in Jesus' name!

~ Rick Renner

A Short [Prayer](#) of Thanks

Thank you God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.





December

- 4 John Duffey
- 8 Terry Pine
- 10 Betty Keefer
- Tina Wood
- 12 Roger Higgins
- Mary Ellen Ott
- 15 Hannah Dick
- 16 Judy Dietrich
- 19 Ryder Richards
- 20 Seleen Shives
- 23 Betty Newman
- 29 Ann Hays
- 30 Mark Crouse
- Karen Fox



Please send additions and corrections to the church office>>>mcbucc@embarqmail.com



The healing of our nation + world

- Glenn and Bernice Crouse
- 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.
- Ed Stonecipher



2022



Third Sunday each month: Trinity's Building Fund Offering

Sunday, December 4

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and
will call him Immanuel” ([Isaiah 7:14](#)).

Sunday, December 11

**Trinity's Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry Cookie Bagging
St. Paul's 522 Youth Group Bake Sale
Donations are needed and appreciated!
Purchases are more than welcome**

Wednesday, December 14

**Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30p.m.
St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, December 20

St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 24

**Trinity Christmas Eve 6:00p.m. (please watch for any changes.)
St. Paul's Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m. (subject to change)**

2nd and 3rd Thursdays at 3:30p.m. *Study and Prayer with Bernice Crouse*

Email Bernice for link information: bookswbernie@gmail.com



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