



The Beacon

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

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon, PA

February 2021

1 Corinthians 13:13

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

In a post-pandemic world, the **church**, in the words of Mark Twain, may need to declare, ***“The rumors of my death are grossly exaggerated.”*** While it is true that many struggling churches may close, merge or re-purpose in the near future, this process already was under way and will only be accelerated by factors related to COVID-19. (unknown)




“A snowflake is one of God’s most fragile creations, but look what they can do when they stick together!”
— Unknown

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

STAMP


Blessings from the Pastor

PILLARS OF LENT




PRAYER

WHAT IS IT? **PRAYER** is the action that leads people to God. We take time away from the distractions of the world, **to turn to God**, to contemplate, to listen and talk to Him, to read His words and meditate on them, to be one with Him. Prayer gives meaning to Lenten practices, which should draw us closer to Him.




FASTING

WHAT IS IT? **FASTING** is restricting consumption, depriving yourself of both good and bad things for the glory of God. This means normally watching what you eat, on a day that it is practiced, one regular meal and two small ones. During Lent, we fast on **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. **ABSTINENCE** is practiced all Fridays of Lent.



ALMSGIVING

WHAT IS IT? **ALMSGIVING** is the action that leads us Christians to see others, love them, listen to them and them our time, help, advice, money, shelter, company, affection. It is not limited to giving material goods, it is the gift of self. It is based on **CHARITY**, to love God and others as oneself. To give alms is to be united to Christ in his poverty.



Take up...

THE PRAY FAST GIVE CHALLENGE

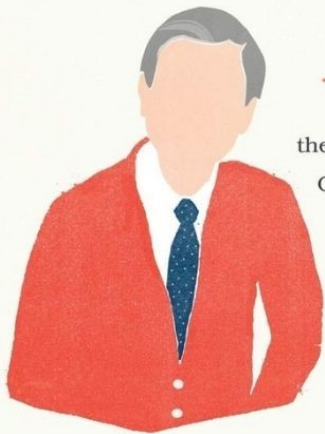
- Extra time of prayer
- Go without food or comfort
- Give some time, money, or effort to help someone else

Choose 1 of 3 each day of Lent, starting Wednesday, Feb. 17 through Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Dear Church, it's strange to be entering the Lenten season when it feels like we've been observing Lent for the last year now. Covid lockdowns started in March 2020, and all in-person gatherings stopped just as Lent began. Lent is supposed to be 40 days leading up to Easter, like those 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. But all of 2020 was a "wandering in the wilderness" for us. It feels more like the Hebrew's 40 years in the desert! It's been a lot longer than we expected, and still, our return "to normal" is out of reach.

In-person, a few families meet in the sanctuary to worship each Sunday, but most of our membership is with us online, or not at all. We miss one another. We continue to broadcast live services through St. Paul's Facebook page, and in all likelihood, that is how most of us will experience another Easter. I pray for the church's return, but not "to normal." I think God may be calling us to something braver than that. I look forward to discovering it together. May God keep you all safe until we meet again!

The Mister Rogers Effect



7 Secrets
to Bringing Out
the Best in Yourself and
Others from America's
Beloved Neighbor

DR. ANITA KNIGHT KUHNLEY

In a world increasingly divided by politics and social issues, we need Mister Rogers more than ever. For three decades, his presence was a healing balm to children of all ages. And though he is no longer with us, we can all adopt his attitudes and actions, rooted in his deep Christian faith. In this uplifting and informative book, Dr. Anita Knight Kuhnley shows us how to use the transformative psychological principles that Mister Rogers masterfully employed to make a difference in our own neighborhoods. Principles such as:

- listening first
- validating feelings
- pausing and thinking
- showing gratitude
- developing empathy
- practicing acceptance
- establishing security

Imagine a world where these seven principles guide our interactions with each other. Sound heavenly? Neighborly? It all starts with you.

Online Bible & Book Study

February 2021

3:30 p.m. Thursdays

Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 849 0291 3478

If you do not have computer access,
you can join in by phone at:

301-715-8592.

Order the Book Online

You can get the Ebook on Kindle for \$1.99 or you can order the Paperback through Cokesbury for \$13.49 at <https://www.cokesbury.com/9781540900296-The-Mister-Rogers-Effect>.

If you would prefer that we order a copy for you, let the pastor know. Feel free to read along, or just join the conversation when you can.

"When I was a boy, and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

~Fred Rogers

GIVING



IN THE TIME OF COVID

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

TO SUPPORT...

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

Global Ministries

<https://www.globalministries.org>

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give..." 2 Cor 9:7



Youth Blessing Box
Spring 2020

CONNECTING

IN THE TIME OF COVID

Online Sunday School at St. Paul's
9:30 a.m.

"Ignite Teens" Grades 10-12
<https://meet.google.com/rgp-zudv-nfe>

Adult Sunday School

Online: [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

Phone: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 876 0047 5397

Adult Sunday School at Trinity

10 a.m.

In-person with Covid precautions



The Faith & Fellowship Center

Up Date

The initial fund raising campaign concluded on December 31st. The goal was to raise \$200,000 in cash and pledges. The final amount raised was \$126,900 in cash and pledges. Even though the initial goal was not reached, a significant amount was obtained. Also, important information about the Center was mailed out to our church families, and how they could donate to honor (in memory) a loved one.



The F&F Center project committee will be planning other fund raising opportunities later in this year. If you and your family would like to contribute to the Center, sponsor a room in memory of a loved one, please contact Consistory president Loy Garber.

Recent conversations with our Engineering consultants revealed that because building materials are still at inflated costs (supply and demand issues), they do not recommend moving forward with any construction plans until leading indicators show that the cost of construction starts to return to pre-COVID-19 levels.

When the time comes to move ahead, the Engineering firm will handle all aspects of the construction phase once a general contractor is selected. The general contractor's bid would include the removal of the old building; and of course, the construction of the new one. There would be periodic "contractor meetings" during the construction phase consisting of the engineering representative, the contractor and member(s) from our project committee.

TRINITY

Trinity taking orders for Easter flowers. 9 dollars per plant. Choice of tulips, lilies and hyacinths.

Contact Corinna Rotz if you want to order. Need to know by 5 March.



We are a family whose
hearts are blazing
So let's raise our candles
and light up the sky
Praying to our Father,
in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in
darkest times

Did You Remember To Light Your Candle?

posted on April 28, 2014

A circus owner walked into a restaurant to see everyone crowded around a table watching a little show. On the table was an upside down pot and a duck tap dancing on it. The circus owner was so impressed that he offered to buy the duck from its owner. After some wheeling and dealing, they settled on \$10,000 for the duck and the pot.

Three days later the circus owner runs back to the restaurant in anger, "Your duck is a rip-off! I put him on the pot before a whole audience and he didn't dance a single step!" "So?" asked the duck's former owner, "did you remember to light the candle under the pot?"

Well, that might be one reason that someone would put a lighted candle under a pot, but that's not what candles are for! As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, candles are meant to "give light to all who are in the house." In like manner, our Christian lives are to "shine before men." (Matthew 5:16-17). The reason is that we are to be a positive influence on others around us.

We sometimes speak of a "secret Christian" as if that's a possibility. The truth is, unless our lives are reflecting the light of Jesus Christ, we're not living Christian lives at all. If we don't influence the world around us for Christ, the world will influence us.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteous and truth" (Ephesians 5:8-9).

Did you remember to light your candle?



*Alan Smith
via Jackson Park church of Christ
Nashville, TN
Bulletin Digest (April 2006)*

Go Light Your World

[Chris Rice](#)

There is a candle in every soul
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit who brings a fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home

So carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

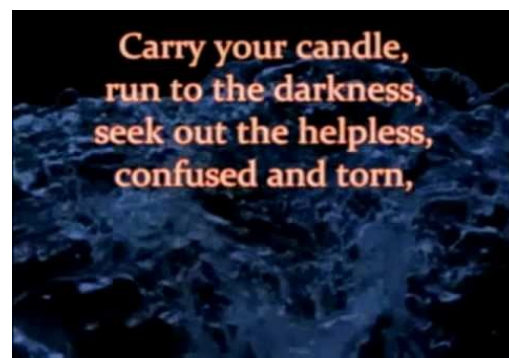
Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle some other way
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to
Still holds a candle without a flame

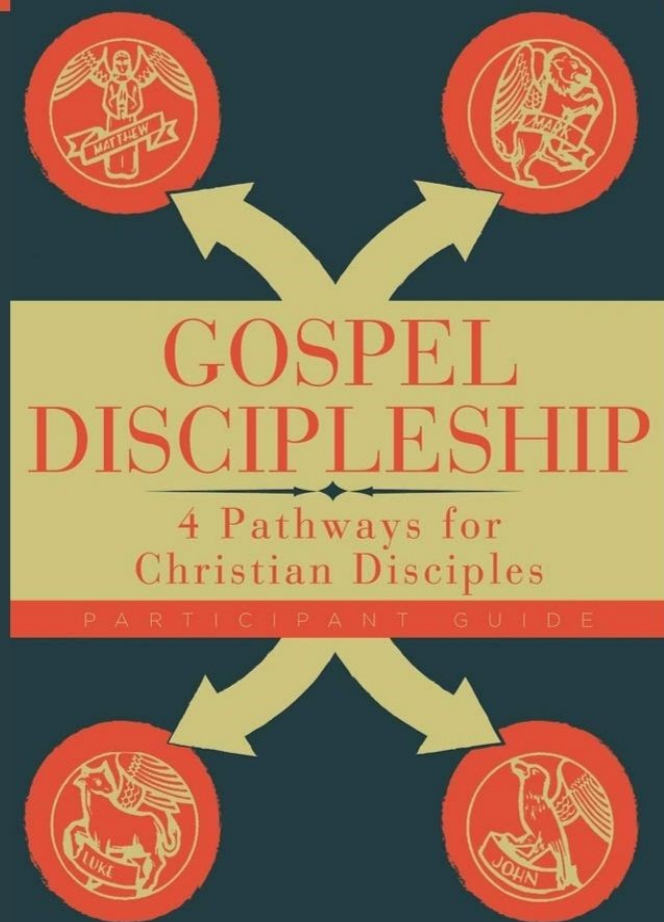
So Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Cause We are a family whose hearts are blazing
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in darkest times

So Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, deceived and poor
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world





Feb. 21 First Sunday of Lent
"Introducing Gospel Discipleship"
St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

Feb. 28 Second Sunday of Lent
"Markan Discipleship"
Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

March 7 Third Sunday of Lent
"Matthean Discipleship"
St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

March 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent
"Lukan Discipleship"
Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

March 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent
"Johannine Discipleship"
St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

March 28 Sixth Sunday of Lent
"Our Discipleship Together"
Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

What's Your Discipleship Type?

That's the question Gospel Discipleship seeks to answer. Through the process, you will learn if you are a Markan (Holy Spirit centered), Matthean (Action driven), Lukan (Relationship focused), or Johannine (Mentor-Apprentice nurtured) disciple. Once you understand who you are and how you conceive of discipleship, you can map a path to grow intentionally in your love and life with Jesus. You will also find that you can work better alongside other Christians once you understand where they are coming from too. Participants may purchase the book or simply join the group for great discussion and a time of prayer.

Join Us Online!

Sundays at 6:30 p.m.
February 21 - March 28, 2021

Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 849 0291 3478

If you do not have computer access, you can join us by phone at 301-715-8592.

Take the Quiz!

Wondering what your Discipleship type is?

Take the quiz online

www.ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship

Join us for Worship!

Lent

fast · give · pray

Spring 2021



Sunday Worship

9 am Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

11 am St. Paul's UCC
McConnellsburg

11 am Live on Facebook from
St. Paul's

www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbG

Ash Sunday Service

February 21

Join us for an adapted Ash Sunday
service to start off Lent!

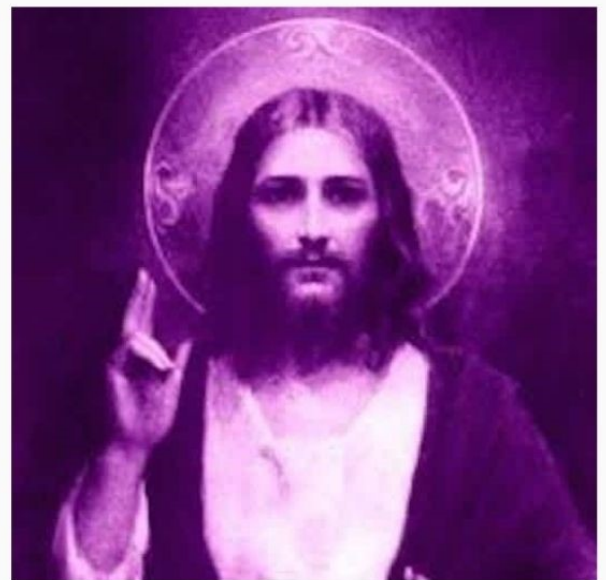
Holy Week 2021

March 28 Palm Sunday

April 1 Maundy Thursday Service
St. Paul's 7 p.m.

April 2 Good Friday Service
Trinity 7 p.m.

April 4 Easter Sunday



*Thank you for
worshiping with us!*

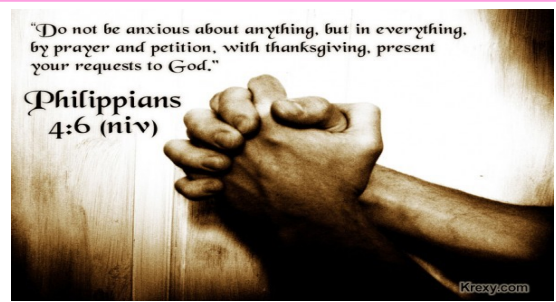


- 1 Cayla Richards
- 3 Lois Byers
- 5 Barb Brown
- 6 Philip Burns
- Mike Rosenberry
- Jason Mester
- 7 Lana Pine
- 11 Betty Daniels
- 12 Jamie Hess
- 14 Jordon Strait
- 16 Wade Kulp
- 18 Joyce Washabaugh
- 22 Morgan Barclay
- Corinna Rotz
- 23 Jason Fox, Sr.
- 25 Linda Best
- 26 Renee Baker Early



Amethyst
February Birthstone

*"The February born shall find
Sincerity and peace of mind,
Freedom from passion and from care,
If they, the amethyst will wear."*



The healing of our nation+
Amanda Mitchell
Ruth Brubaker
Linda Sowers
Hillary Alexander's Mom
Ed Hayes
Kylene McLucas Arwood
Elizabeth Kerlin
Chase Andrews
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
Mary Lou Fritz
Jessica Truax
Corinna Rotz
Zereau Higgins and family
Sarah Baker
Carole Grissinger Seiber
Bernice's friend Christa
Evelyn Zeis family
Chris Myers uncle Ed Vance
Military and families
Our Church & ministries, Sunday school classes
All affected by Covid-19, health, life, livelihood
Ethan Abbott
Emily & Brad Rotz
Bill & Ann Hays
Leah Hamil
Kathleen Pappas
Dee & Ken Hupp
God's people

Please send additions and corrections to the church office.



2021



Sunday morning worship

Second Sunday each month

Third Sunday each month

Sunday, February 7

Tuesday, February 9

Sunday, February 14

Tuesday, February 16

Sunday, February 21

Sunday, February 28

Sunday, March 28

Thursday, April 1

Friday, April 2

Saturday, April 3

Sunday, April 4

Thursdays

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

Trinity's Eldercare Offering

Trinity's Building Fund Offering

Trinity Souper Bowl of Caring

Trinity Consistory meeting 7:00 p.m.

You are loved!!!

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

Ash Sunday Service (there is no Ash Wednesday service)

Lancaster Theological Seminary Offering, St. Paul's will send \$100.00 of the worship offering

Palm Sunday

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

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

Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday

Online Bible Study 3:30 p.m. (see newsletter page 3)

Some of us may still be quarantined, but the gospel that we faithfully share never is.

St. Paul's UCC

228 N Second Street,

McConnellsburg, PA 17233

(717)-485-5554

mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Facebook & www.uccmccbg.weebly.com

Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773***Find Us on Facebook

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com

*Happy
Valentine's Day!*

