



The Beacon

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

[1 Corinthians 13:4-5](#)

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

February 2024

Trinity....Easter flower order:

Easter lilies - **\$11.99**

Hyacinth, tulips and daffodils - **\$9.99**

(varied colors as last year)

Flowers will be delivered to church Saturday
before Easter, **March 31st.**

Notify Corinna Rotz of flower order by 16
Feb, 717-977-2723



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

STAMP



Greetings from February!

Something very rare is about to happen this month...

That something is called *Ashentine's Day*! Let me explain this made up yet interesting day. The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, changes each year (because it's 40 days before the moving target of Easter). This year, Ash Wednesday happens to fall on February 14th. This conjunction of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day is so rare, it has only happened *three* times in the past 100 years! (1934, 1945, 2018).

Ashentine's Day is more than just a funny name. It's a theologically significant reminder of *what* and *whose* we are. Ash Wednesday is typically recognized by the reception of ashes and an encouragement to focus on our mortality, while Valentine's Day is typically celebrated with the reception of chocolate and an encouragement to focus on love. You might wonder what meaning could come from the combination of such wildly different occasions, but I deeply appreciate how they can work together to tell God's truth.

The text often paired with Lent is, **"for you are dust and to dust you shall return"** (Gen 3:19). It draws our attention to our limited time on earth, and the importance of turning our lives toward God. Alongside Valentine's Day, that text can be developed to share the Good News: "For you are love, and to Love you shall return." This month and throughout Lent, pay special attention to how you treat yourself and others. Be humble but know we are all God's beloved people.

In God's eternal love,
-Pastor Peter

P.S. On the afternoon of Ash Wednesday, some local McConnellsburg pastors including myself will be administering ashes for the community at the courthouse square. Please feel free to walk up or even drive through!



Rosie's
first
chocolate!



I hold open office hours 10am-2pm at Trinity on Tuesdays, and at St. Paul's on Thursdays. -My cell phone is (609) 477-9194. Please feel free to call or text. I may not reply on Friday. (My day off.)

ACCOUNT SUMMARY:	
General Fund	
Total Income December, 2023	\$15,277.96
Total Expenses December, 2023	\$9,501.11
Interest Earned GF December, 2023	\$317.61
Net GAIN	\$6,094.46

January-December 2023 - Net GAIN \$ 7,464.92

GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF YOU
A GIFT FROM HIS GREAT
VARIETY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.
USE THEM WELL TO SERVE
ONE ANOTHER.

1 PETER 4:10



thinkaboutsuchthings.com

As the chill of January gives way to hopefully a warmer February, it's a time of renewal and hope. Our collection of Christian February blessings is designed to inspire and uplift, offering daily reminders of God's love and grace. Each blessing or quote can be a spiritual encouragement, guiding you and your friends through the month with words of faith and hope.

February's Warmth of Love: As the cold weather continues in February, may you feel the warmth of God's love, providing comfort and strength in your daily life. Happy February!

A February of Unfailing Hope: This February, may you be filled with the hope that comes from trusting in God's promises and His unwavering faithfulness.

February's Guiding Light: Throughout February, may the light of Christ guide your path, leading you closer to Him and revealing His love and grace in every situation.

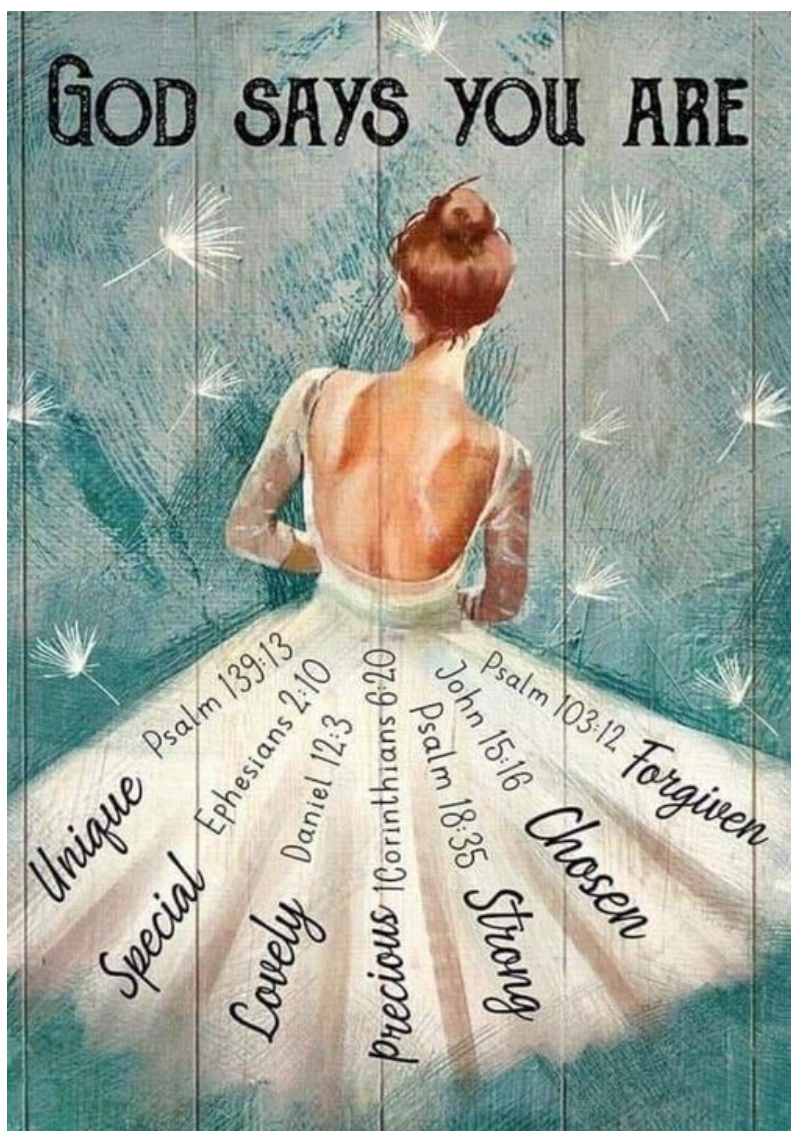
The Embrace of February's Peace: In the midst of February's challenges, may the peace of Christ envelop you, calming your heart and mind as you trust in Him.

February's Season of Prayer: As you journey through February, may you dedicate time to prayer, seeking God's guidance and wisdom for the days ahead.

A February of Compassionate Hearts: This February, may you cultivate a compassionate heart, showing kindness and love to those around you.

February's Overflowing Joy: Throughout February, may your heart overflow with the joy of the Lord, as you celebrate His presence and blessings in your life.

Check out the web page for more.....



2023 brought so many changes for us, including a move to
Menno Haven!

Loy's address:

Martin House room 103
1000 Northfield Drive
Chambersburg PA 17201
garberll@hotmail.com
(717) 860-2828



Linda's address:

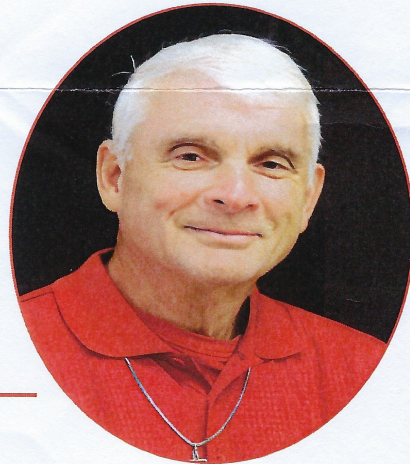
Village Square room 244
2075 Scotland Ave.
Chambersburg PA 17201
garberlinda@hotmail.com
(717) 860-6504

We welcome visitors other than our therapy dogs!

A Tribute to **LOY GARBER**

The Fulton County Medical Center Foundation and its Scholarship Committee are pleased announce a newly named scholarship in honor of Loy Garber, who serves as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee and is a Foundation board member.

Loy has a passion for the scholarship program that has served hundreds of local students in their pursuit of a healthcare career.



Will you help us with a tax-exempt contribution to establish this scholarship, named

The E. Loy Garber Scholarship
(for those pursuing a career in the therapies profession)

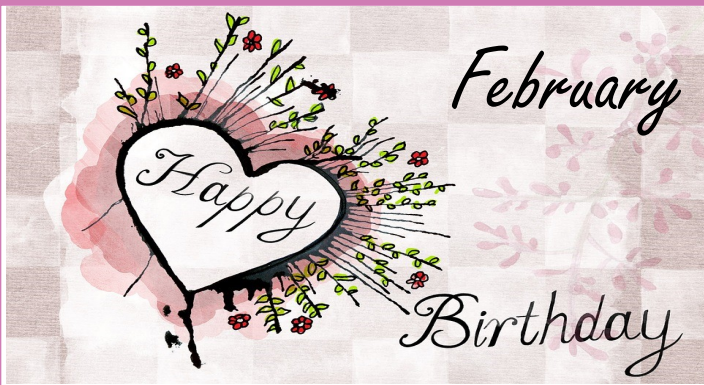
Contributions can be done in three different ways:

- **Mailed** with the **giving envelope** (indicate Garber scholarship)
- **Phone** at **717-485-6322** with a credit card
- **Online** with a credit card at **www.fcmlcpa.org** (donate now button) under the foundation tab. Indicate Garber scholarship in the additional info space

Many of you know Loy suffered a medical setback in June and is recuperating from its affects. This named scholarship focuses on students pursuing a career in the therapies profession. It is our way of lifting his spirits and paying tribute to a wonderful person in our community who has given of himself for decades.

Please consider making a donation to his named scholarship.

Thank you, Mike Straley, Executive Director, FCMC Foundation



- 1 Cayla Richards
- 3 Lois Byers
- 6 Mike Rosenberry
Jason Mester
- 7 Lana Pine
- 11 Betty Daniels
- 14 Jordon Strait
- 16 Wade Kulp
- 18 Joyce Washabaugh
- 22 Corinna Rotz
- 25 Linda Best
- 26 Renee Baker Early



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

Chandra Rotz and family
Susan Glazier
Tom Oliver
Daryl Kendall
Kathy Hess
Sharyn Zeis
Joni Peck and family
Betty Keefer
Kathy and Bill Kendall
Glenn Crouse and family
Betty Burns
Linda Sowers
Mary Haubrick
Lana Pine
Kylene McLucas Arwood
Family of Elizabeth Kerlin
Chase Andrews
Korbyn Rotz
Hannah Dick and Chase Buterbaugh
Skip and Betty Daniels
Nicole Hummel
Carl and Carol Mellott
Dennis Hess
Robert Door
Nancy Barmont
Ann Hays
Military Members and families
Emily Rotz
Leah Hamil
Loy and Linda Garber and family
Kathleen Pappas
Patrick McCarthy
Phillip Harris
Daniel Harper, grandson of Linda Best.
Our Church & ministries, Sunday school classes
teachers and students
522 Youth Group
The healing of our nation + world



St. Paul's & Trinity's TENTATIVE Calendar of Special Events for 2024

HOLY COMMUNION

Occasion	Date	Method	
New Year's	January 7	Altar	
First Sunday in Lent	February 18	Pew	
Maundy Thursday	March 28	Tables	TRINITY
Easter Sunday	March 31	Circle	
Pentecost Sunday	May 19	Pew	
Summer	June 23	Altar	
Mid-Summer	August 11	Altar	
World Wide Communion	October 6	Circle	
Thanksgiving	November 24	Pew	
Christmas Eve	December 24	Pew	
New Year's 2025	January 5	Altar	

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Offering	Date	Occasion
Building Fund	Third Sunday of each month	
Souper Bowl of Caring Trinity	February 11	Super Bowl
Lancaster Theological Seminary	February 25	Seminary Sunday
One Great Hour of Sharing	March 10	
Homewood Retirement Homes	May 12	Mother's Day
Church World Services	May 19	Strengthen the Church
Truck Stop Ministry	August 4	
Scholarship Funds	September 15	
Neighbors in Need	October 6	WWC
Thank Offering	November 24	Thanksgiving Sunday
Hoffman Homes for Youth	December 24	Christmas Eve
Christmas Fund	January 7, 2025	1 st Sun. after Christmas

LENTEN STUDIES/Pastor Peter

Topic: To Be Announced

Sundays in Lent at 6:30 p.m., alternating between St. Paul's and Trinity.

Starting at St. Paul's on February 18th.

SPECIAL DATES

Date	Event/Place	Time
January 28	Annual Congregational Meeting after a shortened worship service	
Feb 3	Pot Pie Fundraiser	
Feb 10	Valentines Dinner	5-6 p.m.
February 14	Ash Wednesday	
February 18	Ash Sunday First Sunday of Lent	
March ____	Pot Pie Fundraiser	
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service Trinity <i>Communion</i>	7:00 p.m.
March 29	Good Friday Service @ Trinity	7:00 p.m.
March 31	Trinity Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 a.m.
April ____	Pot Pie Fundraiser	
May ____	Trinity Chicken BBQ Fundraiser	
May 12	Mother's Day	
June 2	Joint Picnic at Cowen's Gap	
_____	Conference Annual Meeting (<i>tba</i>)	
June ____	Trinity Chicken BBQ Fundraiser	
June 16	Father's Day	
August 17	Trinity Peach Festival	
October ____	Trinity Chicken BBQ Fundraiser	
November 27	Thanksgiving Eve Service, Freedom Lighthouse	
Nov 30	Trinity Decorating the Church	
Dec 1	Trinity Cookie Bagging for Truck Stop Ministries	
December 1	St. Paul's Hanging of the Greens	
December ____	Trinity Children's Christmas Program	
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	Trinity 6:00 p.m. St. Paul's 8:00 p.m.

*** Trinity **WILL BE HOSTING VBS** this summer, Dates to be announced

*** Trinity Consistory Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

*** St. Paul's Consistory Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

*** St. Paul's Church Women United meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Spring thru Fall

***Zoom Study and Prayer – 60 minutes starting at 3:30 p.m. email Bernice Crouse for link and other information at bookswbernie@gmail.com

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR DATE CHANGES AND DATES ADDED

PLEASE KEEP EVERYONE INFORMED OF CHANGES

2024



Third Sunday each month: Trinity's Building Fund Offering

Sunday, February 4

St. Paul's Fellowship, covered dish, luncheon following worship

Saturday, February 10

Trinity Valentine Dinner, 5-6 p.m.

Sunday, February 11

Trinity Souper Bowl of Caring

Wednesday, February 14

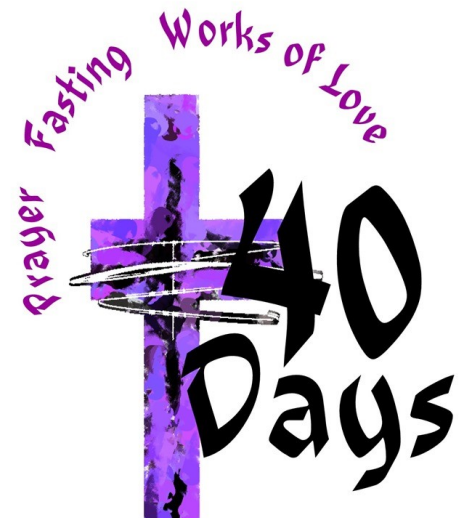
Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 18

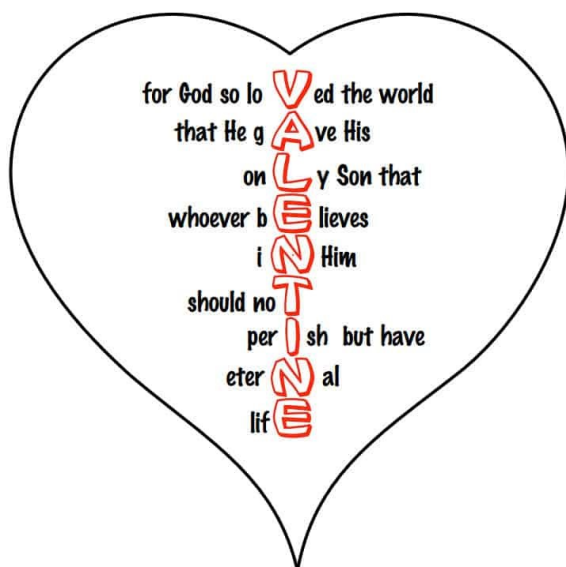
First Sunday in Lent/Ash Sunday

Tuesday, February, 20

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



John 3:16



St. Paul's UCC (717)-485-5554
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13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224
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www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)
United Church of Christ www.ucc.org
www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com