



The Beacon

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” [Isaiah 43:18-19](#)

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

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon, PA

January 2021

Online Bible Study

Thank you all for a wonderful time in Online Bible Study this year! It really has been a highlight of my week and a blessing for me to get together and talk faith!

We're going to start meeting again **Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021**. We'd like to change the time to **3:30 p.m.** so let me know if that DOESN'T work for you. I pray blessings on your Christmas season, and maybe even a special visit from YHWH, an angel, or the Heavenly Host! So many amazing ways that God reveals "themselves" to us!

Pastor Marleen

JOIN OUR FREE ONLINE
Bible Study



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

STAMP



BLESSINGS

FROM THE PASTOR

JANUARY 2021

On Dec. 1, 2020, I celebrated my 2nd anniversary as your designated-term pastor. Originally my contract was for nine months. This was going to be one short stop on Zack's academic career track. We didn't know how long we'd end up staying here, but we knew from the very beginning that we were blessed to land here. It may not have been our plans, but I believe it was God's. While things haven't always been easy, especially this year, we have been blessed with people and places that will forever touch our hearts.

This year was like nothing anyone could have prepared for, and struggling to adapt became a constant way of life. Just making it through 2020 feels like an accomplishment. Life is hard enough without a global pandemic thrown in.

In her own uncertain times, Catherine the Great said: "A great wind is blowing, and that either gives you imagination...or a headache." We've all had our share of headaches and heartaches this year. This shaking of our foundations has been devastating, and it has caused us all to re-think and re-do. But seeing how the faithful have responded in these times of great need gives me hope for better days ahead. Seeing how the church has endured, adapted and, in many ways, strengthened its witness is a sure sign that God is with us.

And no matter how difficult the journey, God's next great adventure is always so full of surprises, and so full of surprise blessings! So many good things not planned for, not asked for, just freely given. God is always doing a new thing, a better thing! (Isaiah 43:19)

I pray that 2021 is the year of better things. No matter what happens though, I know we will continue to be blessed in the midst of it. These two beautiful little churches are among the many blessings we're counting this new year. We thank you for that!



Rev. Marleen Shepherd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 A.M. TRINITY UCC FORT LOUDON

Live Online Broadcast on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-United-Church-of-Christ-100877436623125>

11 A.M. ST. PAUL'S UCC MCCONNELLSBURG

Live Online Broadcast on our Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbG



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



Online Bible Study

RETURNS JAN 21, 2021 AT 3:30 PM

Zoom.us

ID: 828 9251 4169

Phone: 301-715-859

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82892514169>



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

Phone: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 876 0047 5397

Adult Sunday School at Trinity

10 a.m.

In-person with Covid precautions



Christian



Legend

Legend has it that the "Twelve Days of Christmas" was a secret code, written to help Christians learn and share the tenets of their faith while avoiding persecution. Can you match up the 12 Christmas gifts with their symbolic Christian meanings?

- | | | |
|---|-------|----------------------------|
| A. Days of Creation | _____ | A Partridge in a Pear Tree |
| B. The Gospels and/or Evangelists | _____ | Two Turtle Doves |
| C. The Beatitudes | _____ | Three French Hens |
| D. The Faithful Apostles | _____ | Four Calling Birds |
| E. Old and New Testaments | _____ | Five Golden Rings |
| F. The Commandments | _____ | Six Geese A-Laying |
| G. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit | _____ | Seven Swans A-Swimming |
| H. The Doctrines in the Apostle's Creed | _____ | Eight Maids A-Milking |
| I. Jesus | _____ | Nine Ladies Dancing |
| J. The Pentateuch | _____ | Ten Lords A-Leaping |
| K. The Theological Virtues | _____ | Eleven Pipers Piping |
| L. Gifts of the Holy Spirit | _____ | Twelve Drummers Drumming |

12 The Hidden Meaning of the Days of Christmas

December 25



A Partridge in a Pear Tree
*The One true God revealed
in the person of Jesus Christ*

December 26



Two Turtledoves
*The Old and
New Testaments*

December 27



Three French hens
Faith, Hope and Love

December 28



The Four Calling Birds
Four Gospels

December 29



The Five Gold Rings
*Recall the Torah (Law) the First
Five Books of the Old Testament*

December 30



Six Geese A-Laying
Six Days of Creation

December 31



Seven Swans A-Swimming
Sevenfold Gifts of the Spirit

January 1



Eight Maids A-Milking
Eight Beatitudes

January 2



Nine Ladies Dancing
*Nine Fruits of the Spirit
(See Galatians 5)*

January 3



Ten Lords A-Leaping
Ten Commandments

January 4



Eleven Pipers Piping
Eleven Faithful Disciples

January 5



Twelve Drummers Drumming
*12 Points of Belief in the
Apostles Creed*

Faith & Fellowship Center

UP Date

St. Paul's fund raising campaign continues for the addition of a Faith & Fellowship Center. To date \$113,500 has been received in funds and pledges. The first phase of the campaign will continue until December 31, 2020. There may still be time for you to consider a donation for your 2020 income tax filing. The Center includes four classrooms, a large meeting room, and bathrooms on the main floor level, a social hall and a larger kitchen area in the basement. There are opportunities for you to sponsor a room in honor of, or in memory of, a family member. For more information please contact the church office (717) 485-5554, or Consistory president Loy Garber (717) 485-4902. All donations and pledges, regardless of size, are appreciated and will be displayed inside the new facility.



Facing and Solving Our Problems

A seventy-five year old man was given a physical examination. The doctor could find nothing wrong, and said he had seen few men in such fine physical condition at that age. What was his secret? "Well", the man said, "when I was married fifty years ago, my wife and I made an agreement. We decided never to quarrel. If we had a difference of opinion, she would continue to work in the house, and I would take a long walk. I guess my good health is due to the fact that for the last fifty years I have live pretty much an outdoor life doing a lot of walking".

Too often people have a tendency to walk away from problems, thinking they might just go away. Problems will follow us wherever we may go, unless we deal with them. And thank goodness our families, our communities and our nation is filled with persons who do not walk away from problems; but rather, turn and face them, and solve them. They are the "problem solvers" who give us hope when times are tough.

The Lord Jesus was an example of a "problem solver". He discovered a way to feed thousands of hungry people on a hillside. He show a frustrated boat load of fishermen how they could fill their nets with an abundance of fish. Christ Jesus calls us back to unfinished tasks and deserted causes. He inspires us to know what to do, and gives us the talents and skills to get them done.

A new year is coming. Let's resolve to become wise "problem solvers". There is a very good possibility it could be healthy for us.

Submitted by: Loy Garber





Christmas

2020

*There was no tree or tinsel,
no Santa to be found.
No Christmas feast or presents,
no family gathered round.*

*So this year we are finding,
in its own quiet way,
Our Christmas celebrations
are like that first birthday.*

*Perhaps its somewhat better
to really take the time.
To think about our Savior
and love that is sublime.*

*We pray that this pandemic
will soon be in the past.
But meanwhile just remember,
there is a hope that lasts.*

LINDA BEST



Happy New Year

2021

Trinity Poinsettias 2020

In Memory of:

- *Our beloved parents & grandparents in Heaven
By Crouse, Myers and Wynn Families
- *Our beloved children in Heaven
By Crouse, Myers and Wynn Families
- *William & Jane Houghland, Genevieve & Arthur Best & Ruth Guyer Mellott
By Barry & Linda Best
- *Margaret V. Lawyer
By Ginger, Robbie, Marcine, Jeff, Margaret & their Families
- *Robert M. Lawyer, Sr. & Nancy Lawyer
By the Lawyer Family
- *Rich Hurst, Justin Armstrong, Helen Millhouse, & Deceased Rotz Family Members
By Barb Hurst
- *Rich Hurst & Mazie Malone
By Dick & Tina Hurst & Family
- *Thelma Miller
By Nicholas, Anne, EJ & Olivia
- *Lawrence Newman
By Betty Newman
- *Leonard & Helen McLaughlin
By Betty Newman
- *Justin Armstrong, Rich Hurst, Edward, Helen & Ronnie Armstrong, Ginger & Cory Jones & Helen Milhouse
By Jerry & Cindy Armstrong & Family
- *Tom Hamil & Callie & Ethel Truax Charles and Louise Sweeney
By Leah Hamil & Gary and Jeanne Sweeney
- *Clair Higgins, Jr
By Zereau Higgins
- *Rodney Richard Higgins
By Zereau Higgins
- *Clair Higgins, Jr
By the Higgins, Hess & Rosenberry Families
- *Ethel & Martha Fries; Ron Buterbaugh, deceased Rotz and Overcash family members.
By Sam & Corinna Rotz
- *Joe and Anna Rotz
By their Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren
- *Lynn Gehr, Louise Gehr Bivens, Bill Bivens & the Jones, Rotz & McLaughlin Families
By Chandra Rotz & Family
- *Arthur (Sam) Woods
By Wanda Woods & Family
- *Marvin D. Trott
By Rev. Marleen Shepherd
- *Jennie, Mary & Agnes
By Rev. Marleen Shepherd

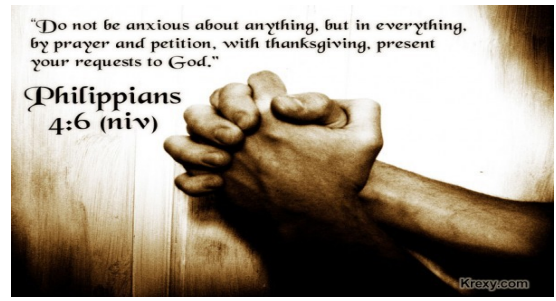
In Honor of:

- *Bill and Ann Hays
By Your friends at Trinity
- *Barb Hurst
By Jerry, Cindy Armstrong Family
- *Zereau Higgins
By the Higgins, Hess and Rosenberry Families





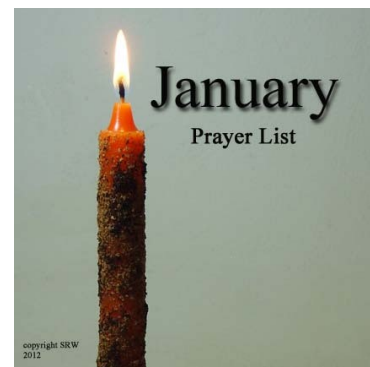
- 4 Esty Alexander
- 8 Joyce Hassler
- 11 Charlie Pryor
- 13 Hunter Buterbaugh
Denise Mellott
- 14 Eric Hess
- 16 Charlie Baker
Madison Koontz
Bodie Shives
- 19 Kelly Lassen
- 20 Pam Carmack
Ashley Souders
- 21 Shaffer Eugene Early
- 24 Linda Grissinger
- 29 Henry Arwood
- 31 Bernice Crouse



The healing of our nation

- Joe Helser family
- 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 and 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 January



Sunday, January 10

Trinity Eldercare Offering

Tuesday, January 12

Trinity Consistory meeting 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 17

Trinity Building Fund Offering

Tuesday, January 19

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

Tuesday, January 26

Deadline for Newsletter articles

Please note, I am attaching the joint yearly calendar for Trinity and St. Paul's. You will notice a lot of the dates are missing, these dates will be announced as we navigate the year. If you have any questions, please talk to a member of your consistory or Pastor Marleen.



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

St. Paul's & Trinity's Calendar of Special Events for 2021

HOLY COMMUNION

Occasion	Date	Method
New Year's	January 3	Altar <i>cancelled</i>
First Sunday in Lent	February 21	Pew
Maundy Thursday	April 1	Tables
Easter Sunday	April 4	Circle
Spring	May 2	Pew
Pentecost Season	June 6	Pew
Mid-Summer	August 8	Altar
World Wide Communion	October 3	Circle
Thanksgiving	November 21	Pew
Christmas Eve	December 24	Pew
New Year's 2021	January 2	Altar

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Offering	Date	Occasion
Elder Care Offering	Second Sunday of each month	
Building Fund	Third Sunday of each month	
Souper Bowl of Caring Trinity	February ---	Super Bowl Sunday
Lancaster Theological Seminary	February 28 ?	
Lenten Folders distributed	February 14	Sunday before Ash Wed
One Great Hour of Sharing	March 14	
Homewood Retirement Homes	May 9	Mother's Day
Church World Services	June 6 ?	
Truck Stop Ministry	August 8 ?	
Scholarship Funds	September 19	
Neighbors in Need	October 3	World Wide Communion
Thank Offering	November 21	Thanksgiving Sunday
Advent envelopes distributed	November 21	First Sunday of Advent
Hoffman Homes for Youth	December 24	Christmas Eve
Christmas Fund	January 2, 2022	1st. Sunday after Christmas

LENTEN STUDIES

Topic: To Be Announced

Sundays in Lent at 6:30 p.m., alternating between St. Paul's and Trinity. Starting, February 21, 2021, at _____ Following dates 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 2/21, 3/28,



Date	Event/Place	Time
January ____	Pot Pie Supper	3:30-6:30 p.m.
February ____	Trinity Family Night with Dinner	
February 17	Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul's	7 p.m.
April 2	McConnellsburg Community Good Friday Service <i>(tba)</i>	
April 2	Good Friday Service at Trinity	7 p.m.
April 4	Community Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 a.m.
April ____	Pot Pie Supper <i>(to be announced)</i>	
May ____	Trinity Spring BBQ	
May 9	Mother's Day	
May 13&14	St. Paul's Annual yard Sale ?	
June ____	Trinity's Picnic at Cowan's Gap (joint)	
_____	Conference Annual Meeting <i>(tba)</i>	
July ____	Trinity Vacation Bible School	
July ____	Trinity Picnic at the Pavilion	
August ____	Trinity Peach Festival	
September ____	Joint Worship and Picnic at the Garber's'	11 a.m.
October ____	Trinity Pot Pie Supper	
October ____	Trinity Chicken BBQ	
November ____	Community Thanksgiving Service at Freedom Lighthouse	
November ____	Trinity Cookie bagging for Truck Stop Ministries	
December ____	Trinity Christmas in the Village	
December ____	Carolling at a local Retirement Home	
December ____	Trinity Supper and Carolling at Church	6:00 p.m.
December ____	Trinity Children's Christmas Program	
December 24	Christmas Eve Service St. Paul's 6:00 p.m.	Trinity 8:00 p.m.