



# The Beacon

**In the beginning God created the heaven  
and the earth.**

***Genesis 1:1***

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

Trinity  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
Fort Loudon, PA

**January 2024**

**February 3, 2024**



**Trinity's winter potpie takeout event, NEW  
price \$9.00 a quart, but everything else is  
the same.**



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

**STAMP**



Happy New Year, friends!

We're moving on from 2023, and looking forward to what 2024 holds for us. Despite the chill, January is a time of fresh hope and optimism. Although some of us dislike the idea of New Year's resolutions, thinking of them as little more than unrealistic goals, I think we can *all* appreciate the feeling of a "clean slate" when putting up a new calendar on the wall.

For Christians, that feeling is especially fitting, because **it is still Christmas!**

We'll continue to be in the season of Christ's arrival until the twelve days of Christmas ends. The season resolves with a lesser-known holy day called "Epiphany" (Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>), which celebrates the arrival of the three wise men, and symbolizes the "good news of great joy" spreading around the world!

Let that *new calendar feeling* be a reminder that Jesus came to make changes SO big that many saw them as unrealistic: He came to redeem the whole world—to offer us all a clean slate. Let go of your guilt and grudges from 2023. Don't bring last year's problems into the 2024, but let your *best* hopes and habits roll into the new year like Christmas! ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new," (2Cor 5:17).***

Optimistically,  
-Pastor Peter



**-I will 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.)**

## St. Paul's Financial Report.....

| ACCOUNT SUMMARY:                 |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>              |                   |
| Total Income October, 2023       | \$5,234.94        |
| Total Expenses October, 2023     | \$4,186.94        |
| Interest Earned GF October, 2023 | \$47.01           |
| <b>Net GAIN</b>                  | <b>\$1,095.01</b> |

January-October 2023 - Net LOSS \$ 1,410.65

| ACCOUNT SUMMARY:                  |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>               |                   |
| Total Income November, 2023       | \$7,697.57        |
| Total Expenses November, 2023     | \$5,953.51        |
| Interest Earned GF November, 2023 | \$43.73           |
| <b>Net GAIN</b>                   | <b>\$1,787.79</b> |

January-November 2023 - Net GAIN \$ 1,176.45

## CHURCH FINANCES



LONE STAR BAPTIST COLLEGE

The start of a New Year offers a time of reflection on the past year and inspiration for the year ahead. Ending the year with a grateful heart for the past year is a powerful way to refocus and renew your outlook on life. - whether this past year brought you success, fulfillment, and joy, or you faced grief, setbacks, and struggle, New Year prayers are a great way to give thanks for the past year, seek guidance for the coming year, and ask for God's blessings.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).*

New Year's prayers can help you look ahead to the new year with hope and [trusting God](#). [Jeremiah 29:11](#) tells us, "for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." No matter what your goals are at the beginning of the year - more physical strength, emotional health, or financial stability, the power of prayer can help you achieve your goals as you seek God's plan for your life!

As we say goodbye to this year and welcome the new one, let's do it with a thankful heart. Let's start the new year with peace and faith. We should let go of any hard feelings or frustrations from the past year. Take this opportunity of new beginnings to say sorry to those we've hurt or to extend [forgiveness](#) to others. Remember, God loves us and wants the best for us. Let's enter the new year, ready to live the life He wants for us!

[CHRISTIANITY.COM EDITORIAL STAFF](#) January 2, 2024

\*\*\*some of our favorite New Year's prayers, from short blessings you can share on social media to longer traditional prayers you can use for [morning prayers](#) throughout January.





## Jesus, When You Were Born - By Mary Flynn

*Jesus, when You were born  
In Bethlehem long ago,  
Did You mind being out in a stable  
When there was no place else to go?  
And Jesus when You were born,  
Son of God, in a stable You lay,  
And the people didn't know who You were,  
Didn't come to You and pray.  
But I wonder if I had been there,  
In Bethlehem looking at You,  
Would I have known in my heart who You were,  
Or would I have shut my door too?  
So, now Jesus I will promise,  
Because I know what to do,  
I know that You are the Son of God,  
And I will open my heart up to You.*





# Born in January

4 Esty Alexander  
11 Charlie Pryor  
13 Hunter Buterbaugh  
Denise Mellott  
16 Charlie Baker  
Madison Koontz  
Bodie Shives  
20 Pam Carmack  
Ashley Souders  
21 Shaffer Eugene Early  
24 Linda Grissinger  
29 Henry Arwood  
31 Bernice Crouse



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

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  
Daniel Harper, grandson of Linda Best.  
Our Church & ministries, Sunday school classes  
teachers and students  
522 Youth Group  
The healing of our nation + world



# 2024



**Third Sunday each month: Trinity's Building Fund Offering**

**Wednesday, January 10**

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 16**

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

**January 18-25**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Wednesday, January 24**

Newsletter articles/information deadline

**Sunday, January 28**

Trinity Congregational meeting following Worship  
Please have reports ready to distribute on the 21st.  
St. Paul's Congregational meeting following Worship  
Please have reports to church office by the 18th  
so packets can be ready to distribute on the 21st.  
Please have reports ready to distribute on the 21st.

**Saturday, February 3**

Trinity's winter potpie takeout event, NEW price \$9.00 a quart

**Sunday, February 11**

Trinity Souper Bowl of Caring

**Wednesday, February 14**

Ash Wednesday

**Sunday, February 18**

First Sunday in Lent



St. Paul's UCC (717)-485-5554  
228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233  
mcbucc@embarqmail.com  
Facebook & [www.uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://www.uccmccbg.weebly.com)  
Trinity UCC (717)-256-2703  
P.O. Box 253  
13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224  
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