



The Beacon

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

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:18,19

January/February 2020

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Fueled Youth Group

FINALLY!!! Saturday, January 25, 5-7 p.m.
Let's meet, let's chat, let's fellowship!



St. Paul's Christian Education Committee Meeting

- WED, JAN 29 6:30 PM
- WED, FEB 26 6:30 PM
- WED, MAR 25 6:30 PM



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

STAMP

Blessings from the Pastor
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome 2020! A new year, a new decade, and so many new opportunities! We began the New Year by chalking the door, a blessing for the year that is done on the 12th Day of Christmas, or Epiphany Eve. Epiphany is the church holiday commemorating the trip of the Magi to the Christ child, and thus the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and the whole world. It's a symbol of God's grace extending beyond borders.

Whether houses of worship or family homes, you may notice this strange pattern above or beside doorways in chalk: 20+C+M+B+20. The numbers represent the year. The plus signs represent crosses. The three letters are an acronym for the traditional names given to the Three Wisemen: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Many families chalk the door to represent the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Magi, and thus to all.

The three letters CMB also stand for the Latin Phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which translates to "May Christ bless this dwelling place." The Epiphany practice serves to invite the presence of God into one's home for the year, and to invite God's blessings on all as they enter and leave. It also serves to protect Christian homes from evil until the next Epiphany Day, at which time the custom is repeated.

It's a practice that felt particularly important to me this year as 2020 burst onto the scene with cataclysmic events. I awoke on New Year's Eve to the news of a tragic mass shooting in a Texas church and reports of increasing hate crimes against those of the Jewish faith. As the week unfolded, the Australian Bush fires, unprecedented in their destruction, were only getting worse. We seemed on the verge of yet another war following the president's assassination of an Iranian general. It was hard to look at this new year with a sense of hope, and so I took out the chalk.

There may not be a whole lot we can do to confront the relentless evil in our world, but one thing we can do is carve out spaces of Christian refuge. We can mark our own homes as places of hospitality and welcome, blessing and safety, prayer and peace, come what may. My prayer for 2020 is that our churches and homes stand as little lights in this dark world, a sign of the goodness that persists. After two thousand years, the light still shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. I pray that you continue to be guided by the light and encouraged by one another. May God bless and protect each and every one of you in this new year and beyond!



Rev. Marleen Shepherd
618-521-3541
marleen.shepherd@gmail.com



WORSHIP

- Jan 12** The Baptism of Christ
Matt 3:13-17
- Jan 19** All That We Are
John 1:29-42
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan 26** Fishers and Healers
Matt 4:12-23
- Feb 2** The Vision Beautiful
Matt 5:1-12
Souper Bowl of Caring
- Feb 9** Salt & Light
Matt 5:13-20
- Feb 16** Settle It
Matt 5:21-37
- Feb 23** Eyewitnesses
2 Pet 1:16-21
- Feb 26** Ash Wednesday
Lent Begins



You are the Beloved in Whom I Am Well Pleased!

LENTEN STUDY

MARCH 1 - TRINITY
MARCH 8 - ST. PAUL'S
MARCH 15 - TRINITY
MARCH 22 - ST. PAUL'S
MARCH 29 - TRINITY

Save the Dates!

Our Lenten Study will be each Sunday of March starting at 6:30 p.m. and rotating between our two churches.

Our scriptures in the weeks ahead focus first on the Baptism of Jesus and continue with many of his most important teachings from the Sermon on the Mount. Join us as we work to embody the beloved community of God through Jesus Christ!

You are the Salt of the Earth!

Message from Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Rev. Carrie Call has served as the Penn Central Conference Transitional Conference Minister since Aug. 1, 2019. Previously she worked at Lancaster Theological Seminary as the Executive Director of Development and Communication.



“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV)

Dear Friends of Penn Central Conference:

New Year’s Day is unique. There is no other day of our year that serves as such a gate between the old and the new. Ask most individuals and you will find that they have plans for their new year – resolutions, projects, goals, or deadlines for important decisions. The celebration of a New Year is considered a universal practice – which is quite rare in human society – and we use different dates and traditions in the celebration. Usually some sort of display is required, such as fireworks, or dance rituals, or special activities that serve to sweep away old spirits, habits, concerns, grudges, and failures.

Psychologists agree that the desire for a New Year celebration is largely about control. The need for recognition of the day stems from our desire to exert control over our world, which explains why we set so many resolutions, even though over 80% of us don’t follow them! In some cultures the New Year’s celebration is an open acknowledgement of our desire to escape death – to recognize that we have “made it” another year and escaped the grim reaper.

The idea of a new start is attractive for many of us. A variety of religious traditions celebrate the New Year by letting go of grudges, making amends, increasing prayers, or returning items borrowed from neighbors.

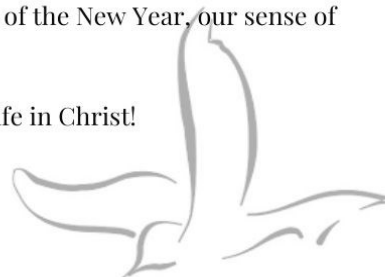
Something in these rituals satisfies our desire for balance and for spiritual reconciliation. Western Christianity celebrates the New Year as set by the Gregorian calendar (based on the one established by Rome), which established January 1st as the beginning of the year. Meanwhile in Judaism and Islam the New Year is celebrated on different days, having been established deep within their scriptures and traditions.

However, Christian perspective vary on the celebration these days. But the time and date is not in question. Instead some Christian groups shun the celebration because of its pagan roots or the tendency to engage in questionable moral practices, such as exuberant alcohol consumption!

Still, the experience of a fresh start can be both liberating and humbling. The Christian is offered this opportunity on a daily basis, since our regeneration in Christ has already happened and we live into new life on a daily basis. We have been redeemed and yet we experience regeneration continually when we live in communion with the Holy Spirit. Unlike secular celebrations of the New Year, our sense of newness can stay with us daily through the passage of time.

May this New Year be one of blessing and refreshment in our new life in Christ!

Peace,
Carrie





ADVENT AT TRINITY



Youth perform "Light the Candles All Around the World" at Trinity's Christmas Program



You are the Light of the World!





CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S



St. Paul's fathers and sons presented the program "Christmas Customs Around the World." Sunday School students helped to decorate the tree with ornaments they made of the Christian symbols described in the program: the bell, angel, heart, star and manger,





2020

JANUARY

- 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 Grissing
- 29 Henry Arwood
- 31 Bernice Crouse



FEBRUARY

- 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
- 19 Amy Gress
- 22 Morgan Barclay
Corinna Rotz
- 23 Jason Fox, Sr.
- 25 Linda Best
- 26 Renee Baker Early



- Elizabeth Kerlin
- John Burns family
- Sue Fox family
- Alex, Bethany and Eleanor Wynn
- Bill Anderson
- Chase Andrews
- Bill and Ann Hays
- Donna Keefer family
- 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
- Sharyn Zeis and family
- Evelyn Zeis and family
- Rosie Shives and Hornbaker family
- Corinna Rotz
- Cindy Barley and family
- Zereau Higgins
- Sarah Baker
- Military and families
- All Sunday school classes
- Our Church & ministries
- Prayers for the following pregnancies:
- Kara Hess
- Katy Hess
- Jenny Earley

*If you have any additions or corrections to the prayer list
or the birthday list, please
contact the church office, mcbucc@embarqmail.com*



*If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you,
please send an email with your name to:
mcbucc@embarqmail.com and help us save paper and postage. Thank
You!*

2020 JANUARY/ FEBRUARY

Sunday, January 12

Trinity Blended Worship, 9:00 AM, Sunday School, 10:30 AM, Eldercare Offering

Tuesday, January 14

Trinity Consistory meeting, 7:00 PM

Sunday, January 19

Trinity Worship with **Annual Congregational Meeting**, 9:00 AM, Building Fund Offering, Sunday School, 10:30 AM

Tuesday, January 21

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

Sunday, January 26

St. Paul's **Annual Congregational Meeting** after worship...

REPORTS DUE BY JANUARY 15

Thursday, January 23

Ft. Loudon Lion's Club dinner meeting, volunteers needed

Sunday, January 26

Trinity Blended Worship, 9:00 AM, Sunday School, 10:30 AM

Monday, January 27

Ft. Loudon Ruritan dinner meeting, volunteers needed to serve by 7:00 PM

Sunday, February 2

Trinity Souper Bowl of Caring

Saturday, February 8

Trinity Potpie Supper, 3:30-6:30 PM, volunteers and supplies needed

Saturday, February 15

Trinity Valentine Family Night with Dinner

Sunday, February 23

Special Offering for Lancaster Theological Seminary, at St. Paul's, \$100.00 dollars will be sent from the morning offering plate
Lenten Folders

Wednesday, February 26

Ft. Loudon Community Ash Wednesday Service

St. Paul's.....When you start your winter clean out, pack stuff up for the church yard sale!!

Trinity's Ushers:

Cindy and Jerry Armstrong (Jan.)

Eileen and Roy Hornbaker (Feb.)

St. Paul's Ushers:

List not out yet, stay tuned !

St. Paul's Flowers:

Jo-Ann Sheffield (Jan.)

Pam Carmack (Feb.)

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 2020

HOLY COMMUNION

Occasion	Date	Method
New Year's	January 5	Altar
First Sunday in Lent	March 1	Pew
Maundy Thursday	April 9	Tables
Easter Sunday	April 12	Circle
Spring	May 3	Pew
Pentecost Season	June 7	Pew
Mid-Summer	August 9	Altar
World Wide Communion	October 4	Circle
Thanksgiving	November 22	Pew
Christmas Eve	December 24	Pew
New Year's 2020	January 3	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 2	Super Bowl Sunday
Lancaster Theological Seminary	February 23	
Lenten Folders distributed	February 23	Sunday before Ash Wed
One Great Hour of Sharing	March 22	
Homewood Retirement Homes	May 10	Mother's Day
Church World Services	June 7	
Truck Stop Ministry	August 9	
Scholarship Funds	September 20	
Neighbors in Need	October 4	World Wide Communion
Thank Offering	November 22	Thanksgiving Sunday
Advent envelopes distributed	November 29	First Sunday of Advent
Hoffman Homes for Youth	December 24	Christmas Eve
Christmas Fund	January 3, 2021	First 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, March 1, 2020, at Trinity.
 Following dates 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29.

SPECIAL DATES

Date	Event/Place	Time
January	Pot Pie Supper	3:30-6:30 p.m.
February 15	Trinity Family Night with Dinner	
February 26	Fort Loudon Community Ash Wednesday Service	7 p.m.
April 9	Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity	7 p.m.
April 10	McConnellsburg Community Good Friday Service (<i>tba</i>)	12-1 p.m.
April 10	Good Friday Service at Trinity	7 p.m.
April 12	Community Easter Sunrise Service <i>Freedom Lighthouse</i>	6:30 a.m.

St. Paul's & Trinity's Calendar of Special Events for 2020 *continued*

April _____	Pot Pie Supper <i>(to be announced)</i>	
May 9	Trinity Spring BBQ	
May 10	Mother's Day	
May 14&15	St. Paul's Annual yard Sale	
June 14	Trinity's Picnic at Cowan's Gap (joint)	
_____	Conference Annual Meeting <i>(to be February 15announced)</i>	
July 12-17	Trinity Vacation Bible School at Freedom Lighthouse	
July 26	Trinity Picnic at the Pavilion	
August 15	Trinity Peach Festival	
September 6	Joint Worship and Picnic at the Garber's'	11 a.m.
October 10	Trinity Pot Pie Supper	
October 24	Trinity Chicken BBQ	
November 25	Community Thanksgiving Service at Freedom Lighthouse	
November 29	Trinity Cookie bagging for Truck Stop Ministries	
December 6	Trinity Christmas in the Village	
December 13	Carolling at a local Retirement Home	
December 16	Trinity Supper and Carolling at Church	6:00 p.m.
December 20	Trinity Children's Christmas Program	
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	Trinity 6:00 p.m. St. Paul's 8:00 p.m.

MUSIC

FUNERAL MEALS

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

USHERS

CLEAN UP OUTSIDE AND AROUND

CONSISTORY

DUMP RECYCLE BOX

CLEANING



OFFERING

NEWSLETTER

ALTAR FLOWERS

SEND CARDS and NOTES

COMMUNION PREPARATION

CHECK IN ON THE PROPERTY

VISIT OUR SHUT INS

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS

PRAYER WARRIORS

SCRIPTURE READER

SUNDAY SCHOOL

UNLOCK/LOCKUP CHURCH FOR SERVICES

PRAISE BAND

TEACHER FILL IN

CHURCH WOMEN

BULLETINS

MEMORIAL DAY FLOWERS FOR THE CEMETARY

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
McConnellsburg, PA

ANNUAL MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE 2020

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Spouse's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____
Work Phone # _____ Email Address _____
Date Of Anniversary _____ Call-Em-All # _____

DEPENDENTS (LIVING IN YOUR HOME)

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

NOTES: _____

PLEASE DROP OFF COMPLETED FORMS TO THE CHURCH IN BASKET IN UPSTAIRS SOCIAL ROOM OR MAIL TO St. Paul's UCC 228 North Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

*****ALSO UPDATE THE CALL- Em -All communication sheet if you have changes**

Call-Em-All: Automated communication system used to notify members of SS/Worship Cancellations, A member who has passed away and their funeral arrangements, Special church sponsored events, projects and services, Members added to our prayer list.

YOUR NUMBER IS PROTECTED BY THE Call-Em-All Company's privacy policy...YOUR INFORMATION WILL NOT BE GIVEN OUT TO ANYONE!

Phone number you want used _____

Would you want text messaging? Y N

If not already on our list, would you like on? Y N