



The Beacon

The Newsletter of
St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
McConnellsburg, PA
Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon, PA
JULY 2021

Nahum 1:7

"The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

Suicide Prevention Coalition



Sarah Seibel, Certified Peer Specialist with the Mental Health Association (MHA) of Franklin and Fulton Counties, recently contacted St. Paul's. The MHA is working to put together a suicide prevention coalition for Fulton County similar to the one Franklin County has to address the

troubling public health issue of suicide. MHA is reaching out to all agencies, organizations, etc., in Fulton County to identify those that would be interested in participating in the coalition. **At this point, MHA is only identifying those that have interest, no commitment.** The coalition will meet for an hour and a half every three months to review data and come up with prevention strategies and outreach ideas and work to reduce stigma. If this is something you would be interested in doing, please contact Denise Mellott for Sarah's contact information.

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

STAMP



BLESSINGS FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church,

I have always loved the Fourth of July, maybe because it was my dad's favorite holiday, or it seemed to be. He was the one that would take us across state lines to buy all the fireworks. We would emerge from some country roadside tent with bags of the best and the brightest and the loudest.

On the Fourth, the family would drive a couple hours north to my grandpa's farm. After a long day of eating and chatting around the picnic tables, someone would always make homemade ice cream. Then my dad and my brother would break out the cache and light up grandpa's fields long into the night.

It's a bittersweet memory for me when I recall that they are all gone, my dad, my grandfather, and the farm. There will never be another Fourth of July like there was for the first 38 years of my life. There will never be another walk down to the creek. There will never be another conversation with dad. And I really miss them. I miss him.

It's hard not to dwell on what has been lost, but I'm reminded of the blessing. For 38 summers, some I was too young to remember, when I was just a bouncing baby being passed around and fussed over, I had family. I had food and fun and security. I had a place to be where people loved me. Not everyone can say that.

Though my family is far from perfect, and we've all had our relationship issues, we've also had these moments of celebration. We've laughed! We've shot off fireworks! We've eaten too much good food! The memories are good ones.

In that sense, I haven't lost my dad, or my grandfather, or the farm. They have shaped me and they sustain me. When I see the sky light up this Fourth of July, I'll remember them and thank God for the time I got to have them in my life. And I will thank God for all that I still have. The location may be different, many of the family members may be younger and some are certainly missed, but the traditions continue and so does the love.

I pray that this summer is a sweet one for all of us, filled with new memories with the people we love. Let's not take them for granted.

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



SUMMER WORSHIP

9 A.M. TRINITY UCC FORT LOUDON

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon

In-person Adult Sunday School follows worship.

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

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbg

Adult Sunday School at 9:45 am.



SUMMER ONLINE STUDY

3:30-4:45 P.M. Thursdays online at Zoom.U.S

BEGINS THURSDAY, JULY 15

Meeting ID: 828 9251 4169 or join in by phone at (301) 715-8592

Our online study group has chosen to read and discuss the book, **"White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism"** by Robin Diangelo. Diangelo studies "whiteness" and she coined the term "white fragility" to describe a range of defensive responses she noticed during conversations she hosted as a diversity trainer.

"We consider a challenge to our racial worldview as a challenge to our very identities as good, moral people," she writes in the book's introduction. "Thus, we perceive any attempt to connect us to the system of racism as an unsettling and unfair moral offense." As a result of our failure to communicate and make changes, unfair system remains intact... even while individuals may harbor no ill will against others of a different race.

Race will affect where children and families live, the quality of the education they receive, their income, the types of food they have access to, their exposure to pollutants, whether they have access to clean air, clean water, or adequate medical treatment, and the types of interactions they have with the criminal justice system.

As we look at this difficult topic, I'll be bringing in some of the scriptures that speak to how we should respond to racial injustice as Christians. What would Jesus have us do in a world, and in a nation, in which all people are still not treated equally?

Free copies of the book are available to borrow from the library, so let me know if you would like one. You can also purchase it online. Please feel free to join the conversation anytime you can, with or without reading along. We love to see you when you can make it!

~Pastor Marleen

Vacation Bible School

6:30-8:30 p.m.

July 28, 29, and 30 (W-F)

@ Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

Community BBQ

3-7 p.m.

Saturday, July 31

@ Fort Loudon Community

Center Grounds



Trinity is hosting Fort Loudon's Vacation Bible School this year July 28th, 29th, and 30th from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. each night. Please let Linda or Heidi know if you are able to lend a helping hand with this event. On July 31, Freedom Lighthouse is hosting a Community Barbeque from 3-7 p.m. at the community grounds. This event will double as the closing of our Bible School program.

School supplies will be given away at the event on the 31st, so a box has been placed outside of the sanctuary in the hallway at Trinity to collect donations. All three community churches are working together to provide all four evenings of fun and fellowship, so please join in by showing your support in any of a variety of ways.



JULY 11-18, 2021

Registration for this year's virtual General Synod grants access to worship services, optional events, business, exhibit hall, keynote speakers and much more. Learn more and register at www.generalsynod.org

On the Lighter Side

Summer Riddles

.....here you go Loy!

Q: What do cats like to eat in the summer?

A: Mice Cream Cones!

Q: What do you call a tiger that drinks lemonade?

A: A sour puss!

Q: What do frogs eat in the summer?

A: Hopsicles!

Q: Why can't you play hide and seek with mountains?

A: Because their always peeking

Q: Where do sheep go on vacation?

A: The Baaa-hamas.

Q: And where do sharks go on vacation?

A: Finland!

Q: What part of the fish weighs the most?

A: The scales.

Q: What do you call seagulls that live near the bay?

A: Bagels.

Q: Why don't oysters like to share their pearls?

A: Because they are shellfish.

Q: How does a cucumber become a pickle?

A: It goes through a jarring experience.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground?

A: To get to the other slide!

Quotes and Sayings

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." — John Lubbock

"Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the tree house; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape..." — Harper Lee

"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." — L.M. Montgomery

"Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I love summertime more than anything else in the world. That is the only thing that gets me through the winter, knowing that summer is going to be there." — Jack McBrayer

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows." — Helen Keller

"There are enough evidences of supreme skill in the structure of the human hand alone to prove the existence, intelligence and benevolence of God in the face of all the sophistry of infidelity." — A. B. Simpson

"What can be more foolish than to think that all this rare fabric of heaven and earth could come by chance, when all the skill of art is not able to make an oyster!" — Jeremy Taylor

"God dwells in His creation and is everywhere indivisibly present in all His works. He is transcendent above all His works even while He is immanent within them." — A. W. Tozer

"The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things." — Henry Ward Beecher

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***Find Us on Facebook

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com





Ruth Anna Brubaker

June 24, 1964 - March 27, 2021

Ruth Anna Brubaker, age 56, of McConnellsburg, PA, passed away on Saturday, March 27, 2021 at her home with her family by her side. She was born on Wednesday, June 24, 1964 in McConnellsburg, PA, the daughter of the late Walter Hedrick and Clara (Harr) Hedrick of McConnellsburg, PA. Ruth was a graduate of McConnellsburg High School in 1982. She married David Brubaker on February 14, 1988 in Big Cove Tannery, PA. Ruth was a long-time patron of the Fulton County Library. She loved doing crafts, was an avid reader and enjoyed spending time with her family. Ruth was a volunteer and member of the Fulton County Wellness Center.

Ruth is survived by her husband of 33 years, David Brubaker, one daughter, Jennifer Brubaker of McConnellsburg, PA, her mother Clara Hedrick of McConnellsburg, PA, two brothers, one sister, three brother in laws, one sister in law, her mother in law and her step mother in law.

Ruth is preceded in death by her father, Walter Hedrick, her father in law and her step father in law.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, services are private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home to help defray costs. The family has entrusted Ruth's care to Kelso-Cornelius Funeral Home in McConnellsburg, PA. Online condolences may be expressed at www.kelso-corneliusfuneralhome.com.

God only gives three answers to prayer.

1. Yes!
2. Not yet.
3. I have something better in mind.

What cancer cannot do?

It cannot cripple love, shatter hope, corrode faith, destroy peace, kill friendship, suppress memories, silence courage, invade the soul, steal eternal life and conquer the spirit! Take that cancer.





- 3 Stephanie Crouse
- 9 Jason Armstrong
- 14 Jeff Lawyer
- 17 Preston Mellott
- 21 Chelsi Burns
- 23 Colin Warren Neal
- 25 Todd Alexander
- 26 Thurman Hassler



Happy Birthday to You

Patty and Mildred J. Hill

Hap - py birth - day to you! Hap - py birth - day to you! Hap - py

birth - day dear (sing name) Hap - py birth - day to you!

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Prayer Request

- Cathy Buterbaugh
- The healing of our nation+
- Amanda Mitchell
- Linda Sowers
- Ed Hayes
- Denise's sister Connie
- Lana Pine
- Kylene McLucas Arwood
- Elizabeth Kerlin
- Chase Andrews
- Bernice Crouse's 96 yr. Aunt Marie and family
- Korbyn Rotz
- Skip and Betty Daniels
- Nicole Hummel
- Carl and Carol Mellott
- Dennis Hess
- Robert Door
- Nancy Barmont
- Sawyer and Jan Bye family
- Meril Fetters
- The family of Ernie Tarner
- Jessica Truax
- Corinna Rotz
- Bernice's friend Christa
- Zeis family
- Chris Myers uncle Ed Vance
- Military and families
- Our Church & ministries, Sunday school classes
- Teachers and students, front line workers
- All affected by Covid-19, health, life, livelihood
- Emily & Brad Rotz
- Ann Hays and family
- Leah Hamil
- Kathleen Pappas
- Dee & Ken Hupp
- Summer Hoover and daughter Ruby

Please send additions and corrections to the church office.

*Our thoughts
and prayers
are with you*

2021



NOTE:

Second Sunday each month

Third Sunday each month

Sunday, July 4

July 11-18

Tuesday, July 13

July 28, 29 and 30

Saturday, July 31

Trinity's swim parties have been cancelled for the year!
St. Paul's Church Women United meetings done until October
St. Paul's NO Consistory meeting in July
Trinity Eldercare Offering
Trinity's Building Fund Offering
Independence Day
UCC General Synod...www.generalsynod.org
Trinity's Consistory meets at 6:30 p.m.
Trinity Vacation Bible School
Community BBQ 3-7 p.m. at Fort Loudon Community Center
Grounds

SUMMER ONLINE STUDY.....

3:30-4:45 P.M. Thursdays

Meeting ID: 828 9251 4169 or by phone at (301) 715-8592

WE NEED YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN