



The Beacon

"The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley: it was full of bones." Ezekiel 37:1

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

January/February 2020

Lent 2020 is a six-week period leading up to **Easter**. **Lent** begins 46 days before the Saturday of **Easter** weekend (**Easter** Sunday falls on Sunday, April 12, **2020**), but is only observed Monday-Saturday each week because every Sunday is viewed as a celebration. Therefore, **Lent** is observed a total of 40 days.



Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial. This event is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Presbyterian, Oriental Orthodox, Reformed, and Roman Catholic Churches. Some Anabaptist and evangelical churches also observe the Lenten season.

St. Paul's Christian Education
Committee Meeting

WED, MAR 25
6:30 PM



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

STAMP

REV. MARLEEN
SHEPHERD

Blessings from the Pastor

Contact the pastor
at 618-521-3541 or
marleen.shepherd@
gmail.com.



Pam wins the award for best church sign this month! And I'm grateful that so many had the opportunity to get their ash in church last week!

We are now in the season of Lent, the time of year when the church commits to walking with Jesus through his earthly life.

At Easter we will celebrate the resurrection, and the promise of new and everlasting life. For now we focus on the way to Easter, which of course, is the cross.

We walk with Jesus through his life and death. We walk with him through every trial and temptation that was part of his human life.

And we recommit to walking with Jesus through every trial and temptation that is part of our human lives.

The traditional Lenten disciplines are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Through increased prayer we deepen our connection with God. Through fasting we learn to rely on God alone. Through charity, we see outside of ourselves.

The three disciplines can be understood in this way: prayer is justice towards God, fasting is justice towards self, and charity is justice towards neighbor.

God, self, and neighbor- all of these relationships are so important for us to work on. Thankfully, we have a great teacher!

I look forward to walking with you and with Christ in the days ahead. May God bless you this Lenten season and increase your faith.

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven."

St. Rose of Lima

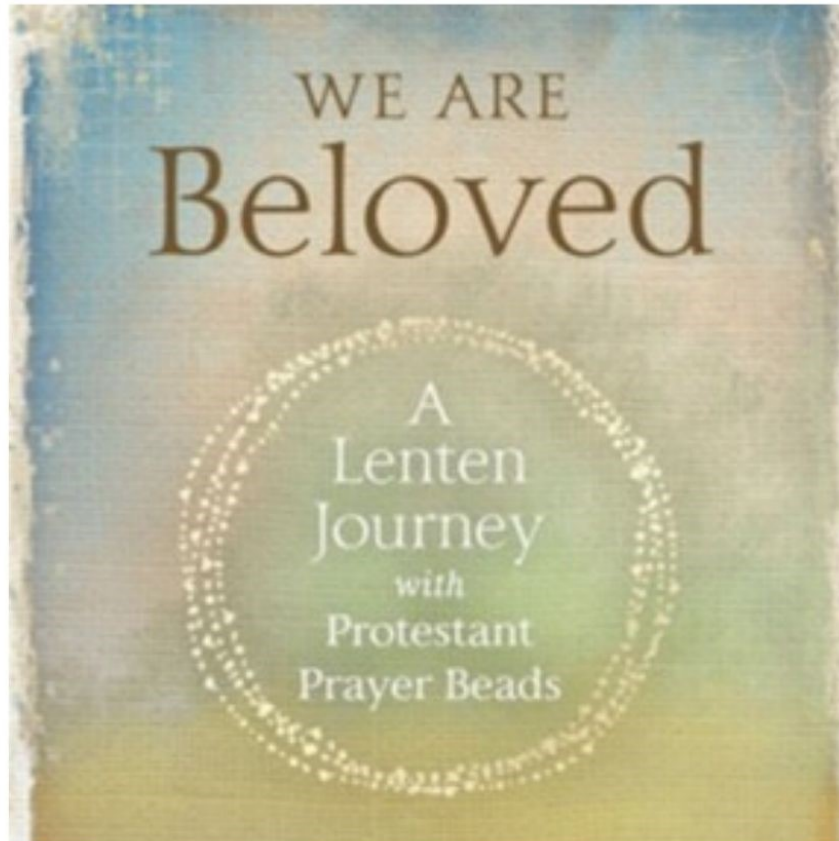
MARCH 2020 WORSHIP

March 1 First Sunday of Lent
"The First Sin" Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
St. Paul's Kid's Takeover Service
Trinity Holy Communion

March 8 Second Sunday of Lent
"Born Again" John: 3-17
St. Paul's Holy Communion
March 15 Third Sunday of Lent
"Living Water" John 4:5-42

March 22 Fourth Sunday of Lent
"Born Blind" John 9:1-41
March 29 Fifth Sunday of Lent
"Dry Bones" Ezekiel 37:1-14

Be Transformed By God's Love This Lenten Season



Christians know that we are God's beloved, but deep in our hearts do we truly believe it? When we encounter Jesus in scripture, we tend to hear Jesus' words with judgment, thinking we cannot be beloved because we will never measure up to God's standards. For our Lenten study, author Kristen Vincent takes us on a journey alongside Jesus that helps break this false understanding and allows us to discover how deeply loved we really are.

Participants may purchase the book for \$10 or simply come and join the group in a weekly devotion and optional prayer bead experience. We will join together each Sunday evening in March at 6:30 p.m. for a soup supper, prayer, and study. Study sessions rotate between Trinity UCC in Fort Loudon and St. Paul's UCC in McConnellsburg.

MARCH 2020 LENTEN STUDY

Join Us Sundays at 6:30 p.m. for prayer, devotion, & discussion!

March 1 First Sunday of Lent
"The Way of the Beloved"
Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

March 8 Second Sunday of Lent
"Beloved Listening"
St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

March 15 Third Sunday of Lent
"Beloved Passion"
Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

March 22 Fourth Sunday of Lent
"Beloved Healing"
St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg

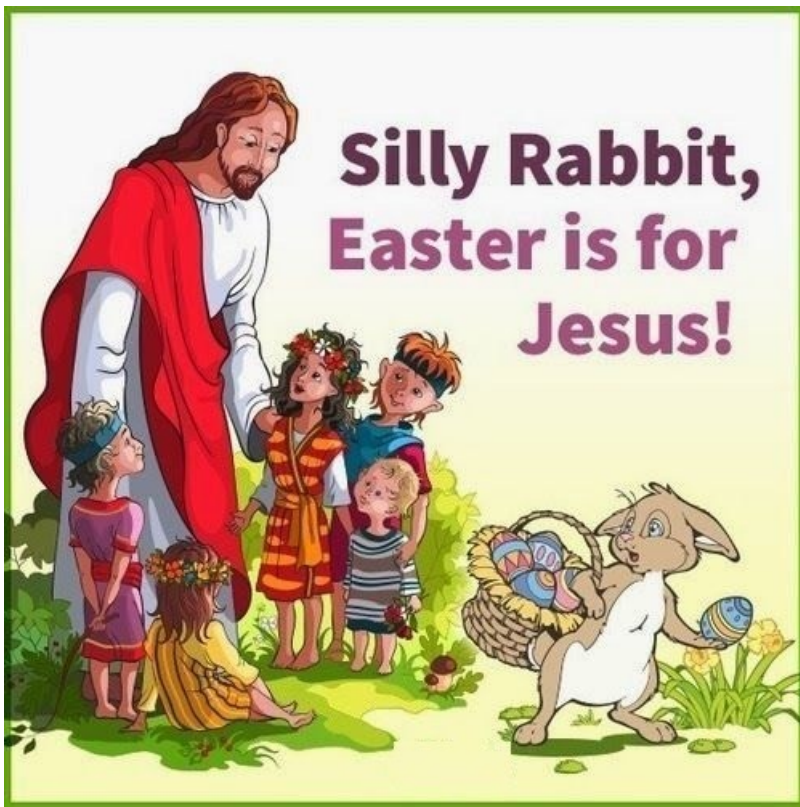
March 29 Fifth Sunday of Lent
"Beloved Service"
Trinity UCC Fort Loudon

"No, this is the kind of fast I want. I want you to remove the sinful chains, to tear away the ropes of the burdensome yoke, to set free the oppressed, and to break every chain that binds you."

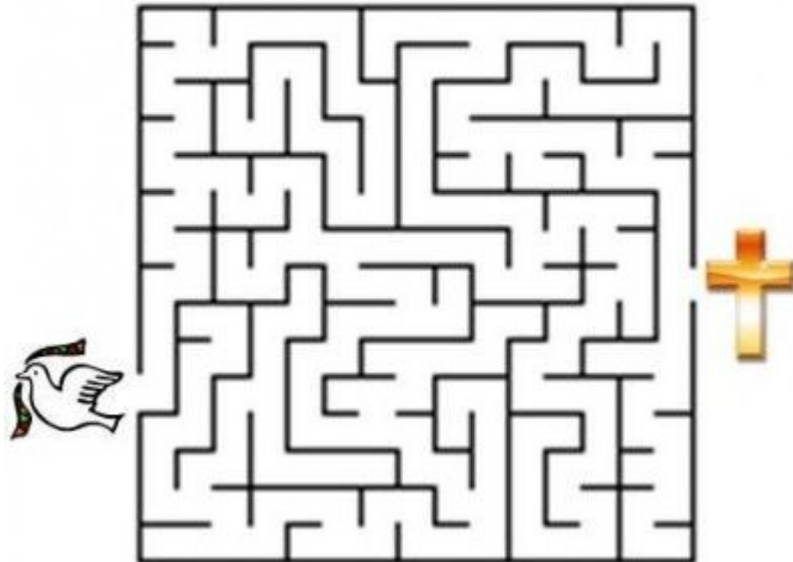
Isaiah 58:6

Easter

Help the dove get to the cross



**Silly Rabbit,
Easter is for
Jesus!**



The Sweet Truth of Easter

These candies tell a story -
the best news you'll ever hear.
It's about Jesus dying on the cross
so that we could be brought near.

So hold them and turn them and you will see...
the "M" become a "W" an "E" and then a "3"

The "E" stands for ...Easter....
God's everlasting love and His eternal plan.

It reminds us of the cross
and the way God rescued sinful man.

The "3" represents the 3 days Jesus spent in the grave...
by His death, His children He did save.

The "M" reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed
as He died in our place,
and the miracle of the resurrection

So we can see Him face to face.

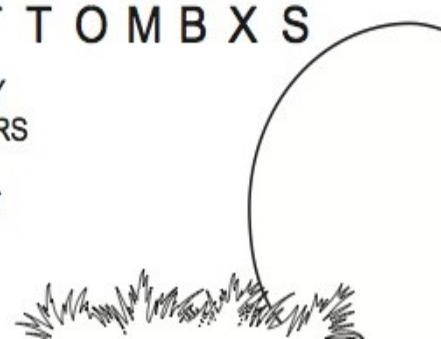
The "W" reminds us...that He alone is worthy of our
worship and praise

And calls us to be His witnesses around the world for all
our days.

EASTER WORD SEARCH

S	U	E	X	I	W	R	K	Y	B	C
I	A	C	I	D	B	X	V	U	R	S
B	D	V	E	J	K	T	N	O	R	E
J	N	P	I	B	V	N	S	E	T	G
M	E	J	H	O	Y	S	W	E	Q	L
R	Y	M	E	V	R	O	K	V	X	S
N	G	C	D	I	L	S	T	N	A	U
C	C	L	S	F	A	E	G	G	S	S
I	S	E	H	B	J	A	U	D	W	E
D	N	V	Y	Y	A	D	N	U	S	J
D	O	S	W	T	T	O	M	B	X	S

RISEN	SUNDAY
CROSS	FLOWERS
TOMB	EGGS
JESUS	BASKET
SAVIOR	BUNNY





Famous Birthdays



- 3 Gary Sweeney
- 6 Robert Will
- 8 Zachary Long
- Nathan Rosenberry
- 10 Taylor Myers
- 15 Beth Ann Daniels
- Carole Grissinger Sieber
- 16 Chris Myers
- 17 Tom Hamil
- Mechele Shives
- Kelsey Barclay
- 19 Eileen Hornbaker
- 21 Jessica Pryor
- 25 Hillary Alexander
- 30 Clint Alexander
- Jayne Buterbaugh



**Prayer
Requests**

**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
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 MARCH

goes in like a LION
& out like a LAMB

kissmylist.com

MARCH

Sunday, March 1

First Sunday in Lent
 Trinity Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
 St. Paul's **"KIDS TAKE OVER WORSHIP"** 11:00 a.m.
 Lenten study with soup at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity

March 1-7

UCC Woman's Week

Wednesday, March 4

Trinity Choir Practice

Sunday, March 8

St. Paul's Holy Communion

Daylight Savings Time Begins!!!

Lenten study with soup at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
 Trinity Consistory Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10

Lenten study with soup at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity

Sunday, March 15

Tuesday, March 17

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

Sunday, March 22

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
 St. Paul's, \$100 of the worship offering will be sent to One Great Hour of Sharing
 Lenten study with soup at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's



Trinity's Ushers:

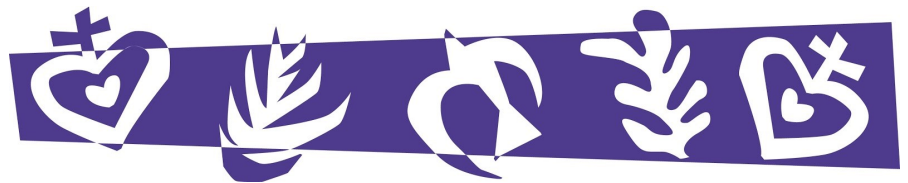
Zereau Higgins and Edgar Hess

St. Paul's Ushers:

Kirk Cover and John Glazier

St. Paul's Flowers:

Sally Cover



St. Paul's UCC

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Trinity UCC

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www.ucc.org
www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com