



The Beacon

Then Jesus said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Luke 9:23

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

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon, PA

MARCH 2024

"The Easter message tells us that our enemies, sin, the curse and death, are beaten. Ultimately they can no longer start mischief. They still behave as though the game were not decided, the battle not fought; we must still reckon with them, but fundamentally we must cease to fear them any more."—

Karl Barth



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

STAMP



Hello church family,

Can you believe it?? We've come full circle! Rather, we're just about to...

March 8th marks one year for me as your pastor. My first year leading a church! That will be a particularly special day for me. First, because I'll then have experience in *every* season to draw on for the next year. Second, because I will be able to see how much I've grown *during* that time—thanks in large part to you! In other words, I am (and always will be) encouraged and reassured by this time of year.

It seems fitting that this milestone will arrive in Lent, because it reminds me of God's presence throughout the season. Whatever Lenten practices we've chosen to challenge ourselves with, we are not alone in

that challenge. God is active in our experience of Lent, or any of life's trials, with a hand at our back. "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength," (Isaiah 40:31).

God strengthens us, first, with encouragement in our trials. When we make good decisions—when we do the right thing even though it's difficult—God gives us a feeling of accomplishment. Second, by strengthening us with memory of previous accomplishments. In every Lenten achievement, every personal struggle, every tough situation, God empowers us with the memory of past success, reminding us that we are strong enough to do *this* too.

In God's strength,

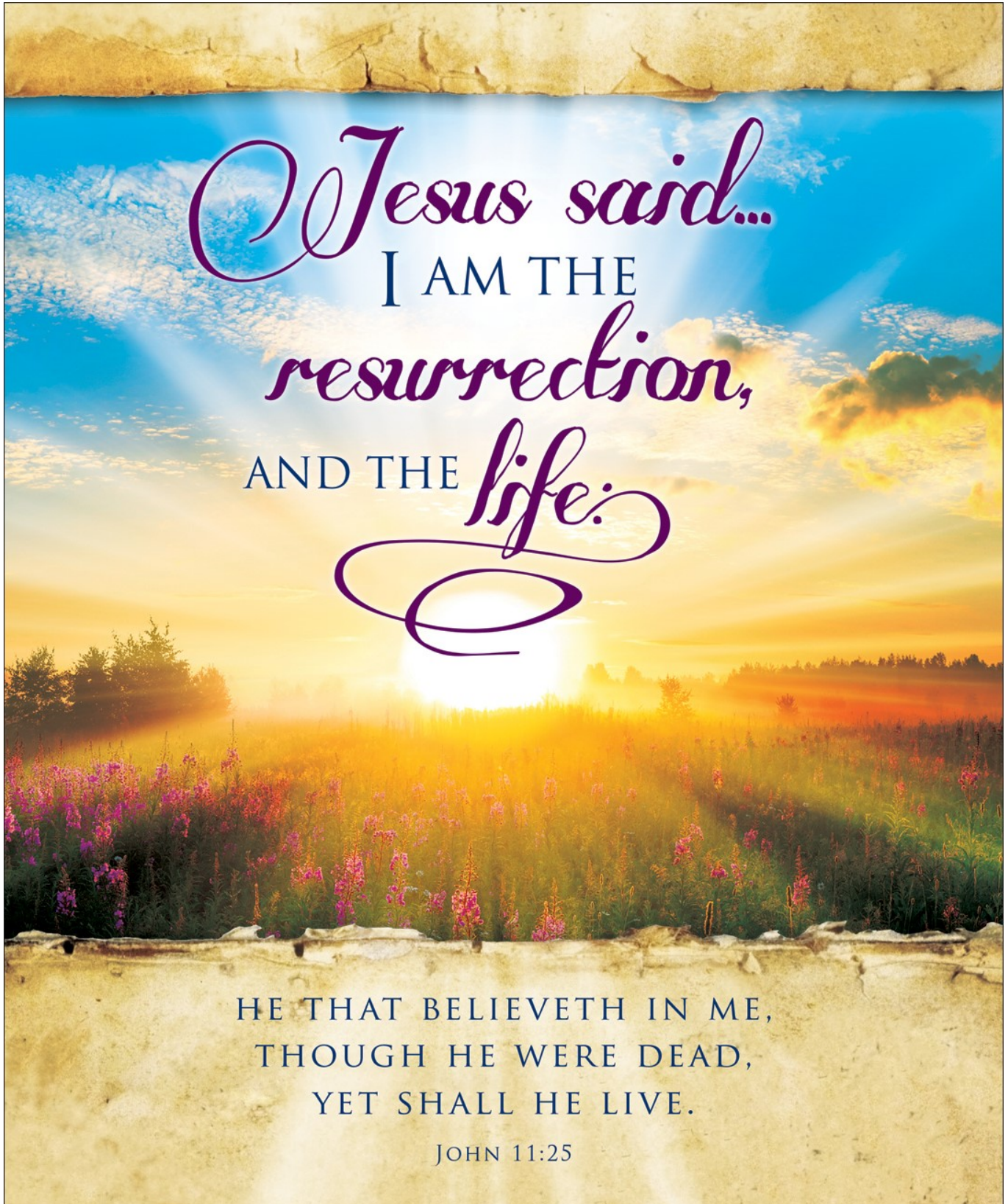
-Pastor Peter

p.s. Pastor Peter, sorry Rosie's pic is larger than yours, LOL

"Rosie likes to hold my hands to climb her ladder, and then proudly hangs out on top, before sliding down to do it again."



ACCOUNT SUMMARY:	
<i>General Fund</i>	
Total Income January, 2024	\$13,307.04
Total Expenses January, 2024	\$7,963.69
Interest Earned GF January, 2024	\$201.77
Net GAIN	\$5,545.12





Life's sweeter with flowers and friends. A garden of memories. Nurtured by nature's kiss. Each petal a memory, every bouquet a story. Roses are red, skies are blue.

Nothing better than friends at the flower show, thanks for sharing Bernice and Cindy!



I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD,

which made
Heaven and Earth.

he will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD IS THY KEEPER:

the Lord is thy shade
upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall *preserve thee*
from all evil:

He shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going
out and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore.

- Psalm 121

Dear St. Paul's UCC,

When we had to decide where to hold our mother's funeral service, our desire was to honor our mother at her church where she attended her whole life. Thank you to all who performed services for her funeral including Pastor Peter Billings for the service, Denise Mellett for the lovely organ music, and the women of the church who organized and provided the delicious food to our family and friends. Your flowers, comforting words and kindnesses at our time of grieving will always be treasured by our family with heartfelt appreciation.
Stanley & Family
Suzanne and Family



Happy March Birthdays

- 3 Gary Sweeney
- 6 Robert Will
- 8 Zachary Long
Nathan Rosenberry
- 10 Taylor Myers
- 15 Beth Ann Daniels
- 16 Chris Myers
- 19 Eileen Hornbaker
- 21 Jessica Pryor
- 23 Luke Earley
- 25 Hillary Alexander
Ryan Earley
- 30 Clint Alexander
Jayne Buterbaugh



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

- Chandra Rotz and family
- 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
- Phillip Harris
- 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

Sunday, March 10

"They will know we are Christians by our LOVE"

Monday, March 11

Lenten study, at Trinity 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Church Women, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday March 17

St. Paul's Youth Take Over Service

St. Paul's Deadline to order Easter Lilies

St. Paul's Fellowship covered dish following Worship service

Tuesday, March 19

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

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

Saturday, March 30

Holy Saturday

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday



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