



The Beacon

“With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgment. Always let Him lead you, and He will clear the road for you to follow.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

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

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon, PA

May 2021



St. Paul's UCC (717)-485-5554
228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA
17233

mcbucc@embargmail.com
www.uccmccbg.weebly.com

Trinity UCC (717)-369-4773

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224

*** Find Us on Facebook

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

*When you
aren't in the
pew*



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

STAMP

A bouquet of pink tulips with green leaves is on the left. Two lit candles, one pink and one light pink, are on the right.

May 2021

Here we come to Worship...

Join us...

In person or online

Coming up in Worship

Sunday, May 23 is Pentecost
Don't forget to wear **RED!**

Supporting our Church

We thank you for your gifts
that help us continue the life-
giving work of Jesus Christ!

Trinity UCC

Please make checks payable to the
church and mail to:

Jerry & Cindy Armstrong
5453 Forest Lane
Fort Loudon, PA 17224

St. Paul's UCC

Please make checks payable to the
church and mail to:

Seleen Shives
208 Cooper Lane
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Give online to St. Paul's at:
<https://uccmccbg.weebly.com>

Sunday Worship

9 am Trinity UCC Fort Loudon
www.facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon
11 am St. Paul's UCC McConnellsburg
www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbg

Sunday School

St. Paul's 9:45 a.m.

K-3: Donna House

4-6: Linda Garber

7-9: Loy Garber

10-12: JoAnn Sheffield

"Ignite Teens"

In person and online

Adult: Pam Carmack

In person and online

Trinity 10 a.m.

Adult: Glenn Crouse

Online Bible Study

3:30 P.M. Thursdays on Zoom

Meeting ID: 828 9251 4169

"With all my heart, I will celebrate..." Ps 16:9

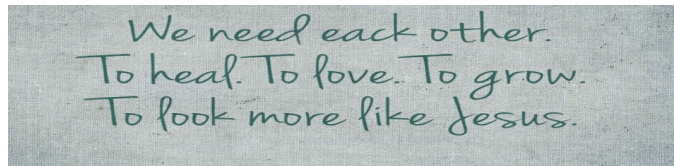
TRINITY IS REACHING OUT

Trinity has partnered with Franklin County Library System through a generous grant from Community State Bank to set up public community wi-fi in a circle around the church. We are not sure exactly how large that circle will be, but it will certainly reach as far as Mill and Mullen Streets and the square.

This means that people will even be able to park in the Trinity lot or sit under the pavilion to use the wi-fi signal. Residents in nearby homes will be able to access it, as well.

When Fort Loudon Library closed, FCLS pledged to look for new ways to serve the community, and heard many times over that residents missed the internet access. The church steeple offers heights above neighboring rooftops from which it will work to position external wi-fi access points that can broadcast the signal.

An additional donor stepped forward to fund the final installation costs, and if the wi-fi is well-used, additional community collaborators can assist the library system with the monthly costs after 2021. The equipment has not yet been installed, so stayed tuned for start up information.



Bernice



Is there anything more reassuring than a church pew?

Simple. Humble. Sturdy. Two rough-hewn planks, fastened with a handful of nails, permanently fixed to the floor—and **open to all**. Occasionally padded, often not; not comfortable, exactly, but **comforting**. An invitation to the weary traveler to sit and hear the Word of God proclaimed; a simple reminder that we follow a humble, crucified carpenter; the perfect symbol that all are equal at the foot of the cross. From the greatest king to the poorest pauper, from the holiest saint to the most desperate sinner, all have sat in these pews before us, pondering their failings and begging for mercy. Despite the advent of stadium-style seating and auditorium-like worship halls, the simple, ancient pew endures—and no wonder, because it is, and always has been, the perfect metaphor for the faith.

Seating in churches didn't really become a thing until parishioners got bored enough to wish they were sitting down—that is, about the time of the Protestant Reformation.

Except—nothing I just said is even remotely true. In fact, it's pretty much the exact opposite of all that. Would you like to know the true story of the pew? Okay, then—buckle up. (But not actually, though, because pews don't have seatbelts.)

It turns out that there's no evidence of churches having seating of any kind for at least the first 1,400 years or so of Christianity. In other words, Augustine, Athanasius, Jerome, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Calvin—all those guys very likely lived their whole lives attending churches that were standing-room-only. During ancient Christian worship, parishioners could stand, kneel, or even mill about the nave if they so chose. There's no record of whether they engaged in stage dives and crowd surfing, so we're forced to assume they did.....read the complete article at christianpopculture.com



After a year without camp, it's a joy to be able to come back together for some summer fun in the great outdoors. This year, youth at Trinity and St. Paul's have a few different options. Closest to home is **St. John's Camp in Fort Loudon** operated by St. John's UCC in Chambersburg. Learn more below and at <https://sjucc1811.org/camp>. Many camps for all age groups are also offered through **Lutheran Camping Corp** at their campsites in Arendtsville, Colebrook, and Elizabethtown. Learn more at www.lutherancamping.org.

Camp prices vary, but lowered fees and camp scholarships are available for all of our youth, so let Pastor Marleen know if you plan to attend. For adults and older youth, you can go back to camp too! Camp counselors and volunteers are needed for crafts, food service, gardening, maintenance, and health services.

St. John's Camp is nestled along the east side of the Tuscarora Mountain just off Route 75, north of Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania. Three weeklong camps are available:

Camp Noah July 6-9, 2021

Day camp for children completing grades K-2

Camp Kum-Ba-Yah June 27-30, 2021

Overnight camp for children completing grades 3-5

Camp Galilee July 11-14, 2021

Overnight camp for youth completing grades 6-8

Registration forms are available online at sjucc1811.org/camp.

Directions: From Route 30, turn north on Route 75. Continuing on Route 75, approximately two miles past the sign to Cowan's Gap State Park, turn left on Stumpy Lane. St. John's Camp is located one mile on the left.

Trinity United Church of Christ's
Chicken BBQ

behind Trinity United Church of Christ
at 13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon



SATURDAY
MAY 15, 2021



10:30 AM until 1:00 PM (or sold out)

½ chicken w/baked beans and apple sauce* - \$10.00

½ chicken* - \$8.00

*both meals come with dinner roll and butter

Baked Goods, Hot Dogs, and Drinks will also be available!

Pre-orders for meals are strongly encouraged.

Call or text Heidi at 717-360-6582 to easily pre-order by Wednesday, May 12, or to check availability on the day of the event. Pre-orders not picked up by 12:00 PM will be re-opened to the public.

This is the same chicken recipe that is used at the Franklin County Fair and the Fort Loudon Peach Festival.

We are not responsible for accidents.

Blessings *From the Pastor*

Dear Church:

My very real blessing these last two months is the newest member of our family, Cooper. I've never seen anyone, dog or human, love people like Cooper does.

Me, I'm more of an introvert. I'm more likely to be in a corner with a book than out socializing. Cooper has other ideas. I've been here two years and live a very quiet life. Cooper's been here for two months and he's the most popular guy in town.

While I tend to stay in my little bubble, Cooper never met a stranger. He's always pulling at the leash to meet whoever happens to be coming down the street. Or the dark alley, at any time, day or night. Suffice it to say, I've met some very interesting people!

For Cooper, it doesn't matter who you are. He's there to give you a sniff or two--and a hug if needed. I've been surprised by just how many people have needed one.

At first, I was trying to stop Cooper from bothering everyone, but it turns out, less people are bothered and more people are delighted to make a new friend.

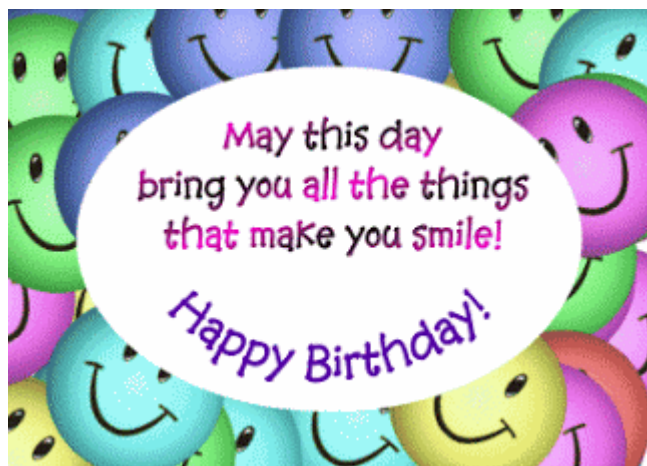


And here he is in action! Hugging one of his many new friends. I had never talked to Tristen before, although I'd often wondered about the little guy out there on the corner of Lincoln Way West.

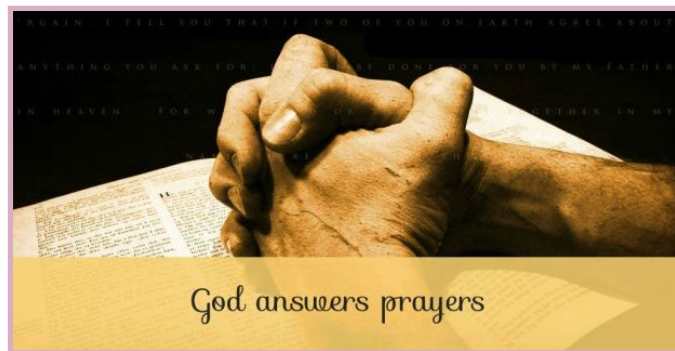
The day we met him, it was Cooper who wanted to stop of course, and Tristen was absolutely thrilled. While I couldn't understand a lot of what he was saying, Tristen's joy was evident. Now whenever he sees Cooper coming, he jumps up and down, claps his hands, and shouts "My boy! My boy!" Cooper comes to greet him, tail wagging.

When it comes to pastoral care, Cooper is an expert, and he is available for house calls and playdates. Just have your people give his people a call!

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



- 7 Eli Rotz
- 8 Charlotte Mester
- 9 Carrin McElhinny
- 11 Leighton Kulp
- 13 Millie Mester
- 14 Carol Mellott
- 17 John Daniels
John Daniels, Jr.
- 19 Christie Dick
- 20 Denny Buterbaugh
- 21 Emily Dick
- 24 Sherry Disney
- 26 Susan Glazier
- 27 Scott Arwood
- 28 Kirk Cover



The healing of our nation+
Amanda Mitchell
Russ McLucas
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
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
Ernie Tarner
Jessica Truax
Corinna Rotz
Zereau Higgins and family
Sarah Baker
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
Bill & Ann Hays
Leah Hamil
Kathleen Pappas
Dee & Ken Hupp
Summer Hoover and daughter Ruby
God's people





2021

Sunday, May 2

NO Communion!

R/S for June 6, Joint Worship at Cowan's Gap

Thursdays

Online Bible study 3:30 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting ID: 828 9251 4169

Second Sunday each month

Trinity Eldercare Offering

Third Sunday each month

Trinity's Building Fund Offering

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day

Special Offering for Homewood Retirement Homes

St. Paul's will send \$100.00 from morning offering plate

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 11

St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12

St. Paul's Annual Yard Sale, help will be needed!

Thurs. & Fri., May 13th & 14th

Trinity BBQ Fundraiser

Saturday, May 15

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

Tuesday, May 18

Pentecost: WEAR RED! Strengthen the Church Offering

Sunday, May 23

St. Paul's Welcoming the Duffeys into membership.

Sunday, May 31

Trinity Swim party watch for details

Friday, June 4

Joint Service and service at Cowan's Gap with Communion

Sunday, June 6

Father's Day

Sunday, June 20

WE NEED YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN