
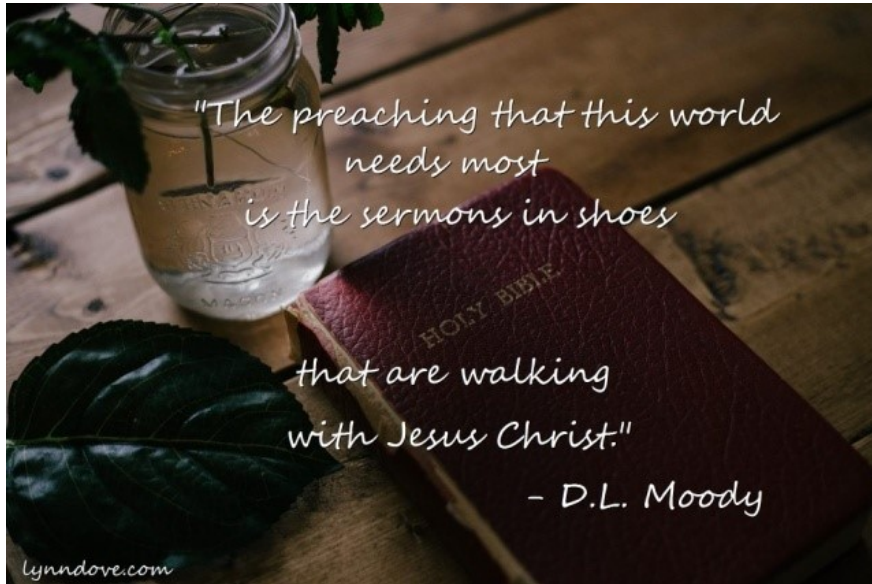


# The Beacon

The Newsletter of  
St. Paul's  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
McConnellsburg, PA  
Trinity  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
Fort Loudon, PA  
May 2023



[Ephesians 4:11-12](#) "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."



**Reverend Peter Billings was installed  
as our Minister!**

**A lovely service was held April 23,  
2023 at St. Paul's UCC. If you were  
not able to attend, please take time to  
watch on St. Paul's face book page, it  
will be worth your time.**

**Now, it is time to come out to support  
our young, new pastor for it is God  
who has sent Him to us.**

***"See you on Sunday mornings"***

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

STAMP



Greetings friends,

Woah! How is it that we're *already* getting into May? Between Holy Week and my ordination service, I feel like we must've skipped a month! When we get busy, time gets slippery, doesn't it? I think that's a good reminder for us to appreciate the time we have here on earth—to be aware of those little perfect moments, and to thank God for them. What better time to stop and smell the roses than now? Sure, the weather is lovely, flowers and trees are blooming, and the anticipation of summer hangs over us like an hot air balloon suspended in the big blue sky. But I'm also talking about *this time* in terms of the liturgical calendar.

In the Sundays following Easter, we should want to slow down time, and appreciate the newness of Christ's resurrection and the Good News He brings. We should dwell on this moment in the scripture, because Jesus' followers are reflecting on their *response* to that Good News. This is where we live in the Bible. Surely, we have done good deeds in the past, but God's call is continual, so we must continue to ask ourselves, "how can *I* live my life as a response to the new life Jesus gave me?"

Hopefully we will never stop answering that question, but in the coming weeks especially, I encourage you to pray on it.

Your freshly ordained Reverend,  
-Peter Billings

*Good gravy, y'all!*

*My eyes just about fell out of my head when I opened the ordination card you gave me at the reception. (I wish I had opened it in front of you!) That was incredibly generous of you. Thank you all very much for the enormous gift, and for every other way you celebrated my ordination with me. It truly meant a lot to me. Every pastor only gets one "first call," and I'm proud you are mine. I couldn't have picked a better community to serve in.*

*Thank you again,*

*Rev. Peter Billings*

*P.S. Thanks to you, this is how it felt to get ordained:*

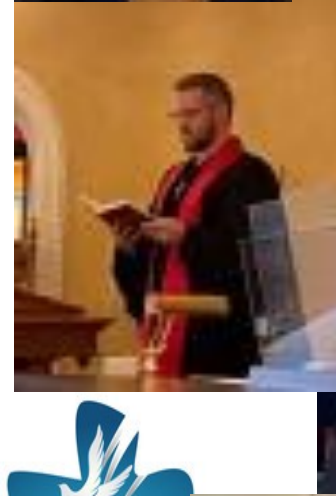
That picture is me, by the way. In seminary, I participated in a couple theater productions. In one of them, I played the Archbishop of Rheims in a story about Joan of Arc.

(My costume didn't include the aviators... I was me goofing around backstage before the show started.)





*To God be the Glory!*



The Ordination of Peter Billings  
 To the Ministry of Word & Sacrament  
 and Installation as Pastor of  
 St. Paul's and Trinity United Church of  
 Christ  
 Sunday, April 23, 2023



*Amen*



- 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



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

# Prayer Request

The healing of our nation + world  
Kathy and Bill Kendall  
Betty Burns  
Amanda Mitchell  
Linda Sowers  
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  
Ann Hays  
The family of Jessica McLucas Truax  
Bernice's friend Christa  
Chris Myers' uncle..... Ed Vance  
Military and families  
Our Church & ministries, Sunday school classes  
Teachers and students, front line workers  
Emily Rotz  
Leah Hamil  
Loy and Linda Garber  
Kathleen Pappas  
Patrick McCarthy  
Daniel Harper, grandson of Linda Best.  
Ed Stonecipher  
The Duffey family



## St. Paul's Church Finances

### ACCOUNT SUMMARY: *General Fund*

Total Income March, 2023	\$5,876.74
Total Expenses March, 2023	\$6,471.33
Interest Earned GF March, 2023	<u>\$48.76</u>
<b>Net LOSS</b>	<b>-\$545.83</b>
January-March 2023 - Net GAIN	\$5,485.66



***At St. Paul's Seleen Shives will be accepting donations on behalf of the Youth Sunday school kiddos project of supporting our missionaries, Fuzzy & Fiona through the last day of Sunday school, May, 21st. There will also be a container to drop your change in when you are at church. THANK YOU!***

Isaiah 6:1-8 AKJV

6 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. <sup>3</sup> And one cried unto another, and said, <sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. <sup>6</sup> Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: <sup>7</sup> and he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. <sup>8</sup> Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

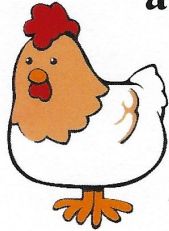
### ***Sung at Pastor Peter's Ordination:***

**THOSE WHO DREAM** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight  
And my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.

Trinity United Church of Christ's  
**Chicken BBQ**

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



**SATURDAY,  
MAY 13, 2023**

**TAKE-OUT**

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

**½ chicken w/baked beans and apple sauce\* - \$11.00**

**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 (and leave a message) or text Heidi at 717-360-6582 to**  
**easily pre-order by Wednesday, May 10, 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.

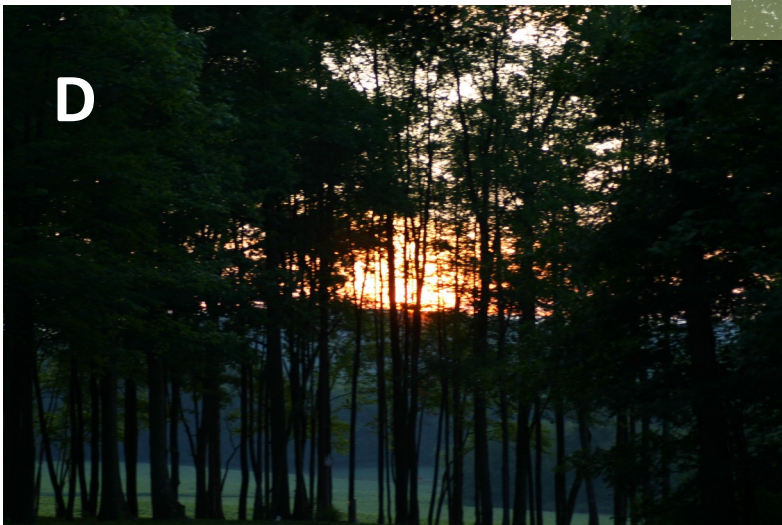


THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD  
HE SHINES IN ALL THAT'S FAIR

Bernice Crouse sent us some pictures  
connected with caring for God's creation.

Can you guess where they were taken?

Bernice will put a key to the answers in  
next month's Beacon.



# 2023



**Third Sunday each month: Trinity's Building Fund Offering**

**Sunday, April 30**

***"Come Let Us Adore Him" together***

**Wednesday, May 10**

**Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 14**

**Mother's Day**

**Tuesday, May 16**

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

**Sunday, May 21**

**St. Paul's Last Sunday for Youth/Kids Sunday school  
Fellowship dinner to follow worship service**

**Sunday, May 28**

**Pentecost Sunday, Holy Communion**

**Sunday, June 4**

**Joint Service and Picnic at Cowan's Gap  
11:00 a.m. more information *tba***

**St. Paul's**

***Seleen Shives will be accepting donations on behalf of the Youth Sunday school kiddos project of supporting our missionaries, Fuzzy & Fiona through the last day of Sunday school, May, 21st. There will also be a container to drop your change in when you are at church. THANK YOU!***

Early one morning the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said decidedly, "You have to make the coffee. It's in the Bible!"

The husband was shocked. "Is not! Show me!"

Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here — HE-BREWS!"



**St. Paul's UCC (717)-485-5554**

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mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Facebook & [www.uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://www.uccmccbg.weebly.com)

**Trinity UCC (717)-256-2703**

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224

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**[www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com](http://www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com)**