

The Beacon

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

"But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth." ~ [2 Thessalonians 2:13](#)

St. Paul's UCC (717)-485-5554
228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
mcbucc@embarqmail.com
Facebook & www.uccmccbg.weebly.com
Trinity UCC (717)-256-2703
P.O. Box 253
13189 Main Street, Fort Loudon, PA 17224
***Find Us on Facebook
www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)
www.ucc.org
www.mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com



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

STAMP

Sunday Worship

IN PERSON & ONLINE

9 A.M. TRINITY UCC FORT LOUDON

[Facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityFortLoudon)

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

[Facebook.com/UCCMcCbg](https://www.facebook.com/UCCMcCbg)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021

Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Sunday

Holy Communion

Rev. E. Loy Garber Officiating

Nov 28 First Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Hope Candle

Dec 5 Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Dec 12 Third Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Joy Candle

Trinity Christmas Pageant

Dec 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Love Candle

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Holy Communion

6 p.m. at St. Paul's / 8 p.m. at Trinity

Dec 26 First Sunday after Christmas

Lessons & Carol Service

Sunday School

Sundays at Trinity

9 a.m. Children's Sunday School begins in worship.

10 a.m. Adult Sunday School follows worship.

Sundays at St. Paul's

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

10 a.m. In-person Sunday School for all ages, pre-K through Adult.

"Ignite Teens" Online

<https://meet.google.com/>

Enter Code: rgp-zudv-nfe

Adult Sunday School Online

Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 876 0047 5397

Phone: 301-715-8592



DIY Christmas Pageant @ Trinity

Dec. 12, 2021

The whole congregation is invited to join in the fun of telling the Christmas story during worship at 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Trinity UCC. Come to church dressed up as an animal, an angel, a shepherd, a wise man, a star, or anything related to the Christmas story!

BLESSINGS FROM THE PASTOR



MARLEEN.SHEPHERD@GMAIL.COM 618-521-3541

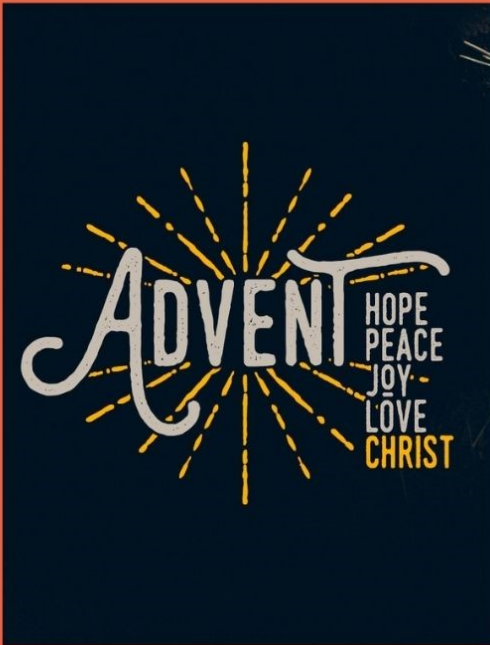
NOVEMBER 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

My 3rd anniversary of being your pastor is coming up. It was the first Sunday of Advent in 2018 when I began a 9-month designated term position with two small churches in the mountains of South Central Pennsylvania.

I had just been ordained, and this was meant to be a short stop on the way of my becoming a pastor and Zack becoming a professor. I feel a little like "Gilligan's Island," signing up for a three-hour tour and ending up in a totally new place far longer than I expected. But what a wonderful place to have landed!

We love most everything about this region, but for me, the colors of fall splashed over the mountains is one of the most beautiful sights in the world. And I've been places. What a treasure we all have in this beautiful and safe place to live. Surely there are exceptions, and I've learned that rural homelessness and poverty are often much harder to see.



Online Advent Devotion

DECEMBER 2021
THURSDAYS 330-445 PM

Take a break from the holiday
bustle for a time of Advent
devotion and prayer.

We will meet online at 3:30 pm
each Thursday in December.

There is no prep and no
obligation. Just come as you can
for a time of quiet prayer and
meditation.

ZOOM.US
MEETING ID: 828 9251 4169
BY PHONE: 301-715-8592

As the temperatures plummet, people may seek shelter in our barns rather than overpasses, in cars at rest areas and truck stops, in tents and campers hidden by the forest.

How do we respond? Socially, we are trained not to look, but Christ asks us to open our eyes. Truly seeing those in need all around us takes practice.

When I reflect on the manifold blessings of my life, comfort and safety in this beautiful place, it makes me feel so grateful. But it also makes me uncomfortable. What is my responsibility to others? When is it time to look beyond my own concerns and those of my family, and reach out to the less fortunate?

I think the answer is to be found in our own hearts, in the tugging of the Holy Spirit, the quiet whispers and gentle leading of our God. When we ask to see the less fortunate around us, God responds. When we ask what we can do, God gives us the inspiration to act in each moment.

This holiday season, let us ask the Spirit to open our eyes to those in need, and give us the courage and grace to respond with the love of Jesus Christ. Let us pray that God's blessings flow through our hands to touch the lives of those who do not know God so that all may be as blessed as we are.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Marleen

"Those who give to the poor will lack nothing..."

Proverbs 28:27

The Faith & Fellowship Center Up Date

The Faith & Fellowship Center Building Committee was able to meet with a representative from the CES Engineering group during the second week in October. It was reported that some building materials are starting to come down in cost.

Projects are picking up, especially for local construction groups, and general contractors are making plans for the new year.

Estimated costs of construction are higher now than before the pandemic, but are slowly trending downward.

After considering all the present and projected future information, the Committee presented to the Consistory a plan that would have the engineering group prepare drawings for contractors to begin the bidding process in January 2022. At that time when the bids are opened, a more realistic cost of the project would be revealed. The Consistory at that time can either accept a “reasonable” bid, or reject all bids.

In the discussions between the Committee and the Consistory, it was felt that there needs to be movement forward in this project, treading water is no longer an option. The Consistory is aware that many congregational members have already generously committed themselves to this project. And they are also aware, there are others waiting to see if some action steps are going to be taken to get this construction project off the ground.



Trinity Faith Formation Plan, Step-by-Step

Step 2: Implement 4-key “cross+generational” events across the year to connect families with church leaders and each other – Cross+generational events are activities where Christian children and youth are surrounded by Christian adults of multiple generations modeling their own faith. These events are perfect for sharing the 4 keys for practicing faith. The 4 keys are devotions, caring conversations, rituals and traditions, and service. Devotions focus on the word of God. Caring conversations express an interest in our friends and neighbors. Rituals and traditions give our young people and new Christians insight into the faith practices with which we grew up. Service reaches out to our neighbors through learning, listening, and actions. Work with church leaders to identify existing “cross+generational” special events that could incorporate the 4-key methodology, i.e. Vacation Bible School family night, Harvest event at the pavilion, Advent church decorating and carol sing, Community Easter Sunrise Service. Cross+generational means more than intergenerational. The “cross+” indicates that where 2 or more are gathered, Jesus will be with us. We just completed a wonderful cross+generational activity in the Fall Harvest Party at Trinity Pavilion. Many thanks to the Zeis-Hege family for doing all the planning and set up. Being together on Friday evening October 22 was a real blessing! We look forward to an Advent cross+generational event. If you enjoy our cross+generational events, please become a part of the planning and implementation. These events are for you, your family, and your friends. You can play a part in revitalizing Trinity believers. Many hands make the work lighter. Contact Bernice Crouse, Linda Best, or Pastor Marleen to become more involved.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bryan Rosenberry
- Erin Lawyer
- 3 Jonna Baker
- Cheryl Moyer
- Richard Rotz
- 4 Eric Buterbaugh
- 6 Rebecca Souders
- 7 Andy Washabaugh
- 9 Lisa Harris Skiles
- Ed Weller
- 10 Joey Rotz
- 12 Tesha Keefer
- 19 Kylene McLucas Arwood
- 20 Robert Koontz
- 23 Russell McLucas, Jr.
- 26 Mindy Headley
- 29 Nancy Barmont



Please send additions and corrections to the church office.



The healing of our nation+

- Kylene Arwood
- Amanda Mitchell
- Linda Sowers
- Ed Hayes
- 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
- Meril Fetters
- Jessica Truax
- Corinna Rotz
- Bernice's friend Christa
- 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
- Leah Hamil
- Dee & Ken Hupp
- Eileen Troutt-Ervin and Bob Perry
- Kathleen Pappas
- Patrick McCarthy
- Summer Hoover and daughter Ruby
- Daniel Hopper, grandson of Linda Best. (He has left for basic training for the Marines)



*Thanking God
after he answers a prayer is gratitude.
Thanking him in advance is
Faith...*

2021



Third Sunday each month

Trinity's Building Fund Offering

SUMMER ONLINE STUDY.....

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

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

Monday, November 1

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 7

Daylight Savings Time ENDS..... **"Get Me to the Church on Time"**

Joint Consistory meeting, 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER SHOEBOXES...if you would like to donate items to fill the boxes, that would be appreciated or a monetary donation, the Sunday School committee will purchase items to fill the boxes.

Wednesday, November 10

Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10

St. Paul's.....**YES** CHURCH WOMEN'S MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 11

Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 16

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

There will be a **Thanksgiving** Eve service at Freedom Lighthouse in Fort Loudon, but we have no details at this time.

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion, Rev. Loy Garber Officiating

Sunday, November 29

Carlisle Truckstop Ministry is collecting cookies from

area churches to give to truckers during the holiday season. Trinity has participated in the cookie drive for many years. Please consider baking cookies for Trinity's contribution.

Since the first delivery day is **Monday, November 30**, Trinity will collect and bag cookies on the 29th.

SHOEBOX TIME ! Shoeboxes are available for you to pick up to fill for the annual Samaritan's Purse Operation **Christmas** Child project. Deadline is **Sunday**, Nov. 14. Information is included in each box with instructions, labels and envelope for shipping costs. Some items to fill the boxes are available in the S.S. room. Every shoebox you pack is an opportunity to reach a child with the Good News of Jesus Christ and make an eternal impact in their lives. If you are unable to fill a box, please consider a donation for shipping costs. Contact Mary Haubrick ([717-987-3604](tel:717-987-3604))