

“Look to the lighthouse of the Lord. There is no fog so dense, no night so dark, no gale so strong, no mariner so lost but what its beacon light can rescue.”

-Thomas S. Monson

# The Beacon

He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Acts 16:30-31

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

March 2018

## Thank you

A huge thank you to all the individuals and families who shared their creative talents with our advent poster project! They were a wonderful addition to worship and this special season. We appreciate you volunteering! I would like to express my appreciation for your support and generosity this Christmas season. Your sweet treats, kind words and generous gift warm my heart and tummy. You all are a blessing to my life and the community that you share the love of Christ! I pray for another wonderful year!

*p.s. This is one of the notes that has been waiting*

Grace and Peace, Rev. Jan

## We Are Back



Some of this news will be older. We did not publish a newsletter the last

couple of months because there was not very much to put in a newsletter. If we missed something that you wanted shared, I apologize. We hope that the birthdays in January and February were blessed with love.



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

**STAMP**

**Sunday...March 11**

**Trinity and St. Paul's Worship Service**



Alicia Stanley from Hoffman Homes for Youth will be the guest speaker during the morning worship services at both Trinity and St. Paul's. She will be sharing with us the very special efforts that Hoffman Home staff members are doing to help children who are struggling mightily and courageously with severe mental health and behavioral issues. These youth are given the strength to begin their journey to recovery and a healthier life. Both our congregations support their efforts. Plan to hear about this remarkable Christian ministry.



**Trinity Easter Flowers**

I'm taking orders for Lilies, hyacinth, tulips are 8.98, mini daffodils are \$9.98.

**Orders must be in by March 12 due to Easter being early this year.**

**Corinna.**



The call to the  
**Fifty-Sixth Annual Meeting**  
of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ

**ALIVE IN CHRIST**  
**Re-visioning Key Vital Signs**

(Colossians 2: 6-19)

June 8 and 9, 2018

Susquehanna University - Selinsgrove, PA

*This year we will focus on equipping local churches with practical tools and resources to thrive.*

Registration begins in April.



# ***From Our Conference Minister***

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## ***Deny Yourself ... and Follow Jesus! (Mark 8:31-38)***

February 14, 2018, Ash Wednesday (and Valentine's Day), brought much pain to our nation. A school shooting in Parkland Florida claimed the lives of 14 students and 3 teachers. This was the 18th school shooting tragedy in 2018. Teenage survivors of the school shooting have sprung into action by organizing and speaking out to create change. They have not allowed the grief and trauma to consume or immobilize them. To quote former President Richard Nixon I admire, "the moral courage and high idealism" of these high school students. The tragedy in Parkland Florida was a heartbreaking way to begin this solemn time of Lent and I can only imagine the intense pain and suffering of the families in that community. Over the next few days we will travel with Jesus on a road paved with suffering and uncertainty on the way to the cross.

Suffering is an unpopular topic for many reasons. Jesus tried to explain his anticipated suffering and rejection by religious leaders to Peter but, in response, Peter took Jesus aside and scolded him. Peter believed through a great military struggle, not suffering, the Messiah would overthrow the Romans and save the Jewish people. However, the suffering and humble Messiah that Jesus was prepared to be was not what Peter or the crowd were expecting; it was contrary to their beliefs. Jesus was intent on teaching and demonstrating the unusual and paradoxical ways of God. He rebuked Peter saying, "*Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things*" (v.33). In other words, "Peter you are missing what God is at work doing because you are stuck thinking like everybody else, believing only in what you can see now, not realizing that God is at work beyond what you can see."

Jesus laid it out as plainly as he could: "*If any want to become my follower, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me*" (v.34). Self-denial is not easy. We all have things we want. We all have goals, but Jesus is clear that when we choose to follow him, we must first deny ourselves. That means removing ourselves from the center of our concern and giving up comfort and privilege in favor of service to others. In so doing, we might face tough life-changing decisions that need to be made in the shadow of the cross, instead of the desires of our heart.

One of the paradoxes of our faith is that in giving of ourselves to others we get great fulfillment out of life. Jesus reminds us, "*...those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it*" (v. 35) Denial of self is placing ourselves in God's hands and trusting where God leads us.

As we continue to journey together through Lent, may we deny ourselves and follow Jesus: by giving up our lives to acts of love, compassion, justice and peace. Amen.

*Lenten Blessings,*

Monica

Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith

Conference Minister and President

p.s. If you're looking for a small group study topic, here is a [Can We Talk About Guns: Conversation Guide \(Christian Century\)](#).

# Kids Sunday School

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
228 N. Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233  
Telephone: 717-485-5554  
Website: [uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://uccmccbg.weebly.com)  
Like us on Facebook!

Dear Parents,

I was recently reading a devotion from one of my favorite books entitled, *Pressing Pause* by Karen Ehman and Ruth Schwenk, and I loved it so much, I thought I would share a few excerpts from it in this month's newsletter...

### ***Passing on Your Faith***

*Do you ever feel inadequate to lead and guide your children in Bible study? Have you ever felt confused about how or where to begin? If so, **you're not alone**. The good news is that you don't have to be a Bible scholar, pastor, or trained theologian to pass on to your children your faith in Jesus.*

*The Lord wants to use you, right where you are, in the middle of the messiness of parenthood. God wants all people to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, and He desires to work through you.*

*It's important as parents that we are **intentional** about teaching our children the truth of God's Word and guiding them to become rooted in their faith.*

*There's no perfect formula; the only requirement is a vibrant faith that is alive and growing in you! When God was commanding the Israelites to pass on their faith in Him, He*



## Upcoming Events

**February 11**

### **Board Game Olympics**

**March – Date TBA**

Bake Sale to raise funds for the Helper Project

## Christian Education Committee

Seleen Shives

JoAnn Sheffield

Loy Garber

Linda Garber

Donna House

Kylene Arwood

Hillary Alexander



## News

### Kids Sunday School Program Receives Donation

In December, the Christian Education Committee received a \$500 donation from Cathey (Hohman) Johnston to be used to support our Kids Sunday School Program. Cathey has been generous in previous years with donations to our program. Her roots go deep in our church. Her grandmother, Olive (Grissinger) Hohman, who was a faithful member of St. Paul's, was also a Sunday School teacher for the youth.

## 2017-2018 Projects

### Heifer Project Kickoff Event: Board Game Olympics!

Enjoy playing board games? Kids of all ages AND adults are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun games and healthy competition! In the spirit of the upcoming Winter Olympics, immediately following the church luncheon on **February 4<sup>th</sup>**, the Christian Education Committee will sponsor a "Board Game Olympics" event to kick off the Heifer Project fund drive.

There is a \$5 per person entry into the competition, which will go towards our Heifer Project goal of raising \$1,500 by May! Sign-up as teams of 2 people (2 kids or 1 kid and 1 adult) and pick a country to represent. The top three teams will be presented with "medals" and win some amazing prizes! See Seleen to sign-up!

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

Colossians 3:12



## Get Inspired

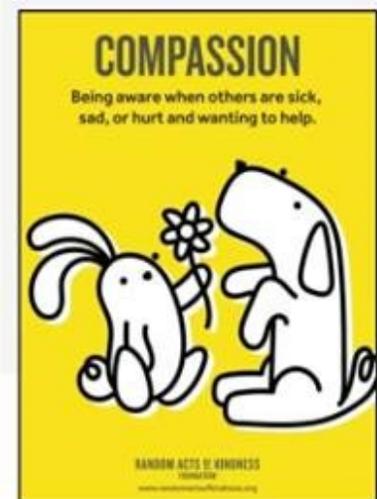
### Kindness Ideas

Help someone before they ask.

Smile at every stranger you see.

Give someone a hug who could really use one.

For more inspiration, go to [randomactsofkindness.com](http://randomactsofkindness.com).





“Amish Kaleidoscope” by Christine Kinley of Cogan Station, Pennsylvania. The proprietor of a needle workshop called *Country Stitchery*.”

Christine had been quilting seriously for three years, she made this strip-pieced wall hanging in Amish colors as her response to a quilt challenge. It is based on the traditional Spider Web block. Christine says “Amish colors are very inspiring to me, I am drawn to the vibrant solids combined with the black color.

Christine and Donna were best friends in high school. Donna got to see her and the business she built, “Country Stitchery. Christine sold the magazines that her wall hanging was in, Donna bought it and asked her to sign it. It wasn’t long after that when Christine passed away. Too young, too sad. This barn quilt is in her honor.

Donna’s oldest daughter, Angie Shaffer, said “Mom, you know you need to do Christine’s wall hanging as a Barn Quilt. Put it at the end of the lane, behind the mailboxes.”

Linda Garber has painted it for me out of a Labor of Love, she did a wonderful job and Johnnie Greathead put it up for me. I have good friends to help me out. Also a thank you to Mike Crampton and Tom Duffey who helped prepare the board for painting. I have good friends to help me.

Linda Garber and Donna House pictured with Barn Quilt.



*Make new friends, but  
keep the old...  
...one is silver and  
the other gold.*

## Trinity United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting

January 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Consistory President Linda Best with 14 Members attending.

There were no nominations for consistory positions. Normally a consistory member serves a 3 year term. Since the Church Constitution requires that a consistory member may not serve an additional term until one year has passed since their previous service a motion was made to suspend the article of the constitution for the coming year. We now have one consistory member who will be serving their fifth year of service and will have 3 others serving their fourth year.

Glenn presented both last year's Treasurer's report and this year's budget. Although we did not take in enough money to completely fund the budget for 2017 we were still able to pay all bills. This was due in part because we are not paying for a full time minister. Glenn also reminded us that we obtain approximately 30% of our income from fund raising activities.

There was a question as to why we don't use some of the funds in our Certificates of Deposit and Committed Funds for expenses in the general fund. It was noted that our heating and air conditioning units are all aging and will need to be replaced at some point in the near future at a considerable cost. John Hornbaker suggested that we replace one unit at a time as it would spread out the expense and give us at least one good back up if the other units fail.

The congregation was reminded that Vacation Bible School will be held at Trinity this year from July 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Congregation approved the use of Call-Em-All to contact church members. This service, currently in use at St. Paul's, would help us get in touch with members quickly in case of cancellation or to inform members of special events. A message recorded by a member of Trinity would be sent out to everyone on the call list. The monthly cost for this service is dependent on the number of phone numbers on the list not the amount of times that messages are sent. It seems to be a cost effective way to keep in touch with our members. You will not be called without your permission and your phone number will not be used by anyone else. A sign up sheet is included with this report.

Other reports are available at the church.

I would like to thank everyone in the church for your support of our congregation. We have many unsung heroes who volunteer in one way or another and help keep this church going. We need everyone of you and appreciate all that you do.

*Linda Best, Consistory President*



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

**CONSISTORY MEETING**

**February 20, 2018**

**Members Present:** Loy Garber (President), Seleen Shives (Vice-President, Elder), Jo-Ann Sheffield, Carol Mellott, Kirk Cover, Todd Alexander (Trustee), Dave Krebs, Donna House (Deacon) and Rev. Jan Bye

**Call to Order:** The President called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Rev. Bye opened the meeting with prayer. The President welcomed new Consistory member, Todd Alexander.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting were distributed for review. Rev. Bye noted that she will be on a service project on March 11th, rather than a retreat.

***Motion by Donna House that the minutes be approved as submitted.***

Second by Jo-Ann Sheffield. All in favor.

**Election of Officers:** The President asked Rev. Bye to conduct the election of officers. All current officers agreed to serve again in 2018. Seleen Shives volunteered to also serve as Secretary; Dave Krebs was asked to replace Seleen as Vice-President.

***Motion by Jo-Ann Sheffield to accept the following slate of officers:***

***Loy Garber - President***

***Dave Krebs - Vice-President***

***Seleen Shives - Secretary***

***Denise Mellott - Treasurer***

Second by Donna House. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** The President distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report prepared by Denise Mellott. General Fund balance as of January 31, 2018 was \$36,736.25. Total income versus expenses for the month of January resulted in a net gain of \$2.57.

***Motion by Jo-Ann Sheffield that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented.***

Second by Dave Krebs. All in favor.

Treasurer Denise Mellott also requested approval to pay the annual Church Mutual insurance bill in the amount of \$2,526.00.

***Motion by Donna House that we authorize the Treasurer to pay this bill.***

Second by Carol Mellott. All in favor.

The President reported that the balance of the Scholarship Fund as of January 31, 2018 was \$88,893. Todd Alexander suggested that the Consistory consider developing a plan to contribute additional monies to the Scholarship Fund, due to the number of youth that we have.

**Committee Reports:**

***Church Women United*** - Jo-Ann Sheffield reported that Church Women will meet on March 14th to discuss the upcoming Yard Sale. The individual that had always come to pick up and take all that was leftover from the yard sale is no longer taking the material and an alternative will need to be determined.

***Christian Education Committee*** - Seleen Shives reported that the Board Game Olympics event was a great success and that approximately \$300 was raised for the Heifer Project. The next fundraising effort will be a Bake Sale to be held on March 4th after the Worship Service. A silent auction is planned for April or May.

**Pastor's Report:** Rev. Bye asked if there were any needs for pastoral care and reported that everything was business as usual.

**Old Business:**

***Light Replacement in the upper Sunday School room*** - Jo-Ann Sheffield reported that Denny Ritchey would be coming in the morning (February 21st) to replace the lights.

**St. Paul's minutes continued...**

**Method of reporting church giving and activities for the congregation** - The President reported that Pam Carmack is working on a poster display.

**Copying of old church records** - The President reported that Mary Haubrick has been working with Glenn Cordell to scan and save these records digitally. It was suggested that once this has been completed, these digital copies should be placed in the church's safe deposit box at BB&T.

**Other old business** - No other old business was offered for discussion.

**New Business:**

**Memorial Fund needs** - The President reported that there were \$60 available. No needs were presented.

**Speaker for March 11th Worship Service** - The President reported that a representative from Hoffman Home will be speaking during this service. Rev. Bye will be on a service project with university students. The church will pay \$75 for this pulpit service, plus half of the individual's mileage.

**Designate Lenten Offering** - A brief discussion was held regarding what the Lenten Offering should be used for. Jo-Ann Sheffield suggested that the offering be donated to the Heifer Project. All other members concurred.

**Request by Narcotics Anonymous to reconvene meetings on Thursday evenings** - The President reported that Narcotics Anonymous would like to once again meet at the church on Thursday evenings. It was suggested that the group should sign the use agreement developed by Pam Carmack.

**Motion by Jo-Ann Sheffield that we allow Narcotics Anonymous to meet at the church on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM.**

Second by Donna House.

All in favor.

**Water leak in Parsonage garage** - The President reported that various steps have been taken to try and alleviate the problem; however, water continues to leak into the garage.

**Search Committee Report** - The President reported that Rev. Betsy Bruaw from Penn Central Conference met with both search committees on February 18th. He reported that it was a very beneficial meeting. Rev. Bruaw suggested that the committee revamp the church's profile to really "sell" what we have to offer (to a potential candidate) not only as a church, but as a community where someone might like to live, work and play.

**Expansion of St. Paul's ministry to the community** - The President reported that he has been approached by an individual who is interested in supporting the church financially in terms of expanding our ministry to the community. A discussion was held on the potential purchase of the Morton building next door and what might be done with it. Todd Alexander emphasized the importance of developing a smart business plan for whatever we might like to do. The plan should be sustainable and feasible. The President encouraged Consistory members to think about this potential opportunity.

**Other new business** - No other new business was offered for discussion.

**Adjournment:** Following the Lord's Prayer, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

**Minutes prepared by:** Seleen Shives, Secretary

## TRINITY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Budget	\$75,233.50
Weekly Need	\$ 1,446.80
Budget Need to Date	\$10,127.60
Received February 18	\$ 517.00
Total Received to Date	\$ 6,954.76
Total Expended to Date	\$ 6,009.98

**Secretary - Pam Carmack**

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[www.pccucc.org](http://www.pccucc.org) (Penn Central Conference)

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

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

## Dates for the Mt. Parnell Lions Club meeting nights ...

March 8 and May 10, 2018



## Getting Messages to Trinity's Members Quickly

The Consistory has evaluated the Call-Em-All Company and approved their automated calling service.

This service is currently in use at St. Paul's and they have found it to be a very efficient way to keep in touch with church members. This automated service will save the time, headache and stress of trying to reach our members in a hurry with important information. The number you see on your caller ID will be Trinity's. You will receive a recorded phone message or text from a designated person at Trinity if any of the following happen:

- \* Church and Sunday School Services are cancelled.
- \* A member passes away and their funeral arrangements.
- \* Special church sponsored events, projects and services.
- \* Members added to our prayer lists. (With family permission)

Your home phone or cell phone is protected by the Call-Em-All Company's privacy policy. Your information will not be given out to anyone.

Would you like to have your Phone number placed on the call list?  Yes  No

If yes please indicate what number(s):

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also Call Linda Best: 717-369-2249 to have your number put on the list.



# March Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Lawyer
- 3 Gary Sweeney
- 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  
Jayne Buterbaugh
- 30 Clint Alexander



- Donna and Ronnie House
- Jody Shimer
- Betty Daniels
- Dorothy Stevens
- Gary Stevens
- Barb Bricker
- Joyce and Thurman Hassler
- John Hornbaker
- Military and families
- Zeis family
- Jean McLucas
- Diane Baxter
- Nancy Barmont
- Korbyn Rotz
- Nancy Lawyer
- Sawyer Bye and Family
- Meril Fetters
- All individuals and families sorrowing or dealing with an illness
- All Sunday school classes
- Our Church & ministries

## Trinity's Ushers:

*Zereau Higgins and Edgar Hess*

## St. Paul's Ushers:

*Tara Will and Lisa Cornelius*

## St. Paul's Flowers:

*Sally Cover and Linda Grissinger*

*Faith* IS NOT KNOWING  
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,  
BUT KNOWING  
*who holds the future.*

***If you have any additions or corrections to the prayer list or the birthday list, please contact the church office.***



*If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with your name to: [mcbucc@embarqmail.com](mailto:mcbucc@embarqmail.com) and help us save paper and postage. Thank You!*



well hello,

march

2018

**Sunday, February 25**

Trinity Blended Worship, 9:00 AM, Sunday School, 10:30 AM  
St. Paul's Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Worship at 11:00 AM  
Lenten Study, 6:30 at St. Paul's

**Wednesday, February 28**

Trinity Choir Practice, 6:30 PM

**Saturday, March 3**

Ruritan Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner, 3:30 PM until out,  
FL Community Center, come and enjoy at your cost

**Sunday, March 4**

Trinity Blended Worship, 9:00 AM, Sunday School, 10:30 AM  
St. Paul's Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Worship at 11:00 AM  
Lenten Study, 6:30 PM at Trinity

**Sunday, March 11**

Blended Worship with Alicia Stanley from Hoffman Home,  
9:00 AM, Eldercare Collection, Sunday School, 10:30 A  
St. Paul's Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Worship at 11:00 AM  
Lenten Study, 6:30 PM at St. Paul's

Alicia Stanley from Hoffman Homes for Youth will be the guest speaker during the morning worship services at both Trinity and St. Paul's. She will be sharing with us the very special efforts that Hoffman Home staff members are doing to help children who are struggling mightily and courageously with severe mental health and behavioral issues. These youth are given the strength to begin their journey to recovery and a healthier life. Both our congregations support their efforts. Plan to hear about this remarkable Christian ministry.

**Tuesday, March 13**

Trinity Consistory meeting, 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, March 14**

St. Paul's Church Women meeting, 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, March 20**

St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 PM

**Sunday, March 25**

Palm Sunday, Holy Week starts

**Thursday, March 29**

Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 30**

Good Friday Services at Trinity, 7:00 PM

**Sunday, April 1**

Easter Sunday, Sunrise Services will be announced  
Holy Communion at our regular services