



The Beacon

The Newsletter of
St. Paul's
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
McConnellsburg, PA
Trinity
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
Fort Loudon, PA
June 2024

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ~ [Matthew 22:37](#)

God's E-mail: *(kid's Sunday School Place jokes)*

One day God was looking down at earth and saw all the evil that was going on. He decided to send an angel down to earth to check it out. He called one of His best angels and sent the angel to earth for a while. One day the angel returned. "It's bad on Earth" the angel reported. "95% is bad, and 5% is good."

Well, God thought for a moment and decided to send down a second angel to get another point of view. Later, when the second angel returned, God was given a similar message. "Yes, the earth is in decline, 95% is bad and 5% is good," the angel said.

God thought, this is not good. So He decided to send an e-mail to the 5% that were good. He wanted to encourage them, give them a little something to help them keep going. Do you know what the e-mail said? ...*Oh, you didn't get one either, huh? Bummer!*



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

STAMP



Fellow vacationers,

June is here and it holds some of our most cherished, annual traditions: family picnics, theme park trips, and even the joint Cowan's Gap service! Whether you're looking forward to spending your "season of sabbath" traveling to your favorite fishing spot, your swimming hole of choice, or a quiet place with a good book, June is the time to indulge in that familiar delight.

That said, June hasn't *always* felt like a time of steadily repeating traditions. Thinking back to my younger years, I remember it feeling like a rubber band, stretched and finally released. The start of summer vacation felt like a singularly important moment in my life, unlike any other. It wasn't just a summer; it was the summer—the summer of that particular year in my life, which would never happen again! The summer I would buy my first a car, or get my first job, or go to my first concert, or maybe even get the courage to ask my crush on a date. It was a time with thrilling urgency.

I was reminded of that feeling when talking to the members of our youth group. It would be easy to disregard their perspective as "immature" or "incorrect" because we seem to grow out of it. But what if the young people are *right* to feel that way? After all, God's Word is NOT a tradition we keep because it reminds us of times past; it's the *living* Word that is speaking to us *today*. That means actively listening to God like Samuel. It means interpreting God's will for the sabbath like Jesus. This summer, try to remember how new and important the moment is. Each day holds fresh opportunities to commune with God in ways we never have before—in ways God is in fact calling us. "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor 6:2).

With thrilling urgency,
Pastor Peter



I hold open office hours 10am-2pm at Trinity on Tuesdays, and at St. Paul's on Thursdays.

-My cell phone is (609) 477-9194. Please feel free to call or text. I may not reply on Friday. (My day off.)

St. Paul's Financial Report.....Denise Mellott
General Fund

Total Income April, 2024	\$5,610.48
Total Expenses April, 2024	\$4,556.88
Interest Earned GF April, 2024	\$ 224.44
Net Gain	\$1,278.04
January-April Net Gain	\$6,340.96



Trinity Corner

To keep our members up to date on events at Trinity I am going to try to place an article in our newsletters. Sorry if I miss anything but let me know what's missing and I'll try to include it in another article. First, we missed acknowledging Sharon Dougherty as a new member of Trinity. Sharon has been coming for a few years now, contributing to our church in many ways and we appreciate all she is doing. We're so happy she decided to formally join our congregation. Welcome Sharon!

Second, we are planning several events at Trinity. We are hosting Fort Loudon's Vacation Bible School this year and have selected Group Publishing's "Outback Rock" as our theme. This will be a two-day event with lots of songs, lessons, crafts, and games for kids 3 through 6th grade. More info will be coming, and volunteers are needed. Also, plans for the Annual Peach Festival in August are well underway. As you know this is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so everyone is asked to contribute in some way. There are lots of different ways to help so we'll let you know what we need.

Third, you may have noticed that we are trying some new orders of worship. There have been several Sunday's where the announcement and prayer request time has gone fifteen minutes or more which takes away from the time for the rest of the service. Please remember that Denise and Peter must leave to get to their next service so let's be considerate with their time.

Last, a year or more ago Loy Garber asked about our cemetery and said that we may have important people having to do with the history of Fort Loudon buried there. Already we have found James Patton, whose father built the house at the fort site and a few civil war veterans. Unfortunately, the cemetery has been neglected for several years and there is a lot of work to be done. Thanks to a dedicated group of interested volunteers we are now attempting to clean it up and make a record of who is buried there. Our next date to work is Saturday, June 8 at 8:30. There are lots of jobs to do, some strenuous and others just recording the stones. All help is appreciated.

Have a blessed June, *Linda Best*, President



Pastor Peter, Luke, and Owen hanging the flags in Fort Loudon.



Living Psalm 29—Baptism of Christ C:United Church of Christ Worship Ways: The Voice of God in a Great Storm

1 Recognize and celebrate the Holy One. Internalize into your core that the Sovereign is to be glorified and gives us abundant strength for the journey.

2 Embrace the love and power of Yahweh that is freely shined within us,
No matter where life has taken you, join us and let's gather together to celebrate in the Holy Wow of God.

3 God speaks over and through the waters of despair, crisis, disaster, disappointment, shame, blame, guilt and all the circumstances of life;
The skies thunder, recognizing the presence of God in and around all of us,
The Creator always surpasses the winds and storms of life.
Relax, God's got this.

4 When our God Speaks it is like a roar – you cannot miss it;
Majesty flows as the Spirit of the Universe speaks with words and without, in deeds, action and in silence.

5 God's voice booms and even nature is impacted,
The cedars of Lebanon cannot resist responding. Some lose their rootedness.

6 Let us embrace the reality that some, like a colt, will kick it into gear.
Others will be emboldened to jump over life's circumstances and discover that they too have the energy of young wild kid goats.

7 God's presence brings forth fire and flames.

8 The wilderness responds to our Still Speaking God and quivers;
Kadesh is shaken by the presence of the Lamb of God.

9 The presence of God in words and deeds brings about a whirling, everything about us is stripped to the core. We are bare before God. God does not blink or turn from us;
we are the Temple of God. United with others, we dare shout, "Glory!"

10 Nuestro Dios (Our God) sits chilling over the floods of life;
God is God and will always be. Your offer of assistance, while appreciated, is not needed.

11 God offers us strength. Take it. You'll need it at some point.
May you embrace that you are loved and lovable. Welcome is offered.
Let us be overjoyed by the peace, shalom that is freely offered.

written by the Rev. Justo González II, Interim Conference Minister,
Illinois Conference.

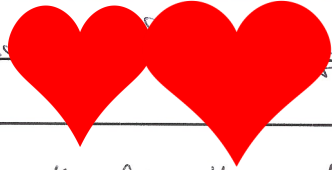


Trinity United Church of Christ

Thinking of Our Mothers

May 12, 2024

As in Proverbs 31:25-27 My Mom was strength and dignity,
and although living with Lupus, could laugh at days ahead
and kept the affairs of the household in order. She was
never idle, an amazing woman.



My mom had 3 boys, each 18 months from the next.
Need I say more?! What a saint she is — the extent
of her saintliness, I come to better understand everyday.
Even amid all that chaos, she made our childhood magical,
creating fun birthday parties and inventive activities.



My godly mother brought me to life,
to do many church activities, and mothered
my daughters as well for 22 years. She
even mothered my husband after his
mom passed away and was deeply loved
by all of us, as "Mom-mom."

My feisty and petite maternal grandma,
who was told she would never live
to raise children, outlived all her siblings
and raised my mom and uncle. She
inspired me to crochet, and ~~her~~ ^{her essence} ~~reminds~~
appears today in her oldest great-granddaughter.



On May 7th, Trinity began a massive, exciting effort to restore the graveyard behind their church. Since then, their work has inspired an outpouring of interested volunteers from the community. Whether you want to serve the community, honor our ancestors, or glorify God. **Our next volunteer day. June 8th @8:30am Let's get back to work on that graveyard! Dress for yard work and consider bringing landscaping tool (clippers, etc.) We'll bring water. See you then!**



Mother's Day 2024 at St. Paul's.



In case you did not know.....

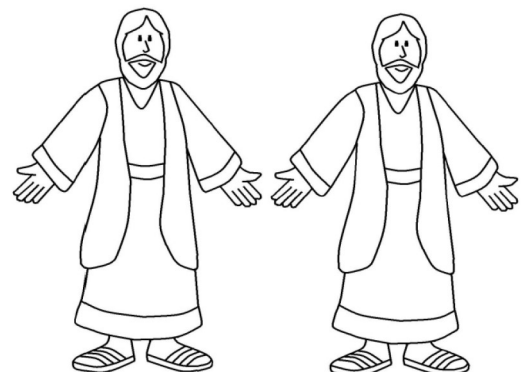
*Cut your thistles before St. John [June 24],
You will have two instead of one.*

“Just for Fun” Days

Here are more fun days to celebrate this June:

- June 1:** Say Something Nice Day
- June 3:** Chimborazo Day
- June 6:** National Yo-Yo Day
- June 8:** Upsy Daisy Day
- June 21:** Go Skateboarding Day
- June 30:** Asteroid Day

Flat Jesus Poem :Take me with you on your vacation, to the beach, the mall, or even the gas station. Snap a pic and include me too. Remember, I am always with you! Take Jesus with you wherever you go. Take a picture of Flat Jesus with you or by himself. Have fun!





- 6 Lory Mester
- Tony Shives
- 15 Ross Weller
- 16 Sharyn Zeis
- 19 Justin and Blaze Hege
- 20 Roy Hornbaker
- 23 Blaire Shives
- 28 Jody Buterbaugh
- Amy Headley



Please send additions and corrections to the church office>>>spmcbucc@gmail.com



- Holli Burton
- Andy and Joyce Washabaugh
- Barb Hurst
- Susan Glazier
- Mark Washabaugh
- Tom Oliver
- Daryl Kendall
- Kathy Hess
- Sharyn Zeis
- Joni Peck and family
- Betty Keefer
- Kathy and Bill Kendall
- Glenn Crouse and family
- Betty Burns
- Lana Pine
- Kylene McLucas Arwood
- Chase Andrews
- Korbyn Rotz
- Skip and Betty Daniels
- Nicole Hummel
- Carol Mellott and family
- 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

St. Paul's Church Women United will resume meetings in September, see you there!!!

NEW church office e-mail address: spmcbucc@gmail.com

**Wednesday, June 12 St. Paul's will be serving Hands and Feet of Hope evening meal
Trinity Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.**

Sunday, June 16 *Happy Father's Day*

Tuesday, June 18 St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: Please call or email the church office to add or remove a name from either the birthday list or prayer list. If you are adding a name please be sure to have that persons permission.

NOTE: The deadline for newsletter articles is the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month, this is to allow us to distribute newsletters on the last Sunday of the month...all ready for what we need to share for the coming month. Without each of you there is no news to share, please take ownership of your newsletter. If I miss something, I apologize in advance please send me a reminder.
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