

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

September 7, 2025
“Rally Sunday”
Holy Communion
Pastor Dave Creamer

Trinity United Church of Christ
600 Main Street
Berlin, Pennsylvania

Preludes

How Firm A Foundation – Mark Hayes
He Hideth My Soul – Mary McDonald

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity United Church of Christ.

Greeting and Announcements

“Presentation of Fletcher Bibles”
Jack Edward Parish
Callum Thatcher Ogburn

Call to worship Psalm 1, The Two Ways

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree
planted by streams of water,
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff which the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

***Hymn No. 60**

Morning Has Broken

Call to Confession:

With one voice, speak out as a congregation, seek forgiveness.

Confession:

Heavenly Father hear our prayers, you know our hearts, you see our fears, forgive us. Find within us willing servants.

Strengthen our hearts and comfort our fears. Lead us, guide us, and be with us always.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

With one spirit we rise up. By the Spirit we are redeemed. In Jesus's Grace we are saved.

***The Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hades.

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

***Presentation of the Offering – Singing of the Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

Offertory Prayer

Heavenly Father we humble ourselves before you. We bring our gifts praying they are a blessing to others. We ask that your healing touch and comforting presence heals and brings peace to our prayer list. These people and places weigh on our hearts and we pray that you will be with the people that need you and your presence is in the places that miss you. We pray for the care

givers. Those dedicated to task and those who don't realize their purpose. Strengthen both, grant them patience, and bless them with your Spirit. We pray that you fill our homes and schools with that Spirit. Help us to be fruitful, productive, and determined. We are most grateful for your Son Jesus Christ. We offer to you the prayer he first taught to us.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Old Testament Scripture

Deuteronomy chapter 30, vs 15 to 20

15 "See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil.

16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of it.

17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,

18 I declare to you this day, that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live,

20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him; for that means life to you and length of days, that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

Jeremiah chapter 18, vs 1-11

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:

2 "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."

3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.

4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

5 Then the word of the Lord came to me:

6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? says the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

7 If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,

8 and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will repent of the evil that I intended to do to it.

9 And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,

10 and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will repent of the good which I had intended to do to it.

11 Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

From the Book of Luke Chapter 14, vs 25 to 33

25 Now great multitudes accompanied him; and he turned and said to them,

26 "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,

30 saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish.'

31 Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace.

33 So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

The Epistle Lesson

From the Book of Philemon Chapter 1, vs 1-21

1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker

2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,
5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints,

6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ.

7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required,

9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus —

10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment.

11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)

12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart.

13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel;

14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will.

15 Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever,

16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

18 If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.

19 I, Paul, write this with my own hand, I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.

20 Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Message
“Who We Become”
Pastor Dave Creamer

***Hymn No. 323**

Let Us Break Bread Together

Sacrament of Communion

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

***Communion Prayer**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

It is right to give God Thanks and Praise.

Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you.

**Holy, Holy, Holy God of Love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who come in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Please be seated.

The Body

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

The Blood

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**
Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we

are gathered or scatter, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray.
Amen.

***Hymn No. 344 He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Now Unto Him Who Is Able

**Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling.
To make you stand in His presence blameless and with great
joy. To the only God our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Be the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.
Both now and forevermore, Amen**

***Going Forth**

Postlude

Jubilation – Jason Payne

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Barb Berkley, Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Debbi Luteri,
Lillian Potter, Lois Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Brad Bowers,
Paige Boyer, Chris Brant, Marcy Brick, Rhonda Brown,
Ray Coleman, Susan Constantino, Tammy Coughenour,
Eric Custer, Tracy Dickey, Wilma Durst, Jeff Gavel,
Nancy Gindlesperger, Marlene Gotchen, Dennis Griffith,

Karen Griffith, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris,
 Joy Hay (Dwayne), Kris Hay, Larry Hay, Marilyn Heiple,
 Gary Hillegas, Barry Landis, Brenda Leister, Jim Little,
 Blair and Phylis Lyons, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen,
 Joyce Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul,
 Kathy Picking, Easton Pritts, Brian Robb, James Robb,
 Brett Sarver, Karol Saylor, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock,
 Curt Shaulis, Missy Shaulis, Phyllis Stoy,
 Dawn Edmiston-Strasser, Larry Tinkey, Patsy and Dave Titus,
 Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

Today- 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion

10:10 a.m. Sunday School – "Rally Day"

Monday – Consistory Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Bell Practice – 6:30 p.m.

Next Sunday – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 08/31/2025

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2469	\$3155.58	-\$686.58
Ben	\$265	\$182.69	\$82.31
Maint	\$470	\$163.46	\$306.54
Mem	\$0		
Total	\$3204	\$3501.73	-\$297.73

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$25

Worship Attendance: 63

Sunday School: 10

Where You May Find. . .

The Nursery: is on the lower level for children and their parent. A big screen TV is mounted in the room so that you may watch the service.

At the Sanctuary Entrances. . .

Large Print Bulletins

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

Hearing Amplifiers

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Pam Bush³, Chris King

Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King

Acolytes: Mason and Maelyn Fochtman

Organ: Ann Slifco

Flowers on the altar are in celebration of our parents, Larry & Judy McCullen's 61st anniversary by Larry W. McCullen Jr. & Cynthia L. McCullen-Janicki

Bulletin In Recognition of the Third Anniversary of Jean Ann Darr joining Trinity United Church of Christ in Berlin, PA as our Secretary.

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by:

Dave Creamer, Student Pastor

Church Secretary: Pam Bush, Jean Ann Darr

Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger

Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick

Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas

Virtual Organist: Rick Kimmel

Consistory Elders:

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Jim Darr, 814-483-0957

Allison Zimmerman, 814-267-4324

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740, Amanda Custer, Lori Gindlesperger, Jean Hart, Jeanne Hillegas, Bill Landis, Julie Petro, Allen Strasser

Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Mailing Address: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Sunday School

Beginning September 14th, Sue Coughenour will begin a new in-depth study of the book of Daniel. Using Dr. Alan B. Stringfellow's method of studying Daniel, we will bring clarity and understanding to one of the most misunderstood books in Scripture. By embarking on this journey, believers will discover the influence that the book of Daniel had on the life and literature of the Jewish people throughout the biblical period and all the way to the writers of the New Testament, including Jesus Christ Himself, who often quoted from it. But nowhere is that influence seen as thoroughly as in the writings of the apostle John and parallels that exist with the book of Revelation. As in John's prophetic work, the book of Daniel describes in beautiful and marvelous language the glorious coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Like John, Daniel was sure and certain about the final triumph of the kingdom of God.

Everyone is invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall following the morning worship service. Come give Sunday School a try - we are never too old, nor can we say we know enough about scripture to say it isn't for you.

In preparation of this class, please read the book of Daniel (only 12 chapters), and bring your Bible, pen and notebook to our first class. I think this will be one of our best studies yet!

Christian Education – Rally Day Today!!!

Rally Day – September 7th with an ice cream social. “Get The Scoop” about the upcoming Sunday School year, the Sunday School Leaders and your class! Sign-up sheet at Vine Street entrance.

Hugs & Kisses

Bike & Hike – September 14th.

Meet at Garrett Trail Head at 3:00 p.m. with your bike and helmet or good walking shoes.

Trinity Ladies Lunch

Our next meeting (luncheon) will be on Monday, October 6th at Cup of Soul at 11:30 a.m.

Bulletin Boards:

Please let the office know if you are posting information on the bulletin boards. Let us help you get the word out in the bulletin.

JB Schrock Community Park Update & Events

Thank you for supporting your local playground!

Our summer program wraps up on August 15, but the park remains open for family fun and rentals! Over 1,500 kids visited this summer, including local daycares. We've had a blast with daily crafts, themed activities, and a wonderful team, headed by Miss Kristi and our teen staff from CareerLink/Tableland. The free summer food program was also a big success!

We're planning several fundraisers to support: Ongoing maintenance; New security cameras; Summer programming & improvements.

Community Bingo Nights

@ Borough Building – \$25 for 20 games

Doors Open: 6 PM | Games Start: 7 PM

Dates: Sept 19 • Oct 10 • Nov 7 • Dec 12

Food and drinks available for purchase

Annual Playground Birthday Bash

Date: Saturday, Sept 6 | Time: 10 AM – 2 PM

Activities include Cake Walks; Basket Raffles; Live Music; Face Painting & More! Delicious food available for purchase.

Sporting Clay Shoot

Date: Sept 13

Proceeds support a new Pickleball Court

Details available on our Facebook page

Chili Cook-off

Date: October 25

More details are coming soon!

RADA Cutlery Fundraiser-Shop online:

<https://bit.ly/RadaCutleryFundraiser>

Stay Connected:

Facebook: facebook.com/jbschrockplayground

Email: jbschrockplayground@gmail.com

(Contact: Linda Karchner, President)

Goodwill Donation Drive

Help the Berlin Marching Band purchase additional uniforms.

Saturday, September 20th, Drop Off Location Berlin VFW

Donate your gently used items – Clothing, Shoes, Household Goods, Small Electronics, Toys, Books and MORE!

Questions? Contact Steve Landis at jestland@verizon.net

Joyful Followers of Christ Bazaar

September 17th, 10:00-3:00 pm

2524 Garrett Shortcut Rd., Garrett PA

Live music, hayrides, food items, vendors/crafts/flea market items, kid's activities and much more.

For more information call 717-262-8591

American Heritage Girls Troop PA-2415

Trail Life USA Troop PA-2415

Come try out a meeting and see what we're all about!

3 Mondays in September, 8, 15, 22.

6:30 p.m. Berlin Brethren Church, 620 Main St, Berlin, PA 15530

For questions, call 814-267-3863.

The Berlin Brethren Church is sponsoring a weekend exploring the Biblical text with Dr. John Byron. It will be held on Saturday, September 27th at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 28th at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Dave Creamer, Student Pastor for Trinity at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.

Sermon Notes:

A Prayer For
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Thank You for Joining Us
Have a Blessed Week Ahead**