



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

***Guest Speaker – Pastor Jay Shaffer assisted by Cohen
Clark***

Trinity United Church of Christ

600 Main Street

Berlin, Pennsylvania

Preludes

**Jesus Shall Reign – Anna Laura Page
Amazing Grace – Ruth Elaine Schram**

Welcome

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

***Call to Worship**

We come into the house of the Lord to worship.

We come to seek forgiveness for our sins and to praise Jesus.

Let us prepare to worship.

***Hymn No. 335**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

***Call To Confession:**

Confession:

Lord, we confess that we are often spiritually blind. We can see physically, but what we see in the world attracts our attention, often leaving us blind to your word and will. We pursue wealth and fame for ourselves, without regard for the wants and needs of others. We become attracted to the teachings and goals in this world that we forget the instructions which Jesus gave. Forgive us again, O God, and open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to embrace your teaching of love for one another. Amen.

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness:

The Lord hears our confession and freely forgives.

We know the love of God is beyond our imagination and we rejoice to be called his children.

Let us praise our loving God!

***The UCC Statement of Faith:**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

Amen.

Trinity Bell Ringers:

Passionato

Compton

The Power of the Cross

Ingram

Hebrew Scripture – 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

1 The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

2 And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”

3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me him whom I name to you.”

4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

5 And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.”

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here.”

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is he.”

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Reflection – Who do we Call?

*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**

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

*Hymn No. 350

Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus

Gospel – John 9: 1-41

- 1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth.
- 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
- 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him.
- 4 We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work.
- 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
- 6 As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay,
- 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing
- 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?"
- 9 Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man."
- 10 They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"
- 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight."
- 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."
- 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.
- 14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15 The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them.

17 So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight,

19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

21 but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself."

22 His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.

23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner."

25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see."

26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?"

28 And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

30 The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.

31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.

32 Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind.

33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

34 They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of man?”

36 He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.”

38 He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”

40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, “Are we also blind?”

41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

Sermon

**Who is Blind?
Pastor Jay Shaffer**

***Hymn No. 188**

At The Cross

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

***Going Forth**

Postlude I Will Praise You, O Lord, My God – Carolyn Hamlin

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Dates to Remember:

**Holy Trinity will have a Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday April 6, 2023**

**Holy Trinity will host Community Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.
April 7, 2023,
Easter – April 9, 2023**



Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Lew & Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring,
Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jason Benning, Jim Benoit, Rhonda Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Larry Custer, John Durst, Mary Jane Harding, Earl Harlan, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Bob Murphy, Bonnie Murphy, Doug Murphy, Harold Pritts, James Robb, Nancy Schrock, Greg Shaulis, Tracey Smith, Kelly Tharp, Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Caleb Wedding, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

Prayer List Update

Once again, we are in need of your assistance in updating our prayer list of healing concerns. If you have placed someone on our list, please confirm that they are still in need of prayer or hopefully taken off thanks to God's power of healing and your prayers. Please contact the office to help us with this update.

One Call Now Prayer List

Please remember that we have the ability to request prayer for church members, families, friends and anyone in need of prayer. Never underestimate the power of prayer. One small prayer can change your life or someone's life dramatically. To request prayer calls, simply contact Pam, our secretary at 541-990-0832 or at the office during business hours. If you are not on the one call now prayer phone receipt list and would like to be, we can do that as well.

The Saints In Action

TODAY – Fourth Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 Sunday School

Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bell Rehearsal

Next Sunday – Fifth Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 Sunday School

Giving From 03/12/23

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$1896.00	\$3155.58	-\$1259.58
Ben	\$220.00	\$182.69	\$37.31
Maint	\$155.00	\$163.46	-\$8.46
Mem	.00		
Total	\$2271.00	\$3501.73	-\$1230.73

Not included in Benevolence are donations to Food Pantry of \$10

Worship Attendance: 59

Sunday School: 26

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: Tom Croner (Board), Russ Hillegas (Camera)

Ushers: Gaye Maust, Sheron Engleka

Acolytes: Matt/ Kaitlyn Miller

The Flowers on the altar in memory of Virgil Vaughan, Jr. by Michelle Vaughan & Nicole Parish..

The Bulletin is in honor of my father, James R. McCullen by Larry McCullen.

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

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:

Tom Calvert, President, 814-267-3771

Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Consistory Deacons:

Amy Clark, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco

Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner

Amanda Custer, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust

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

The Parsonage Conference Room Sunday School Class will be following this schedule:

February 19-March 26: You Make Me Crazy: Surviving Relationships God's Way:

A crazy-maker can really make life difficult. This six-week video-based study from Pastor Warren will help bring sanity to your relationships so you can do more than just coexist. Learn how to connect with the crazy-makers in your life; whether a spouse, sibling, parent, co-workers, or someone else.

April 2: You Make Me Crazy: Surviving Relationships God's Way: We will be finishing this study.

April 9: No Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

April 16: No class as Sue Coughenour will be away. We invite you to join Tom Calvert's class this week.

April 23-July 9: Culture Shock: A 12-part video series by Chip Ingram. Where do you stand on the issues of Truth, Abortion, The Environment, Sex, Homosexuality, Churches, and Politics? More importantly what does God say? More than ever before, believers must develop convictions based on research, reason, and biblical truth. It's equally important that believers are able (and willing) to communicate these convictions with the love and respect that reflects God's own heart. This study will help you to respond with love, even in the face of controversy. In the process, you'll discover the power of bringing light – not heat – to the core issues at the heart of society today. **Because there is a lot of interest in this class, we will be joining Tom Calvert's class in the Fellowship Hall and holding class there.**

This class is open to adults of **ALL AGES** and is led by Sue Coughenour. *Come join us!*

Hugs & Kisses

March 26th – Playing Rainbow Bells in Church – Please join us for practice March 19th after Church at 10:00 in the basement. There will also be an **Easter Egg Hunt and Party** (Easter Story, Activities, and Snacks after Church at 10:00 in the basement.

April 21st – Candy Bar Bingo – This is for ALL ages – Hugs & Kisses will provide pizza for dinner and the candy bars for the prizes. Please sign up at the entrance so that we have a count for pizza and feel free to bring a snack, drink, or dessert to share. Come and join us for the fun!

May 7th – Brunch after Church – We would like to try something new after Church. Since it's not lunch time, we would like to invite everyone to stay after Church for brunch and fellowship. There will be no Sunday School on this date. Everyone can bring food to share and Hugs & Kisses will set things up, heat up casseroles, etc, but we need **everyone's help** to make this a success. There will be a sign-up sheet at the entrance. Please come, eat, and fellowship with us!

Next Hugs & Kisses Planning Meeting – Tuesday, May 2nd, 6:30 p.m.

Birthright of Somerset:

We are pleased to announce our Annual Birthright Award Contests. The Essay Award will be given to the 12th grade student who can best convey their response to the essay scenario as presented in the Award Criteria. The eligible student who wins the first-place award will receive \$1000.00. A prize of \$750.00 will be awarded to the 2nd place winner.

The second contest is the Design A T-Shirt Contest. A prize of \$1000.00 will be awarded to the student with the winning design and second-place will receive an award of \$750.00. The deadline for the applications is March 31st, 2023. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office for applications.

Croner Educational Fund

Trinity United Church of Christ established the Education Fund in memory of Joseph and Erma Croner with Earl D Croner and Richard F Croner as donors. First priority for the money from the Fund shall be to members of the church who are students for the Christian ministry. Second priority shall be for college students who are members of the church and have a financial need. Applications for the Croner Educational Fund Scholarship will be accepted from January 1 – March 31, 2023. A transcript of applicant/student grades is to be included with the application. Applications can be obtained at the church office.

Holy Trinity Lutheran will hold mid-week Lenten services 3/1 through 3/29/2023 at 7:00 PM.

We will be presenting the five-part Lenten Drama "They Followed the Master".

We welcome the community to join us.

Good Friday Combined Service

We have been invited to join the Brethren Church, Three Seasons Church, and the Lutheran Church in a combined service at the Lutheran Church, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. We will have members participating in the service and would like to have good representation of Trinity UCC. Stay tuned!

Greeter Committee

Now that Bob Brown has completed the Usher List (thank you for those willing to participate), we would like to begin a "Greeter" list once again. If you are interested in coordinating this list or participating, please let us know. You may contact any Consistory member, Bob Brown, or the church office.

Attention Youth – Fun ahead! On March 26th, we would like to play Rainbow Bells during church and after church that day we are planning an Easter Egg Hunt with prizes! We will need to practice a few times which will just be during Sunday School (after church around 10:00 in the basement) on March 12th and March 19th. Please plan on joining us so that we have enough kids to play bells. Any questions – see Amanda Custer.

Gerald Zorn

Gerald is home from the hospital and is doing well. He had his gall bladder removed, hernia repaired and there is no sign of cancer. He and Marcie want to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers.

Nancy Weighley

Entered the hospital this past Sunday to begin her 30-day treatment program. We are certain that prayers, cards and well wishes would be helpful. If you would like to send a card the address is c/o Jason Weighley, 4637 Wilburke Ave., Whitehall PA 15236.

Prayer and well wishes for Pastor Art Gotjen

Pastor Art has recently undergone some surgery and will be unavailable for the next couple of months. Please join us in sending him your prayers, well wishes and cards to:
Art Gotjen, 1096 Sunset Dr., Somerset PA 15501

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

In the newsletter we provided a list of our upcoming leaders in worship. These are subject to change so we will let you know of any changes as they occur through the weekly bulletin.

March 19 Jay Shaffer
March 26 Josh Spangler
April 2 Jay Shaffer
April 9 Bill Deal
April 16 Steve Dinning
April 23 Josh Spangler

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Calvert, President of Consistory at 814-267-3771, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



*May you find peace and love
at the feet of the Lord...*

*Have a
blessed Lent!*

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