



**“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:24-26)”**

**PRESIDENT’S PONDERINGS**

A new year is upon us. 2023 is here and I hope and pray everyone is ready to help Trinity United Church, Berlin, PA do our part in presenting Christ to our community and the world around us. We have a new Elder, Sheron Engleka and three new

Deacons, Tom Croner, Amanda Custer and Julie Petro. Welcome aboard. We have a lot of work to do this year.

We want to thank the retiring members, Elder, Alan Brick, Deacons Jean Ann Darr, John Wisler and Alissa Wright. We hope, even though you are retiring, you will continue your strong support of your Church.

Installation of the new consistory members will be Sunday morning January 8.

Last year at this time Pastor Dave, in his ponderings listed several Resolutions. They are still applicable now. They were: 1. Stay Connected with the Church. 2. Remain Flexible and Open to what God is Doing. 3. Slow Down-Take Time to Rest. 4. Speak Gospel Life into the Chaos of the World. 5. Love Your Neighbors.

Those resolutions are still applicable. You can add your own to them but keep your Church and Community in mind.

My personal ponderings, keep coming back to what and how do I best serve you and our Church best while doing what God would want me/us to do, during the coming year. I/we will need all of your Prayers and work.

Tom Calvert, President  
Berlin Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory



### **Consistory Corner**

**Trinity United Church of Christ  
December 12, 2022**

#### **Attendance**

A Alan Brick

X Debbie Boyer

X Tom Calvert [President]

A Amy Clark [Assistant Treasurer]

X Leanna Coughenour

A Jean Ann Darr [Treasurer]

A Gale Hay

X Gaye Maust

X Rus Ogburn [Vice-President]

X Ann Slifco

X John Wisler

X Alissa Wright [Secretary]

New Consistory members present: Elders: Tom Croner and Sheron Engleka; Deacons: Amanda Custer and Julie Petro.

President Tom Calvert called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 7:20p. Tom Calvert offered the prayer and welcomed the new consistory members.

### **Minutes for November 2022 meeting**

Minutes for November 2022 meeting were sent to Consistory members electronically prior to the December meeting. No corrections made. Motion made by Rus Ogburn and seconded by Debbie Boyer to accept November minutes. **Minutes stand approved.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasures report reviewed and discussed; no corrections made. Church Treasurer Renee Gindlesperger requested permission to use Margaret Fisher fund (primarily) and bequest fund to receive the balance of the \$8,000. Rus Ogburn made motion; Gaye Maust seconded. **Motion passed.**

### **Standing Committee Reports**

1. Spiritual Council: Church will be held on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. No Sunday School either Sunday.
2. Property:
  - a. Cole Butler will shovel as needed and take care of the walkways. Tom Croner will plow.
  - b. Received offer for a full set of furniture which includes a queen size bedroom suite, two dressers and nightstands, dining room table with six chairs, hutch, and credenza for \$500 to furnish the parsonage. Rus Ogburn made a motion to

purchase the furniture and Ann Slifco seconded.

**Motion passed.**

### **Special Committees Reports**

1. Communion: held on January 8, 2023.
2. Sound: Purchase of new headset mic at approximately \$219.
3. Trinity Ladies: will meet on December 19, 2022, at 5 pm.

### **Coordinator Reports**

1. Association & Conference: February 9, 10, and 11 presentation and Town Hall discussion. Somerset Association is looking for church in the area to host a viewing session. Details have not yet been finalized. Rus Ogburn made a motion to host, Debbie Boyer seconded.

**Motion passed.**

### **Old Business**

1. Postponed Donations: Children's Aid Home, American Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Berlin Lions Club, Berlin Bervalon, Somerset County Humane Society, and Camp Living Waters all seeking donations. Motion made by Rus Ogburn to table the donations to January meeting until a report is provided of past donation amounts, Ann Slifco seconded. **Motion approved.**
2. Operation Christmas Child: 134 boxes shipped.

### **Election of 2023 Consistory Officers**

1. President: Tom Calvert. Motion made by Tom Croner, seconded by Sheron Engleka.
2. Vice President: Rus Ogburn. Motion made by Tom Croner, seconded by Ann Slifco.
3. Treasurer: Amy Clark. Motion made by Tom Croner, seconded by Ann Slifco.
4. Assistant Treasurer: Amanda Custer. Motion made by Tom Croner, seconded by Rus Ogburn.
5. Secretary: Sheron Engleka. Motion made by Tom Croner, seconded by Rus Ogburn.
6. Discussion for Assistant Secretary. Motion made by Rus Ogburn and seconded by Debbie Boyer. **Motion passed.**

7. Assistant Secretary: Leanna Coughenour. Motion made by Tom Croner, seconded by Gaye Maust.

Next Consistory meeting January 9, 2022.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ann Slifco and seconded by Rus Ogburn.



**Financial Reports** submitted by our Financial Secretary, Renee Gindlesperger and Treasurer, Jean Ann Darr

October - December 2022

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
<b>Beg. Balance</b>	\$69,078.38	\$12,188.72	\$0
<b>Receipts</b>	\$33,351.43	\$3,262.00	\$7,937.06
<b>Distributions</b>	\$24,086.10	\$568.55	\$7,937.06
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$78,343.71	\$14,882.17	\$0

Benevolence Distributions: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$360; Berlin Food Pantry (Benevolence Budget) - \$127.51; Trinity Outreach (Benevolence Budget) - \$430.35; Global Ministries – Child Sponsor - \$90; OCWM - \$2,412.51; Pastor’s Discretionary Fund - \$125; Adopt-A-Family \$2,600; Operation Christmas Child - \$1,791.69

**Memorials (as of 12/28/22):**

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Harry & Evelyn Hillegass.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Alvin & Jean Lambert.

--Jean Ann Darr, Treasurer



**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, Jerry & Kay Barnard, Donnie Baxter, Jason Benning, Jim Benoit, Carol Boyer, Rhonda Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Pam Crooks, John Durst, Reon Engleka, Alvin Harbaugh, Mary Jane Harding, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Debbie Luteri ( her sisters and family, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Grace Pritts, James Robb, Nancy Schrock, Greg Shaulis, Tracey Smith, Avis Specht, Kelly Tharp, Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Caleb Wedding, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

For some of us, as we enter the season of celebrating the joy in the birth and life of our Savior and a New Year, we may also be feeling the pain and loss of a loved one or their illness, at the same time. Please take the time to say an extra prayer for those who might be in need.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil;

for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff,  
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
thou anointest my head with oil,  
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for ever.

### **Prayer List Update**

Once again, we need 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.

### **Hugs & Kisses (For the New Year)**

**Game Night** – January 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite games and snack to share. ALL ages are invited. We would love to spend some fellowship time with EVERYONE. Feel free to bring a friend.

**Movie Night** – February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall. Movie to be announced. Hugs & Kisses will provide Popcorn and Drinks. ALL ages are invited. This event is for EVERYONE. Bring a friend and snack to share and come fellowship with us!!!

### **Parsonage Conference Room Sunday School Class**

#### **What's So Amazing About Grace?**

Beginning January 8, 2023, the Parsonage Conference Room Sunday school class will begin the newly filmed video Bible study by bestselling author Philip Yancey, "What's So Amazing About Grace?". Yancey explores the concept of grace – something the world cannot duplicate and the one thing it craves above all else – and illustrates what it looks like in action. He also examines how Christians lavish grace on a world that knows far more cruelty and unforgiveness than it does mercy. Join us for this six-week study in the Parsonage Conference Room that is open to adults of all ages and lead by Sue Coughenour.

### **Souper Bowl Time**

It is time for the annual "Souper Bowl" Competition. In January 2023 we will again be competing with one another for the "Souper Bowl" certificate. There will be two winners again this year. Food items & monetary donations will be accepted. If giving a monetary donation, please mark your offering envelopes as "Souper Bowl".





# Thank You

We would be remiss if we did not take the time to thank some of the groups that worked so hard to make our holiday season a most memorable one.

## **Children's Program**

Amy Clark, Jean Hart, Missy Miller, Alissa Wright, Lucy Wright, Cora Wright, Kaitlyn Miller, Elizabeth Hart, Matt Miller, Cohen Clark, Colton Custer, Clayton Coulter, Easton Coulter, Carter McClain, Nathan Spangler, Knox Stiffler and Tatum Stiffler. It was a delightful program and so full of meaning. Thank you again.

## **Christmas Decorating**

A special thank you to our crew who spent nearly a week making the decorations and placing them so strategically that it literally took our breath away. Ann Slifco, Nancy Bittner, Chris King, Jean Ann Darr, Margie Zorn, Jenna Ogburn and Leanne Calvert.... you are truly God's angels.

Secondly, the crew that erected the long missed iconic Trinity Christmas tree!!!! We would list everyone who helped but there were too many to name. Thank each and everyone of you for being the best elves EVER!!!! We don't think there is anyone who doesn't appreciate the tree and your efforts.

## **Trinity Bells**

Not only during the holiday season but all year long we are blessed with the music of our Trinity Bells. Christmas Eve was particularly special as you collaborated with our amazingly talented virtual organist (who played live) Rick Kimmel.

Thank you, Jeanne Hillegas, Carol Tataleba, Jean Ann Darr, Debbie Boyer, Amanda Custer, Nancy Bittner, Barb Landis, Ann Slifco, Leanne Calvert, Linda Gallick, Sheron Engleka, Colton Custer, Bob Brown, Cohen Clark and Carrie Croner. Know that you are truly appreciated.

## **Committee Members and Congregation**

Finally, although we could go on forever, we would like to thank all of you that participate and contribute toward the good work of our church on so many levels.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact any consistory member,

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”**

~Helen Keller~

**With you and God’s help we can do so much more.**

Thank You All!

**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.

# *Worship Assistants*

## **Worship Assistants January/February**

### **January 1**

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Tom Croner

Flowers: Lewis & Barbara Berkley

Ushers: Bob Brown, John Wisler

Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

### **January 8**

Sound: Tom Croner, Jim Darr

Flowers: The Richard Croner Family

Bulletin: Larry & Judy McCullen

Ushers: Jean Ann Darr, Gaye Maust

Acolyte: Maelyn Fochtman/Cora Wright

### **January 15**

Sound: Chris King, Gaye Maust

Flowers: Larry McCullen

Ushers: Deb Boyer, Tom Calvert  
Acolyte: Vesper/Truit Ogburn

### **January 22**

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Tom Croner  
Flowers: Bill, Ann & Willie Slifco  
Ushers: Amy Clark, Jason Clark  
Acolyte: Cohen Clark/Colton Custer

### **January 29**

Sound: Gaye Maust, Pam Bush  
Flowers: Mike Fogle  
Ushers: Ann Silfco, Chris King  
Acolyte: Lily Countryman

### **February 5**

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King  
Flowers: Russ & Jeanne Hillegas  
Ushers: Leanna Coughenour, Larry Pritts  
Acolyte: Matt/Kaitlyn Miller

### **February 12**

Sound: Jim Darr, Gaye Maust  
Flowers: Michele Romesberg  
Ushers: Rus Ogburn, Jim Walker  
Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

### **February 19**

Sound: Tom Croner, Russ Hillegas  
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty  
Bulletin: Larry McCullen  
Special Flowers: Larry McCullen  
Ushers: Ken Miller, Carl Brick  
Acolyte: Maelyn Fochtman/Cora Wright

### **February 22 (Ash Wednesday)**

Sound:  
Flowers:  
Ushers:  
Acolyte:

## **February 26**

Sound: Pam Bush, Tyler Gindlesperger

Flowers: Larry & Judy McCullen

Ushers: Tom Croner, Amanda Custer

Acolyte: Vesper/Truit Ogburn

### **Altar Flowers**

For those of you who are unable to pick up the orders that you make for the altar flowers, please make arrangements to have them picked up for you. If you are unable to make arrangements or choose not to, please contact the church office. We will deliver them to our shut ins or Meadowview nursing home patients.

### ***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, Amanda Custer, Ann Slifco*

*Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner*

*Julie Petro, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust*

### ***Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday***

***9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.***

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Mail: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: [berlinucc@yahoo.com](mailto:berlinucc@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.berlinucc.org](http://www.berlinucc.org)

***“Blessings to all for a Happy & Healthy New Year!!***