

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

***15thth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Communion
September 6, 2026***

***Pastor Dave Creamer
Assisted By: Cohen Clark***

***Trinity United Church of Christ
600 Main Street
Berlin Pennsylvania***

“Please silence your cell phone”

Preludes

**I Sing the Mighty Power of Gode – Mark Hayes
Adagio and Trio – Jeff Perks**

Welcome

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

***Hymn No. 309**

Pass It On

Call to Confession

God hears our voices. The ones in our hearts. The ones we speak out loud. When we speak together. When our voice is silent. Let us confess.

Confession

Gracious God, hear our prayer. The words we speak. We ask for forgiveness. We ask for guidance. We ask for assurance. Bless us with the grace and love of Jesus.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

There is a peace that you can only receive from Jesus. He promised it to us, his gift for those that believe. Rejoice that the burdens of guilt and the anguish that sin creates will hold us captive no more. For that we give God the Glory.

*** Response 66**

To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory great things He hath done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin And opened the Life gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son And give Him the glory great things He hath done.

***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

Loving God, our provider and sustainer, we bring to you, our offering. Let this expression of our Love further your Will. Make it a miracle, as only you can. Gracious God we pray to you for those we love, those we worry for, those in need of your care. We pray that you bring healing, bring comfort, as only you can. Jesus, we pray that your endless love surrounds all that face loss. Jesus we pray that the victory of your salvation renews hope, strengthens faith, helps us to believe. Hear us now as we lift our voices with your prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Hebrew Scripture Lesson is from the Profit Ezekiel Chapter 33, vs 1-11.

1 The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel:

2 “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman;

3 and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people;

4 then if any one who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life.

6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes, and takes any one of them; that man is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

7 “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.

8 If I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

10 “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?’

11 Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Epistle Lesson is from Paul’s Letter to the Romans Chapter 13, vs 8-14.

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;

12 the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

13 let us conduct ourselves, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and imorality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ from Matthew Chapter 18, vs 15-20.

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

**Message
“Circling Back”
Pastor Dave Creamer**

Sacrament of Communion

***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. 295**

Revive Us Again

***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

Trumpet Tune – Jeff Perks

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly,
Debbi Luteri, Lillian Potter, Lois Saylor

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Paige Boyer,
Chris Brant, Rhonda Brown, Debbie Chafin, Tim Clites, Susan
Constantino, LaVerne Coslic, Tammy Coughenour,
Eric Custer, Lauren Davis, Tracy Dickey,
Judy DiPasquale, Deneen Eutsey, Linda Gallick, Shirley Gary,
Dennis Griffith, Karen Griffith, John Halverson, Andrea (Shaulis)
Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris, Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay,
Marilyn Heiple, Gary Hillegas, Karen Hittie,
Barry Landis, Wendy Leister, Richard Lilliston, Jim Little,
Nick Lorson, Blair and Phylis Lyons, Judy McCullen,
Larry McCullen, Joyce Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller,
William Nicholson, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking,
Easton Pritts, Brian Robb, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Kayla
Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis,
Missy Shaulis, Trig Smith, Dawn Edmiston-Strasser,
Chuck Sullivan, Larry Tinkey, Audrey Twombly,
Barbara and Peter Usher,
Carl & Matthew Walker, Faye Walker,
Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley,
Echo Kincaid Yoder

**If you have any information on anyone on this list, please
contact the office with updates.**

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 15th Sunday after Pentecost & Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

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

Next Sunday – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

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

Hearing Amplifiers

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Chris King, Colton Custer

Ushers: Allen Strasser, Pam Bush

Acolytes: Cora & Lucy Wright

Lector: Cohen Clark

Organ: Nancy Bittner

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

Bulletin is in recognition of the Fourth Anniversary of Jean Ann Darr joining Trinity United Church of Christ Berlin, PA as our Secretary.

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

Dave Creamer, 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:

Sue Coughenour, 814-233-5413

Jim Darr, 814-483-0957

Allison Zimmerman, 814-267-4324

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Lori Gindlesperger, Jean Hart, Jeanne Hillegas,

Bill Landis (President) 814-521-6800, Allen Strasser, Amy Saylor,

Carrie Croner, Shawn Hart

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

Adult Sunday School Update: Tom Calvert is currently teaching a Ray Vander Laan series on the life of Paul. These are great videos you should check out! The videos give you the back story of life in Paul's time, and challenges he faced that we don't see in the Bible. This series will end on September 13th.

Join the Adult Sunday school class on Sunday, September 20, 2026, as we begin a deep look into these two chapters in Revelation. Adult Sunday school begins at 10:10 am in the Fellowship Hall and all are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Coughenour.

In Revelation 2 & 3, Jesus dictated, through John, seven letters to seven pastors in Asia Minor, which is modern day Turkey. While the churches were literal, they each also represented a specific time in church history leading up to Christ' second coming. God had a specific message for each church and each period of church history.

J B Schrock Community Park Fundraisers

We wrapped up a successful summer serving the children & families of our community — over 2,000 children's visits to the

playground this year! Thank you to our director, Miss Kristi, and assistants Abby, Ali, Lexi, and Carlee for making it such a success, along with our new Board members and community volunteers. We are so grateful!

A few more fundraisers remain to help with upkeep, maintenance, and new features:

Sun, Sept 6, 12–9pm – Give Back Day at Lazy Lizard (20% back). Flyer needed — get one on Facebook or email jbschrockplayground@gmail.com.

Sat, Sept 19, 10am–2pm – Annual Birthday Party at the Playground! Cake Walk, Basket Raffle, music, games, food & birthday cake available for purchase.

Wed, Oct 7, 11am–10pm – Give Back Day at Somerset Ruby Tuesday (15% back). Flyer needed — get one on Facebook or email jbschrockplayground@gmail.com.

Ongoing – Order Rada Cutlery online, code SHIPDEAL saves \$5 shipping on \$35+ orders: <https://bit.ly/RadaCutleryFundraiser>

VBS Sunday School

We are going to "ROAR" into VBS Sunday School starting on September 20th with a Rally Day and Back to School Celebration starting in Church with Children's time. Children will go down to Sunday School after Children's time and enjoy VBS Style Sunday School until 11:00am. The next VBS Sunday School will be on October 18th, "When life is unfair... God is Good" Come join us for a lot of fun, learning, snacks, games, crafts and more!! Mark you calendars.

Lego Sunday School

This year we will be having a Lego Sunday School lesson on the 4th Sunday of the month. We will be teaching the parables using Legos. There will be singing, games, hands-on activities and a snack. Come join us as we learn about Jesus!

Hugs & Kisses

Late August/September- ongoing community service- we will be picking corn at a local farm and picking vegetables from the raised garden beds to take to the food pantry on Tuesday evenings. Watch for text messages when ready.

Sunday, September 27th 12 PM- meet at church for lunch and bring bikes/helmets for bike and hike on the trail afterwards. Come join us for some fresh air and exercise!

Trinity Ladies next meeting will be held Monday, September 14, at 11:30 a.m. at Cup of Soul. We will be discussing the food we will want to sell at the Historical Society's and Lions Club event.

We will be participating in the Historical Society's event on Sunday October 18. We will be selling food (what type, yet to be determined). We will need help making and selling these items. Please watch the bulletin for further information.

Three Seasons Church is hosting an opportunity for Moms and kids in our community, "You Are Rasing The Next Generation". The first meeting will be held, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested please contact the church office for more information.

Online Giving (Tithe.ly)

If you are giving through our recent online Tithe.ly and no longer need donation envelopes, please contact the office. Therefore, in order to give you a more accurate picture of our budget goals, we If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the office or Renee.

Good Will Donation Drive

Berlin Marching Band is having a fundraiser to purchase color guard uniforms and new banner for the marching band. Saturday, October 3rd from 8 am to 12 pm. Drop off location – Berlin VFW. Donate gently used items – clothing, shoes, household goods, small electronics, toys, books and more.

Berlin Food Pantry

On behalf of the Berlin Food Pantry, thank you for your financial support. Your donations assist in helping those who struggle to make ends meet within the greater Berlin and Shanksville School

Shut In Visitations

There is a sign-up sheet at the Vine Street entrance bulletin board to sign up to visit our shut ins. Their names and addresses are on the list. Please just put the time and date that you can visit. Let's let our shut ins know we care!

St. Gregory's Annual Festival TODAY!!!!

MacDonaldton, PA – Sunday, September 6, 2026

Family-style ham and turkey dinners with noodles and stuffing – served 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – adults \$15.00 – children under 12 \$7.00 – children under 4 free - games, bake sale, themed baskets, refreshments – fun for all ages – come and enjoy reminiscing with family and friends in our air-conditioned hall. TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Dave Creamer at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Tom Croner at 814-442-6740. If neither is available, contact Pam Bush at 541-990-0832.

Friends, this is the article I referenced in my message at the beginning of the newsletter. I am not trying to select for a certain point. I am trying to give you an example of the happenings within the broader church. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy of the Keystone Newsletter we can help you sign up and receive it. If you are interested in getting copies of it in its entirety they can be provided. We will make an effort to have available current issues and trends of the other settings of the United Church of Christ to help keep you informed. Pastor Dave

Members and Friends of Keystone Conference, , (An Article from the July Keystone Newsletter from Carrie Call.)

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there we are expecting a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:20)

On July 4th, you may hear church bells ringing in your community (or be ringing them yourselves). Those bells are responding to an invitation from the National Bell Festival, encouraging churches, carillons, civic buildings, memorials, and individuals across the country to ring bells as a coordinated celebration of America's 250th birthday.

Bells invite us to remember, to honor, to mourn, and to celebrate. This year they ring in recognition of a nation that has much to honor, much to mourn, much to celebrate, and much still to overcome.

For some Christians, conversations about patriotism are uncomfortable. Some are wary of celebrating the nation because they know the painful chapters of our history. The dispossession of Native peoples, the sin of slavery, the long struggle for civil rights, and countless other injustices remind us that America has often failed to live up to its ideals. Others worry that criticism of the U.S. has become so dominant that we have forgotten the blessings of this country and the freedoms many around the world still long to enjoy. Rather than defending one perspective over the other, both deserve attention.

Our faith calls us to tell the truth. We do not honor God by pretending the past was better than it was. Yet we also do not honor God by refusing gratitude for the good gifts we have received. America has never been a perfect nation. Scripture reserves perfection for the Kingdom of God alone. Every human society falls short because every society is shaped by sinful people and systems. Our history is multifaceted—an often-confusing blend of possibility, destruction, aspiration, benefit, evil, resilience, compassion, progress, and regress. Complicated. Complex. Never to be simplified.

For 250 years, Americans have wrestled with a remarkable experiment in self-government. The freedoms of speech, religion, conscience, assembly, and the press have created space for vigorous debate, public dissent, and faithful witness. The church has benefited enormously from these freedoms. We gather for worship without state control, preach according to conscience, advocate for justice, organize ministries of care, and speak truth to

power. These are not freedoms enjoyed equally across the world or throughout history.

The story of America has always been intertwined with the story of religion. People of faith have profoundly shaped the nation's character—for both good and ill. At our best, Christians have reminded America that its highest ideals must be measured against God's higher standards. The freedom to practice religion with liberty of conscience is one of our most precious rights. It applies equally to Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Mormons, Jains, pagans, people of other faiths, and people of no faith. This has not always been true in practice, but it remains an ideal I would never want to surrender.

Hence why Frederick Douglass (d. 1895) remains an important voice for me. Few people understood America's ideals and failures more clearly. Having escaped slavery himself, he knew firsthand the gap between the nation's promises and its practices. Yet he refused to surrender hope. He believed that within the founding principles of the republic were possibilities still waiting to be realized.

His example offers wisdom for our own time. I believe we must reject the false choice between viewing America as beyond criticism or as nothing more than an oppressive empire. We can acknowledge the complexity of our history, seeing both the worst human beings can do and the ideals toward which we continue to strive. We can love our country without idolizing it and criticize its failures without rejecting it.

The church's role has never been to baptize the nation, nor to withdraw from it. We are called to be citizens of heaven who participate faithfully on earth—preaching the gospel, praying for our communities, loving our neighbors, practicing mercy, holding leaders accountable, giving thanks for what is good, and working to improve what is not.

As America acknowledges its 250th birthday, perhaps the most faithful response is neither celebration alone nor criticism alone, but hope: hope that truth can be told, wounds can be healed,

liberty and justice can become realities rather than aspirations, and future generations might inherit a nation more fully aligned with its highest ideals.

When the bells ring on July 4th, may they remind us not only of where we have been, but also of the work still before us. In the words of Frederick Douglass, "I, therefore, leave off where I began, with hope."

Peace, Carrie
Rev. Dr. Carrie Call
Transitional Executive Conference Minister
Keystone Conference UCC



“Wishing everyone a happy Labor Day weekend—enjoy the rest you’ve earned and the time to recharge.”

**Thank You For Joining Us
& Have A Blessed Week Ahead
God Bless You All**