

Trinity Trumpet

Church Office: [814] 267-3234

Website: berlinucc.org

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

May / June 2024

Trinity United Church of Christ

Vol. 30, No.3



Creator of all, thank You for Summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Amen



Just Plain Ponderings by Your Consistory President

The Reverend Roberto Ochoa spent three days in Pennsylvania April 19-21 getting to know the (STAR) Small Town And Rural church coalition, churches during his stay. If you missed his message when he served as our supply pastor on the 21st you may view it on our website. Roberto also attended the adult Sunday School and answered individual questions and got to know our members who were present. There is growing interest in the work and conversations taking place at the STAR church coalition meetings on zoom. The next meeting will be at 4 PM on May 7th. Anyone interested in attending we can give you the link to register and attend the meetings if you are able. If you don't have the ability just let the office know you are able to come into the office at that time and we will set up a zoom meeting in the office on the large screen TV for a group to view. We will need to know who is going to attend so we can get everything set up for the group.

STAR churches often feel isolated and alone when in fact we make up over 60% of the membership of the United Church of Christ. I have enjoyed hearing how other rural churches are doing God's work, with a small number of members of all ages. Then I remember the work of Jesus with his 12 disciples' spreading the word! As we follow our faith journey here in Berlin, we also have work we can do regardless of our age. God is not done with us yet! Take our talents, follow our passion, love our neighbors, follow Jesus!

Attitude is contagious!

Tom Croner, Consistory President



Consistory Corner

Trinity United Church of Christ March 11, 2024

Attendance

X Leanna Coughenour (Asst. Secretary)	X Ann Slifco
X Gale Hay	X Tom Croner (President)
X Rus Ogburn (Vice President)	X Amanda Custer
X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)	A Julie Petro
X Jim Darr (Treasurer)	A Pam Bush (Asst. Treasurer)
X Jean Hart	X Bill Landis

President Tom Croner called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 7:00pm. Leanna Coughenour offered prayer.

Minutes for February meeting

A correction to the February minutes was made. The new stove was received and installed on Friday, February 16th. A motion to approve the minutes after the correction was made by Rus Ogburn, seconded by Leanna Coughenour. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed; no corrections were made. Rus Ogburn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's

report for audit review, seconded by Ann Slifco. **Motion approved.**

Jim Darr reported that an audit review for July through December 2023 was performed on Saturday, February 17th by the audit committee and all was found in good standing.

Pulpit Supply report

Tom Croner reported that the pulpit is scheduled through the second quarter of this year.

Standing Committees Reports

- A. **Fellowship and Funeral** – It was reported that Lewis Berkley visitation with the family and Funeral will be held at the church on Saturday, March 30th with the visitation being 3:00 – 5:00pm with the funeral service at 5:00pm. A request was made by the family to have beer and wine at the funeral dinner in our social room. A motion was made by Gale Hay, seconded by Leanna Coughenour to allow wine only at the dinner **for this event only** with the family to supply the wine and a liability waiver on the families insurance for this event. **Motion approved.**
- B. **Hugs and Kisses** – Amanda Custer reported that the Hugs and Kisses are having a lock-in in the church social room on Saturday, March 16th with pizza, baking cookies, Bible Bingo, a movie and putting together items for the shut-ins. Next meeting for the Hugs and Kisses is scheduled for April 2nd.
- C. **Property** - Jim Darr reported that the property committee met at the parsonage to see what needs done to prepare for a new minister in the future. It

was determined that the master bath needs remodeled. A motion was made by Rus Ogburn, seconded by Gale Hay to present to the congregation for approval the renovation of the master bathroom and closet not to exceed \$20,000. **Motion approved.**

- D. **Music** – Ann Slifco reported that Betty Strasser would be interested in directing a Chancel Choir. It was decided to have a sign- up sheet at the entrances for anyone interested in forming a choir for the Music Sunday service. We will try to see if there is an interest to have the choir do special music throughout the year but not every Sunday. A date has not been set for Music Sunday at this time.

Coordinator Reports

- A. **Association and Conference** - Tom Croner reported that the All Association Spring Meeting for 2024 is scheduled for April 20, 2024, at the First United Church of Christ, Ebensburg, PA. Anyone interested in attending can get a registration form from the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for mail in registration or \$32.00 for online registration.

New Business

Bill Landis volunteered to do the prayer for the next meeting of the consistory.

It was reported that we can use our one call service to notify members of any new information. We will need to contact all members to verify that our information on addresses and phone numbers are up to date to use this service.

Jean Hart reported that she would like to get our youth involved in a mission project. She has contacted several farmers to see if the youth could glean farm produce after it has been picked by the farmers such as potatoes and sweet corn. The youth would pick what is left and bag the produce on a Tuesday evening and then give the produce to the food pantry to be distributed on Wednesday. Also, if they could get a plot of land to grow produce and give the produce to the food pantry. This is all in the beginning stages but it would be a good project for the youth to get involved in and to learn giving to others.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheron Engleka, seconded by Rus Ogburn at 8:40pm. **Motion approved.** The next meeting of the Consistory will be **Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sheron Engleka, Secretary

**Trinity United Church of Christ
April 8, 2024**

Attendance

X Leanna Coughenour (Asst. Secretary)	X Ann Slifco
A Gale Hay	X Tom Croner (President)
A Rus Ogburn (Vice President)	X Amanda Custer
X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)	X Julie Petro
X Jim Darr (Treasurer)	X Pam Bush (Asst. Treasurer)
X Jean Hart	X Bill Landis

President Tom Croner called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 7:00pm. Bill Landis offered prayer.

Minutes for March meeting

Minutes for the March 11, 2024, meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the April meeting. A motion was made by Jean Hart, seconded by Leanna Coughenour to approve the March minutes, **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed. No corrections were made. Pam Bush made a motion to accept the report for audit review, seconded by Bill Landis. **Motion approved.**

Standing Committees Reports

- A. **Fellowship and Funeral** - Jean Hart reported that Darrell McClintock is checking on the faucet in kitchen. Jim Darr said that for handicap accessibility the faucets when replaced should be lever handle instead of paddle handle. Jean also reported that the funeral dinner for Lewis Berkley went well and the family decided not to serve wine.
- B. **Hugs and Kisses** – Amanda Custer reported that a Hugs and Kisses meeting was held at the parsonage on April 2nd. She reported that they have a lot of events and projects planned or in the planning stages. The Sunday School Teachers would like to make a Lego Room out of the part of the Nursery that has carpeting. There are parables that can be taught using Legos. They are looking for spring clean-up projects. They are planning the 2nd annual corn hole contest, covered dish and camp chair event. They are planning to join with the Beachdale Church VBS to be held at the Beachdale Church June 17 – 21 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Faith

Night for the Johnstown Mill Rats baseball team on June 30th. Berlin Community Day, July 20th, and set up a booth, and a mission/service project of produce from fields to donate to the Food Pantry. A motion was made by Pam Bush, seconded by Amanda Custer to donate \$250.00 to the VBS at the Beachdale Church.

Motion approved. They talked about the Church picnic. Splitting up the different tasks to organize the Church picnic at the grove July 28th. A sign up sheet will be placed at the back bulletin board in the church.

- C. Property – Jim Darr reported that they will move forward with the parsonage bathroom renovation with the congregation’s approval on April 7th.
- D. Music - It was reported that we would try to start a choir in the fall.
- E. Sound – Pam reported that everything was going well. They noticed that they need to turn off the microphone system when the announcements are being projected on the screen before the church service starts.

Special Committee Reports

- A. Finance Review – It was reported that the Financial Review committee meets every 6 months to do a review.

Coordinator Reports

- A. Acolytes – Amanda Custer reported that the Acolytes Cross Necklaces that they wear need fixed or new ones need ordered.

- B. Association and Conference – The meeting will be held Saturday, April 20th in Ebensburg.

New Business

Tom Croner reported that the paint on the arches needs looked at to see if it can be repaired. Jim Darr will ask Dean Brick to look at it and see what needs to be done. It was reported that we need an update of addresses and phone numbers for our members for contact purposes. Delegates to the Keystone meeting on June 7 to 9th at State College are needed. Our church can have 3 delegates.

Julie Petro volunteered to have the prayer at our next consistory meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Pam Bush. **Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the Consistory will be **Monday, May 13, 2024, at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted

Sheron Engleka, Secretary

**TUCC Congregational Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2024**

A congregational Meeting was held April 7, 2024, after worship. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Croner. Pastor Peter Kaltenbaugh offered prayer.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Congregational meeting were read by Sheron Engleka, Secretary. There were no objections to the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting for 2023. A motion was made by Bob Brown, seconded by Jean Ann Darr to approve the minutes as read. **Motion approved.**

Tom Croner announced that the consistency unanimously approved the recommendation to upgrade the master bathroom in the parsonage while it is vacant and prior to getting a new minister. Discussion following as to what renovations would be done. Jim Darr stated that the bathroom was the original from the 1960's and would be updated and made handicapped accessible. The renovation would include enlarging the bathroom by including the existing closet to the bathroom to make room for a wider vanity, shower. A new closet would be made in the existing bedroom. A motion was made by Ann Slifco, seconded by Gaye Maust to renovate the master bath and closet in the parsonage for no more than \$20,000. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Chris King, seconded by Lori Gindlesperger to adjourn the congregational meeting. **Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted, Sheron Engleka, Secretary



January - March 2024

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
Beg. Balance	\$129,508.34	\$24,165.42	\$0
Receipts	\$36,440.25	\$3,380.00	\$6,720.00
Distributions	\$22,285.20	\$866.00	\$6,720.00
Ending Balance	\$143,663.39	\$26,679.42	\$0

Benevolence Distributions: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$3,662.00; Food Pantry (Benevolence Budget) - \$483.31; Trinity Outreach (Benevolence Budget) \$710.75; Child Sponsor - Global Missions - \$90.00; Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$125.000 and OCWM - \$1,648.94

Memorials (as of 4/19/2024):

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Harry Watkins.**

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Lewis Berkley.**

Gifts were given to the Music Fund in memory of **Lewis Berkley.**

--Jim Darr,
Treasurer



Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

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

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter,
Jim Benoit, Kathy Blough, Mandy Bockes, Jessica Borosky,
Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown,

Ray Coleman, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz, Nancy Gindlesperger, Cheryl Glessner, Melodi Glessner, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris, Joy (Dwayne) Hay. Larry Hay, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Joyce Miller, Bonnie Murphy, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Peggy Stayrook, Betty Strasser, Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn



"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."

JOHN 11:25

**We commend to our Lord
Jesus Christ the following
persons to eternal life:**

Lewis Berkley

***We pray God's peace and
comfort for the Families.***

Eagle Scout Project

Cohen Clark needs your help! His Eagle Scout project is to renovate the Camp Living Waters playground and is in need of some funds. If you feel moved to do so, please write your check out to "Camp Living Waters" and write "Eagle Scout project" in the memo line. Then send it to:

Camp Living Waters

300 Camp Living Waters Rd, Schellsburg, PA 15559, United States

Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will be beginning a new eight-part study on May 5th entitled "Christian, It's Not What You Think" by Andy Stanley. Throughout the study, Andy Stanley unpacks the qualities Jesus prescribed for his followers that made them unique. What if believers today embodied these traits and put them before all others? Would the non-believing world put aside its derisive definition of 'Christian' and instead know us by our love? Class begins after worship at 10:10 am in the Fellowship Hall and is led by Sue Coughenour. Everyone is welcome!

Our Annual Church Picnic needs someone to coordinate this event, however no one has volunteered to do this. Therefore, once again Hugs & Kisses will coordinate the event scheduled for July 28th at the Grove. They will be providing a list of what needs to be done in the near future, so if you could just pick **“One”** thing that you could possibly assume the responsibility for it would be a tremendous help. We currently have a volunteer to cook the chicken on the open pit at the grove which will be a special treat!!! Please contact Kathy Spangler if you could possibly help in any way. Let's keep the tradition going!

Hugs and Kisses

As usual, this amazing group has been busy planning! Here are a couple of upcoming ideas they have shared.

Sunday School Teachers would like to make a Lego Room out of the part of the Nursery that has carpeting. There are Parables and other Bible Lessons that can be taught using Legos. If anyone has any Legos or a Lego table or Lego storage options that they would like to donate to this project- please bring them and put them in the nursery downstairs. Thank you!

Our youth are looking for a few houses of church members who could use some help with small outdoor spring cleanup projects like picking up sticks, leaves, weeding etc. If you have someone in mind, please contact Amy Clark. (Youth parents- be on the lookout for group texts as these volunteer service projects are going to be planned as they come up and weather permitting so

we need anyone who can show up on a certain date/time/address to please show up to help if you can!)

In addition to this, they have plans for a “2nd annual Cornhole tournament, VBS with the Beachdale church, Faith Night for the Johnstown Mill Rats baseball team, Berlin Community Day, and a mission/service project of produce from fields to donate to the Food Pantry!

Your group is truly a blessing to so many.

When it comes to volunteering, passion and positivity are the only requirements.

Too often, as with many organizations, it is the same people who consistently volunteer. Each and every one of you has the knowledge, skills, and abilities to offer something to our church community. We are currently working on a project behind the scenes to update our membership listing and our one call now telephone list. Those of you who have been members of Trinity UCC for many years have knowledge of things from the past...the who, what, when, and where. Once we have narrowed it down to a manageable list, we are looking for people to provide information to narrow it down to those that we might reach out to.

This may involve a courtesy phone call, letter, card, or some form of communication to let these people know that they are missed. Trinity UCC of Berlin is vibrant, alive, and well despite our current situation without a Pastor. We have an amazing group of Pastors and lay people who provide an array of preaching styles and sermons, Trinity bells continue to ring loudly, our music committee has and continues to provide a variety of worship music, Hugs & Kisses focuses on events that benefit the entire congregation, and we are blessed with a kind, caring, and loving church “Family”.

We ask that you just think about how “**YOU**” can contribute by volunteering in any area of need.

History of the Bible

On so many levels, the Bible is an extraordinary book, from its diverse content and literary styles to its miraculous preservation down through the ages. While the Bible is certainly not the oldest book in history, it is the only ancient text with existing manuscripts that number in the thousands.

In ancient days, the authors of the Bible recorded its messages with whatever resources were available at the time. The Scriptures themselves reveal some of the materials used: engravings in clay, inscriptions on tablets of stone, ink and papyrus, vellum, parchment, leather, and metals.

For a long period in the history of the Bible, common men and women were forbidden access to the Scriptures and their life-transforming truths. The first full copy of the Bible was completed in the Greek language around A.D. 312. It was called the Codex Vaticanus, as it was kept in the Vatican library. By 405 A.D., Jerome had translated both Old and New Testaments into Latin, which the Catholic church made the official language of the Bible in A.D. 600. It wasn't until the 16th century that the entire Bible was translated into English.

Today the Bible is the best-selling book of all time, with billions of copies distributed throughout the world in more than 2,400 languages.

How is the United Church of Christ Organized?

In United Church of Christ polity, the basic unit of governance is the congregation. Our pastor enters into a covenantal relationship with us and provides leadership and expertise. The denomination provides guidance and resources, but the congregation makes decisions about our life together. Each church is autonomous in government, with elders, deacons and a minister or ministers.

We are part of the Penn West Conference, which includes 99 local churches of the United Church of Christ. The Conference is divided into 6 geographical Associations. Each Association has

its own constitution/bylaws, Association gatherings/meetings, governing board and various committees.

There are 36 conferences in the General Synod of the UCC. The General Synod is comprised of delegates, either clergy or lay, from the 36 conferences, with each conference assigned a minimum of three delegates, regardless of its membership size.

Food Bank Plastic Bags

The food bank needs plastic bags. Sue Coughenour will bring in a container marked plastic bags for those of you who would please bring them into the church! Thanks in advance.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Berlin Community Veteran's Home Association of Berlin
419 Meadow Street, Berlin
Monday, May 13th, 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Keystone Family Alliance

Hope for the Journey Conference
Saturday, May 4th, 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
1845 N Center St., Somerset PA 15501
Lunch & Snacks provided, Training Certificates available, no childcare provided.
Register: keyfam.org/events
Questions? Contact lydia@keyfam.org

Show Hope's Hope for the Journey Conference is a one-day resource designed to encourage and equip foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers, and the church leaders and volunteers, child welfare ministries and agencies, and professionals care for these families and their children.

Trinity Bells will be ringing on May 19th! Always a treat!

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

May 5	Jay Shaffer
May 12	Steve Dinning

May 19 Steve Dinning
May 26 Peter Kaltenbaugh
June 2 Jay Shaffer
June 9 Dave Creamer
June 16 Dave Creamer
June 23 Bill Deal
June 30 Jim Vander Schuur

Bold dates indicate holy communion.

Worship Assistants

May 5

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Pam Bush
Flowers: Rus & Jenna Ogburn
Special Flowers: Allison Zimmerman
Ushers: Debbie Boyer, Jean Hart
Acolyte: Vesper & Truitt Ogburn

May 12

Sound: Colton Custer, Pam Bush
Flowers: Barry Landis
Special Flowers: Larry McCullen
Ushers: Amanda Custer, Leanna Coughenour
Acolyte: Cora & Lucy Wright

May 19

Sound: Cohen Clark, Gaye Maust
Flowers: Alissa Wright
Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King
Acolyte: Colton Custer

May 26

Sound: Carrisa Croner, Jim Darr, Russ Hillegas
Flowers: Reon & Sheron Engleka
Ushers: Amy & Jason Clark
Acolyte: Lily Countryman

June 2

Sound: Chris King, Lori Gindlesperger
Flowers: Anonymous
Ushers: Pam Bush, Bill Landis
Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

June 9

Sound: Cohen Clark, Gaye Maust
Flowers: Chris King
Ushers: Rus Ogburn, Jim Walker
Acolyte: Matt & Kaitlyn Miller

June 16

Sound: Colton Custer, Russ Hillegas
Flowers: Barry Landis
Special Flowers: Don & Nancy Custer
Ushers: Ken Miller, Leonard Gary
Acolyte: Cohen Clark

June 23

Sound: Carrisa Croner, Pam Bush
Flowers: Russ & Jeanne Hillegas
Ushers: Julie Petro, Jean Ann Darr
Acolyte: Vesper & Truitt Ogburn

June 30

Sound: Jim Darr, Russ Hillegas
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty
Ushers: Jean Ann Darr, Amanda Custer
Acolyte Cora & Lucy Wright

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:

Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Jim Darr, Treasurer, 814-267-5260

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour,

Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740,

Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis,

Julie Petro, Ann Slifco

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

Website: www.berlinucc.org

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 Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.

**Please complete the following information
to assist us in updating our records:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Do You Text _____

Email: _____

Please add berlinucc@yahoo.com to your address book.

Please update Family information with children and family members' birthdays & anniversaries.

Are you a current member of Trinity UCC?

Are you an inactive member?

Are you an active non- member?

Would you like to become a member?

Is there anything you would like to see our church do?

Please provide any other information you would like us to note and return this form to the Trinity United Church of Christ, PO Box 86, Berlin PA 15530

Thank you for your assistance.