

***March 15, 2026
"Fourth Sunday In Lent"***

***Pastor Dave Creamer
Assisted By Colton Custer
Trinity United Church of Christ
600 Main Street
Berlin, Pennsylvania***

"Please silence your cell phone"

Prelude

Amazing Grace with Air on the G String
Marianne Kim
Nocturne – John Field

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

Call to Worship: Psalm 23rd

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

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

Hymn No. 202

Amazing Grace

Children's Time
Led by Allison Zimmerman

Call to Confession:

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Let us pray that we can return to that Love.

Confession:

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer. The worries of the world are distractions to us. Our wants guide us away from your will. Help us keep our Lenten promise to you, help us to repent. Forgive our sins and guide us through this dark hour. Give us your Spirit to show us your light.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians we are not to be enemies of the cross. That our citizenship is in heaven. As we stand firm in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we will be restored. For that we give God the Glory.

***Response 66 Verse 1**

To God Be The Glory

***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. Grateful to share our gifts. Guide them and us to do your Will. We ask that your Spirit be with us in our homes, helping us to be a productive people. Shaping a world for your glory. We pray that your presence brings comfort and care to those who need you, Our military, and their families, our sick and lonely, those that are frustrated and lost. Help the caretakers to be strong and compassionate and dedicated to those in need. Help us to hear your voice, help us to see the path that leads us to you, help us to repent and give up the guilt of our sins. We are grateful for your Son Jesus Christ. Help us to be worthy of his gift, his sacrifice. We offer to you the prayer he taught to us.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Hebrew Scripture lesson is from First Samuel Chapter 16, vs 1-13

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

2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of 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 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one 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 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified 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 now before the LORD.”

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 does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. 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 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”

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

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

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Epistle Lesson is from Ephesians Chapter 5 vs 8-14.

8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—

9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;

13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Gospel lesson is from the Book of John, Chapter 11, vs 1-45

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.

10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus[d] had already been in the tomb four days.

18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,

19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus began to weep.

36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Hymn No. 468

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

**Message Title:
“Blind, But Now I See”
Pastor Dave Creamer**

Hymn No. 427

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

***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**

+ + + + +



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, Jim Benoit,
Brad Bowers, Paige Boyer, Chris Brant, Rhonda Brown, Ray
Coleman, Susan Constantino, LaVerne Coslic, Tammy
Coughenour, Eric Custer, Lauren Davis, Tracy Dickey, Wilma
Durst, Linda Gallick, 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, Wendy Leister, Richard Lilliston, Jim
Little, Blair and Phylis Lyons, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen,
Joyce Miller, Kaitlyn Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul,
Kathy Picking, Easton Pritts, Brian Robb, James Robb, Kayla
Sarver, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock,
Curt Shaulis, Missy Shaulis, Dawn Edmiston-Strasser,
Ron Tamblyn, Larry Tinkey, Patsy and Dave Titus, Barbara and
Peter Usher, Faye Walker, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley,
Echo Kincaid Yoder, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

Today- 4th Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. VBS Style Sunday School

10:10 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Monday - 6:30 p.m. – Consistory

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

Next Sunday – 5th Sunday in Lent & Trinity Bells

Congregational Meeting

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Online Giving (Tithe.ly)

If you are giving through our recent online Tithe.ly and no longer need donation envelopes, please contact the office. There is a slight delay in the receipt of your online donations to the bank. Therefore, in order to give you a more accurate picture of our budget goals, we will be posting the giving information once a month as opposed to weekly. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the office or Renee.



Giving From February 2026

This chart reflects our monthly budget.

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$11057.00	\$10417.50	\$639.50
Ben	\$1115.00	\$1041.67	\$73.33
Maint	\$935.00	\$1083.33	-\$148.33
Mem	\$0		
Total	\$13107.00	\$12542.50	\$564.50

Not included in Benevolence were donations to the Food Pantry of \$2295.

Worship Attendance: 50

Sunday School: 14

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: *Jim Darr, Bill Landis*

Ushers: *Allen Strasser, Bob Brown*

Acolytes: *Colton Custer*

Lectors: *Colton Custer*

Organ: *Jean Ann Darr*

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

Special flowers are in memory of Carl Saylor's birthday by Karol Saylor.

Bulletin is in loving memory of my father, James R. McCullen by Larry McCullen.

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

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School continues the study on the book of Romans. So far, we have learned our need for a savior, how we are saved (through faith in Christ Jesus alone), and the benefits God gives us in that salvation. Now we are ready to dive into chapters 6-16, which will show us how we should live in Christ Jesus. If you are not able to join us for Sunday School, we encourage you to read through the book of Romans during the Lent season. We have so much more than just eternal life through Christ and what better time to understand all he did for us on that cross? Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall at 10:10 a.m. Class taught by Sue Coughenour.

TODAY!! Berlin Vet's Home - 419 Meadow St, Berlin, will have an all you can eat breakfast on Sunday, March 15 from 9 am to 1 pm or until sold out. This is buffet style and includes ham, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, fruit, milk, juice and coffee. The cost is \$13.00 for ages 13 and up, \$5.00 for ages 5-12 and under 5 are free. This is dine in or take outs are available. The public is welcome.

"Berlin Veterans Home (located at 419 Meadow Street, Berlin) Fish Frys will be held, Friday, March 6, March 20, and April 3. The menu consists of fried or baked fish, baked potato or french fries, hush puppies, coleslaw and a roll. Desserts are also available for an additional fee. The cost is \$15.00 per person, children age 5-12 is \$7.00 and 4 and under are free. Serving is from 3 pm to 6 pm or when sold out. This is eat in or takeout is available and is open to the public."

Hugs & Kisses

Saturday, March 28th- Winter Jam 2026 at Bryce Jordan Center, State College. This is America's largest annual Christian music tour. Admission at 5 PM, Show at 6 PM, \$15 at the door. If interested, let Amy Clark know if anyone wants to follow/go together as a group.

There will be a Cross Walk on Friday, April 3. We will gather at the Berlin Brothersvalley school sign at 5:50 p.m. The procession will start at 6:00 p.m. and anyone who would like to can take a turn carrying the cross. There will be several Biblical characters from the Easter Story joining us along the way. We will end the procession at the Berlin UCC church at 7:00 p.m. where the community Good Friday service will be held.

Birthright of Somerset is pleased to announce its 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. There is also a contest for the Design A T-Shirt Contest. This contest is open to students in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. Completed applications for both contests are due Monday, March 30th, 2026. If interested, please contact the church for more information.

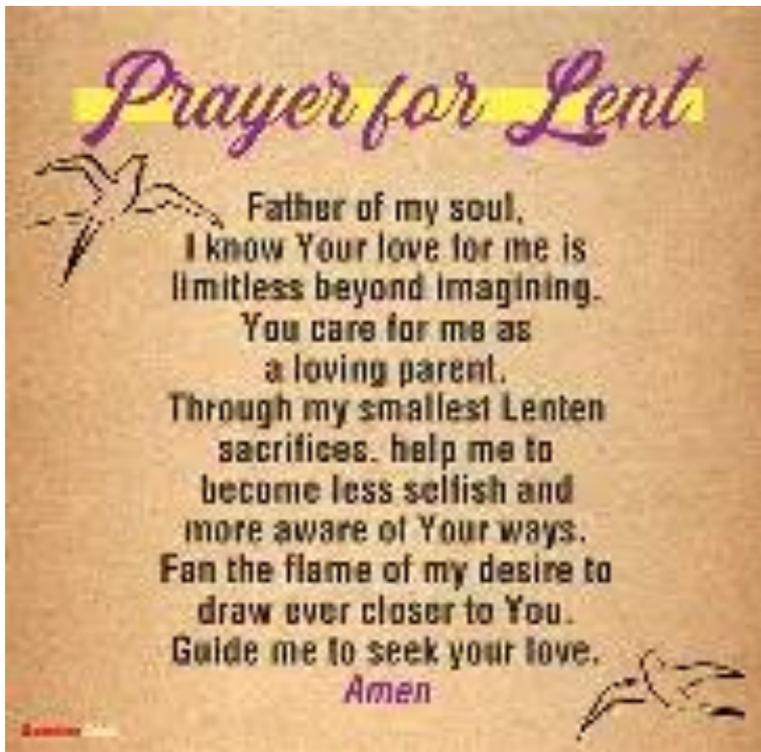
Trinity Ladies

We will be having a rummage sale with Hug & Kisses in July during Berlin Community Days. As you clean, please consider donating gently used items to our sale. Looking for some fun and fellowship? Come join us when you can!!

Congregational meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 22, regarding air conditioning for the church.

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.

Sermon Notes:



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