



March 1, 2026
“Second Sunday In Lent”
“Holy Communion”

Pastor Dave Creamer
Assisted By Cora & Lucy Wright
Trinity United Church of Christ
600 Main Street
Berlin, Pennsylvania

“Please silence your cell phone”

Prelude

More Love to Thee, O Christ – Mark Hayes
Sweet Hour of Prayer – William Bradbury

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, Based on Psalm 121 Assurance of God's Protection.

I lift up my eyes to the hills- from where will my help come.

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your feet be moved, he who keeps you will not rest.

He who keeps our people, never will grow tired.

The Lord is your keeper; he will shade you through the day, cover you by night.

The sun will not scorch us; we will not know the chill of the night sky.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he keeps your life.

The Lord will Keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. AMEN!

Hymn No. 2

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

Call to Confession:

Friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, with penitent and obedient hearts, let us confess our sins, so that may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Confession:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Our Mighty God is full of mercy. He forgives sins through our savior Jesus Christ. He strengthens us by his Holy Spirit in all goodness. 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. We bring to you our offering, not as a bribe or as an exchange, but as hope. A hope that your will is done and these simple gifts are used by you to be a blessing to others. We pray that you bless our lands and homes. That your Spirit fills them, and your presence is always near. We ask that you keep and watch over your flock. The military, our first responders, the care givers and all who worry and pray for loved ones, friends, and neighbors. We ask that in your divine mercy that you be a healing presence, a comforting and reassuring warmth, for all the people and places on our prayer list. We know that you see the quiet fears, and silent worries we have. We pray for your church, the body of Christ in motion here on Earth. We ask that it is fruitful and productive, meaningful, and impactful. Help us Heavenly Father to not only know your will, but to see it through. To put our Faith into motion. We pray all these things in Jesus Name. We offer to you the prayer he taught to us.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Hebrew Scripture Lesson is from Genesis Chapter 12, vs 1-4

1. Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
2. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
3. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
4. So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

The Epistle Lesson is from Paul's Letter to the Romans Chapter 4, vs 1-5 and 13-17.

1. What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
2. For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
3. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."
4. Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.
5. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed,^[a] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Gospel Lesson is from the Book of John Chapter 3, vs 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews

He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do the signs that you do unless God is with that person."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.

If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?"

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be.

Hymn No 68

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

Message Title:

"DNA"

Pastor Dave Creamer

***Hymn No. 323**

Let Us Break Bread Together

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. 382

Be Thou My Vision

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

+ + + + +



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, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul,
Kathy Picking, Easton Pritts, Brian Robb, James Robb, 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- 2nd Sunday in Lent

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

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

Next Sunday – 3rd Sunday in Lent

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: 58

Sunday School: 22

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: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King

Ushers: Amy & Jason Clark

Acolytes: Nathan Spangler

Lectors: Cora & Lucy Wright

Organ: Nancy Bittner

Flowers on the altar are in memory of Richard and Ronald Hittie by Nancy Hittie and Family

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

Sunday, January 4th, the Adult Sunday School began a new in-depth study on the Book of Romans. Romans is known as the Apostle Paul's most powerful letter with the blueprint of the Christian faith. It explains God's message of grace, justification, salvation, and transformation through Christ. If reading Scripture is hard for you to understand, this is a good class to attend. A clear, chapter-by-chapter journey through Romans made easy to understand. Come join us at 10:10 am in the church Fellowship Hall. Class led by Sue Coughenour.

You are cordially invited to attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor, for Cohen Clark, Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at Trinity UCC. Please R.S.V.P by March 3 by calling or texting Amy at 814-701-8361 or Jason at 814-442-8063. A meal will be provided after the ceremony.

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts, concerns and prayers during my recent illness. LaVerne Coslic

"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."

Next Step Center Thanks You for your donation. It helps us purchase the supplies we need to keep this house running smoothly and to make our guests, who stay with us, safe and comfortable. We appreciate your kindness.

Karen Shaw, Executive Director.

Hugs & Kisses

Saturday, March 14th at 9 AM- All hands on deck! We need your help in **building 2 raised garden beds** in the church lawn that we are going to use to plant fresh vegetables for the food pantry. We received a grant for the building materials/supplies, but we need the manpower. We would like this to be a project where the more “experienced” builders of our church can help work with our youth and teach and encourage them in the building process. Bring your power tools and helpful spirit and join us in this worthy project!

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.

Trinity Ladies will meet on Monday, March 2, at 11:30 a.m. at Cup of Soul. There will be a video presented on “7 Things God wants Elderly People to do”.

We will be having a rummage sale with Hug & Kisses in July during Belin 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!!

Join us for VBS Style Sunday Schoolfor Nursery through Middle School. Everyone is welcome! Class will be the third Sunday of each month (March – June)

We will attend the beginning of the church service, participate in Children's Time, and then the class/program will take place downstairs until 11:00 am.

There will be Bible stories, songs, games, and crafts, (and snacks!)

Any questions, please contact Sheron Engleka, Kathy Spangler, or Nicole Parish.

Church Cookbook Fundraiser

Years ago, our church members put together a cookbook that many people still use today. There is nothing better than tried and true recipes. Although it is in the early stages of planning, please consider submitting your favorite recipes to add to a new book. We have a lot of GREAT cooks out there so please share. Be sure to put your name on your recipe and any hints you may have in its preparation. You can put it in the offering plate, through the office door slot, hand it to a staff member or simply leave it on the sound board desk. Some of you have also been emailing your recipes! The baking is over, but the cooking isn't!!!! This should be lots of fun! Thank you to those who have submitted.....keep them coming!

Confirmation Classes will resume at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

Berlin Community Room

Is open in fellowship hall every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This hall is open to anyone from the public and EVERYONE is welcome! Join us for information sharing, fellowship and games. Please share this information.

Congregational meeting to be held following worship on March 15th 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.



God of wilderness and water,
your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,
but open ourselves to blessing,
through the cleansing depths of repentance
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.

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