



***5th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
May 3, 2026
Pastor- Dave Creamer
Assisted by – Colton Custer***

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

“Please silence your cell phone”

Preludes

**I Sing The Mighty Power of God – Mark Hayes
How Beautiful – Twila Paris**

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

Call to Worship:

O Lord our God the Almighty how majestic is your name in all the Earth.

Our Gods Glory is set above the Heavens.

Like A simple wisdom from the mouth of babes Gods glory shines all around us.

We look to the Heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon the stars, they never fail.

Remind us to be mindful mortals, humans in your care, surrounded by your works.

O Lord our redeemer, how majestic is your name in all the Earth!

Hymn No. 276

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Call to Confession

Together as children of God let's call out together for forgiveness. Let's celebrate our covenant of hope and grace with God.

Confession

Heavenly Father, our creator and redeemer, hear our prayers. Forgive us of the sins we commit, in thought word and deed. By actions we take and the things we leave undone. Renew us in your Spirit and help us to celebrate the gifts you give to each of us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God knew we needed his help. God knew we could not save ourselves. Rejoice in this Easter Season that Gods own Son gave himself for our sins. A living sacrifice, that gives us everlasting Grace.

*** 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:

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before you. Sharing some of the gifts you have given to us. Accept these things and make them your will. God our creator and redeemer we pray for this world. Please bring peace to the chaos, comfort to those in need, and protection to those that serve us. We pray that your Spirit is near to us, our homes and families, help us to do your will, let our actions, great and small, be for your glory. With our Faith we lift up to you those on our prayer list. The people in our hearts, and those we worry about in our minds. Bless them with your love, care, healing touch, and assuring presence. Bring comfort to our shut ins, and shepherd back those that think they are shut out. We are grateful to receive the gift of Grace from our covenant with you. The sacrifice your Son gave for us is our greatest hope. We offer to you the prayer he first taught to us.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Our Scripture Lesson From The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 7, vs 55-60

55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God."

57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him.

58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Our Epistle Lesson from Peters First Letter to the Church, Chapter 2, vs 2-10

2 Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation;

3 for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

4 Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious;

5 and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and he who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe,

“The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner,”

8 and “A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall”; for they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.

The Gospel Lesson From The Gospel of Jesus Christ, from John Chapter 14, vs 1-14

1 “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

4 And you know the way where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.

13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son;

14 if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

Hymn No. 419

Abide With Me

Message
"The Burden of Belief"
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. 349**

Trust and Obey

***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

A Mighty Fortress is Our God - John Leavitt

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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, Jim Benoit,
Brad Bowers, Paige Boyer, Chris Brant, Rhonda Brown, Renee
Croushore, Susan Constantino, LaVerne Coslic, Tammy
Coughenour, Eric Custer, Lauren Davis, Tracy Dickey, Wilma
Durst, Linda Gallick, Dennis Griffith, Karen Griffith, Andrea
(Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris,
Joy Hay (Dwayne), Kris Hay, Larry Hay, Marilyn Heiple,
Gary Hillegas, Barb Keyser, Bennett Keyser, Barry Landis, Brenda
Leister, Wendy Leister, Richard Lilliston, Jim Little, Blair and
Phylis Lyons, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Joyce Miller, Kaitlyn
Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy
Picking, Brian Robb, James Robb, Kayla Sarver, Brett Sarver,
Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, Missy Shaulis,
Roger Stoy, Dawn Edmiston-Strasser, 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-5th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday – 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed Meeting

Wednesday - No Trinity Bell Practice

Next Sunday – 6th Sunday of Easter

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: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King

Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King

Acolyte/Lector Nathan Spangler, Colton Custer

Organ: Amanda Custer

Flowers on the altar are given in honor of our children, Vesper, Truitt, Callium and Revere Ogburn by Ruston & Jenna Ogburn.

Special flowers are in memory of the Zimmerman family by Allison.

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

The Adult Sunday School Class continues to meet Sundays after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Currently we are studying the Holy Spirit, and its importance in making our churches thrive. Classes will be led by Sue Coughenour until the end of May when she takes a break over the summer. We would welcome volunteers to keep our class active throughout the summer months. Notify Sue or the church office if you are interested.

Hugs & Kisses

Sunday, June 7th - Visit homebound members. Right after church we will meet in the basement to make a plan for travel/carpool and take members a small gift and hopefully play rainbow bells to help brighten their days. If you would like to participate, meet us downstairs. We need enough participants to be able to play bells, so please join us!

Trinity Ladies will meet on Monday, May 4 and Monday, June 1 at 11:30 AM at Cup of Soul. We will be discussing the Rummage Sale on July 18 at Berlin Community Days. Please come with any ideas for community outreach that you may have. We always have a good time, so come join the fun!

Trinity Ladies Rummage Sale As you do your spring cleaning, please consider donating gently used items that you no longer have a use for to the rummage sale. These items can include clothing (all sizes), small household items, toys, small furniture (chairs, end tables, etc.) and home decor, etc. We will set a date when you can bring these items to the church, so watch the Sunday bulletin for the announcement.

Hoffman Homes during the month of May, we will be collecting items that they have informed us would be useful for them as well as our normal monetary donations through offerings. The specific items needed are: Gift cards in any amount for Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, Domino's Pizza, Rita's Italian Ice, Dairy Queen, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Panera Bread, Subway, McDonald's, Sheetz, Walmart, Target, Amazon and Five Below. Other items requested are: sensory toys, NO WIRE composition books/journals, gel pens, Adult & youth coloring books, drawing and construction paper. They could also use outdoor items such as, frisbees, volleyballs, playground balls, outdoor games, water balloons, squirters and sidewalk chalk. If you choose to donate, please leave your items at the Vine Street entrance.

Hoffman Homes provides residential treatment, therapeutic shelter transitional living, outpatient therapy and private licensed school services.

Raised Garden Beds Thank you to all who helped build our raised garden beds. Now we need to fill them with soil so we can put plants and seeds in them by Memorial Day. This is a great project for young and old to work together. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for times and dates. Come join us as we work together to do God's work.

Berlin Community Center The Berlin Community Center is open every Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Come join us for some fun. We play cards, games, chess and have great conversations! We love learning new games, so bring your favorite game along with you! We also have lunch, goodies, coffee and drinks available. Stop by for some fun and fellowship.

Family Hospice is now recruiting volunteers. Volunteers have the rewarding privilege of supporting patients with life-limiting illnesses and their caregivers through a significant and inevitable season of life. Hospice volunteers make an impact in various ways, such as patient visits, caregiver relief, phone calls, support of grieving family members, clerical assistance, and more. Volunteer involvement is determined by the individual's skills, desires, and schedule. Volunteers are good listeners who display flexibility, understanding, and empathy. Specialized training is provided for new volunteers. For more information, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Catherine Zimmerman at 814-502-5948 or zimmermancp@upmc.edu.

Sunday, June 28th- 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament 5:00 PM. This event is for ALL AGES. H&K will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a covered dish/drink, your lawn chair, and your best cornhole skills! Watch for a sign up at the Vine St entrance so that we have a count for meat. This is a great time for food, fun, and socializing so please plan to join us!

Help Celebrate Our Nation's 250th Birthday by joining the community musical presentation of "I Love America" which will be presented on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at **Trinity United Church of Christ in Berlin**. Rehearsal will be held **Sunday afternoons from 2 PM – 3:30 PM** beginning **Sunday, April 12th**. If interested, please let Norman Menhorn know by emailing: normanmenhorn@gmail.com or phone 814-267-4073 or 233-6307. If leaving a message, please give me the following information~ name, email or phone number and what part you will be singing. Thank you!

HVAC fundraising has begun

If you would like to contribute to the heating/air conditioning fund, please mark your offering envelope with HVAC; Heating or A/C. Tithe.ly users can also contribute using the Air Conditioning Fund drop-down option. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Gindlesperger.

Nathan Spangler Eagle Scout Service Project

Nathan is a Life Scout from Boy Scout Troop 5151 in Shanksville. He is currently seeking donations to assist him with the successful execution of his Eagle Scout Project. He plans to build 12 turtle basket platforms and place them in Yellow Creek. Any donation to assist him reach his goal would be appreciated.

Our church will be presenting Bible Blast! Where God's Word Meets Game time! This will be a community outreach event for the whole family to come and enjoy free games, prizes and snacks while they learn about God. **When: August 2, 2026 (date was changed) Time: 1:00-3:00 pm Where: In the TUCC parking lot or Fellowship Hall in case of rain.** To make this outreach possible we will need many volunteers to be on hand the day of the event. We need volunteers to: Help with Games (7 games / 12 volunteers) Face Painters – at least 2 Prize Table Attendants – 2-3 volunteers Snack Table Attendants – 2-3 volunteers Information Table Attendants – 2-3 volunteers Set Up and Tear Down – many hands make light work. In addition, we will need someone to help construct some of the games, and someone to help paint the games. Other ways you can help is to donate money towards supplies for the event. And most importantly we need everyone to be praying for people to come and hear the word of God with open hearts. God can and will do wonderful things if everyone gets involved so please be praying on how you can help. For more information contact someone on the committee: Sue Coughenour, Jeanne Hillegas, Amy Saylor, Sheron Engleka, Lori Gindlesperger, and Jean Hart. Let them know if you are willing to help.

Graduation Sunday

We will be recognizing our graduating seniors, Sunday, May 31st. Please let the office know ASAP if you have a senior that you would like to recognize.

Laurel Highlands Chorale - "Let Freedom Ring"

A patriotic concert honoring America's 250 years of independence and in memory of the events of September 11, 2001.

**Somerset Church of the Brethren
606 Berlin-Plank Rd., Somerset**

Sunday, May 3rd at 3:30 p.m. & Monday May 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Director – Jan Burkett

Accompanist – Stephanie Pesi

Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at the door or by calling

Doreen Friedline at 814-926-3610 or 814-442-0460



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.





Every week is a gift from God, and each day within it carries opportunities for gratitude and joy. Even when difficulties come, we can still rejoice because God is sovereign over time and seasons. A prayer of thanksgiving at the week's start helps set a joyful and grateful tone. Father, I thank You for blessing me with another week. Fill my heart with gratitude and joy so that I may rejoice in every day You provide.

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