

Trinity Trumpet

Church Office: [814] 267-3234

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March/April 2023

Trinity United Church of Christ

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

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JUST PLAIN PONDERINGS

Father be with us and guide us as we continue through this Easter Season. Bless this Church and this community. Amen.

Rus Ogburn and Tom Croner have done an excellent job of find some very good Pastors and speakers through April 23rd.

Debbie Boyer and the profile committee are close to completing the profile. When it is, it will be sent to the Conference for submission to interested Pastors.

We will soon be setting up the Search Team. Hopefully it won't be long before the committee is formed. If you have any suggestions to add to the list, please give me a call. I would like to have a good cross section of the membership. Maybe we can be one of the blessed Churches to receive some early profiles.

Those of you on the Usher list be sure to check that list. A reminder list is included in this newsletter.

Tom Croner is working on a time and place to show some of the presentations made at the National Virtual Event for Rural and Small-Town Communities that was hosted here on February 9-11.

Don't forget our Sunday School. There are classes for all ages. Sue Coughenour still has a very dynamic class. Refer to the Sunday Bulletin for the applicable class.

Before ending, I want to thank our office staff, Pam and Jean Ann. I would like to again setup the "Care Call Team" to assist them in keeping contact with our members.

Also, a big thanks to the active committees and those taking care of the Church.

Finally, thanks to the Christmas Decorating Committee and crew that helped to put things up and take them down. Once upon a time I was able to be of help.

God be with you.

Tom Calvert, Consistory President



Consistory Corner
Trinity United Church of Christ
January 9, 2023

Attendance

X Tom Calvert (President)

X Leanna Coughenour (Asst Secr)

A Gale Hay

X Gaye Maust

X Ann Slifco

X Tom Croner

A Rus Ogburn (Vice President)
X Amanda Custer (Asst Treas)
X Debbie Boyer
X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)
X Amy Clark (Treasurer)

X Julie Petro

President Tom Calvert called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 6:57p. Julie Petro offered the prayer.

Minutes for December 2022 meeting

Minutes for the December 2022 meeting were sent to the Consistory members electronically prior to the January meeting. One correction was listed on the new members of the consistory as follows:

Elder: Sheron Engleka; Deacons: Tom Croner, Amanda Custer and Julie Petro. A motion was made to accept the minutes to the December meeting with the above correction by Leanna Coughenour and seconded by Debbie Boyer. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report reviewed and discussed; no corrections made. Tom Croner made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and submit for audit, seconded by Ann Slifco. **Motion approved.** Church Treasurer, Renee Gindlesperger, wanted to remind the consistory members to help with offering after church if not scheduled for other events. An audit of the books will be scheduled.

President and Elders Report (Spiritual Council)

Tom Calvert reported that the Elders have not met as of this meeting. Rus Ogburn and Pam are in the process of suppling the pulpit on Sundays. Tentatively Tom Calvert will take the open date of January 29th. Rev. Jay Shaffer is scheduled for February 5th, Rev. Art Gotjjen for February 12th, and 26th, March 12th and

26th. They will be checking on the availability of William Deal, Josh Spangler and Rev. Alexa Smith.

Standing Committees Reports

1. Hugs and Kisses:

It was reported that the game night was a success with 23 in attendance and a good time was had by all. A movie night is in the process of being planned with a date to be announced after their next meeting.

2. Property:

- a. It was recommended to have an update of the parsonage and church inventory and to look into the storage and protection of documents.
- b. A motion was made by Ann Slifco, seconded by Amanda Custer to purchase a new battery for the Defibrillator and lights/light bulbs in the office and conference room. **Motion approved.**

Special Committees Reports

1. Finance, Financial Review and or Endowment

- a. It was recommended to invite Greg Croner to a consistory meeting to inform consistory of the various endowment accounts.

2. Profile & Search

- a. A meeting of the Profile committee is scheduled for this week.

Coordinator Reports

1. Association and Conference

- a. Tom Croner reported on the National Zoom conference gathering for rural church coalition

in our church on February 9 – 11 for three hours each evening.

Old Business

1. Postponed donations
 - a. A motion was made by Ann Slifco, seconded by Tom Croner to fund the following the same as prior years: Lion’s Club - \$150, Children’s Aid Home - \$250, Living Waters - \$500, Bervelon – \$50. **Motion approved.**
 - b. New requests – A motion was made by Debbie Boyer and seconded by Julie Petro to make donations to the Next Step Center - \$150 and to the St Paul’s UCC Dolly Parton Imagination Library - \$130. **Motion approved.**

New Business

1. Covid spraying - one gallon of spray is remaining. The entryways were the only areas being sprayed at this time.
 - a. A motion was made by Tom Croner and seconded by Debbie Boyer to stop covid spraying. **Motion approved.**

Next Consistory meeting February 13, 2023

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gaye Maust, seconded by Julie Petro at 8:31 p.m. **Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted

Sheron Engleka, Secretary

Consistory Corner
Trinity United Church of Christ
February 13, 2023

Attendance

X Tom Calvert (President)	X Gaye Maust
X Leanna Coughenour (Asst Secr)	X Ann Slifco
X Gale Hay	X Tom Croner
X Rus Ogburn (Vice President)	X Amanda Custer (Asst Treas)
X Debbie Boyer	X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)
X Amy Clark (Treasurer)	X Julie Petro

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

Minutes for January 2023 meeting

Minutes for January 9, 2023, meeting were sent to the Consistory members electronically prior to the February meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes to the January meeting by Rus Ogburn and seconded by Tom Croner. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report reviewed and discussed; no corrections made. Rus Ogburn made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and submit for audit, seconded by Gale Hay. **Motion approved.** The annual report was reviewed. Tom Croner made the motion to accept the annual report, seconded by Ann Slifco. **Motion approved.**

President and Elders Report (Spiritual Council)

Tom Calvert reported that Tom Croner and Rus Ogburn have put together a list of speakers for Sunday Services through April 23rd. He also reported that Good Friday Service on April 7th will be at the Lutheran Church and that our church will be taking part in the service.

Tom Calvert reported that the Elders met with two members each from Amity UCC, Meyersdale and Unity UCC, Shanksville. It was decided that all three churches would inform each other of the extra activities in their church. All three churches are looking for a pastor.

Standing Committees Reports

- 1. Property
 - a. Items to be reported to the property committee are the flag in the front of the church is not connected at the bottom and that some siding on the garage has come loose.

Special Committees' Reports

- 1. Finance, Financial Review and/or Endowment Committees
 - a. Greg Croner informed the consistory the endowment was being managed by Bill Rice, Commonwealth Financial Trust Department. The two trustees from the church are Greg Croner and Renee Gindlesperger, Financial Secretary.
 - b. Meals on Wheels has requested our help with desserts for March 27th- 31st. A motion was made by Amy Clark and seconded by Amanda Custer to donate \$175.00 to Meals on Wheels for deserts for March 27-31. **Motion approved.**
 - c. An audit review was completed.
- 2. Communion
 - a. It was reported that Pam checked with Dave Ackerman that an ordained minister needs to

bless the elements. The elements can be blessed in advance of the service. Dates for communion will need to be decided for the year.

3. Profile and Search

- a. Deb Boyer reported that the Profile Committee should be done with the profile in the next 2 – 3 weeks. A Search Committee will need to be formed once the profile is completed. She stated that Sue Coughenour is willing to serve on the Search Committee.

Coordinator Reports

1. Association and Conference

- a. Tom Croner reported on the zoom conference of Rural and Small-town Communities Coalition that was held in the conference room at the parsonage. The rural small-town churches are known for their “Church Family”. He said that it was a good exchange of information.

2. Living Waters

- a. A thank you was received from Living Waters for our donation. They had to cut down lots of trees and are using it for repairs. They have put out bids for replacement windows.

New Business

Judy Bird from the Berlin Brethren Church was at the meeting to inquire if our church would be willing to sell the back half of the Gindlesperger property (where the garage is located) to them so they could move their Coffee House (their brick parsonage) onto

the property. They have a project planned to add on to their church.

A discussion followed and a motion was made by Amy Clark and seconded by Debbie Boyer that in the best interest of our church to not sell the property to the Berlin Brethren Church. **Motion approved.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Croner, seconded by Amy Clark at 9:25pm. **Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted

Sheron Engleka, Secretary



Financial Reports submitted by our Financial Secretary, Renee Gindlesperger and Treasurer, Amy Clark

January 2023

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
Beg. Balance	\$78,543.71	\$14,882.17	\$0
Receipts	\$12,640.00	\$1,083.00	\$3,323.00
Distributions	\$9,302.67	\$0	\$2,305.00
Ending Balance	\$81,881.04	\$15,965.17	\$1,018.00

Benevolence Distributions: Berlin Food Pantry/Souper Bowl (Individual Donations) – \$2,180; Pastor’s Discretionary Fund - \$125

Memorials (as of 1/31/23): None

--Amy Clark, Treasurer



Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

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

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jason Benning, Jim Benoit, Rhonda Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Larry Custer, John Durst, Mary Jane Harding, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Cindy McCullen-Janicki, Brenda & Larry Leister, Debbie Luteri (her sisters & family), Larry McCullen, Bob Murphy, Bonnie Murphy, Doug Murphy, Harold Pritts, James Robb, Nancy Schrock, Greg Shaulis, Tracey Smith, Kelly Tharp, Larry Tinkey, Audrey Twombly, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Caleb Wedding, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

Audrey Twombly has requested additional prayers for Nancy Weighley as she enters a 30-day treatment program that, with your prayers and the grace of God, will alleviate some of her on going illness.

Prayer List Update

Once again, we need your assistance in updating our prayer list of healing concerns. If you have placed someone on our list, please

confirm that they are still in need of prayer or hopefully taken off thanks to God's power of healing and your prayers. Please contact the office to help us with this update.

One Call Now Prayer List

Please remember that we have the ability to request prayer for church members, families, friends and anyone in need of prayer. Never underestimate the power of prayer. One small prayer can change your life or someone's life dramatically. To request prayer calls, simply contact Pam, our secretary at 541-990-0832 or at the office during business hours. If you are not on the one call now prayer phone receipt list and would like to be, we can do that as well.

The Parsonage Conference Room Sunday School Class will be following this schedule:

February 19-March 26: You Make Me Crazy: Surviving Relationships God's Way:

A crazy-maker can really make life difficult. This six-week video-based study from Pastor Warren will help bring sanity to your relationships so you can do more than just coexist. Learn how to connect with the crazy-makers in your life; whether a spouse, sibling, parent, co-workers, or someone else.

April 2 & 9: **A Look at Easter** – A short Bible study to focus in on the wonder of Easter.

April 16: **No class** as Sue Coughenour will be away. We invite you to join Tom Calvert's class this week.

April 23-July 9: **Culture Shock:** A 12-part video series by Chip Ingram. Where do you stand on the issues of Truth, Abortion, The Environment, Sex, Homosexuality, Churches, and Politics? More importantly what does God say? More than ever before, believers must develop convictions based on research, reason, and biblical truth. It's equally important that believers are able (and willing) to communicate these convictions with the love and respect that reflects God's own heart. This study will help you to respond with

love, even in the face of controversy. In the process, you'll discover the power of bringing light – not heat – to the core issues at the heart of society today.

This class is open to adults of **ALL AGES** and is lead by Sue Coughenour. *Come join us!*

Croner Educational Fund

Trinity United Church of Christ established the Education Fund in memory of Joseph and Erma Croner with Earl D Croner and Richard F Croner as donors. First priority for the money from the Fund shall be to members of the church who are students for the Christian ministry. Second priority shall be for college students who are members of the church and have a financial need. Applications for the Croner Educational Fund Scholarship will be accepted from January 1 – March 31, 2023. A transcript of applicant/student grades is to be included with the application. Applications can be obtained at the church office.

Trinity Bells

We are excited to let you know that Jeanne Hillegas has informed us that our wonderful Trinity Bells will be playing on March 19th!!

Holy Trinity Lutheran will hold mid-week Lenten services 3/1 through 3/29/2023 at 7:00 PM.

We will be presenting the five-part Lenten Drama "They Followed the Master".

We welcome the community to join us.

Good Friday Combined Service

We have been invited to join the Brethren Church, Three Seasons Church, and the Lutheran Church in a combined service at the Lutheran Church, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. We will have members participating in the service and would like to have good representation of Trinity UCC. Stay tuned!

Greeter Committee

Now that Bob Brown has completed the Usher List (thank you for those willing to participate), we would like to begin a "Greeter" list once again. If you are interested in coordinating this list or

participating, please let us know. You may contact any Consistory member, Bob Brown, or the church office.



Attention Youth – Fun Ahead!!

On March 26th, we would like to play Rainbow Bells during church and after church that day we are planning an Easter Egg Hunt with prizes! We will need to practice a few times which will just be during Sunday School (after church around 10:00 in the basement) on March 12th and March 19th. Please plan on joining us so that we have enough kids to play bells. Any questions- see Amanda Custer.

Hugs & Kisses

Will be meeting March 7th at 6:30!!!!

Card Shower:

Mary Forespring, a member of our church, is turning 94 Sunday, March 5, 2023. It would be great to acknowledge this milestone and brighten her day by sending a card with well wishes.
167 Grange Rd, Meyersdale, PA 15552

Prayer and well wishes for Pastor Art Gotjen

Pastor Art has recently undergone some surgery and will be unavailable for the next couple of months. Please join us in sending him your prayers, well wishes and cards to:
Art Gotjen, 1096 Sunset Dr., Somerset PA 15501

Thank You

Dear Members & Friends of Trinity,

The Profile Committee has completed the profile and it is now in the final process of being compiled into a nice document, with photos, to be sent to Penn West Conference.

My deep appreciation to the committee members Bob Brown, Jason Clark, Sue Coughenour, Jean Ann Darr, Missy Miller and Grace Romesberg.

In faith,
Debbie Boyer
Profile Committee

Dear Trinity UCC Family,

Thank you so much for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. Our family appreciated the desserts donated for my mother's funeral.

Rick Kimmel



A "Glimpse" of just some of the good work we do as a congregation.

Birthright of Somerset

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift. We greatly appreciate your donation and your support. May you have a blessed New Year!

Sincerely, Birthright of Somerset.

We would also like to thank you for participating in the 2022 Birthright Giving Tree Drive. Your kindness and generosity allow us to provide a layette of baby items to each “Birthright Baby” born throughout the year. Thank you for caring about them.

Children’s Aid Society

To Our Red Stocking Friends,
We received a Thank You from the Children’s Aid Society Foundation for our generosity and they are so appreciative of our support. Our gift will be put to good use for the children and that you are helping make a difference in their young lives.

Next Step Center

We appreciate the generosity of your donation. It really does help! Ours is the only homeless shelter in Somerset County. Our purpose is to provide emergency housing for neighbors in crisis due to fire, flood, eviction, job loss or unsafe living conditions. Your donation 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 giving.

Living Waters

Dear Friends at Trinity UCC,
Thank you for the recent gift of \$500.00 for Living Waters. With your help we are able to touch the lives of children and youth and bring them to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

Adopt A Family

On behalf of the Berlin Brothersvalley School District, I would like to thank you for your support this past Christmas. You have blessed so many of our students with your kindness and generosity. We are so grateful to have such a strong, supportive community for our students and their families. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Danielle Hay

Worship Assistants

Worship Assistants March/April

March 5

Sound: Jim Darr, Lori Gindlesperger
Flowers: Nancy Hittie
Ushers: Debbie Boyer, Bob Brown
Acolyte: Cohen Clark / Colton Custer

March 12

Sound: Chris King, Tom Croner
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty
Bulletin: Larry & Judy McCullen
Ushers: Jean Ann Darr, John Wisler
Acolyte: Lily Countryman

March 19

Sound: Tom Croner, Russ Hillegas
Flowers: Nicole Parish
Bulletin: Larry McCullen
Ushers: Gaye Maust, Sheron Engleka
Acolyte: Matt / Kaitlyn Miller

March 26

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Tom Croner
Flowers: Leonard & Shirley Gary
Ushers: Amy Clark, Tom Calvert
Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

April 2

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King
Flowers: Larry & Gale Hay
Ushers: Jason Clark, Ann Slifco
Acolyte: Maelyn Fochtman / Cora Wright

April 9

Sound: Jim Darr, Russ Hillegas

Flowers: Debbie Boyer

Ushers: Chris King, Leanna Coughenour

Acolyte: Vesper/Truitt Ogburn

April 16

Sound: Tom Croner, Pam Bush

Flowers: Robert & Lois Boburchock

Ushers: Rus Ogburn, Larry Pritts

Acolyte: Cohen Clark / Colton Custer

April 23

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Gaye Maust

Flowers: Michele Romesburg

Bulletin: Craig & Amanda Stiffler

Ushers: Ken Miller, Jim Walker

Acolyte: Lily Countryman

April 30

Sound: Tom Croner, Pam Bush

Flowers: Rus & Jenna Ogburn

Ushers: Carl Brick, Leonard Gary

Acolyte: Matt / Kaitlyn Miller

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.

Speaking of Flowers.....

Enclosed in your newsletter you will find your Easter Flower order forms. We have an early cutoff date of **March 19th** so please submit your orders as soon as possible.

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:

Tom Calvert, President, 814-267-3771

Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Consistory Deacons:

Amy Clark, Amanda Custer, Ann Slifco

Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner

Julie Petro, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust

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

Tentative Scheduled Supply Pastors

March 5 Jay Shaffer

March 12 Jay Shaffer

March 19 Jay Shaffer

March 26 Josh Spangler

April 2 Jay Shaffer

April 9 Bill Deal

April 16 Jay Shaffer

April 23 Josh Spangler

We are blessed to have these gentlemen leading us in worship as we search for our new Pastor. Thank you all so much. And again, thank you to Tom Croner and Rus Ogburn for compiling this schedule.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Calvert, President of Consistory at 814-267-3771, 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.

Easter Blessing



John 11:25
(KJV)

Happy
Easter!

I am the
resurrection,
and the life:
he that
believeth in me,
though he
were dead,
yet shall he live: