



***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023
Guest Speaker – Pastor Alexa Smith***

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

**Prelude Come Join the Dance of Trinity – Mary McDonald
 Under His Wings – Matthew McConnell**

Greetings and Announcements

Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity United Church of Christ.

***Call to Worship**

We gather to listen for Christ's call to us.

We gather to seek Christ's light so we may find our way.

For a new dawn is breaking.

Each morning is a new beginning ...

To live disciplined lives.

Morning Prayer

***Hymn No. 297**

I Love to Tell the Story

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth;

27 but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong,

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption;

31 therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord."

Call To Confession:

The prophet Micah tells us what the Lord requires of us: To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with our God. Let us pause to seek the forgiveness we need and to be grateful for this moment to lay our burdens down.

Hymn No. 42 – Verse 2 Only

Seek Ye First

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful One, you are ever gracious. You come to us to show us your way. And you teach us to love others by loving us. Forgive us when we are distracted, when we are inattentive, when we listen more to ourselves, instead of quieting ourselves to better hear you. Open our hearts. Quicken your Spirit within us. That we may love well, forgive generously, dispense mercy, and seek peace – finding lives of newness and hope. Listen as we offer our silent prayers ...

Silent Confession:

Hymn No. 42 – Verse 1 Only

Seek Ye First

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Sisters and brothers, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Scripture:

Matthew 4: 12-22

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee;

13 and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caperna-um by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,

14 that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

toward the sea, across the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles—

16 the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death

light has dawned.”

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Sermon

“No Such Thing as Bystanders”

Pastor Alexa Smith

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

***Hymn No. 461**

For He Leadeth Me

***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**

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn No: 270**

Wonderful Words of Life

***The Charge and 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.**

***Going Forth**

Postlude

Declare His Glory – Mary McDonald

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Dates to Remember:

Ash Wednesday – February 22, 2023

Maundy Thursday – April 6, 2023

Good Friday – April 7, 2023

Easter – April 9, 2023



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, Carol
Boyer, Rhonda Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Pam**

Crooks, John Durst, Mary Jane Harding, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Gale Hay, Larry Hay, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Debbie Luteri (her sisters & family) Larry McCullen, Bob Murphy, Bonnie Murphy, Grace Pritts, Harold Pritts, James Robb, Nancy Schrock, Greg Shaulis, Tracey Smith, Avis Specht, Kelly Tharp, Larry Tinkey, Audrey Twombly, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Caleb Wedding, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

Prayers to the family of Rick Kimmel in the passing of his mother, Donna Kimmel

Prayers to the family of the former late Pastor Randal Heckman in the passing of their mother, Doris Heckman

Audrey Twombly spent a few days in Somerset hospital but is now home assisted by home health care and a heart monitor. She's doing well but could use your continued prayers. If you would like to send her a card, please contact the office if you don't have her address.

Prayer List Update

Once again, we are in need of 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 Saints In Action

TODAY – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 Sunday School

Next Sunday – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 01/22/23

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2241.00	\$3155.58	-\$914.58
Ben	\$356.00	\$182.69	\$173.31
Maint	\$71.00	\$163.46	-\$92.46
Mem	.00		
Total	\$2668.00	\$3501.73	-\$833.73

Benevolence includes Donations to Food Pantry/Souper Bowl of \$265

Worship Attendance: 78

Sunday School: 30

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: Gaye Maust (Board), Pam Bush (Camera)

Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King

Acolytes: Lily Countryman

The Flowers on the altar in memory of Carolyn McGinn by Mike Fogle.

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, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco

Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner

Amanda Custer, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust

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

What's So Amazing About Grace?

Beginning January 8, 2023, the Parsonage Conference Room Sunday school class will begin the newly filmed video Bible study by bestselling author Philip Yancey, "What's So Amazing About Grace?". Yancey explores the concept of grace – something the world cannot duplicate and the one thing it craves above all else – and illustrates what it looks like in action. He also examines how Christians lavish grace on a world that knows far more cruelty and unforgiveness than it does mercy. Join us for this six-week study in the Parsonage Conference Room that is open to adults of all ages and lead by Sue Coughenour.

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.

“Souper Bowl” Competition – Today is the last Sunday.

It is time for our annual “Souper Bowl” Competition. In January 2023 we will again be competing with one another for the “Souper Bowl” certificate. There will be two winners again this year. One for larger churches (over 100 families) and a second for smaller churches (under 100 families). The four quarters of the competition will be the five Sundays in January. Food items should be taken to the fellowship hall and placed in the designated location. Monetary donations should be given in an envelope marked “Souper Bowl” competition (checks should be made out to Trinity UCC)

Our local food pantry continues to grow. We are serving approximately 100 families from the Berlin and Shanksville School Districts. In this time of economic stress and the pandemic it is so meaningful for all of those who can help the food pantry. We have a great group of volunteers that truly enjoy the fellowship at the food pantry. Nonperishable (non-expired) food, condiments, baking products, paper supplies, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and monetary donations are welcome.

Prayers are requested for our clients and volunteers. May God continue to share his blessing with each and every one of you.

“Berlin Area Food Pantry”

Hugs & Kisses

Game night was a huge success, and a grand time was had by all! Mark your calendars for February 10th "Movie Night". H & K will provide Popcorn and Drinks. ALL ages are invited – this even is for EVERYONE. Bring a friend, a snack to share and come fellowship with us!!!

Birthright of Somerset

Thank you to the congregation of Trinity United Church of Christ for your gifts from our giving tree. We greatly appreciate your donation and support. May you have a blessed New Year.

Annual Flower Chart

The annual flower chart is now posted at the Main St. entrance. Please let us know if we need to make any adjustments.

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.



*Blessings for
the new week*

You are
VERY
Special

**Wishing you all a blessed
new week full of love,
happiness, and good
health. God bless you.**