



***First Sunday of Lent  
February 22, 2026***

***Student Pastor – Dave Creamer  
Assisted by – Cohen Clark***

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

***“Please silence your cell phone”***



**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, our strength, and our redeemer we gather before you a repentant people. We offer to you our gifts that you use them as your will sees fit. We pray that you keep us from temptation, help us to find strength where we are weak. Bless us with your love, protecting those that serve us, both near and abroad. Bless us with your healing power, be with those that are weak in heart, have failing health, and troubled minds. Bless us with your guiding presence, help those that are lost find their way. Help us to know Jesus's Love, to seek it out. Help us to understand his sacrifice for us. Help us to live the prayer he taught to us:

## **Our Lord's Prayer [using debts and debtors]**

### **Scripture:**

#### **Genesis Chapter 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7**

**15** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

**16** And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

**17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

**1** Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?"

**2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;

**3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'

**4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die.

**5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.

**7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

### **Epistle:**

#### **Romans Chapter 5: 12-19**

**12** Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned—

**13** sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

**14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

**15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

**16** And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.

**17** If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

**18** Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men.

**19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

### **Gospel:**

#### **Matt Chapter 4, vs 1-11**

**1** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**2** And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.

**3** And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

**4** But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

**5** Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple,

**6** and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will give his angels charge of you,'  
and

'On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

**7** Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

**8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them;

**9** and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

**10** Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' "

**11** Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

**Hymn No 439**

**Cleanse Me**

**Sermon  
"Temptation Escalation"  
Dave Creamer**

**Hymn No. 185**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Response – Sung with Dismissal**

**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**

**Surely He Died on Calvary – Anna Laura Page**

**+ + + + +**



**Those Remembered in prayer:**

God's guidance and protection for the 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

### **Prayer List Update**

Please let the office know of the status of anyone you have placed  
on the Prayer List.

### **The Saints In Action**

TODAY – 1st Sunday in Lent  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

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

Next Sunday – 2nd Sunday in Lent  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m.

**Giving from January 2026**  
**This chart reflects our monthly budget**

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$8418.00	\$10417.50	-\$1999.50
<b>Ben</b>	\$780.00	\$1041.67	-\$261.67
<b>Maint</b>	\$830.00	\$1083.33	-\$253.33
<b>Mem</b>	\$50.00		
<b>Total</b>	\$10,078.00	\$12542.50	-\$2514.50

Not included in Benevolence were donations to the Food Pantry of \$30

**Worship Attendance: 66**  
**Sunday School: 22**

***Where You May Find . . .***

**The Nursery:** *is on the lower level for children and their parents. 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	<i>These Days</i> – Devotional

**Assisting in Worship**

**Sound:** Cohen Clark, Jim Darr  
**Ushers:** Debbie Boyer, Amy Saylor  
**Acolytes:** Cohen Clark  
**Organ:** Nancy Bittner

**Flowers on the altar** in honor of our children, Larry W. McCullen, Jr. and Cynthia L. McCullen-Janicki and our two grandsons, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Jacob K. Janicki, U.S. Army and Joshua L. Janicki by Larry & Judy McCullen.

**Special flowers** In Recognition of the Sixth Anniversary of Pam Bush joining Trinity United Church of Christ of Berlin, PA as our Secretary and her dedication and the services she provides to the Congregation.

**Bulletin** in Recognition of the Sixth Anniversary of Pam Bush joining Trinity United Church of Christ of Berlin, PA as our Secretary.

***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](mailto:berlinucc@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.berlinucc.org](http://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.

### **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

**Join us for VBS Style Sunday School Beginning Today** ....for Nursery through Middle School. Everyone is welcome! Class will be the third Sunday of each month (February – June) starting February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

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.

## **Berlin Brothersvalley 2026–2027 Kindergartners:**

If you have not completed the preliminary registration form on the district website, please contact the Berlin Brothersvalley Elementary Office at 814-267-4623 at your earliest convenience.

## **Israel Nov 2026 Tour Presentation Sun., Feb 22**

Pastor Tom and Debbie Sprowls of the Brethren church will hold an Israel Tour Presentation Sunday, February 22 at 4:00PM in the Berlin Brethren sanctuary. This will be to inform and answer questions about the upcoming Israel Tour they are hosting Saturday, Nov 21 - Monday, Nov 30, 2026. This presentation anyone can attend even to learn more about Israel. These tour dates go over the Thanksgiving holiday. This timeframe was chosen to try to make it more convenient for one to use less work vacation days. Contact Pastor Tom and Debbie with any questions you might have now by email at [tsprowsjr@comcast.net](mailto:tsprowsjr@comcast.net). Tour information packets including a

trip application are available now. Please spread the word about both the presentation and tour to anyone who might have interest. Shalom.

### **Parking**

As a reminder, please remember that the last five spots on either side of Riverside Market (those closest to Main Street) are designated spots for us on Sundays. Additionally, the lot behind the bank (Riverside's big parking lot) is available for us as well. We appreciate Scott Etris letting us park there so we need to respect the guidelines.

**Pastoral Care:** For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Dave Creamer, Student Pastor for Trinity at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.

