



***Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024***

***Guest Speaker – Steve Dinning  
Assisted by - Cora & Lucy Wright***

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

**Prelude**

**Ding Dong! Merrily on High - Mary McDonald  
In The Bleak Midwinter - William Haller**

## **Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

I will hear what the Lord has to say.

**A voice that speaks for peace.**

Peace for all people and for all who love the Lord.

**And to those who turn to God in their hearts.**

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to all God's people.**

**\*Hymn No. 119**

**O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

**Hymn No. 120**

**The Advent of Our God**

## **Call to Confession**

**God of Glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday lives. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. Pardon us Lord and change us we pray. Amen**

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

### **\*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**

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet in our work and leisure. In the name of our Lord Christ Jesus we pray...

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

#### **Scripture:**

#### **Daniel 7: 13-14**

**13** I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

**14** And to him was given dominion  
and glory and kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

**Gospel:**  
**Luke 1: 68-79**

**68** “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people,  
**69** and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
**70** as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
**71** that we should be saved from our enemies,  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
**72** to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember  
his holy covenant,  
**73** the oath which he swore to our father Abraham,  
**74** to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our  
enemies, might serve him without fear,  
**75** in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our  
life.  
**76** And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
**77** to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness  
of their sins,  
**78** through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn  
upon us from on high  
**79** to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

## **Luke 3: 1-6**

**1** In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberi-us Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysani-as tetrarch of Abilene,

**2** in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness;

**3** and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**4** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

**5** Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be brought low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

**6** and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

### **Sermon Steve Dinning**

**\*Hymn No: 125**

**Joy to the World**

**\*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

Fum, Fum, Fum - Mark Hayes

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### Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for the Armed Forces.

### **Shut Ins:**

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

### **Healing Concerns:**

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman, Tammy Coughenour, Wilma Durst, Reon Engleka, Paul Gallick, Don Gary, Nancy Gindlesperger, Marlene Gotchen, Karen Griffith, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris, Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen Janicki, Peter Kaltenbaugh, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Cathy Meyers, Joyce Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, Brian Robb, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Phyllis Stoy, Brooke Stutzman, Larry Tinkey, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Rick Work, Allison Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

### Prayer List Update

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

### **Prayer Calls:**

If you are not receiving our one call prayer calls, please contact the office. The number that calls is an "877" number. This may appear to be spam. If your phone is blocking spam calls, this may be one reason why. If you prefer to receive the calls on your cell vs. landline we would like to know that as well.

### The Saints In Action

TODAY – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

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

Next Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

### Giving From 12/1/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$1815.00	\$3155.58	-\$1340.58
<b>Ben</b>	\$420.00	\$182.69	\$237.31
<b>Maint</b>	\$600.00	\$163.46	\$436.54
<b>Mem</b>	\$65.00		\$65.00
<b>Total</b>	\$2900.00	\$3501.73	-\$601.73

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$25 and Adopt-A-Family \$100.

**Worship Attendance: 60**

**Sunday School: 27**



## **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:** Pam Bush & Jim Darr

**Ushers:** *Tom Croner & Amanda Custer*

**Acolytes:** Cora & Lucy Wright

**Organ:** Jean Ann Darr

**Flowers on the altar** given in honor of Bob and Mike Chappie by Dave, Missy, Matthew & Kaitlyn Miller.

## ***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:**

*Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650*

*Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166*

*Jim Darr, 814-483-0957*

## **Consistory Deacons:**

*Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour, Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740, Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco*

**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)

**Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.**

December 15 Dave Creamer

December 22 Dave Creamer

December 24 Dave Creamer

December 29 Dave Creamer

**Bolded** dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

**Sunday School**

How do you approach prayer? Do you worry you are not doing it “correctly”? Do you see it as an obligation to check-off a to-do list? Do you think of it as a last resort – a kind of supernatural SOS when you need help? In this Pray First video Bible Study, Pastor Chris Hodges shares proven ways to help you spend time in conversation with God – and enjoy every minute of it. Pray First is a 6-part revolutionary study for anyone who wants to experience a dynamic, intimate prayer life with God, that begins on October 27th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:10 following worship service. Questions about this class may be directed to Sue Coughenour.

### **Glade One-Room Schoolhouse Historic Christmas Tours**

Sunday, December 15th, 6:30 pm, 7:15 pm and 8:00 pm. Parking at Unity UCC, 2074 Huckleberry Hwy, Berlin. Parking will also be available by the schoolhouse for those who need easier access.

Bring the whole family to experience Christmas that would have been celebrated in the early 1900's hosted by the Berlin Area Historical Society! Unity UCC will have some time period activities with refreshments in the social hall between tour times. You will walk with a guide from the church to the one-room schoolhouse at the times designated above to immerse yourself in a Christmas celebration from the past with a real decorated tree, caroling, and traditions that would have taken place! There will be a fire started in the schoolhouse in the potbelly stove but be sure to dress for the weather. No registration is required for this free event! Take a step back in time and appreciate the history of this building while learning about old Christmas traditions.

Children and teens of all ages are needed to help with tours, refreshments, activities and more. Contact Dave Creamer if you are interested in helping.

Contact Leanne Calvert 814-341-0589 or Tine Hillegass 814-442-3094 with questions.

## **Adopt-A-Family**

We are still taking up a special collection for our Adopt-A-Family Christmas project. We have been helping local families for over a decade by supporting them with essential gifts and food for the holiday season. If you would be interested in supporting this project, please make your donations to the church marking "Adopt-A-Family" on your offering envelopes. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Petro (814) 442-5124. Thanks.

**Thank You** on behalf of the Berlin Food Pantry for your financial support. This donation will assist in helping those who struggle to make ends meet within the greater Berlin and Shanksville School Districts. May God continue to share these blessings.

## **Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2025 will be available for pickup during Sunday Services on November 24, December 1 & 8. All remaining boxes will be mailed by the end of the year. Please help us cut postage costs by picking up your boxes or making arrangements for them to be picked up.

**TODAY December 8th- Bethlehem Experience** 2-4PM (walking tour) and 5:30-8PM (drive through tour) located in the Block Party Lot by the Firehall. Some of our own youth and church members will be performing so come and show your Christian community support!

**December 14th- 5:00 PM Dress rehearsal for the children's church Christmas play.** Subway subs provided, bring snack/drink or dessert to share and rehearsal will be after we eat.

**Next Sunday, December 15th- Christmas play "Joy Story"** during church at 9:00 AM- if still interested in participating we are practicing during Sunday School- come join us!

### **Birthright Christmas Tree**

Once again, we will be sponsoring the Birthright Christmas Tree. It will be located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to look at it and see if there is some way you can help those in need.

### **Laurel Highlands Chorale - 'Tis The Season!**

The concert will be held at the Somerset Church of the Brethren, Berlin Plank Rd, on **Sunday, December 8th at 3:30 pm** and **Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm**. Tickets are only \$5.00 and will be available at the door, or from any chorale member. Please contact Dorene Friedline at 814-926-3610 or 814-442-0460 for tickets or more information. We look forward to seeing you there!! We promise it will be a flurry of fun, favorite Christmas songs.

### **Hurricane Donations**

The Berlin Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are seeking nonperishable food donations for holiday dinners and very gently used or brand-new toys for Christmas gifts for Hurricane Helene victims. For just a minute, put yourself in their shoes, what would make the holidays a little brighter for you? Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 8th. Donations can be placed in the donation box at the Vine Street entrance. Thank you.

**The Souper Bowl Competition** is underway. There will be two winners again this year, so we will have to be on our game and regain our #1 spot as we lost it last year. The four quarters of the competition will be the four Sundays in January and the two Sundays in February before the actual Super Bowl. If making monetary donations, please mark your envelope "Souper Bowl" and make your check payable to Trinity UCC.

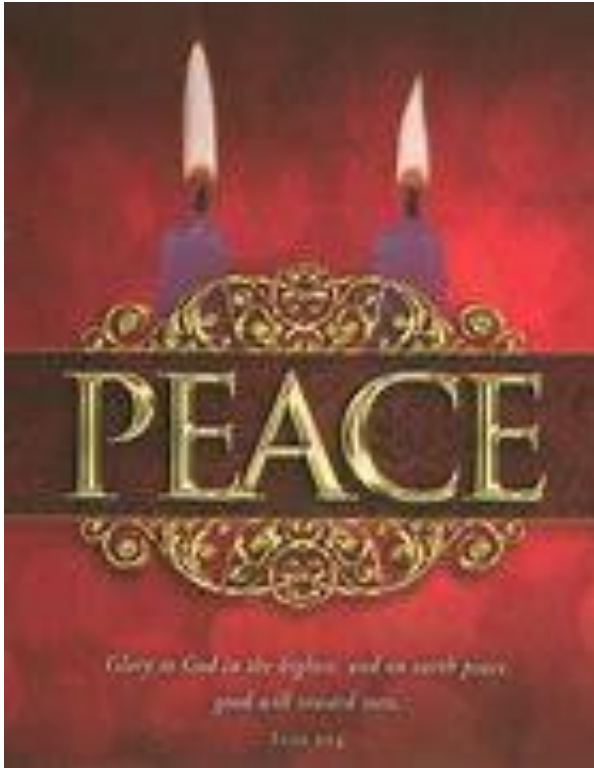
**Pastoral Care:** For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Dave Creamer, Student Pastor for Trinity at 814-777-2280.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

## BLOOD DRIVE



Monday, January 6th 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
The Berlin Community Veterans Home  
Association of Berlin Social Hall  
419 Meadow Street.





Prayer for Peace: Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil, grant us the tranquility that only your peace can bring. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation and harmony in our relationships and communities. Amen.