



***December 21, 2025
Pastor Dave Creamer
Assisted By Matt & Kaitlyn Miller***

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

"Please silence your cell phone"

Prelude:

Festivity on “Here We Come A-Caroling Douglas Wagner What Child Is This? – Mary McDonald

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: Lighting of The Love Candle

We watch and wait for Christ's coming! We light the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy. Now we light the fourth candle, the candle of **LOVE**.

We light this candle with love. Out of love for the people, God spoke through Isaiah, promising a sign: a young woman shall bear a son, and call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

God's love surrounds us, a powerful, divine gift, filling the world with hope and promise.

The prophet Micah foretold that from Bethlehem, the ruler of Israel, whose origins are from of old, would come.

God invites us to receive this promise, to live as God-bearers, letting Christ be born in us and through us.

As we light the final candle of love, we remember that God's greatest gift is love, shown in Jesus, the Light of the World. May this light guide us to share His love with those who are lonely, unloved, and seeking His presence.

Let us pray: Help us to be your hands and heart, Lord, that your love may be born in our world, now and always. Amen.

Hymn No. 119

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful

Call to confession:

Jesus is the light of the world. He has come to give us his Grace. With one voice let us call out to receive it.

Confession:

Heavenly Father hear our prayer. You know our hearts, you see our faults, forgive us of our Sins. Help us and guide us with your Spirit. Bless us with the gifts of this Advent season. Help us to share them as your will and the body of Christ. Let us know and share the Love of Christ, so that in his name we can do all things.

Assurance of Pardon:

Love came to us in a manger long ago. His Purpose has not changed; his gift is still here for us. Rejoice that we can open our hearts and receive it. For that we give God the Glory.

***Response 66 Verse 1**

To God Be the Glory

***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:

Gracious God, we humble ourselves before you. We have brought some of our gifts to this Alter, not as a bribe or bargain, but as hope that you will use these things and your will shall be done. We pray that the Love of Jesus sustains us, helps us to grow as a people. That in Jesus' Name we do all the things. We pray for your healing touch, your comforting presence, that you see those on our prayer list. That your mercy is with all those that travel.

Those that serve in our military, those that are far from home, know your love and protection. Our greatest gift is that of your Son, his grace is our greatest hope, We offer to you the prayer he first taught to us.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Trinity Bells

I Wonder As I Wander
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O Come All Ye Faithful

**The Hebrew Scripture Lesson is
From Isaiah Chapter 63, vs 7-9**

7 I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord,
according to all that the Lord has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
which he has granted them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
8 For he said, Surely they are my people,
sons who will not deal falsely;
and he became their Savior.
9 In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**The Epistle Lesson for today is from
Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 1, vs 1-7**

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God
2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,
3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh
4 and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

6 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;

7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Gospel Reading is from
Matthew Chapter 1, vs 18-25**

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit;

19 and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

20 But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit;

21 she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanu-el" (which means, God with us).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife,

25 but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

**Message
"God Is With Us"
Pastor Dave Creamer**

***Hymn No. 138**

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Benediction

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Postlude

**Recessional on "I Saw Three Ships" – Douglas Wagner
Dick Sanderman**

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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,
Ray Coleman, Susan Constantino, Tammy Coughenour,
Eric Custer, Tracy Dickey, Wilma Durst, Linda Gallick, Jeff Gavel,
Nancy Gindlesperger, 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, 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, Karol Saylor, Tammie Saylor, Donna Schmuker,
Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, Missy Shaulis, Phyllis Stoy,
Dawn Edmiston-Strasser, Ron Tamblyn, Larry Tinkey,

Patsy and Dave Titus, Barbara and Peter Usher,
Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley,
Echo Kincaid Yoder, Gerald Zorn

Update LaVerne Coslic and Linda Gallick:

LaVerne is home after being admitted to the hospital with pneumonia. Her address is 414 3rd Ave., Berlin. Cards would certainly make her feel even better.

Linda Gallick moved to Richland Nursing & Rehabilitation Center on Wednesday. Paul reports that she's doing better but progressing slowly. The address is 349 Votek Dr., Johnstown PA 15904. She's been enjoying the cards she's received so keep them coming!

The Saints In Action

Today- 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday – 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice

Wednesday – Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p.m.

Next Sunday – 1st Sunday after Christmas

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 12/14/2025

| | Rec | Budget | Over/Under |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| General | \$1621.00 | \$3155.58 | -\$1534.58 |
| Ben | \$227.00 | \$182.69 | \$44.31 |
| Maint | \$152.00 | \$163.46 | -\$11.46 |
| Mem | .00 | | |
| Total | \$2000.00 | \$3501.73 | -\$1501.73 |

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$10 and Adopt-A-Family of \$125

Worship Attendance: 71

Sunday School: 22

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: Colton Custer, Pam Bush

Ushers: Bill Landis, Jim Walker

Acolytes: Kaitlyn Miller

Organ: Amanda Custer

Flowers on the altar are in honor of our church secretaries, who work so hard year-round. We appreciate you. By Sue and John Coughenour.

Special flowers on the altar are in honor of Pastor Dave Creamer in appreciation for all he does for our church. You always go above and beyond. By Sue and John Coughenour

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by:

Dave Creamer, Student 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:

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Jim Darr, 814-483-0957

Allison Zimmerman, 814-267-4324

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740, Amanda Custer, Lori Gindlesperger, Jean Hart, Jeanne Hillegas, Bill Landis, Julie Petro, Allen Strasser

Your newly elected elder and deacons for 2026 are Elder Sue Coughenour and Deacons Carrie Croner, Shawn Hart, and Amy Saylor

**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

Sunday, January 4th, the Adult Sunday School will begin a new in-depth study on the Book of Romans. Romans is known as the Apostle Paul's most powerful letter with the blueprint of the Christian faith. It explains God's message of grace, justification, salvation, and transformation through Christ. If reading Scripture is hard for you to understand, this is a good class to attend. A clear, chapter-by-chapter journey through Romans made easy to understand. Come join us at 10:10 am in the church Fellowship Hall. Class led by Sue Coughenour.

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. This should be lots of fun! Thank you to those who have submitted.....keep them coming!

Trinity Ladies

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 5th at 11:30 a.m. at Cup of Soul. Please remember if school is cancelled, (snow day or virtual day), we will not meet. Have a joyous Christmas. Hope to see you in January!

Thank you from the Berlin Food Pantry

On behalf of the Food Pantry, thank you for your financial support. Your donations 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.

Blood Drive

Monday, January 5th from 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Berlin Community Veterans Home Social Hall, 419 Meadow St., Berlin. Sponsored by the Berlin Lions Club and Berlin Veterans Home.

You're Invited Today!

Bill and Barb Landis are hosting an open house today from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Their home was part of the home tour this year and would like to share their home with you. It's absolutely stunning and a must see. It will be a wonderful fellowship opportunity, and everyone is welcome. Their address is 408 Musser Sawmill Rd here in Berlin. They'd love to see you all.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Dave Creamer at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Tom Croner at 814-442-6740. If neither is available, contact Pam Bush at 541-990-0832.

This year on Christmas Eve we will have a special offering supporting the UCC Christmas Fund. In 2024 alone, The Christmas Fund offered more than \$1.7 million in support, touching the lives of 766 individuals across the UCC. This generosity made hope tangible. It meant.....

- A couple could hear each other again with the gift of hearing aids.
- A family found safety through a plane ticket out of a war-torn land.
- Mounting medical bills were eased during a time of deep crisis.

Each gift represented more than financial relief – they were a remind of God’s presence and the Church’s love. This year, please join us in The Christmas Fund Community of Compassion on Christmas Eve.



Love



Fourth Sunday of Advent

On the brink of Jesus' coming into the world, we anticipate, yet try to remain grounded in this present moment. Let us not neglect the gift of this very time and place; our waiting, our joy, our expecting; these are gifts! May we embrace them and reverence the goodness of this moment. Just as Mary journeyed to see her cousin Elizabeth in final preparation for Jesus' coming, we gather with our loved ones and those with whom we can share our joy as we look toward the miracle of Christmas.

The message of the 4th week of Advent is full of hope and peace. It reminds us that *God is with us* not far away, but right here in our daily lives. This is the week when our waiting turns into welcoming. All through Advent, we have been lighting candles for hope, peace, joy, and now, love. The light of the fourth candle tells us that the time of promise is near, and that Jesus, our Savior, is coming soon.

The Advent week 4 message teaches us to prepare our hearts, not just our homes. It invites us to open our hearts to others, to forgive, and to love more deeply. God's love came down to earth through a child gentle, humble, and full of grace. When we understand this message, we see that Christmas is not just a story from long ago, but a living truth that still shines in every act of kindness today.

**Thank You for Joining Us
Have a Blessed Week Ahead**