

Trinity Trumpet

January – February 2026

Church Office: [814] 267-3234

Trinity United Church of Christ

Website: berlinucc.org

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

Vol. 31 No 1



The First Season of the New Year!

Between Frost and Thaw

January drapes the earth in white,
A hush that softens day to night.
The air holds breath, the trees stand still,
Dreaming beneath the winter's will.
February hums a softer tune,
A silver smile beneath the moon.
Snow loosens grip, the streams reply,
With whispers of a warming sky.
Between the frost and early bloom,
The heart makes space, the soul finds room—
For endings fade, and seeds take flight,
From winter's dark to spring's first light.

A message from your Pastor

We pray that our Savior Jusus Christ is our light during the short days of this season.

That his saving grace assures us of our salvation, as we share his good news with others.

We pray for the guiding presence of your Holy Spirt, that we can see our way through snow and wind.

We ask that the Spirit provides us a holy beacon that we may know each step brings us closer to you.

Amen

A Thank You from Pastor Dave and his Family,

We are so very grateful to our Trinity Family for all the gifts, cards, well wishes, and Christmas Cheer. We are thankful to each one of you, and hopeful in this new year that we can return the Joy you gave to us.

Pastor Dave, Jeannie, Sammantha, and Luke Creamer

The Berlin Community Center

Trinity UCC has partnered with local Civic groups and active community members to create a community room. Using the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays from 10 to 4 our church will welcome folks from the community for socializing, sharing information, fellowship and much more. Stop in and play a game of chess, enjoy a cup of coffee, and learn about what is going on and how you can be a part of future activities. We hope in the future to have informational opportunities from the Agency on Aging and local volunteer groups.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to welcome people into its doors. A chance for us to help people with everything from simple needs, information on assistance, and be a welcoming presence where spiritual wonders and the presence of God can be felt. Let’s all pray that this Ministry furthers Gods will.

Pastor Dave

A message from your Consistory President

Over the past year our congregation has welcomed Paster Dave Creamer as our student Pastor. As we have supported him in his development and the completion of his studies, he has provided our church family with direction and immeasurable support. Under his leadership, we have seen consistent participation by our youth in our Sunday services, continued Sunday school classes and increased church service attendance when churches in our area are experiencing declining attendance. Pastor Dave has willingly given his time to church members and their families in need of his spiritual support during times of crisis. We, as a church family, are thankful for the services Pastor Dave provides and the manner in which he has extended himself to benefit all of us.

This year, we saw a number of positive changes within our church. We improved the quality of our streaming services with better sound and video equipment. As a result of these improvements, we have increased our outreach to the community and provide better opportunities for church members who are unable to physically attend our church services to hear Pastor Dave's messages. Wth the congregation's approval, we were able to rent the parsonage and utilize a church asset to support church financial obligations and provide additional funding for congregational activities. Finally, we initiated the use of the on-line App "Tith.ly" which not only facilitates regular giving, but these donations also save the church money as an alternative to using the "giving envelopes" we have historically used.

We owe a tremendous thanks to both Pastor Creamer and the outgoing leadership team for these notable improvements. Outgoing Elder Sharon Engleka and Deacons Tom Croner, Julie Petro and Amanda Custer have given our church their time and dedicated service to our church goals and Christian mission. I am excited for the opportunity to serve as your Consistory President. Congratulations to the newly elected elders and deacons to the Consistory: Elder Sue Coughenour and Deacons Carrie Croner, Shawn Hart and Amy Saylor. The existing and new Consistory members and I will work together to establish achievable goals for this year to improve our church and fulfil its mission to be an example and witness to the power of Christian stewardship in our community.

Bill Landis, President of Consistory
Trinity United Church of Christ



Consistory Corner
Trinity United Church of Christ
November 10, 2025

Attendance

X Lori Gindlesperger (2027) Deacon	X Jean Hart (2026) Deacon
X Jeanne Hillegas (2027) Deacon	X Bill Landis (2026) Deacon
A Allen Strasser (2027) Deacon	
X Amanda Custer (2025) Deacon	
X Allison Zimmerman (2027) Elder	X Tom Croner (2025) Deacon
A Pam Bush (2026) Deacon	X Sheron Engleka (2025) Elder
X Jim Darr (2026) Elder	X Julie Petro (2025) Deacon
X Pastor Dave Creamer	
X Renee Gindlesperger Financial Sec.	
X Reon Engleka	

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

Minutes for October meeting

Minutes for the October 13, 2025, meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the November meeting. A motion was made by Bill Landis, seconded by Jeanne Hillegas to approve the October 13th minutes. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given to the consistory prior to the meeting for review. A motion was made by Jean Hart, seconded by Lori Gindlesperger to accept treasurer's report and file for audit. **Motion approved.** Renee Gindlesperger reported that there were 190 boxes for the Operation Christmas Child packed and given. A motion was made by Amanda Custer, seconded by Allison Zimmerman to donate \$500.00 to Operation Christmas Child toward shipping and purchases not covered by donations from the congregation. **Motion approved.** A request was received from Somerset County Search and Rescue Organization for donations. A motion was made by Bill Landis, seconded by Julie Petro to donate \$150.00 toward the Somerset County Search and Rescue Organization. **Motion approved.**

It was announced that the mobile app to donate to the church is up and running. It was suggested that a presentation of this be given to the congregation during the Congregational meeting in December.

Student Minister's report

Pastor Dave reported that he started the Chaplaincy Class. He reported that he has had two confirmation classes this session and have scheduled 4 more classes. He has two students from Unity joining in on these last classes. He reported that there will be a zoom meeting on Saturday, November 22nd at 9:30am. Need delegates to have a procedure vote for new conference costs proposed budget. The church received a transfer request form Cindy and Dave Flamm to transfer to Unity. Pastor Dave reported that he talked with Bob Ansell and Elmer Altfather about using our fellowship hall as a Community Senior Center for winter months from 10:00am – 2:00pm, one day a week on Tuesday's, possibly starting in December or January. They will have speakers

from the Area Agency on Aging. They have been given all of the churches rules on the use of our fellowship hall. Pastor Dave will check on who is responsible for Liability and present at the next consistory meeting. Pastor Dave reported that Adeline Vieregge's name was missed from the All Saints Sunday. They will make this up on Sunday, November 16th with deepest apologies.

Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Christian Education** - Sheron Engleka reported that there was a Christian Education meeting, on Thursday, November 6th. The Christmas play is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th. The theme is Christmas Science. Cora Wright and Colton Custer picked out the play and are organizing it. Jean Hart and Amy Clark are their support. Amanda Custer will direct the bells. The Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for Sunday, November 30th during Sunday School and a light brunch and drinks are planned. The Christian Education is going to get organized on our VBS themed Sunday School program once a month with children's time in church to start with this program. Tentative schedule to start is the 2nd Sunday of every month starting February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th and June 14th. The message for the children's time in church can coordinate with the VBS program or can be whatever the storyteller would like to do. Meadow View Nursing Home is looking for organizations that would be willing to come sing, entertain and spend time with patients. The next meeting for Christian Education is scheduled for Thursday, February 5th, 2026 at 6:30pm
- b. **Hugs and Kisses** - Amanda Custer reported that they sold out of the Ham and Bean soup and rolls, the Christmas play is December 14th, they are going to Sky

Zone Trampoline November 23rd, and are planning a pizza and game night in January. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6th.

- c. Property – Jim Darr reported that Jason Clark, committee chairperson, is setting up a meeting for the committee to go through the church and check out what needs to be done.

Special Committee Reports

- a. Trinity Ladies – Jean Hart reported that the Trinity Ladies met at the Cup of Soul on Monday, November 3rd. They made motions to donate \$250.00 toward Operation Christmas Child, and to purchase fleece for prayer blankets. Those who can are going to help wrap presents for Adopt a Family and help with the Santa’s workshop. A Christmas party is planned for Monday, December 8th at Eat N Park.
- b. Christmas Decorations – Jim Darr reported that the committee is planning to start decorating the Church the week of November 16th.
- c. Paraments – Allison Zimmerman reported that they will be changing the week of the 23rd.
- d. Anniversary - The next meeting for the Semi-quincentennial committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00pm.
- e. Pictorial – Lori Gindlesperger reported that they should soon be ready.

Coordinators’ Reports

- a. Living Waters – Jean Hart reported that they had a successful clean-up day at the camp. They have decided to tear down the white house, the dining Hall needs a new roof, new entrance and extending to add a pavilion.

There will be a Youth Rally in December for 4th through 11th grade.

New Business

Semi-quincentennial Committee – Reon Engleka

Reon Engleka explained the progress on the Semi-quincentennial (250th year of our congregations in 2027) being planned between the Lutheran Church and the TUCC. Everything is in the planning stages and more details will come when finalized. A motion was made by Jean Hart and Julie Petro to invite our mission churches Mt. Zion (Hays) and Unity to our celebration. These two churches were started because of the distance of travel long ago and our church sponsored them. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Bill Landis, seconded by Jim Darr to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the consistory will be **Monday, December 8th, 2025 at 7:00pm.** All newly elected Deacons and Elder for 2027 should attend this meeting. After the current consistory's meeting, the slate of officers will be nominated and approved for 2027.

Respectfully submitted
Sheron Engleka, Secretary

Trinity United Church of Christ December 8, 2025

Attendance

X Lori Gindlesperger (2027) Deacon	X Jean Hart (2026) Deacon
A Jeanne Hillegas (2027) Deacon	X Bill Landis (2026) Deacon

X Allen Strasser (2027) Deacon	
X Amanda Custer (2025) Deacon	
X Allison Zimmerman (2027) Elder	X Tom Croner (2025) Deacon
X Pam Bush (2026) Deacon	X Sheron Engleka (2025) Elder
X Jim Darr (2026) Elder	X Julie Petro (2025) Deacon
X Pastor Dave Creamer	
X Renee Gindlesperger Financial Sec.	
X Sue Coughenour (2028) Elder	X Shawn Hart (2028) Deacon
X Carrie Croner (2028) Deacon	X Amy Saylor (2028) Deacon

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

Minutes for November meeting

Minutes for the November 10, 2025 meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the December 8, 2025 meeting . A motion was made by Bill Landis, seconded by Lori Gindlesperger to approve the November 10, 2025 minutes.

Motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer’s report was given to the consistory prior to the meeting for review. A motion was made by Bill Landis, seconded by Allen Strasser to accept the treasurer’s report and file for audit.

Motion approved. A motion was made by Lori Gindlesperger, seconded by Pam Bush to cover the difference that is received by donations against the budgeted Benevalence Fund and what was budgeted for 2025 from the Bequest Fund or Margaret Fisher Fund if there is a shortfall. **Motion approved.** Jim Darr reported that there were several donation requests recieved. A motion was made by Julie Petro, seconded by Pam Bush to donate

\$100.00 to the Mobile Food Bank. A motion was made by Lori Gindlesperger, seconded by Pam Bush to have a special donation on Christmas Eve for the Christmas Fund to UCC which was formally known as the Veterans of the Cross. **Motion approved.** A motion was made by Amanda Custer, seconded by Julie Petro to donate \$250.00 to the Children's Aid Home. **Motion approved.**

Student Minister's report

Pastor Dave reported that he performed the regular services since the last consistory meeting. He had three confirmation classes and two home visits with communion and another home visit is scheduled for Tuesday. A wedding is scheduled for July, Grace Romesburg and Sam Marker. Pastor Dave talked with Bob Ansell and Elmer Altfather several times since the last consistory meeting. He reported that the Liability would be through the churches Liability insurance the same as having any other organization in using our church building ie: the girl scouts etc. They are planning on starting to have a meeting one day a week (Tuesday's) from 10:00am to 4:00pm, with the first one being the week before Christmas. They would not have a meeting if the church would have anything scheduled on that day. Our church has street access and no steps to get to our fellowship hall and is handicapped accessible. A motion was made by Pam Bush, seconded by Lori Gindlesperger to allow Bob Ansell and Elmer Altfather the use of our fellowship hall as a Community Senior Center. **Motion approved.**

Standing Committee Reports

- A. Hugs and Kisses – Amanda Custer reported that the 12 children and adults went to the Sky Zone Trampoline on November 23rd and all had a good time. The Children's play will be on December 14th, a dress rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th from 2:00 –

4:00pm. . A game night is being scheduled for a night in January. The next meeting for the Hugs and Kisses is on January 6th, 2026.

- B. Property – It was reported that the snow was plowed by Issac Etris.

Special Committee Reports

- A. Trinity Ladies – Jean Hart reported that the Trinity Ladies met at Eat N Park for a Christmas Luncheon with 10 ladies in attendance. A good time was had by all in attendance. They are planning to help wrap presents for the Adopt a Child program on Friday morning in our Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be the First Monday in January.
- B. Pictorial – Lori reported that a picture was missed in the pictorial and a label is being made to be added to the last page of family pictures in the pictorial. One will be given to all who have already received their pictorials and will be added to all that have not been given out. Allen Strasser said that his phone number in the pictorial has been changed to 814-999-5324.

Coordinators' Reports

- A. Acolytes – Amanda Custer reported that a new schedule is available through June 2026.
- B. Living Waters – Jean Hart reported that the Youth retreat was this past weekend. All went well.

New Business

Julie Petro reported that the adopt a family program this year received \$1,865. There will be 6 families and 13 children served. A wrapping time for the gifts has been set for December 12th.

A motion was made to adjourn this portion of the meeting by Amanda Custer, seconded by Tom Croner. **Motion approved.**

Pastor Dave called the reorganizational meeting to order. A motion was made by Lori Gindlesberger, seconded by Amanda Custer to elect Bill Landis for President of the 2026 consistory.

Motion approved.

At this time Bill Landis took over the meeting as the next President. The following nominations followed. A motion was made by Sue Coughenour, seconded by Allen Strasser to nominate Lori Gindlesperger, Vice President. **Motion approved.** A motion was made by Lori Gindlesperger, seconded by Jim Darr to nominate Sue Coughenour for Secretary. **Motion approved.** A motion was made by Sue Couchenour, seconded by Lori Gindlesperger to nominate Amy Saylor, Assistant Secretary, **Motion approved.** A motion was made by Allen Strasser, seconded by Sue Coughenour to nominate Jim Darr, Treasurer. **Motion approved.** A motion was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Allen Strasser to nominate Pam Bush, Assistant Treasurer.

Motion approved.

The following will be the consistory officers for 2026:

- President – Bill Landis
- Vice President – Lori Gindlesperger
- Secretary – Sue Coughenour
- Assistant Secretary – Amy Saylor
- Treasurer – Jim Darr
- Assistant Treasurer – Pam Bush

Discussion followed on when to have the consistory meetings due to a conflict with two members of having another meeting scheduled on the seconded Monday of the month. A motion was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Jean Hart to have the consistory meetings on the third Monday of the month. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Sue Coughenour to adjourn the reorganizational meeting.

The next meeting of the consistory will be on **Monday, January 19th at 6:30pm**. An earlier meeting time was scheduled for this meeting only to reorganize the committee liaisons to the consistory. After this meeting, the time will go back to 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted
 Sheron Engleka



September – December 2025

	Current	Maint.	Benevolence
Beg. Bal	\$204,887.32	\$35,675.33	\$100.00
Receipts	\$43,599.08	\$4,857.00	\$10,000.41
Disbursements	\$31,049.80	\$3,514.19	\$10,200.41
Ending Bal	\$217,436.60	\$37,018.14	\$0.00

Benevolence Distributions: Our Churches Wider Mission - \$1,590.36; Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$1,860; Food Pantry (Benevolence Budget) - \$466.14; The Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) - \$755; Trintiy Outreach - \$685.50; Global Ministries - Child Sponsorship - \$90.00; Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$125; Adopt-A-Family - \$1,990; Operation Christmas Child - \$2,588.41; Birthright of Somerset - \$50

Thank you for all the generous contributions throughout the year.

In addition to the individual donations received, the Church was also able to donation to: Berlin Area Ambulance Association; Berlin Brothersvalley High School & Bervalon; Berlin Volunteer Fire Co; The Humane Society of Somerset; Berlin Lions Club; Birthright of Somerset; Children's Aid Home; Meals on Wheels; Next Step Center; Salvation Army; and St. Paul's UCC - Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Memorials (thru 12/31/25)

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Music Fund in memory of Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Barbara Berkley.

A gift was given to the Memorial Music Fund in memory of Barbara Berkley.

Gifts were given to the Food Pantry in memory of Barbara Berkley.

--Jim Darr, Treasurer



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, LaVerne Coslic, 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

During the winter season many people can experience the droll domes from these dreary days. This is especially true for those who are shut-in or recovering from sickness or surgery. You, yes you, could be their bright spot in their day. Won't you consider picking up the phone and giving them a call? Connecting to the outside world they've been missing will cheer them up greatly and will probably bless you in return. Don't we all like to know that we are being thought of? And don't we all waste too much time watching TV or in other idle ways? Let's be the hands and feet (and ears!) of Jesus. Here is a list of those on our shut-in or currently recovering from recent illness or surgery:

Spiritual Goals for the New Year

Setting spiritual goals for the new year can help you deepen your connection with God, find inner peace, and live with greater purpose.

Here are some common spiritual goals and ideas:

- **Develop a Consistent Practice:** Instead of an overwhelming resolution, aim for consistent, daily practice, even if it's short.
 - **Prayer/Meditation:** Dedicate specific times each morning or evening for prayer or quiet reflection.
 - **Scripture Reading/Study:** Follow a Bible reading plan or use an app that fits your lifestyle to read or listen to God's word regularly.
- **Cultivate Gratitude and Mindfulness:** A gratitude journal is a simple yet powerful practice to intentionally reflect on life's blessings.
 - **Be Present:** Resolve to "be here now" by bringing your attention to the present moment and letting go of constant mental wandering.
 - **Embrace Silence:** Make time for silence, even if it's just 15 minutes a day, to quiet your mind and listen.
- **Strengthen Relationships and Community:** Focus on loving God and loving people, as actions that impact others are more likely to be sustained.
 - **Build Meaningful Connections:** Prioritize face-to-face interactions, join a small group or Bible study, or find a prayer partner for support and accountability.
 - **Serve Others:** Volunteer your time or find small acts of kindness to make a difference in your community, which reflects God's love and fosters spiritual growth.
- **Prioritize Rest and Well-being:**

- **Commit to Sabbath Rest:** Designate one day each week to step away from work and other obligations to reconnect with God and experience physical and spiritual restoration.
- **Improve Physical Health Spiritually:** View healthy choices (eating well, exercise) as a way to honor the body God gave you, rather than a rigid diet plan.

Ministry Opportunity

There is a unique ministry opportunity for anyone who likes to crochet or knit, or someone who can cut plastic bags. Sleeping mats made from plastic bag “yarn” (known as plan) are made and donated to the Pittsburgh Distribution Center for the Homeless. To learn more about this ministry, please contact Sue Coughenour at 814-233-5413.

Adult 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 power 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.

Trinity Ladies

Trinity Ladies meet on the first Monday of each month at Cup of Soul at 11:30

Hugs & Kisses

As usual our Hugs & Kisses have lots of upcoming plans. Here is a highlight of a few of the things to come.

Sunday, January 18th- Planning meeting during Sunday School in Jean's class regarding plans for the raised garden beds that we received a grant for to plant/harvest fresh vegetables for the food pantry.

Friday, January 23rd at 6 PM- Spaghetti Dinner and Game Night. H&K will be providing spaghetti and rolls. There is a signup sheet for salad items and desserts and so we have a count of people to prepare for. So please sign up and bring some of your favorite games to play and some friends and join us! This is for ALL ages.

Saturday, February 7th - Cocoa Crawl in Berlin. We will be participating this year at our church. We will have chocolate dipped pretzels already prepared by Trinity Ladies for those who attend, but we need H&K youth to help from **10 AM-12 PM** to help children to decorate cookies/clean up.

Save Your Valentine. On February 21, 2026, the Berlin Lions Club and Red Cross will be providing a free training class on performing CPR, giving First Aid and how to operate an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) unit. The training, which includes hands-on introduction, will be held in the Borough Building, with check-in between 8:00 and 8:30 AM. Your Berlin Lion's club has provided over 30 AED units throughout our community. Statistics show that the immediate use, by bystanders, of an AED potentially raises the survival rate from 60 to 90% compared to just 5 to 7% when waiting only for EMS. Our church has an AED in the 1st floor activities room. The session lasts 3 to 4 hours; refreshments will be provided. Space is limited, please sign up at berlinpalions6279@gmail.com

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!

One of the recipes that has been submitted by Pam and Larry Custer is for "Communion Bread". They gave us an interesting article along with it prepared by Betty Custer and the Brotherton Church Ladies which we would like to share.

"Markings on Communion Bread Add Meaning"

The symbolism of the unleavened bread used for Love Feast and Communion services in the Church of the Brethren can be greatly enhanced for the communicant if traditional markings are used in its preparation. A study shows that some Brethren congregations have lost sight of some of the significant symbolism connected with Love Feast and Communion. There is a two part procedure for marking the dough before the unleavened bread is baked. First the bread should be creased once across the middle for easy breaking. Then it should be marked with a fork for meaningful symbolism. This is a description of the procedure: It is helpful to prepare the bread so that each piece is about $\frac{3}{8} \times 1 \times 3 \frac{1}{4}$ inches. Then, each separate piece needs to have specific markings. The continuous indentation across the middle (mentioned above) should be a little more than an inch and a half from each end....The indentation makes it convenient for two people to break the bread into two equal pieces as the confession is repeated, "This bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ."

In addition to the crease between the two parts of the double piece, each half of the double piece needs its own set of marks. Each individual part should be baked with five rows of indentations made with a three-tined fork. Each of the three marks going across the width of the bread symbolizes a separate member of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The five rows are a reminder of the five wounds suffered by Jesus during his crucifixion.

A full use of symbolism elevates the partaking of the Bread above the mere ingesting of a piece of unleavened bread. It links the worshiper over the centuries with Jesus and his disciples as they met in the Upper Room for their last supper together.



Community Room Is Now Open!

Located in Trinity United Church of Christ Fellowship hall is the new "Community Room". It is now open every Tuesday morning from 10:30 – 4:00 in the afternoon. The Community Room is a place to find lots of information about your community and display information

Pictorial Update

Included in this newsletter will be labels for those who have already picked up your pictorial. The labels are to be placed on the last page of members. All additional copies of the pictorials are in the church office if you would like to purchase additional copies. If you didn't order yours, there is still time to have a beautifully done piece of history of our church for years to come.

Church World Services Disaster Kits.

Church World Services (CSW) assembles disaster kits to provide essential items to those in need, especially during natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty. These kits aim to restore Dignity and meet a critical yet often overlooked need. This is an ongoing mission as disasters have no expiration date.

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.

Worship Assistants

January 4

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King
Organ: Ann Slifco
Flowers: Michele Romesberg
Special Flowers: Anonymous
Bulletin: Anonymous
Ushers: Pam Bush, Allen Strasser
Acolyte/Lectors: Cora and Lucy Wright

January 11

Sound: Jim and Jean Ann Darr
Organ: Nancy Bittner
Flowers: Richard Croner Family
Ushers: Sue Coughenour, Sheron Engleka
Acolyte/Lector: Colton Custer

January 18

Sound: Pam Bush, Bill Landis
Organ: Jean Ann Darr
Flowers: Larry McCullen
Bulletin: Craig & Amy Stiffler
Ushers: Alissa Wright, Carrie Croner
Acolyte: Avery / Isla Hillegas
Lector: Cora / Lucy Wright

January 25

Sound: Cohen Clark, Colton Custer
Organ: Amy Clark
Flowers: Bill, Ann and Willie Slifco
Ushers: Bob Brown, Ken Miller

Acolyte: Liz Hart / Rylee Beckwith
Lector: Cohen Clark

February 1

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King
Organ: Ann Slifco
Flowers: Mike Fogle
Special Flowers: Judy McCullen
Ushers: Jean Hart, Shawn Hart
Acolyte/Lectors: Truitt & Callum Ogburn

February 8

Sound: Jim Darr, Bill Landis
Organ: Amanda Custer
Flowers: Russ & Jeanne Hillegas
Ushers: Jim Darr, Jean Ann Darr
Acolyte/Lector: Colton Custer

February 15

Sound: Pam Bush, Colton Custer
Organ: Ann Slifco
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty
Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King
Acolyte/Lector: Kaitlyn Miller

February 18 (Ash Wednesday)

Sound: Cohen Clark, Lori Gindlesperger
Organ: Amy Clark
Ushers: Leanna Coughenour, Allison Zimmerman
Acolyte/Lector: Cohen Clark

February 22

Sound: Cohen Clark, Jim Darr
Organ: Nancy Bittner
Flowers: Larry & Judy McCullen
Special Flowers: Anonymous
Bulletin: Anonymous
Ushers: Deb Boyer, Amy Saylor
Acolyte/Lector: Cohen Clark

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:

Sue Coughenour, Secretary, 814-267-4166

Jim Darr, Treasurer, 814-267-5260

Allison Zimmerman, 814-267-4324

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Carrie Croner, Lori Gindlesperger,

Jean Hart, Shawn Hart, Jeanne Hillegas,

Bill Landis President 814-521-6800, Amy Saylor, Allen Strasser

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

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

Happy New Year

GOD IS ALL YOU NEED

let spirituality
be your new years resolution
may God bless you
we wish you the happiest of years
God is all you need to succeed



God Bless the Person Reading This Bulletin