



Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

Guest Speaker – Rev. James Vander Schuur

Assisted by Vesper & Truitt Ogburn

Trinity United Church of Christ

600 Main Street

Berlin, Pennsylvania

(Please silence your cell phone)

Preludes **When Morning Gilds the Skies – Jason Payne**
Jesus Loves Me – Jason Payne

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

Lift up your eyes, people of God!

We look to the hills, we stare into the desert, we gaze at the horizon – where is our help!

Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

We will lift up our eyes and follow God's way.

***Hymn No. 44**

Children of the Heavenly Father

Call to Confession

Merciful God,

Jesus revealed the great depth of your love

in his determination to defeat evil

even when this meant giving up his own life.

Forgive us, O God,

when we allow the power of evil to flourish

because we fear that taking up one's cross

would be just too costly an exercise.

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness

People of God, hear this good news.

God's covenant with us is true.

God is faithful even when we fail.

Through the Holy Spirit,

God gives us the gift of faith and makes us righteous.

Believe in the good news

that you are set free to live as children of God.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Response Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.**

***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.**

With Joy We Now Offer Our Gifts

***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**

Offering Prayer

God of the wilderness,

We give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.

We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Trinity Bells:

**Father, Forgive Them
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

Scripture:

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.

2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

4 "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

15 And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Psalm 22: 23-31

23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!

all you sons of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you sons of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted;

and he has not hid his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

25 From thee comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!

May your hearts live for ever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

28 For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

29 Yea, to him shall all the proud of the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and he who cannot keep himself alive.

30 Posterity shall serve him;
men shall tell of the Lord to the coming generation,

31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
that he has wrought it.

Epistle:

Romans 4: 13-25

13 The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they should inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all,

17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, “So shall your descendants be.”

19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

22 That is why his faith was “reckoned to him as righteousness.”

23 But the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone,

24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him that raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,

25 who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Gospel:

Mark 8: 31- 38

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men."

34 And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

35 For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

36 For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

37 For what can a man give in return for his life?

38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

***Hymn No. 26**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Sermon – "A Life Changing Encounter"

From Acts 3: 1-10

Guest Speaker – Rev. James Vander Schuur

***Hymn No. 21**

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

***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 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty – Jason Payne

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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, Melvin Baughman Family, Donnie Baxter, Jim
Benoit, Kathy Blough, Jessica Borosky Paige Boyer,
Father Elijah Bremer,
Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman,
Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks,
Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz, John Foor,
Nancy Gindlesperger, Cheryl Glessner, Art & Marlene Gotchen,
Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris, Larry Hay, Brenda &
Larry Leister, Jim Little, Joyce Miller, Bonnie Murphy, Carl
(Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie
Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Peggy Stayrook, Betty Strasser,
William Tamblyn, Larry Tinkey,
Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge,
Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

TODAY- Second Sunday in Lent & Trinity Bells

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

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

Sunday: Third Sunday in Lent & Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 2/14/2024: (Ash Wednesday)

General \$217

Giving From 2/18/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$1765.00	\$3155.58	-\$1390.58
Ben	\$150.00	\$182.69	-\$32.69
Maint	\$145.00	\$163.46	-\$18.46
Mem			
Total	2060.00	\$3501.73	-\$1441.73

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$40.

Worship Attendance: 98

Sunday School: 20

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: Cohen Clark, (Board), Pam Bush (Camera)

Ushers: *Bob Brown, Debbie Boyer*

Acolytes: Nathan Spangler

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

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, 814-267-5260

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

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

March 3	Jay Shaffer
March 10	Dave Creamer
March 17	Jay Shaffer
March 24	Bill Deal
March 31	Jay Shaffer (Easter)

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

Sunday School

Join us next Sunday for Sunday School as we begin a 10-week study on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah. This is a video series by Ray Vander Laan that takes us into the Holy Land and brings Scripture alive as we delve into the historical and cultural lives of that day. If you think you know that story of Easter, think again! Ray has a unique way of bringing new light to stories we have long treasured. So, if you have been thinking about joining Sunday School this is a great time to begin. Each session is its own lesson, and you can begin or give it a try at any point in these sessions. Sue Coughenour will be leading the class in the fellowship hall following the morning worship service. We always have good fellowship and discussion.

Our Annual Church Picnic is in need of someone to coordinate this event. If you would like to see this tradition continue, please consider stepping up to be in charge of making the arrangements. Our Hugs and Kisses are already doing a lot for our church, so perhaps we can find a more "senior" person to handle this. Please contact Kathy Spangler if you have questions or are interested.

Holy Trinity will present a Lenten drama "The Power of Lent" beginning Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM and continuing through March 20, 2024. Maundy Thursday service will be on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Hugs & Kisses

Saturday, March 9th- "Winter Jam '24" Concert at Bryce Jordan Center in State College. Christian artists performing- open to all ages. Doors open at 5PM, concert at 6PM, \$15 ticket donation at the door (cash or check only). H&K will pay for any youth who want to attend if you RSVP to Amanda Custer by March 1st (814-483-4283). We will try to carpool once we know who is interested in attending.

Saturday, March 16th 6:00 PM- Youth Overnight "Lock-In"- Many fun activities are being planned to include, dinner, baking cookies, games, Bible Bingo, assembling shut-in baskets for Easter and a movie. So bring your sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, and church clothes for Sunday morning. We will then be waking up, eating breakfast, and attending church together. Only adults with clearances will be allowed to stay overnight with the children. Any younger children who want to come participate in activities and not stay overnight is ok too. We plan on having our homemade cookies packaged and available for the congregation after church-donations will be accepted.

Linda Gallick would like to thank folks for the cards and good wishes during her recent health issues.

Easter Flowers:

Please note that Easter is March 31, a full week earlier than last year. Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter, please find the order form for your Easter flowers. We would like to get the orders in as soon as possible in order to provide the information to the florist in a timely manner. We have a variety of choices so please include your phone number in the event the office has any questions. The forms will also be available in the church.

Birthright of Somerset Inc., Thanks the Trinity UCC for participating in the 2023 Birthright Giving Tree Drive. The many baby items donated mean so much to our clients and the “Birthright Babies” born throughout the year. Again, Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

UPMC Family Hospice, formerly In Touch Hospice, will be holding a spring Grief Support Group beginning March 20 at our Somerset location, 314 S. Kimberly Avenue (Back Entrance of Hillman). The group is free and will run for 6 weeks. Please join us to share your feelings with others, who are grieving a loved one’s death.

Keystone Family Alliance

Are you curious about what's so "messy" and "broken" about child welfare and want to know more? Do you believe sustaining foster families matters and want to find your "something" to help support them? Do you want to remember why you're working/volunteering to create safe and loving homes for vulnerable kids? Gather others that you think need to know this work and join us for the Somerset County Keystone Family Alliance Fundraiser and Awareness Dinner on Tuesday, February 27, 6:00 pm at Bakersville Banquet Hall with doors opening at 5:30. The theme this year is “Ripple Effect”. All it takes is one caring adult to create a positive ripple effect in the life of a vulnerable child. Throughout the evening you’ll hear how local churches and KFA are creating the Ripple Effect in Somerset County and beyond. Dinner is provided. The event is free; however, a financial appeal will be made to support Keystone Family Alliance. Please RSVP by Feb. 20 at www.keyfam.org/events and click on "Somerset County" Questions? Contact lydia@keyfam.org.

Thank You: On behalf of all the families you blessed with gift this Christmas, **Thank You!** Your continued generosity and support to our students and their families is so much appreciated. They are so blessed to live in such an amazing community. We wish you and your entire congregation a very Happy New Year. Danielle Hay – BBSD School Social Worker.

The Happy Cookers are very excited to show off their new stove, that arrived last Friday and was greatly needed! They would like to thank everyone that made this happen. The old stove was calculated to be 60 years old and served the church well.



Children's Aid Society Foundation:

I want to say thank you for your Red Stocking contribution. I'm always humbled by the generosity and support of our friends, friends like you. The care and concern you have for our children and services are much appreciated. Thank you for helping make the holiday season and the coming year a little brighter for our children. Know that we will put your gift to good use helping our children overcome the challenges they face in their young lives. You are helping make a difference. May you have a blessed New Year. Our Heartfelt Thank you Barb Miller.

FREE CAPE COD BRICK HOUSE to be moved from current location **620 Main St, Berlin, PA.** Mover assumes all expenses and liability.

Please direct questions and inquiries to 814-279-6456 or 814-233-5556. Leave a voicemail.

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 Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



During the
*Season
of Lent*
contemplate
your heart and
look at our
world with
Hope.

Have A Blessed Week!