



***Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024  
Guest Speaker – Bill Deal  
Assisted by: Cohen Clark***

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

***(Please silence your cell phone)***

**Preludes**    **Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing – Anna Page**  
**Open My Eyes – Paul Taylor**

## **Welcome**

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 – Dr Lisa Hancock**

Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

#### **We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

#### **We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

#### **We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

**We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen**

**\*Hymn No. 92**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

## **Silent Confession**

## **Prayers of the People**

For all the blessings of this life,

we give thanks to You, Creator God.

For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.

That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

#### **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For the leaders of various nations and cities,

that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits,

with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace.

May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

**For those who serve in harm's way,**

those who live in dangerous places,

those who live in areas of war and strife,

those who live in fear,

those who worry about employment, bills, food,

and struggle just to find dignity in life.

May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who suffer from any illness or disease—

of mind, body, or spirit.

Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to the fullness of health—

health as only you, O God, can bring.

May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who are dying, and for those who have died.

Send forth your comforting love.

Give solace to those who mourn.

Console those who grieve.

May your grace surround us

like a mantle upon our heads,

a shawl upon our shoulders,

a hand, to hold our hand.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

**Amen**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches.

If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us.

Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name

and it will be granted.

In the name of Christ,

we who seek forgiveness are forgiven!

**\*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**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John's gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

\*Hymn No. 235

At the Name of Jesus

**Scripture:**

**Acts 8: 26-40**

**26** But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert road.

**27** And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship

**28** and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

**29** And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."

**30** So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

**31** And he said, "How can I, unless some one guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

**32** Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this:

"As a sheep led to the slaughter  
or a lamb before its shearer is dumb,  
so he opens not his mouth.

**33** In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken up from the earth."

**34** And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?"

**35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus.

**36** And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being **baptized?**"

**37 38** And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

**39** And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

**40** But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesarea.

**Psalm 22: 25-31**

**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.

**1 John 4: 7-21**

**7** Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God.

**8** He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.

**9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

**10** In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.

**11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**12** No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

**13** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit.

**14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

**15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

**16** So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**17** In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world.

**18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love.

**19** We love, because he first loved us.

**20** If any one says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

**21** And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

## **Gospel:**

### **John 15: 1-8**

**1** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

**2** Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

**3** You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you.

**4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

**5** I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**6** If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.

**7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

**8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.

**Sermon  
Guest Speaker - Bill Deal**

**\*Hymn No. 284 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Response – Sung with Dismissal**

**\*Going Forth**

**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 Trumpet Tune on “He Is Risen” – David Lasky**

**+ + + + +**



**Those Remembered in prayer:**

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.



### **Shut Ins:**

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor.

### **Healing Concerns:**

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Kathy Blough,  
Mandy Bockes, Jessica Borosky, Paige Boyer,  
Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman,  
Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks,  
Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz,  
Nancy Gindlesperger, Cheryl Glessner,  
Melodi Glessner, Art & Marlene Gotchen,  
Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris, Joy Hay (Dwayne),  
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,  
Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley,  
Gerald Zorn

### **The Saints In Action**

TODAY- Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells

Next Sunday – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

**Giving From 04/21/2024**

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$1993.00	\$3155.58	-\$1162.58
<b>Ben</b>	\$251.00	\$182.69	\$68.31
<b>Maint</b>	\$311.00	\$163.46	\$147.54
<b>Mem</b>	\$0		0
<b>Total</b>	\$2555.00	\$3501.73	946.73

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$25.

**Worship Attendance: 72 + 25 Online = 97**  
**Sunday School: 23**

***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:** Carrisa Croner/ Tom Croner, Chris King

**Ushers:** Bob Brown, John Wisler

**Acolytes:** Cohen Clark

**Flowers on the altar** are given in memory of her great-grandparents and grandparents by Michele Romesberg.

**The Bulletin is** dedicated as a birthday remembrance for her grandfather, Daniel Weighley, Sr., by Craig, Amanda, Knox & Tatum Stiffler.

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

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

**Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.**

<b>May 5</b>	<b>Jay Shaffer</b>
May 12	Steve Dinning
May 19	Steve Dinning
May 26	Peter Kaltenbaugh

**Bolded dated indicate communion.**

**Sunday School**

Adult Sunday School will be beginning a new eight-part study on May 5th entitled "Christian, It's Not What You Think" by Andy Stanley. Throughout the study, Andy Stanley unpacks the qualities Jesus prescribed for his followers that made them unique. What if believers today embodied these traits and put them before all others? Would the non-believing world put aside its derisive definition of 'Christian' and instead know us by our love? Class begins after worship at 10:10 am in the Fellowship Hall and is led by Sue Coughenour. Everyone is welcome!

**Small Town & Rural Church Coalition** is presenting a zoom meeting May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.in the Church Conference office with the time being estimated at 1-1/2 hours. If you would like to attend, please contact the office so that we know how many will be attending. Refreshments will be available.

**THE ASHLAND UNIVERSITY CHOIR** will be presenting a concert in conjunction with the Berlin Brothersvalley High Band and Chorus on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Berlin Brothersvalley High School Auditorium. Come for a wonderful evening of music!!

**The Laurel Highlands Choral** will present “**A Musical Montage**” as their spring concert for 2024. The concert will be held at the Somerset Church of the Brethren, Berlin-Plank Road, on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm** and **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Selections from various musical genre such as Patriotic, The Blues, Pop, Traditional American as well as American Folksong, and Christian Praise. Allyn and Brandon Lambert will add to the concert excitement with their instrumental talents. There will be special entertainment for the intermission music. The choral is under the direction of Jam Burkett and Rick Showers. Rick Kimmel is the accompanist. Tickets are only 45.00 and will be available at the door, or from any choral member. Pleas contact Dorene Friedline at (814) 926-3610 or (814) 442-0460 for tickets or more information. Watch for details in various news releases, posters, and newspaper ads. Thank you – we look forward to seeing you there!!

### **Hugs and Kisses**

As usual, this amazing group has been busy planning! Here are a couple of upcoming ideas they have shared.

Sunday School Teachers would like to make a Lego Room out of the part of the Nursery that has carpeting. There are Parables and other Bible Lessons that can be taught using Legos. If anyone has any Legos or a Lego table or Lego storage options that they would like to donate to this project- please bring them and put them in the nursery downstairs. Thank you!

Our youth are looking for a few houses of church members who could use some help with small outdoor spring cleanup projects like picking up sticks, leaves, weeding etc. If you have someone in mind, please contact Amy Clark. (Youth parents- be on the lookout for group texts as these volunteer service projects are going to be planned as they come up and weather permitting so we need anyone who can show up on a certain date/time/address to please show up to help if you can!)

In addition to this, they have plans for a “2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cornhole tournament, VBS with the Beachdale church, Faith Night for the Johnstown Mill Rats baseball team, Berlin Community Day, and a mission/service project of produce from fields to donate to the Food Pantry! Your group is truly a blessing to so many.

**Cohen Clark needs your help!** His Eagle Scout project is to renovate the Camp Living Waters playground and is in need of funds. If you feel moved to do so, please write your check out to “Camp Living Waters” and write “Eagle Scout project” in the memo line. Then send it to:

Camp Living Waters  
300 Camp Living Waters Rd.  
Shellsburg, PA 15559, United States

Your donations are greatly appreciated! Thank You.

**When it comes to volunteering, passion and positivity are the only requirements.**

Too often, as with many organizations, it is the same people who consistently volunteer. Each and every one of you has the knowledge, skills, and abilities to offer something to our church community. We are currently working on a project behind the scenes to update our membership listing and our one call now telephone list. Those of you who have been members of Trinity UCC for many years have knowledge of things from the past...the who, what, when, and where. Once we have narrowed it down to a manageable list, we are looking for people to provide information to narrow it down to those that we might reach out to. This may involve a courtesy phone call, letter, card, or some form of communication to let these people know that they are missed. Trinity UCC of Berlin is vibrant, alive, and well despite our current situation without a Pastor. We have an amazing group of Pastors and lay people who provide an array of preaching styles and

sermons, Trinity bells continue to ring loudly, our music committee has and continues to provide a variety of worship music, Hugs & Kisses focuses on events that benefit the entire congregation, and we are blessed with a kind, caring, and loving church “Family”.

We ask that you just think about how “**YOU**” can contribute by volunteering in any area of need.

**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.

**Our Annual Church Picnic** needs someone to coordinate this event, however no one has volunteered to do this. Therefore, once again Hugs & Kisses will coordinate the event scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Grove. They will be providing a list of what needs to be done in the near future, so if you could just pick “**One**” thing that you could possibly assume the responsibility for it would be a tremendous help. We currently have a volunteer to cook the chicken on the open pit at the grove which will be a special treat!!! Please contact Kathy Spangler if you could possibly help in any way. Let’s keep the tradition going!

### **Keystone Family Alliance**

Hope for the Journey Conference

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church

1845 N Center St., Somerset PA 15501

Lunch & Snacks provided, Training Certificates available, no childcare provided.

Register: [keyfam.org/events](http://keyfam.org/events)

Questions? Contact [lydia@keyfam.org](mailto:lydia@keyfam.org)

Show Hope's Hope for the Journey Conference is a one-day resource designed to encourage and equip foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers, and the church leaders and volunteers, child welfare ministries and agencies, and professionals care for these families and their children.

**Food Bank Plastic Bags**

The food bank needs plastic bags. Sue Coughenour will bring in a container marked plastic bags for those of you who would please bring them into the church! Thanks in advance.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Berlin Community Veteran's Home Association of Berlin  
419 Meadow Street, Berlin  
Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**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.

Lord, let your  
**Mercy**  
be on us, as  
we place our  
**Trust**  
in you.

**“OUR BLESSINGS FOR A WONDERFUL  
WEEK AHEAD”**