

Trinity Trumpet

January/February 2021

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The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face
shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up
His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Happy New Year

Worship to Resume on Sunday, January 24th

Corporate Worship will resume at Trinity Church on Sunday, January 24th with service times at 8 and 9:30 a.m. The church has purchased a “fogger” to which will be used weekly that will neutralize any bacteria or virus that might be on the surfaces of the building. This means the pew pads are now back in place.

“Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing.”

Pastor's Ponderings. . .

The Gospel Lesson for Sunday, January 16th is John 1:35-51. It is the glimpse into the lives of the first disciples called to follow Jesus. In those days all kinds of people had disciples, and two of the Greek words *didaskalos*, which means teacher, and *mathetes*, which means pupil or disciple. Now it was impossible for a *didaskalos*, teacher, to be a teacher unless he had *mathetes*. It was equally impossible to be a *mathetes*, a pupil or a disciple, unless you had a teacher. It was the relationship between *mathetes* and *didaskalos*, between pupil and teacher that was the essence of discipleship. The essence of discipleship is relationship.

As you read scripture there are no shortage of illustrations of discipleship. There were disciples of Moses. There were disciples of the Pharisees. There were disciples of John the Baptist. The key was there was a relationship between the leader, the master, the *didaskalos*, the rabbi, whatever you want to call him and those whoever listening to his teaching and responding to it.

Now into this situation comes our Lord Jesus, and our Lord Jesus does something quite different from any of the rest of them. He invites people to become his disciples, but the relationship is not a relationship of philosophy, it is not a relationship of a principle, it is not a relationship of procedure, it not a relationship of protest. He makes a very, very simple invitation to people, and it is this, "Follow me." He issues a very simple command to people. He goes to them as their mending their nets if they're fishermen, or gathering their money if they're tax collections, and he says quite simply, "Follow me." And as he picks his first disciples we read in Mark's gospel a very beautiful poignant little expression that we can slip over if we're not reading it carefully. He selected his disciples that they might be *with him*. Relationship!

Discipleship is much more than being curious about Jesus, it is about being convinced that Jesus is Lord and Savior. In John 6 we discover those who are curious about Jesus. They gather by the 1000's to hear him teach. They are transfixed as they witness miracles. Yet, when Jesus says, "take up your cross and follow me," they fall away. They are curious about Jesus, but they are not prepared to go along with all that he says about himself. Why is that? It is because Jesus called them to be committed.

As Jesus looks at his small group of 12 he asks them "are you going to leave too?" He didn't beg them to stay by saying, "don't go." He asks, "are you going to leave too?"

And Peter comes up with the most superlative statement. "To whom shall we go? Where can we go? You have the words of eternal life." You are the one who is utterly unique. You are the one who alone can bring us to the Father. There is utter uniqueness about you, and we want you to know that there is no way under the sun that we can turn from you and go anywhere else because you are the One. Now that's commitment.

They commit themselves utterly to him on the basis of him being the only Savior. They commit themselves to him on the basis of him being the only Lord.

Now here's the question, as we look at our own hearts obviously there's some degree of interest in Christ or we wouldn't be in worship or read this pondering this far. The question we need to ask ourselves is: *If our Lord Jesus Christ's ministry was committed to making disciples and if the commission to his church right down through the ages to the end of the age is to go on discipling the nations, where do I personally fit in?*

What kind of disciple am I?

Am I in the great company of the curious of John 6?

Am I in the great company of the curious that looks for answers that aren't going to cost me anything?

Am I in that great company of the curious that are prepared to come along because it seems to be the thing to do around here at the present time? But I don't want any part of Jesus.

If you have worked through all of the above and come to be convinced of the message of Jesus Christ and come to the point of saying, "Lord, I will feed only on you for my salvation. I will draw only from your cross for my forgiveness, you exclusively are my Savior" then you are ready to be a disciple. This means you are Committed.

Now where do you fit? You see if we begin to think of these things we begin to grapple with the reality of discipleship.

I would suggest that the measure of discipleship is the reality of the relationship that I have with Christ. It's a relationship based on obedience. It's a relationship that is based on dependence.

Discipleship to our Lord Jesus is a relationship with his Person – my Savior and my Lord. It's an exclusive relationship. It's an exhaustive relationship. It demands myself made available to himself so that he himself can be made available to me.

When we return to worship, we'll explore further what it means to be a disciple as we hear from the Master's Men about their experience of being a disciple as they walked with Jesus.

Still Learning to be a Disciple,
+PD



Consistory Corner

At the December meeting of the Trinity Consistory we gave thanks for the service of four retiring members: Russ Hillegas, Carrie Croner, Allison Zimmerman, and Jason Clark. We welcomed Tom Calvert, Deb Boyer, Amy Clark, and Gaye Maust to the consistory as Elder and Deacons.

Officers for 2021:

President: Tom Calvert

Vice President: Larry Hay

Secretary: Jenna Ogburn

Treasurer: Jean Ann Darr

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Clark

Other Actions of the Consistory:

1. Approved Mission Gifts to: Salvation Army and Children's Aid Home in the amounts of \$250.00.
2. Pastor provided a gift of \$150.00 to the Lion's Club from his Discretionary Account.
3. Provided Gifts to Russ Hillegas and Gary Estnick in the amount of \$200.00 VISA Gift Cards for their volunteer service as Sextons to the church.
4. Approved the necessary funds to fund our OCWM Pledge for 2020 to the Penn West Conference from the surplus in the General Fund.
5. Discussed and approved the cancelation of In Person Worship following Christmas Eve worship through January 17th.

The following reports have been received by our Financial Secretary, Renee Gindlesperger and Treasurer, Carrie Croner.

October – December

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
Beg. Balance	\$42,153.00	\$3686.10	\$90
Receipts	\$43,240.49	\$3,074.21	\$7,456.11
Distributions	\$42,422.27	\$6,200.04	\$7,546.11
Ending Balance	\$42,971.22	\$560.27	\$0

Benevolence disbursements as follows: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$535; Pastor’s Discretionary Fund - \$125; Adopt A Family - \$1,485; Knotty Knotters – 345; Chemo Care Kits – 1,250; Global Missions Child Sponsorship - \$90; Food Pantry (Budget) – 98.42; Trinity Outreach (Budget) \$327.96; OCWM (Budget) – 3,199.73

Memorials (as of 1/12/21):

A gift was given to the Berlin Food Pantry in Memory of **Wayne Potter.**

A gift was given to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund in Memory of **Wayne Potter.**

A gift was given to the Knotty Knotter in Memory of **Edith Hoffman.**

A gift was given to the Chemo Care Kits in Memory of:

JB & Betty McCullar; Kathy Jo (Knotts) Brant; William R. Zimmerman; Dorothy Robb; Chester Shaulis; Catherine Rhodes; Edna Mae Chappie, Bob Wise.

A gift was given to Hugs & Kisses in Memory of **David Hart.**

A gift was given to the Organ Fund in Memory of:

Vanessa Dawson; Paul & Marcella Gallick; Wallace & Miriam Mundell, Katie Bell.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of: **Charlie Will.**

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Evelyn Hillegass.**

Ash Wednesday, February 17th

Ash Wednesday Worship with Ashes and the Preparatory Service for Holy Communion on the First Sunday in Lent will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will pray the Great Litany and Formal Confession before receiving the Ashes of Repentance.

Lenten Holy Communion – February 21st

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 and 9:30 a.m. on the First Sunday in Lent.

The Master's Men on Sundays beginning January 24th

We will be exploring the lives of The Master's Men as we explore the characteristics of the good and the bad of each of their lives to inform the decisions we need to make in our lives. Each Sunday Pastor will appear as a Disciple.

January 24 – **Peter: The Rock**

January 31 – **James: The Son of Thunder**

February 7 – **John: The Disciple Who Loved**

February 14 – **Andrew: Power of an Ordinary Life**

February 17 – **Philip: A Man with Common Sense**

February 21 – **Nathanael: From Prejudice to Purity**

February 28 – **Matthew: Your Life Can Be Significant**

Pastor Making Hospital Visits

Currently our Pastor is permitted to make pastoral visits on those not suffering from COVID-19 at all UPMC Hospitals, Windber, and Conemaugh Memorial Hospitals. He is being extremely careful and taking all necessary precautions to stay healthy. He is also making “phone” visits as able. Please do not hesitate to let him know when pastoral care is desired.

New Allen Organ Installed

Trinity Church received our new Allen Rudy Lucente Designer Organ on Friday, December 18. Special thanks to the Brick Family for painting and restoring the pipe façade, to Jason Clark for building the audio frame, and others who assisted with the installation. The Music Emporium was able to use the church elevator to remove the old organ console and deliver the new console. Pastor is now working with Mr. Lucente to voice the organ for our building and this will be completed fully by Ash Wednesday 2021.

Souper Bowl Competition

The Berlin Food Pantry has sponsored the Souper Bowl Competition raising funds and food for the support of the pantry. Currently the Pantry is most in need of funds to continue its mission to the community of Berlin and Shanksville. Trinity Church has been the leader for many years in this competition. We will receive gifts for the Competition through February 14.

Trinity Bells Resume Rehearsal on Wednesday, February 3rd

The Trinity Handbells will resume their Wednesday evening rehearsals at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We thank the bells for their beautiful music on Christmas Eve for the late service. We look forward to hearing your music ring forth during Lent and Easter.

Church Office Hours

Trinity Church Office Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pastor Dave takes Monday as his Day Off. On Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning he is at Zion Lutheran, Meyersdale.

Caregiver Sought

A member of Trinity Church is seeking a home caregiver 3 to 4 days a week for 2 to 3 hours a day. This person would do light housework, prepare a meal, and provide companionship for a “senior saint.” If you or someone you know would be interested in this type of position, please speak with Pastor Dave. He will be able to provide additional details.

Those Remembered in Prayer:

God’s guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Deb Luteri, Lois Saylor, Dirkje Stellingwerf

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Hunter Cornell, Terry Coslic, Pam Crooks, Shellby Custer, John Durst, Susan Durst, Wilma Durst, Bryan Emerick, Tony Fertitta, Linda Gallick, Janet Gindlesperger, Kathryn Grimm, Brenda Leister, Larry McCullen, Bayley Mull, Bob Murphy, Bonnie Murphy, Tyler Seifert, Dwight Smith, Morgan Twombly, Harry Watkins, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Karen Will, John Will.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. If you know someone who should be on this list, please notify the church office or Pastor Dave so that we may all lift them up in prayer. If you know if someone who should remain on the list or be taken off, please call the church office to update their status.



"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."

JOHN 11:25

We commend to our Lord
Jesus Christ the following
persons to eternal life:

Evelyn Hillegass

*July 27, 1926 – December
29, 2020*

*Given Christian Burial on
Saturday, January 2nd at
Berlin I.O.O.F. Cemetery*

Charlie Will

October 18, 1939 – January 1, 2021

Christian Funeral Service Monday, January 4, 2021

Deaner Funeral Home, Berlin

Lester L. Coslic

April 20, 1937 – January 11, 2021

Given Christian Burial on Saturday, January 16, 2021

*We pray God's peace and comfort for the Hillegass, Will, and
Coslic Families. Memorials for each one may be given to the
Trinity Church.*

*Thank,
you!*

Thank You from Knotty Knotters: Pastor Dave & Congregation, Many thanks to you and your church members for all the donations given to the Knotters. Due to the crisis our donations and fund raisers were way down this year. Your donations helped tremendously. God loves a cheerful giver and you went above and beyond. We love how this community and churches work together. Thanks again, we love you all.

Thank you from The Children's Aid Home Programs of Somerset County: To all of our friends of Trinity United Church of Christ, Thank you for thinking of us this holiday season. The children appreciate your kindness and send their best wishes.

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for the many cards and Christmas remembrances that I and Mr. Paddy have received. Your kind words and generous gifts are of great encouragement. May each of you have a blessed 2021. - +PD and Paddy

Thank you from The Salvation Army: For those, like you, who give, support, and donate to the Somerset Salvation Army Service Unit – whatever the amount or type of donation – this generosity and graciousness remains anonymous to those who receive the blessing, yet your gifts do not go unnoticed. For our God in Heaven knows what blessing you have selflessly bestowed on those less fortunate. He sees that you are doing His work here on Earth, and, for that, may you be abundantly blessed with joy, love, and happiness. Thank You & God Bless You.

Worship Assistants January/February

January 24th

Sound: Terry Luteri, David Saylor

Flowers: Bill, Ann & Willie Slifco

January 31st

Sound: Tom Croner, Russ Hillegas

Flowers: Mike Fogle

February 7th

Sound: Alan Brick, Tyler Gindlesperger

Flowers: Russ & Jeanne Hillegas

February 14th

Sound: Jim Darr, Tom Croner

Flowers: Michele Romesberg

February 17th (Ash Wednesday)

Sound: Russ Hillegas, Lori Gindlesperger

February 21st

Sound: David Saylor, Terry Luteri

Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty

February 28th

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Alan Brick

Flowers: Larry & Judy McCullen

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary
To Our Church Family Members!!!**

Did We Miss You? Let Us Know!