

# Trinity Trumpet

July/August 2020

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Trinity United Church of Christ

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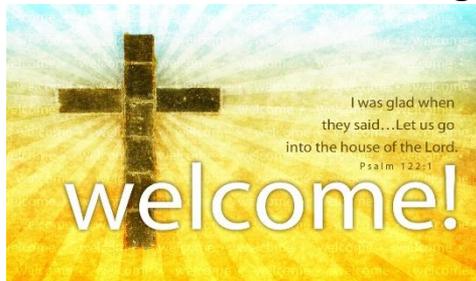
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## We Are Blessed to Be Back Together



With precautions in place for adherence to social distancing and the protection of our congregation welcome back to our house of worship!

Thank you to our wonderful team of church members sanitizing before and after each service to keep you safe.

## Pastor's Ponderings. . .

I have been pondering weddings as of late. I have some wonderful memories of weddings and I have a few "messy" memories of weddings as well. I was thinking of one couple who came to my office and said, *we want a civil ceremony. Please none of that "God Talk" stuff at our wedding. We simply want to get married and my grandma [Groom's grandmother] said, you will give us a great wedding service.*

We took time to discuss why they didn't see having God's blessing as a big deal. [To be honest I was thinking, "nope, not going to do this wedding!]. As we chatted, they didn't even think having God's blessing was a big deal. They would be far more upset if I

didn't allow photographers at their wedding. I was more upset that I would not bless the couple than over the photographer.

This summer we are going to explore the "messy lives" mentioned in Genesis. As we make this exploration, we will discover that [1] there is nothing in life so valuable as God's blessing, and [2] that when we refuse God's blessing our lives become a train wreck.

Do you want the God-blessed life? It is a gift God will freely give you, if you will turn away from all that distracts you. The blessed life is a free gift, which we receive by believing God's promise, made available to us through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Even if your life is "messy," I invite you to desire to know and love the God "who has been our shepherd all our lives to this day, who has delivered us from all harm.

## **VBS with PD and a Cast of a Few!!**



Monday evenings in July, PD and his Cast will be offering ZOOM VBS from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Signup sheets will be available in the sanctuary or by calling the church office. Craft packs will be assembled for each student registered. A time of lesson, craft, and music each week. You don't want to miss it! We can have 100 computers online with ZOOM – so invite your friends to join us.

# **Worship Themes for June, July and August**

**Summer Sermon Series: *A Messy Life – A Blessed Life***

**June 14, 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 18:1-15**

**Sermon: *The Woman Who Never Laughed***

**June 21, 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 21:8-21**

**Sermon: *The God Who Sees Me***

**June 28, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 22:1-14**

**Sermon: *Semester Exams***

**July 5, 2020 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

**Sermon: *For Your Camels Also***

**July 12, 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 25:19-34**

**Sermon: *Mighty Fine Stew***

**July 19, 2020 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 28:10-19a**

**Sermon: *Ladder Experience***

**July 26, 2020 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 29:15-28**

**Sermon: *What A Mess!***

**August 2, 2020 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Trinity Church, Berlin – Holy Communion**



**Text: Genesis 32:22-31**

**Sermon: *A Wrestling Match***

**August 9, 2020 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**

**Sermon: *If Life's a Bowl of Cherries. . .What Am I Doing in the Pits??!***

**August 16, 2020 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Genesis 45:1-15**

**Sermon: *Go Get Daddy!***

**August 23, 2020 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text: Exodus 1:8-2:10**

**Sermon: *Courage, Camille***

**August 30, 2020 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**The Rev'd Peter Helmers, Guest Preacher**

## A Word About Racism in America Today

If it is true as author Shelby Steele has stated in a recent interview that “racism is endemic to the human condition,” and I believe it is, it is so because sin itself is endemic to the human condition. If we are address endemic racism in ourselves, our community, state, and nation whether it is prejudice, bigotry, guilt, shame, and other “isms” of our time that parade themselves in private or public, we are going to need to rely on the power and work of the Holy Spirit within us. The Holy Spirit is called “The Helper” by Jesus and the Holy Spirit is also the one that will convict us of sin, righteousness and judgement. [John 16:7-8]

Racism is an endemic sin that is found in the dark corners of our lives, regardless of our ethnicity, that we find difficult to admit. I have heard on more than one occasion someone say, *there is not a racist bone in my body!*” I pause and think to myself, that is like saying, *there is not a sinful bone in my body.* We all need to pause and pray for God’s deliverance from this endemic sin that is rooted in each one of us.

With all of the tensions building in our nation with the pandemic and quarantine, the tensions of policing, protests, violence, and to throw in political games, I believe we are being invited by the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to step into the breach as the people of God.

***Thus says the Lord God, and I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none. – Ezekiel 22:30***

***And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.***  
***Isaiah 58:12***

To stand in the breach, to kneel in the place prayer is to hold all of this in our hearts before God. As we stand in the breach, may we find our hearts enlarged for all around us. We are called to share in the compassion of Jesus Christ for this world where so many people are like sheep without shepherds. May God work in us a deep feeling of love and compassion for His people.

May we expand our prayer list to include: those suffering from Covid-19; those working to care for those who are will; those who are working for a vaccine and cure; those who are burying loved ones for all kinds of reasons; for those who have lost their business and jobs from quarantine or fire, rioting and looting; for those who continue to suffer the weight of racial injustice; for police officers who risk their lives in their daily round of duty; and those for whom the killing of George Floyd makes the world feel less safe.

Let us pray for the light of Christ to come into our darkened world and to show us the next step so we might fulfill the promise of our Lord. ***You are the light of the world. . .let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is heaven.***

Amen! --- +PD



# Stewardship Report April & May

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
<b>Beg. Balance</b>	9,576.02	\$3,838.75	\$0
<b>Receipts</b>	**\$41,059.00	\$654.00	\$1,987.00
<b>Distributions</b>	\$20,364.48	\$0.00	\$395.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$30,270.54	\$4,492.75	\$1,592.00

\*\* Includes the Payroll Protection Program Loan due to COVID-19 of \$14,800

Benevolence disbursements as follows: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$270; Pastor’s Discretionary Fund - \$125

Capital Campaign (Bricks) donations as follows:

April & May - \$2,165 Total Donations: \$39,755 Goal - \$45,000

Memorials (as of 6/7/20):

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Ruth Romesberg**.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Elizabeth Custer**.

Gifts were given to the Capital Campaign, Memorial and Music Funds in Memory of **Carl Fred Bittner**.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund and Food Pantry in Memory of **Ann Darr**.

Gifts were given to the Memorial and Capital Campaign Fund in Memory of **Hazel Saylor**.

A gift was given to the Capital Campaign Fund in Memory of **Wayne Benning**.

Gifts were given to the Capital Campaign and Memorial Funds in Memory of **Alvin Lambert**.

Carrie Croner, Treasurer

## Worship Assistants July

### July 5<sup>th</sup>

Lector: Leanne Coughenour  
Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Alan Brick  
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty

### July 12<sup>th</sup>

Lector: Larry Hay  
Sound: Bob Brown  
Flowers: Tamra & Dan Forgan

### July 19<sup>th</sup>

Lector: Bobbi Robertson  
Sound: Cindy Flamm, Jim Darr  
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty, Al & Joyce Knotts

### July 26<sup>th</sup>

Lector: Gale Hay  
Sound: Russ Hillegas, Lori Gindlesperger  
Flowers: Larry & Judy McCullen

### August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lector: Allison Zimmerman  
Sound: David Saylor, Terry Luteri  
Flowers: Ed & Shirley Reed

### August 9<sup>th</sup>

Lector: LaVerne Coslic  
Sound: Alan Brick, Tyler Gindlesperger  
Flowers: Bill, Ann & Willie Slifco

## **August 16th**

Lector: Leanne Coughenour  
Sound: Tom Croner, Bob Brown  
Flowers: Reon & Sheron Engleka

## **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Lector: Larry Hay  
Sound: Jim Darr, Cindy Flamm  
Flowers: Nancy Bittner & Family

## **August 30th**

Lector: Bobbi Robertson  
Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Russ Hillegas  
Flowers: Mark & Lori Gindlesperger

# **Consistory Corner**

The Consistory met on Monday, June 8 for the first time since March due to COVID-19.

1. Noted with appreciation the congregations faithful giving to the church during our “shut-down” phase.
2. Approved providing a gift to Drew Landis for landscaping work at the parsonage. Thankful for the landscape work of Barb & Bill Landis at the parsonage.
3. Approved using funds from Bequest Interest in the amounts of:
  - a. \$415.00 to fund the Strengthen the Church Offering instead of asking for a special offering right now. The amount is what was given for this offering last year on Pentecost Sunday.
  - b. \$100.00 for sponsorship of Berlin Believer Cancer Society Endeavor.
4. Pastor provided an update on:
  - a. VBS on ZOOM
  - b. Shared Ministry with Zion Lutheran
  - c. Two Services of Worship at Trinity for the summer.
  - d. New Organ Project



**It has been a while since we have been able to share the many cards and letters of appreciation from our congregation and partnerships. Some of these messages may be a bit outdated but no less sincere.**

On behalf of the Berlin Food Pantry, we wish to thank you for your financial support during the months of January, February, and March 2020. These donations will assist in helping those who struggle to make ends meet within the greater Berlin & Shanksville School Districts. We currently have registered 134 families for the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Since July 1, 2019, the Berlin Food Pantry has served 1008 Adults, 652 Seniors, and 497 Children. Government support of food pantries continues to shrink as demand increases. It has become more apparent that the Berlin Food Pantry needs to shoulder more of the burden to help our community members in need by using local support such as donations like yours. May God continue to share these blessings.

Tina Foy and family thank everyone for your kind inquiries and prayers throughout her recent hospitalization and rehab. Special thanks go to Pastor Dave for his visits, words of encouragement and prayers. We truly appreciate the thoughtfulness of our church family.

Nancy Bittner and family thank you so much for the memorial contributions for Fred. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated at this difficult time.

Birthright of Somerset, Inc. would like to thank the congregation of the Trinity United Church of Christ for your generous gift of baby items for the Birthright Giving Tree Drive. Through your donations, we will be able to help many “Birthright Babies” throughout the coming year. Thank you! You truly have made a difference.

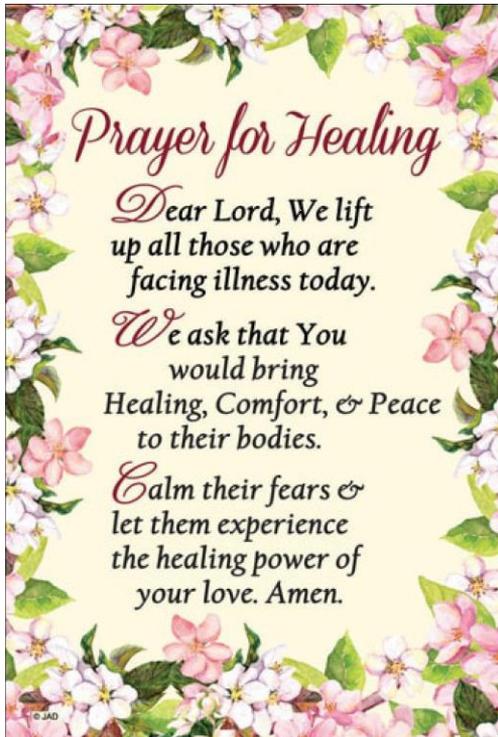
Jean Williams sends Pastor Williams and members of the Trinity UCC blessings and thank you for all that you do to support the members of the community, especially her Aunt Fae.



Beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup> our pastor began a term as Transitional Pastor for Zion Lutheran, Meyersdale. He preached there on June 14<sup>th</sup> for the first time. He will keep office hours at Zion on Monday and Wednesday afternoons most weeks. He will provide pastoral care to the small congregation as needed, lead morning worship, and engage them in mission and ministry as appropriate.

Later this summer when we have a better understanding of the virus a congregational meeting will be held to discuss that shared ministry plan. In the meantime, Pastor has the opportunity to see the benefits and challenges of such an arrangement. The children of Zion will be invited to join our ZOOM VBS in July.

## Those Remembered in Prayer:



God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces, Mark Amyot, Jeannie Vaughan Brown, Roy Bucher, LaVerne Coslic, Terry Coslic, Pam Crooks, John Durst, Susan Durst, Wilma Durst, Tony Fertitta, Mary Forespring, Linda Gallick, Theresa Gallick, Janet Gindlesperger, Bill Kibler, Patricia Kibler, Judy Krupper, Lee LaBute, Barb Landis, Brenda Leister, Tom Logsdon, Debbie Luteri, Bonnie Murphy, Sharon Nicolson, Bobbi Robertson, Lois Saylor, Bill Slifco, Dwight Smith, Paula (LaBute) Turpak, Walter & Marilyn Ullery, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Charlie Will, John Will, Bob Wise and those who are shut-in and requiring special care.