



This son  
of mine  
was dead  
and is  
**alive  
again!**

LUKE 15:24

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520  
717-569-1632

Website: [www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org) E-Mail: [secretary@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:secretary@trinityeastpete.org)

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

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## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**7:45 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

**Welcome all visitors!** We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

**Welcome to the Eucharist!** All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

*Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

**Prayer As You Enter:** *God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Why no alleluias or hymn of praise during Lent?** You may have noticed that the act of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'" ([http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No Alleluia.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm)).

**BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!**



**CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY**



**TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:**

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

**Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:**

- Share God's love with our community*
- Serve God's children*
- Bring healing and wholeness to those in need*
- Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study*

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**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

A new day has dawned, God's gift to us; the fruits of the land are ours to enjoy.

**We are a new creation in Jesus Christ; the old has passed away, the new has come.**

This is a day of forgiveness and reconciliation; celebrate God's love for the lost who are found.

**The glad cries of deliverance surround us; shouts of joy arise from our hearts.**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.

**Let us confess our sin in silent prayer.**

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

### **SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us return to God, confessing our sins in the assurance of God's abiding love.

**Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
Christ, have mercy.	<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>
Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### **COLLECT FOR THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

Let us pray the collect together.

**Nourish us, O God, with your word of life. Bring us to our senses so your purposes may be apparent to us. Take away both the uncertainty and the arrogance in our views of ourselves. We would rejoice with our sisters and brothers who are finding new life. Grant that we may hear your music and be freed to join in the dancing. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

# THE WORD OF GOD

## THE FIRST LESSON

Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## THE PSALTER

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.  
**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said,  
**“I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”** and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.**

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

**Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## SERMON

**"Transformed in the Wilderness"**

**Pastor Rankin**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# PEOPLE'S OFFERING

## OFFERING DEDICATION

Compassionate God, Jesus wept for the people because of the hardness of their hearts. Warm our hearts with your love, so that we might care deeply for the people of our nation and the world. Transform our gifts into bread for the hungry, healing for the sick, and hope for those who hunger thirst after justice, to the glory of your name. Amen.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. Because you have come to us in Jesus Christ, enduring the Cross so that we might know eternal life, it is right that we should give you thanks and praise. With angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, the church on earth and the church in heaven we praise you with your holy name:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

## AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

## RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and commune in your pew or ask the ushers to have the pastor and assistant come to you in the pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)*

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.



God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of our mission partners that we support today through the Our Gifts to Others mission offering. May our financial resources bring your love to the men, women, youth, and children who will receive these gifts. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

### ***SILENT PRAYER***

Let us pray together.

**Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **BENEDICTION**

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by **Charlene Cristy** in honor to the members and friends of Trinity U.C.C.

**The Worship Aids** are given by **Lori & Leo Daly** in honor of Marge Burger's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 31.

## Ministering Today

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
<b>Lector</b>	Jeff Hackenberger
<b>Money Counters</b>	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker
<b>Building Trustee</b>	Steve Gold
<b>Koinonia</b>	Nancy Enders
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Card</b> Wired Word Sunday School Class <b>Called to Care</b> Anne Rankin <b>Visitation</b> Dottie Schadt

<b>Attendance for Sun., March 23</b>	7:45–16	10:30–77	<b>TOTAL – 93</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>22</b>		
<b>Lenten Service</b>	<b>18</b>		

## **Happy Birthday**

Today – Tami Lehman, Josie Minder, Christian Fry

Monday – Marge Burger, Jane Owens

Wednesday – Cindy Olena

Thursday – Lori Daly, Jordyn Schuessler

Friday – Rosemary Minder

## **This Week at Trinity Church**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

<b>TODAY</b>	Noon—Welcome Luncheon
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM – Bells
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM – Lenten Service
<b>Thursday</b>	6:00 PM – Cub Scouts
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 AM – Mulching 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
<b>Sunday</b>	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM – Eucharist

## **PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE**

### **MEMBERS**

<b>Lauren LaRouche</b>	<b>Pat Seachrist</b>	<b>Dottie Schadt</b>
<b>Ron &amp; Donna Denlinger</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Carrie Call</b>	<b>John Shelsky</b>
<b>Janice Jenkins</b>	<b>Mid Gockley</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Phyllis Zimmerman</b>
<b>Rhonda Hartenstine</b>	<b>Joann Peck</b>	<b>Scott &amp; Jane Owens</b>

<b>The Lehman family</b>	<b>Mary Lou Shaab</b>	<b>Carmen &amp; Jerry Richards</b>
<b>Donna Wolf &amp; Family</b>	<b>George &amp; Ellie Latsha</b>	<b>Lainie Christensen</b>
<b>Sam Minder III</b>	<b>Betsy Bailey</b>	<b>Hank Fox</b>
<b>Rev. Bob Musser</b>	<b>Donna Zirkel</b>	<b>Danielle Huggins Holbein</b>
<b>Kathleen Sensenig Adams</b>	<b>Betty Tyndall &amp; family</b>	<b>Michael McDonough</b>
<b>Denise Huggins</b>	<b>Erika Otthofer</b>	<b>Rev. Ken &amp; Marilyn Trauger</b>
<b>Ron Becker</b>	<b>Joann &amp; Dawn Garvin</b>	<b>Rev. Jere &amp; Judy Chapman</b>
<b>Arlene Hoxworth</b>	<b>Mary Lou Sturgis</b>	<b>Rev. Bob &amp; Judie Bistline</b>
<b>Betty Fogle</b>	<b>Autumn Shenk</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Marlyn Wible</b>
<b>Andrea Paulukow</b>	<b>Himelwright Family</b>	

## **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**The Family of Pat Miller**  
**Matthew Davis** (brother-in-law of Hillary Bossert-Davis)  
**Zach Pfeiffer** (son of Denise Pfeiffer)  
**John Zittel** (brother-in-law of Denise Pfeiffer)  
**Carol Rogers** (mother of Jamy Shelly)  
**Jessica Clawser** (daughter of Betty Tyndall)  
**Bishop Nathan Baxter and family** (friends of Trinity Members)  
**Sharon Brown** (sister of Sandy DeLong)  
**Tom Riley** (friend of Bud McCarty)  
**Ryan Dennes** (son of Paula Dennes)  
**Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner** (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)  
**John Martin** (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)  
**Rev. Pam Illick** (pastor of Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg)  
**Nancy Scholl** (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
**David Haverstick** (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
**Dan Congelton** (friend of Nancy Enders)  
**Audria Husted** (granddaughter of Chuck & Sue Husted)  
**Cindy Greiman** (friend of Betty Fogle)  
**Carmen Sweigert** (friend of Rhonda Hartenstine)  
**Marianne Gibble** (friend of Trinity)  
**Marlene Harlow** (friend of Gail Kogut)  
**Chad Zirkel** (son of Donna Zirkel)  
**Ken Hoshauer** (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
**Kurt Kalbach** (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
**Mary Call** (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)  
**The Herr Family** (Former Trinity Preschool Family)  
**Chris Rice** (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)  
**David Brown** (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)  
**Harvey Sick** (friend of Judy Chapman)  
**James Malone & family**  
**Barry Richards** (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)  
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)  
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

## OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Disasters

World Peace

Church World Service & Other Faith-Based Relief Organizations

**THE APRIL PARISH POST** is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

## LENTEN SERVICES 2025 "SHADOWS OF THE CROSS"

Each Wednesday we will focus on a particular event in Christ's journey to the cross. The shadow of the cross looms over every interaction, to give spiritual insight.

**April 2 (The Shadow of False Accusations):** Dr. Randall Zachman

**April 9 (The Shadow of a Last Chance):** Rev. Dr. Joel Hummel

**April 16/Holy Wednesday Order of Healing (The Shadow of Death):** Rev. Jack Esbenshade

**April 17 (Maundy Thursday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.)** Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin

**April 18 (Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.)** Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin

**CHURCH MULCHING:** The Property Committee is looking for volunteers on **Saturday, April 5 @ 8:30 am** to mulch the church property. We will be doing this in conjunction with the Trinity Preschool families, AA Group, and the Scout troop. Look for the sign-up sheet in the hallway across from the church office!

**Holy Week Services**

Service	Time
Palm Sunday	7:45 AM - Eucharist 9:00 AM 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM
Holy Wednesday	7:00 PM
Maundy Thursday	2:00 PM 7:00 PM
Good Friday	7:00 PM
Easter	6:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM

Look for the Easter breakfast sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!

## Good Friday Breakfast at YMCA of the Roses

Join us for community gathering that brings people of faith together to mark this important holy day with an inspirational message and ecumenical worship service in keeping with the Christian traditions of the YMCA.

**When:** Friday, April 18 @ 7:30 am (Doors open at 7 am)

**Where:** Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

**Details:** The speaker will be Rev. Dr. John Gordon Smith, Lead Pastor from Lampeter United Methodist Church, along with live music, and a buffet-style breakfast. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Call the church office to reserve your ticket.

**DEVOTIONALS:** The April-June edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance. **There are also Lenten devotionals available on the table across from the church office!**

**2025 CONCERT SPONSORS:** Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.

**U.C.C. YOUTH GROUP GATHERING:** Church of the Apostles U.C.C. is organizing a "Coming Out of Hibernation Youth Group" first gathering as a pizza party and short Bible study on TODAY from 6-8 pm in Church of the Apostles' Youth Center in Rader Park.

This group is open to any youth in a U.C.C. church or any youth looking for a place to belong. This is a youth and lay led group with all adults having their clearances. Please talk with Pastor Chris or Anne Rankin for more information!!

**THE SERVICE FOR PAT MILLER** will be held on Saturday, April 19 at the Blue Collar Restaurant in Landisville (where we had our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon). The family invites you to arrive at 11:30 a.m. and we will begin shortly before noon.

**2025 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **May 4**. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **April 27, May 11 & 18**. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.



# LUNCH BUNCH

## Wednesday, April 9

**Where:** Oregon Dairy - in the Meadows Room (back of the restaurant).

**When:** April 9, 2025 at 12:30

**Sign up by date:** March 30, 2025 (sign up sheet is located outside the office).

**Additional information:** We can order off the menu or you can order off the buffet. We will get separate checks for each party.

**SPEAK TO DENISE PFEIFER FOR MORE INFORMATION!!**

**OPEN DATES FOR KOINONIA:** There are still two open dates for Koinonia during the month of March. The open dates are **April 6, & 27**. If you could volunteer for any of those dates either use the signup sheet outside the kitchen or call the church office.

**Summer Church Camp:** There are copies of the camp schedule for Nawakwa and Kirchenwald (Lutheran camps) on the table across from the church office. There is also an opportunity to go back to Hartman Center (former U.C.C. camp in Milroy, PA) July 27-August 2. The Rankin family will be participating in the Lutheran camps and the Hartman Center reunion week. Remember....church camp is for all ages!

You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. **Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with "Camp Scholarship"**. For more information about church camp, speak to Anne Rankin, Trinity's Certified Camp Liaison.

### **WANTED: Mystery Readers For The Trinity Preschool**

If you would like to come in to the preschool to be a Mystery Reader, please follow the link below, sign up for one slot, and surprise our students with your favorite children's book. If you have any questions, you can contact Amy Grube, Preschool Director, at [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A8AE23A4FBC52-54859987-mystery>

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS** are available on both floors of the church building. If you have any questions, contact Amy Grube (Trinity Preschool Director) at [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org).

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## TRINITY PRESCHOOL SUB SALE

We would like to thank you for supporting our fund raiser. When you redeem your coupon at S. Clyde Weaver you get to choose from at least seven sub varieties:

**Sweet Bologna · Ham · Italian · Turkey  
Roast Beef · Chicken Salad · Tuna Salad**

**BREAD OPTIONS:**  
white sub roll · bread · tortilla wrap

**CHOICE OF YOUR CONDIMENTS:**  
mayonnaise · mustard · creamy horseradish · olive oil · vinegar

**CHEESE OF YOUR CHOICE:**  
American · Provolone · Swiss

**YOUR CHOICES OF VEGETABLES:**  
lettuce · tomatoes · onions · marinated onions · sweet peppers  
banana peppers · hot peppers · black olives · pickles  
salt · pepper · herb mix · Parmesan

Please make checks payable to: TRINITY PRESCHOOL  
Sign-up sheet on table outside office.

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**East Petersburg - Scout Troop #33  
(Trinity is the charter organization)**

**Annual Pancake Breakfast FUNDRAISER  
Our 34th annual breakfast!**

**Located at the East Petersburg Mennonite Church  
Saturday, April 26, 2025  
7:00am – 11:00am**

- ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES!!**
- 2 SAUSAGE LINKS (\$1.00 FOR 2 EXTRA SAUSAGES)**
- COFFEE, TEA, O.J. OR WATER**

**Pre-sale tickets - \$6.00 (2 & under, free)**

**Stop by the Scout Hut (end of Pine St.) Mondays 7:00-8:00  
or, the neighborhood Ticket Blitz on Saturday 4/12/25)**

**OR**

**At the door - \$8.00 (2 & under free)  
Raffles Available**

**Donations are graciously accepted at the breakfast.**



## March 2025 Our Gifts to Others from the Board of Deacons

Each year Trinity U.C.C. considers donations titled “*Our Gifts to Others*” (OGTO). These annual gifts serve to support various missions of the U.C.C. and the wider community!

Here is a brief summary of the missions you can support:

- **Milagro House** is committed to providing education, counseling and housing for women and children experiencing homelessness here in Lancaster County.
- **Bethany Children’s Home** started its *Helping Hands* program to provide unaccompanied children and youth the opportunity to be reunited with their families in the U.S. Youth will stay an average of 10-12 days and receive basic medical care, food, clothing, shelter, and basic education while their families are located.
- **Hoffman Homes Inc.** is a nonprofit that provides comprehensive psychiatric care, treatment, support, and education to youth and young adults and their families from across Pennsylvania. We inspire hope and brighter futures.
- **Love, Inc.** is a national agency that seeks to provide a conduit through which people in need can seek out much needed support efforts by local churches. This agency is geared for those among us in chronic need and seeks to transform lives in the community.
- **Lancaster Theological Seminary** – educates men & women for here for a variety of ministry settings. Donations to LTS help to support students in need with tuition, housing, etc.
- **Phoebe Devitt** – operates nursing home facilities here in central Pennsylvania. A ministry of the U.C.C., they seek donations to help cover the cost of residents stay, regardless of their ability to pay.
- **U.C.C. Homes**– provides benevolent care, and uncompensated care for needful seniors. This organization seeks our help to meet this need. There are homes in Ephrata, Annville, Carlisle, and Harrisburg.
- **Hunger Ministries**– You can designate to support the Hempfield Power Packs, the Lancaster Food Hub, or the Trinity Community Meal ministry.



- **Local Mission**—The Board of Deacons chose The Mix in Lancaster to receive the Local Mission funds from OGTO. The Mix is a faith-based after school program for youth in Lancaster. Their mission is: To develop youth and families to be leaders of and within thriving communities.
  
- **Wider Mission**— The Board of Deacons chose the U.C.C. Disaster Ministries to receive the Wider Mission funds from OGTO. This will respond to the needs of those impacted by the recent hurricanes, wild fires, and other natural disasters.
  
- **Undesignated Gift**— If you don't have a preference on where you want to designate your gift, you can mark it as undesignated and the Board of Deacons will distribute it among the other OGTO missions.

In 2024, we received **\$25,206.77** for the Our Gifts to Others fund. Please consider these worthy agencies as you think about your possible financial offerings for **March 30, 2025**. In addition, you can donate online, designate as "Our Gift to Others", and specify which one(s) you are donating towards.

**LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES:** The Board of Deacons decided to support the work of Church World Service (CWS) through this year's Lenten Denial offering envelope. CWS and other faith-based relief organizations have been denied government funding for the important work that they do with refugees. This lack of funding has also impacted the way these organizations put an end to hunger and poverty and respond to natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world. Our offering will be sent to both the national office and the Lancaster office of CWS. You can find that envelope in your box of offering envelopes.

# SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light.



*You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—**shine!***

*— Matthew 5:14-15*

One Great  
**HOUR**  
OF SHARING



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

**One Great  
HOUR**  
OF SHARING



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

**FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12**

The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

**Psalm 32****SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable:

<sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled

to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

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