

Trinity Trumpet November December 2023

Church Office: [814] 267-3234

Trinity United Church of Christ

Website: berlinucc.org

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Seasons come and seasons go,
of rain, sunshine, rainbows, and snow.
Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall,
God made them to bring joy to all.

Winter: cold, freezing, snowy white places, warmth and family bring smiles to our faces. There are blizzards and snow piled high,
but there is joy in seeing God's blue sky.

Spring: rainy, windy, sun's all aglow, God brings the rain to help the plants grow. Yes, there are tornadoes, high waters that flood,
but there is joy in seeing God's flowers bud.

Summer: hot, sunny days of cloudless sky. Vacation time: far away or close by. Hurricanes and high winds here and there,
but there is joy in seeing how God takes care.

Fall: brisk mornings, leaves changing all around, orange, yellow, red, as they fall to the ground. More storms, rain, clouds that cover the sun,
but there is joy in seeing the good God's done.

We may not always like what the seasons bring, but we need to remember this one thing:

**"There is a season, and a time to every purpose".
God made all things beautiful, just for us.**

As we gather with family and friends, we remember the blessings that never end. The gift of life, the gift of love, sent to us from heaven above.

So let us cherish this special time and let our spirits shine. For in this season of peace and light, we are blessed with hope and might.

Just Plain Ponderings by Your Consistory President

Dear God please give us the guidance, wisdom and strength to do the best for You in this season of Thanksgiving and the birth of Christ. Amen

Have you been looking at all of the things scheduled for our church plus several other community churches. In the Oct. 15, bulletin I saw, in addition to our Church, there was Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Grace United Methodist Church, Berlin Brethren Church and the Beachdale Church.

Christmas is one of the most commercialized holidays of the year. To a Christian, it is the most important, because without it, Easter does not happen but remember that without Easter, Christmas would be just another Jewish birthday.

Easter did happen, so please help us make this Christmas one of the best. Christ is the reason for the Season. Praise God!

Tom Calvert, Your Consistory President



Consistory Corner

Trinity United Church of Christ September 11, 2023

Attendance

X Tom Calvert (President)	A Gaye Maust
X Leanna Coughenour (Asst Secr)	X Ann Slifco
A Gale Hay	X Tom Croner
A Rus Ogburn (Vice President)	A Amanda Custer (Asst Treas)
X Debbie Boyer	X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)
A Amy Clark (Treasurer)	A Julie Petro

President Tom Calvert called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 7:07pm. Tom Croner offered the prayer.

Minutes for July 2023 meeting

Minutes for the August 14, 2023, meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the September meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting was made by Leanna Coughenour, seconded by Tom Croner. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed; no corrections were made. Debbie Boyer made the motion to accept the

Treasurer's report for audit review, seconded by Ann Slifco.

Motion approved.

President and Elders Report (Spiritual Council)

Tom reported that the Pulpit is supplied through the end of the year except for December 24 and 31st.

Standing Committees Reports

- A. Christian Education – Leanna Coughenour reported that there were 34 people in attendance to Rally Day on Sunday, September 10th.
- B. Pastor and Personnel – The Budget committee (deacons) is scheduled to meet on October 3rd in the fellowship hall at 6:30 pm. The Pastor and Personnel committee should be in attendance or give the Budget committee the information for pastor and personnel information that affects the budget for 2024.
- C. Property - The committee for the A2A (Church building and program Accessibility Audit) needs to be formed and review the survey. Committee should consist of 3 members of the property committee and Amanda Custer per motion at the August meeting.
- D. Music –
 - a. It was reported that a definite date for the Combined Bell Choir concert has not been decided as of this meeting.
 - b. The Laurel Highlands Choral concerts will be December 10 and 11th.
 - c. The robes for the bell choir have been thrown away due to mildew damage. The Bell Choir

has not been wearing robes for a couple of years.

- d. Due to there being no choir at this time, A motion was made by Tom Croner and seconded by Debbie Boyer in lieu of not having the choir we will have special music at least once a month until a choir can be formed. **Motion approved.** It was suggested to see if our organist would be willing to play special music occasionally.
- E. Sound – They are looking for any youth who would be interested in learning the sound system.

Special Committees' Reports

- A. Christmas Decorations – It is planned for the week before Thanksgiving.
- B. Search committee – a meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

Coordinator's Reports

- A. Association & Conference – It was reported that they are trying to get the Somerset Association/ Conference together to talk about the Keystone Association/Conference and communicate to all the congregations.

Old Business

A motion was made by Ann Slifco, seconded by Leanna Coughenour to purchase a legal-size fireproof file cabinet to store old records to not exceed the cost of \$1700. **Motion approved.**

New Business

It was reported that Jay Shaffer is visiting members and is being reimbursed for mileage but not time spent. A motion was made by Tom Croner, seconded by Debbie Boyer to reimburse Jay Shaffer for time and mileage in accordance with the Penn West guidelines. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made to pay the contribution to the Somerset Association according to membership by Tom Croner, seconded by Debbie Boyer. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Leanna Coughenour, seconded by Ann Slifco to adjourn at 8:15pm. **Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted.
Sheron Engleka, Secretary

**Trinity United Church of Christ
October 9, 2023**

Attendance

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| X Tom Calvert (President) | X Gaye Maust |
| X Leanna Coughenour (Asst Sec) | X Ann Slifco |
| A Gale Hay | X Tom Croner |
| X Rus Ogburn (Vice President) | X Amanda Custer (Asst Treas) |
| A Debbie Boyer | X Sheron Engleka (Secretary) |
| X Amy Clark (Treasurer) | A Julie Petro |

President Tom Calvert called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 7:00pm. Tom Croner offered the prayer.

Minutes for September meeting

Minutes for the September 11, 2023, meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the October meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting was made by Tom Croner, seconded by Leanna Coughenour. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed; no corrections were made. Rus Ogburn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for audit review, seconded by Ann Slifco. **Motion approved.**

President and Elders Report (Spiritual Council)

Tom reported that Rev. Peter Kaltenbaugh will be the minister for our Christmas Eve service. December 31st is open at this time. Tom Calvert also reported that the number of people needing help at the food pantry is going up.

Standing Committees Reports

- A. **Christian Education** – It was reported that the next meeting for the Christian Education Committee is November 2, 2023, at 6:30pm
- B. **Fellowship & Funeral** – Amy Clark reported that Jean Hart has received enough money to purchase a new stove from High Point in Salisbury.
- C. **Hugs and Kisses** - It was reported that a packing party is being planned to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes.
- D. **Pastor & Personnel** – Rus Ogburn reported that the budget for the personnel is being finalized.

- E. Music – Ann Slifco reported that the Combined Bell Choir concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd with practice on December 2nd.
- F. Sound – Tom Croner reported that the only item that needs taken care of is cleaning of the filters.

Special Committees' Reports

- A. Finance – The budget was discussed for the 2024 calendar year. A motion was made by Rus Ogburn and seconded by Amy Clark, to approve the budget as presented pending discussion with personnel. **Motion approved.** The Annual meeting for the congregation is the first Sunday in December. A motion was made by Rus Ogburn and seconded by Tom Croner to have the Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023, after church. **Motion approved.** It was reported that the Nominating Committee consists of the outgoing Elder and three deacons. (Elder – Tom Calvert, Deacons – Debbie Boyer, Amy Clark, Gaye Maust)

Coordinator's Reports

- A. Association & Conference. – Tom Croner reported that there is a meeting scheduled on November 12, 2023, at the Unity Church with a one-hour presentation on the Keystone Conference.

Old Business

It was reported that the fireproof legal size filing cabinet was received and put in place.

New Business

It was reported that All Saints Sunday is scheduled for the first Sunday in November which is November 5, 2023.

The Girl Scouts have requested to have a sleep over in our church on November 3, 2023. A motion was made by Rus Ogburn and seconded by Gaye Maust to allow the Girl Scouts and their leaders to have a sleep over in our church on November 3, 2023. **Motion approved.**

It was reported that any information for the next newsletter is due in the office by October 24, 2023.

It was reported that Veteran's Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, November 12, 2023. A motion was made by Amanda Custer and seconded by Tom Croner to have a reception after this church service. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Ann Slifco and seconded by Rus Ogburn to make a donation to the Berlin Lion's Club for their annual fund drive of \$150.00. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Amy Clark and seconded by Amanda Custer to donate \$150.00 to the Human Society of Somerset County. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Tom Croner, seconded by Leanna Coughenour to adjourn at 8:30pm. **Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted,
Sheron Engleka, Secretary



August - September 2023

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
Beg. Balance	\$107,873.68	\$20,976.42	\$1,350.00
Receipts	\$19,419.00	\$1,740.00	\$3,031.00
Distributions	\$15,043.40	\$1,626.00	\$4,381.00
Ending Balance	\$112,249.28	\$21,090.42	\$0.00

Benevolence Distributions: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$215; Berlin Food Pantry (Benevolence) - \$311.36; OCWM - \$1,870.93; Adopt-A-Family \$150; Trinity Outreach - \$622.71; Knotty Knotters - \$411.00; Child Sponsorship - \$90; Operation Christmas Child - \$130.00; Keystone Family Alliance - \$580.00

Memorials (as of 10/21/2023):

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Kay Barnard**.

A gift was given to the Music Fund in Memory of **Kay Barnard**.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **S. Richard & Theta Hillegass**.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Fae Hetrick**.

--Amy
Clark, Treasurer



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 & Bonnie Baughman, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brow, Clinton Clark, Ray Coleman, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, John Durst, Reon Engleka, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen-Janicki,

Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Carl Saylor, Lois Saylor, Nancy Schrock, JoAnne Smith, Peggy Stayrook, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

One Call Now Prayer List

Please remember that we have the ability to request prayer for church members, families, friends, and anyone in need of prayer. Never underestimate the power of prayer. One small prayer can change your life or someone's life dramatically. To request prayer calls, simply contact Pam, our secretary, at 541-990-0832 or at the office during business hours. If you are not on the one call now prayer phone receipt list and would like to be, we can do that as well.

The Adult Sunday School has begun an in-depth Bible study of I & II Peter. Please feel free to join us at any point in this study as we are enjoying good discussion and gaining new insights from Scripture. The class meets each Sunday after Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and is taught by Sue Coughenour. Jean Hart makes sure we are well supplied with beverages and sweet treats. Come give Sunday School a try; you might be surprised at how much you enjoy our time together. *Please note that due to conflicts with other things happening in fellowship hall, Sunday school will not be held November 5th, November 12th, November 24th and December 3rd.*

Hugs & Kisses

Sunday, November 12th- Veteran's Day Program in church (Fife and Drum Corps playing and Knotty Knotters handing out quilts to our veterans) There will be a light meal following the service (there will be no Sunday School this day). Ham salad, chicken salad, and egg salad sandwiches and veggie trays provided by Hugs and Kisses. **There will be a sign up at the entrance for donations of loaves of bread, chips/pretzels etc, and desserts.**

Sunday, December 17th- Church Christmas Play - **any youth interested in participating, please contact Amanda Custer at 814-483-4283 or Kathy Spangler at 814-279-2336 ASAP. We need you!** Even if just a small part or to play rainbow bells. We are planning on practicing during Sunday School (10-11AM) December 3rd and 10th with a dress rehearsal Saturday December 16th- time TBD.

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries

is on a mission to make UCC churches Accessible to All (A2A) The first step in this process was completing a church building and program accessibility audit. The audit is designed to examine the attitudes and physical structures of our church for accessibility by people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities. The purpose is to make our faith community welcoming and inclusive of everyone into all aspects of the life of the church. The audit is a guide which helps to determine what work has already been done and what areas need to be improved. It was not an all-inclusive list

and some items do not apply to our setting. This topic was brought to consistory and Amanda Custer has volunteered to head up the process along with the property committee. There are goals to be completed within the next year, 3 years, and 5 years. In future newsletters and bulletins, you may be seeing educational materials regarding different disability categories and how we are addressing these in our church and our community as part of this process. If you have any specific questions, please see Amanda Custer.

All Saints' Sunday

Each year on the first Sunday of November – All Saints Sunday – we celebrate and give thanks for those who have completed their earthly journey since the previous All Saints Day and who now rest in God's glorious kingdom prepared for all who believe in Jesus Christ.

All Saints' Day is a Christian celebration that honors all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven. It is a day to remember the faithfulness and example of the saints, and to ask for their intercession and guidance. This year All Saints' will fall on November 5th. If you would like to have your "Saint" who has passed be listed, please contact the church office.

We will be joined by the Trinity Bell Choir to assist in honoring the Saints of the Church.

Veterans Sunday, November 12

A Special Tribute for our active military and all living veterans has been given to us from the Knotty Knotters, Lutheran Church, Berlin. The Knotters will make throws for all our active military and Veterans as a special ***"thank you for your service"*** to be given on Veterans Sunday.

A special thank you to all who donated to the Knotty Knotters. Your donations will go a long way to spread God's love. Thank you, Sheron Engleka

The entire congregation here at Trinity, as well as friends and family, are encouraged to join us for a very special service this Sunday. Sheron Engleka will be presenting her annual tribute video accompanied by the Berlin Fife and Drum Corps, Rick

Kimmel will be playing live on the organ, Pastor Jay Shaffer will be preaching, and a reception honoring our Veterans will follow the church service in fellowship hall.

We want to designate time to appreciate the sacrifice of those who are serving, have served, and lost their lives in wars to defend our nation.

Adopt-A-Family

We will be taking up a special collection during the month of October for our Adopt-A-Family Christmas project. We have been helping local families for over a decade by supporting them with essential gifts and food for the holiday season. Last year we helped 5 families make Christmas extra special by purchasing gifts for a total of 19 children. If you would be interested in supporting this project, please make your donations to the church marking "Adopt-A-Family" on your offering envelopes. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Petro (814) 442-5124. Thanks.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

With a deadline of November 13th, we will be having a Pizza/Packing party following on November 5th in fellowship hall following our church service. There will not be Adult Sunday School that Sunday but all of you that normally attend that class are welcome to assist with the packing! Many hands make light work. The shoeboxes will be moved to the Sanctuary following the packing and we will be praying over the boxes at the following Sunday service. Enclosed in this issue is a flyer with shoebox gift ideas or please feel free to donate postage by marking your offering envelope with "OCC".

Combined Bell Choir Concert

Berlin Brethren Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Trinity United Church of Christ will combine the powerful sounds of their bell choirs on December 3rd at 2:00 p.m. here at Trinity!!! This collaboration of the three church bell choirs is one concert you don't want to miss!

Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held December 3rd. The agenda will include minutes from our previous meeting, budget, election of new consistory members and old/new business.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2024 will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 26th and December 3rd. Any remaining boxes will be mailed. Please help us cut postage costs by picking up your boxes or making arrangements for them to be picked up.

Christmas Flower Orders

Enclosed in this issue is the order form for Christmas Poinsettias. Please note that the cutoff date is November 20th. We would encourage you to order soon to ensure the colors you would like. Please feel free to use the back of the form for any additional information and include your contact number in the event there are any questions.

It will begin to look a lot like Christmas!

Just prior to Thanksgiving!!!!!! Our decorating committee is in the process of planning and gathering the goodies to make our church its usual amazingly beautiful place of worship for the Christmas holidays. Thank you, decorators!!!!

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

November 5 Bill Deal

November 12 Jay Shaffer

November 19 Steve Dinning

November 26 James Vander Schuur

December 3 Steve Dinning

December 10 Dwayne Hay

December 17 James Vander Schuur

December 24 Peter Kaltenbaugh (9:00 am Service)

December 24 Peter Kaltenbaugh (11:00 pm Service)

December 31 David Ackerman

Bold dates indicate holy communion.

Trinity Bell Choir

Will be ringing on November 5th and at the 11:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve. Always a blessing!!!

Living Waters is having a workday on Saturday, November 4 starting at 9:00am. Youth groups are invited to spend the weekend, starting Friday night, at no charge. Lunch is provided on Saturday. Please contact Pastor Jay Shaffer if you have any questions at 814-483-0398.

Worship Assistants

November 5

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King
Flowers: Chris King
Bulletin: Craig, Amanda, Knox & Tatum Stiffler
Ushers: Deb Boyer, Tom Calvert
Acolyte: Vesper/Truitt Ogburn

November 12

Sound: Tom Croner, Pam Bush
Flowers: Barry Landis
Special Flowers & Bulletin: Larry & Judy McCullen
Ushers: Ann Slifco, Amy Clark, Nancy Bittner, Jean Ann Darr
Acolyte: Cora Wright, Colton Custer

November 19

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Gaye Maust
Flowers: Alissa Wright
Ushers: Jason Clark, Chris King
Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

November 26

Sound: Tom Croner, Pam Bush
Flowers: Michele Romesberg
Ushers: Leanna Coughenour, Larry Pritts

Acolyte: Lily Countryman

December 3

Sound: Chris King, Lori Gindlesperger

Flowers: Judy McCullen

Ushers: Rus Ogburn, Jim Walker

Acolyte: Matt and Kaitlyn Miller

December 10

Sound: Jim Darr, Russ Hillegas

Flowers: Dave, Missy, Matthew & Kaitlyn Miller

Ushers: Ken Miller, Leonard Gary

Acolyte: Maelyn Fochtman, Cohen Clark

December 17

Sound: Gaye Maust, Tyler Gindlesperger

Flowers: Carl and Karol Saylor

Ushers: Julie Petro, Tom Croner

Acolyte: Vesper and Truitt Ogburn

December 24 Morning Service

Sound: Tom Croner, Pam Bush

Flowers: Sue Coughenour

Bulletin: Craig, Amanda, Knox & Tatum Stiffler

Ushers: Amanda Custer, Sheron Engleka

Acolyte: Cora Wright, Colton Custer

December 24 Evening Service

Sound: Tom Croner, Pam Bush

Flowers: Sue Coughenour

Ushers: Allissa Wright, Bob Brown

Acolyte: Cora Wright

December 31

Sound: Tom Croner, Pam Bush

Flowers: Dale Gindlesperger

Ushers: John Wisler, Gaye Maust

Acolyte: Lily Countryman

Altar Flowers

For those of you who are unable to pick up the orders that you make for the altar flowers, please make arrangements to have them picked up for you. If you are unable to make arrangements or choose not to, please contact the church office. We will deliver them to our shut ins or Meadowview nursing home patients.

A Special Message to our Youth!

Want something to do during church services? Want to serve God and your church? Want to learn how to operate the sound and recording system in the sanctuary so we all can hear the message being shared with us during services? There is no age requirement for this offer, just a willingness to learn and to serve! If your answer is yes, just contact Tom Croner or Pam Bush to get the process started.

Thank You Trinity from Several Families

The family of Kerry Landis for the beautiful luncheon following Kerry's service.

Karol Saylor would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards, thoughts, and prayers following the passing of her twin sister, Kay Barnard.

The family of Fae Hetrick would like to thank the Trinity UCC church family for all the prayers, cards, and visits to her viewing. Also thank you the church ladies (and gentleman) for serving the delicious meal after her service. All of this was very much appreciated.

Lillian Potter would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers, and cards as she recovered from hip surgery.

Additional Thanks

Thank You from Keystone Family Alliance: On behalf of those we serve, thank you for partnering financially with Keystone Family Alliance. Your donation will make a difference in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children and the families that support them. We are grateful for your partnership!

Knotty Knotters Thank You

Once again, thank you so much for your generous contributions to the Knotty Knotters!

It looks like no one will be retiring as a knotter anytime soon with all the supplies we will be able to purchase!

+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:

Tom Calvert, President, 814-267-3771

Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Consistory Deacons:

Amy Clark, Amanda Custer, Ann Slifco

Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner

Julie Petro, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust

Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Mail: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Calvert, President of Consistory at 814-267-3771, 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.

May the holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.

God Bless You All!



Heavenly Creator,
In this season of
gratitude and abundance,
we give You thanks
for our many blessings
as we pray for all who struggle
with hunger and want.
Be with them in the dark of night,
when all hope seems lost.
Keep their faith strong
as they await relief.
And let Your goodness flow
through our hearts and hands
as we reach out to one another
in the full, true joy
of Thanksgiving in Christ.

Amen

A Thanksgiving Prayer

*Wishing you a Joyful
Christmas Season*

*Many blessings to you and your family
as we remember and rejoice
in our Savior's birth*

