

Trinity Trumpet

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March / April 2024

Trinity United Church of Christ

Vol. 30, No.2



**Goodbye Winter, with your frost-laden sighs,
Your crystal cloak that under sunlit skies
Melts away in a cascade of bright tears,
As Spring in her vibrant gown appears.**

**Hello Spring, with your palette of new life,
Erasing traces of cold, bitter strife.**

**Your blossoms paint the world in hues so bold,
A story of rebirth agelessly told.**

**Goodbye to the silence of snowy nights,
To landscapes dressed in monochrome whites.
Farewell to the chill that nipped at our nose,
As under our feet, the last snowflake goes.**

**Hello to the chorus of morning birds,
To the whispering leaves, sweet, no longer heard.
Welcome the warmth that thaws heart and land,
In the soft touch of Spring's gentle hand.**

**In this dance of seasons, each takes its bow,
Winter exits, Spring takes the stage now.
So, we say goodbye, and then we embrace,
The new life, the joy, that Spring's arrival graces.**

**For in this change, there's a magic unseen,
A waltz of time, ever fresh, evergreen.
Goodbye Winter, with your beauty so stark,
Hello Spring, and your luminous spark.**

Just Plain Ponderings by Your Consistory President

Back in the 80s, I told people that I was too old to get into the computer generation! Wow who would have thought I would have come this far? Our phone is a computer, our Organ has a computer, almost everything today has a computer in it, including our automobiles. Who would have thought? Look around at how many folks have their eyes glued to their phone. How many grandparents are having video calls with their grandchildren? On 17th, 29th and the 7th at 3:30pm I will be on a zoom meeting webinar for one hour with people like us talking about, Thriving Rural Small-Town Church's across the United States. I guess my point is we are never too old to learn! We are always looking for youth activities!!! I bet our youth would be glad to show us older folks how many ways we could spread God's word, with our

friends and neighbors! Maybe I'll just stop and let you "Ponder," for a while!

Attitude is contagious!
Tom Croner, Consistory President



Consistory Corner

**Trinity United Church of Christ
January 8, 2024**

Attendance

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| X Leanna Coughenour (Asst. Secretary) [OBJ] | X Ann Slifco |
| X Gale Hay | X Tom Croner (President) |
| X Rus Ogburn (Vice President) [OBJ] | X Amanda Custer |
| X Sheron Engleka (Secretary) | A Julie Petro |
| X Jim Darr (Treasurer) | X Pam Bush (Asst. Treasurer) |
| X Jean Hart | X Bill Landis |

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

Minutes for December meeting

Minutes for the December 11, 2023, meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the January meeting. A motion was made by Gale Hay to approve the December minutes, seconded by Amanda Custer. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

The 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 Jean Hart. **Motion approved.** Jim Darr reminded the consistory members to please help with the offering after church if you do not have another obligation. The financial review committee will be scheduling a date to review the books.

President and Elders Report (Spiritual Council)

Tom Croner reported that TUCC is in the top 10 congregations in the conference in giving and membership. We are always looking for ways to make ourselves better. Amanda Custer has agreed to represent our church with the Somerset Association.

Pulpit Supply report.

Tom reported that the pulpit is filled until Easter. We will have an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 14th. Pam Bush stated that the ashes have been ordered. Tom will schedule a minister for this service.

Standing Committees Reports

- A. **Fellowship and Funeral** – It was reported that Jean Hart will be the consistory liaison for this committee.
- B. **Hugs and Kisses** – Amanda Custer reported that the Faith and Family Event at the Tomahawk game in Johnstown is on January 27th. All are welcome to attend. Tickets need to be purchased. A game night is

scheduled for Friday, February 9th in the church social room. Bring a game and a snack. All are welcome.

- C. Property – Jim Darr reported that the heat pump was repaired today.
- D. Music – Ann Slifco reported that the bells will be playing on Sunday, February 25th and on Easter Sunday. She reported that Jeanne Hillegas is ordering two adjustable tables for the bell choir for performing in church at a cost of \$350.00 each. This money will come from the music fund.
- E. Communion – It was reported that due to the covid and flu season we will continue with the current way of having communion.
- F. Paraments. It was reported that Jean Hart will be the liaison for this committee to the consistory. Allison Zimmerman takes care of changing the paraments and does an excellent job.
- G. Sound – It was reported that Pam Bush will be the liaison for this committee to the consistory.

Special Committees' Reports

- A. Finance – A motion was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Ann Slifco to donate \$250.00 to the Children's Aid Society and \$150.00 to the Next Step Center. **Motion approved.**
- B. Endowment – It was reported that the chairman of this committee is Greg Croner. The funds are invested through Bill Rice's office. The interest income comes back to the church and can be used for general expenses.

- C. Trinity Outreach – Gale Hay will be the Consistory liaison for this Committee.
- D. Christmas Decorations – It was decided that the week of January 29th will be the tentative week to take down the Christmas decorations.

Coordinator Reports

- A. Association & Conference – A n Association event is being scheduled for spring in Ebensburg.
- B. Chancel Flowers – Pam Bush reported that the chart is done, and the schedule will be posted at the front entrance.
- C. Ushers – The usher list is out.
- D. Living Waters: - Gale Hay reported that it is closed for the winter months.

New Business

We will set up a rotation for opening prayer at the consistory meeting. Rus Ogburn volunteered to do the opening prayer at the next consistory meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Landis, seconded by Jim Darr. **Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the Consistory will be **Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sheron Engleka, Secretary

**Trinity United Church of Christ
February 12, 2024**

Attendance

X Leanna Coughenour (Asst. Secretary)	X Ann Slifco
X Gale Hay	X Tom Croner (President)
X Rus Ogburn (Vice President)	X Amanda Custer
X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)	X Julie Petro
X Jim Darr (Treasurer)	X Pam Bush (Asst. Treasurer)
X Jean Hart	X Bill Landis

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

Minutes for January meeting

Minutes for the January 8, 2024, meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the February meeting. A motion was made by Rus Ogburn to approve the January minutes, seconded by Jim Darr. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed; no corrections were made. Ann Slifco made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for audit review, seconded by Leanna Coughenour.

Motion approved.

Pulpit Supply report.

Tom Croner reported that as of today the pulpit is filled through June 2024.

Standing Committees Reports

- A. Christian Education - Leanna Coughenour reported that the Christian Education Committee met on Thursday, February 8th. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, March 31st.
- B. Hugs and Kisses - Amanda Custer reported that there were approximately 25 people in attendance to the Game night held in the church social room on Friday, February 2nd. A good time was had by all in attendance. The Hugs and Kisses are planning an event to the Winter Jam 24 concert at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College on Saturday, March 9th. Hugs and Kisses will pay for any youth who want to attend if you RSVP Amanda Custer by March 1st (814-483-4283). They will try to carpool once we now who is interested in attending. The Hugs and Kisses are planning an overnight “Lock-in” at the church on Saturday, March 16th. The Youth and leaders will be enjoying a dinner, baking cookies, games, Bible Bingo, assembling shut in baskets for Easter and a movie and breakfast before church on Sunday. The homemade cookies will be packaged and available for the congregation after church on Sunday March 17th. Donations will be accepted. Clearances are needed in the church office for all adults involved in this lock in with the children. A message will be put in the bulletin and the newsletter as to whether the congregation wants to do a church picnic this year so a date can be

coordinated with the Berlin Community Grove and a volunteer or volunteers are needed to take charge of organizing the picnic. Amanda told the consistory members that Hugs and Kisses name was put together with this phrase: **Help Us Grow Spiritually, Kids In Sunday School Every Sunday.**
HUGS & KISSES

- C. **Fellowship and Funeral** – Jean Hart reported that the new range will be installed on Friday, March 16th. She also reported that they have served 9 funeral dinners since September. The committee would like to go back to having members of the church supply the desserts for the funeral dinners. Anyone that would be willing to do so, please contact Jean Hart. A motion was made by Rus Ogburn, seconded by Gale Hay to purchase 10 more sets of Journey and Grief book sets for approximately \$220.00. **Motion approved.**
- D. **Property**- The Church bell quit working. It was found that it needed lubricated and this was taken care.
- E. **Music** – Ann Slifco reported that the Music committee met and presented to the consistory recommendations for a Allen Organ and Hammond organ policys as follows:

Allen Organ Policy

No one may play or adjust the settings on the Allen organ in the sanctuary without proper authorization from our church organist. Additionally a practice schedule must be approved by the church organist. The church office will maintain a listing of the names of authorized users as provided by the church organist.

Hammond Organ Policy (This organ is located in the Fellowship room of the church)

No one may move the Hammond organ in the fellowship hall without contacting the church organist or the music committee because damage can occur to the organ without proper handling. In addition, any person wanting to play the organ must contact the above for instructions as to properly use the organ.

A motion was made by Rus Ogburn, seconded by Gale Hay to accept the policies for the Allen and Hammond Organs. **Motion approved.**

A motion was made by Rus Ogburn, seconded by Bill Landis to accept the recommendation of the Music Committee to contact a locksmith to change the lock on the Allen Organ. **Motion approved.**

- F. **Sound** – It was reported that the outlet to the panel is close to the floor and needs to be moved due to getting bumped which causes some of the screens to get disconnected. The property committee will take care of this problem.

Special Committee Reports

- A. Finance - A motion was made by Pam Bush, seconded by Ann Slifco to put a half page ad in the Berlin Musical booklet for a cost of \$50.00.

Motion Approved.

- B. Trinity Ladies – Julie Petro reported that we received a thank you from the School’s social worker for our generous outreach in our Adopt a Family project.

Coordinator Reports

- A. Associations & Conference – Tom Croner reported that Roberto Ochoa will be our leader on April 21, 2024. He is the person that is involved in helping with the changes that are being planned on how our conferences will be organized in the future.
- B. Living Waters - Gale Hay reported that Living Waters received a donation from an estate and with that donation along with fundraisers , they are in the black. This is good news for the Church camp and its many programs.

New Business

A motion was made by Rus Ogburn, seconded by Julie Petro to approve the vacation of our church secretary, Pam Bush, for March 8th through March 31st. **Motion approved.** Jean Ann Darr will be in the office during this time.

Leanna Coughenour volunteered to do the prayer for the next meeting of the consistory.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheron Engleka, seconded by Jim Darr. **Motion approved.** The next meeting of the Consistory will be **Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted, Sheron Engleka, Secretary



December 2023

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
Beg. Balance	\$120,147.19	\$22,726.42	\$2,988.22
Receipts	\$18,413.10	\$1,439.00	\$4,323.00
Distributions	\$9,051.95	\$0	\$7,311.22
Ending Balance	\$129,508.34	\$24,165.42	\$0

Benevolence Distributions: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$1,485.50; Food Pantry (Benevolence Budget) - \$358.64; Adopt-A-Family \$275.00; Trinity Outreach (Benevolence Budget) \$717.28; Birthright of Somerset \$231.60; Non-Member Support \$265.50; Operation Christmas Child - \$1,732.62; Child Sponsor - Global Missions - \$90.00; and OCWM - \$2,155.08

Annual January - December 2023

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
Beg. Balance	\$78,543.71	\$14,882.17	\$0
Receipts	\$142,938.22	\$12,214.00	\$26,794.00
Distributions	\$91,973.59	\$2,930.75	\$26,794.00
Ending Balance	\$129,508.34	\$24,165.42	\$0

THANK YOU ALL for the generous donations throughout 2023.

During this past year, individual donations were giving to these great organizations/causes:

Food Pantry (Individual Donations received): \$4,480.50

Adopt A Family: \$3,200

Operation Christmas Child: \$2,838.40

Birthright of Somerset: \$231.60

Knotty Knotters: \$2,936.00

Keystone Family Alliance: \$580.00

The Church made donations to the following organizations:

Lions's Club; Children's Aid Home; Bervelon; Camp Living Waters; Next Step Center; St Paul UCC Dolly Parton Imagination Library; Meals on Wheels; Community VBS; Salvation Army Somerset; Berlin Community Grove; Berlin Ambulance; Child Evangelism Fellowship of Fayette & Somerset Co.; Berlin Fife & Drum Corp; Humane Society of Somerset Co.; and Berlin Fire Department
The Benevolence offering was divided between: OCWM - \$7,518.42; Trinity Outreach - \$2,502.38 and the Food Pantry - \$1,251.20

Christian Education/Sunday School - child sponsorship through
Global Ministries - \$390

Memorials (as of 2/13/2023):

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Al Knotts.

A gift was given to the Happy Cookers in Memory of Al Knotts.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Harry
Gindlesperger.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Harry
Watkins

--Jim Darr, 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 Baughman Family, Donnie Baxter, Jim
Benoit, Kathy Blough, Jessica Borosky Paige Boyer,
Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman,
Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks,
Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz, John Foor,
Nancy Gindlesperger, Cheryl Glessner, Art & Marlene Gotchen,
Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris, Larry Hay, Brenda &
Larry Leister, Jim Little, Joyce Miller, Bonnie Murphy,

Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver,
Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Peggy Stayrook, Betty Strasser,
William Tamblyn, Larry Tinkey,
Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge,
Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn



"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."

JOHN 11 : 25

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

**Harry Watkins
Clinton Clark**

***We pray God's peace and
comfort for the Families.***

Thank You

On behalf of me and my family, I'd like to thank everyone who had a part in Harry's service and luncheon. It was a beautiful tribute to him, in spite of the snowstorm! It means so much to have a church family who cares at a time like this. Jane Watkins & Family

Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School as we are studying on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah. This is a video series by Ray Vander Laan that takes us into the Holy Land and brings Scripture alive as we delve into the historical and cultural lives of that day. If you think you know that story of Easter, think again! Ray has a unique way of bringing new light to stories we have long treasured. So, if you have been thinking about joining Sunday School this is a great time to begin. Each session is its own lesson, and you can begin or give it a try at any point in these sessions. Sue Coughenour will be leading the class in the fellowship hall following the morning worship service. We always have good fellowship and discussion.

Hugs and Kisses

Saturday, March 9th- “Winter Jam ‘24” Concert at Bryce Jordan Center in State College. Christian artists performing- open to all ages. Doors open at 5PM, concert at 6PM, \$15 ticket donation at the door (cash or check only). H&K will pay for any youth who want to attend if you RSVP to Amanda Custer by March 1st (814-483-4283). We will try to carpool once we know who is interested in attending.

Saturday, March 16th 6:00 PM- Youth Overnight “Lock-In”- Many fun activities are being planned to include, dinner, baking cookies, games, Bible Bingo, assembling shut-in baskets for Easter and a movie. So bring your sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, and church clothes for Sunday morning. We will then be waking up, eating breakfast and attending church together. Only adults with clearances will be allowed to stay overnight with the children. Any younger children who want to come participate in activities and not stay overnight is ok too. We plan on having our homemade cookies packaged and available for the congregation after church- donations will be accepted.

Sunday, March 24th- Deliver Easter flowers/baskets to our shut-in members directly following church. We can hopefully carpool to visit our homebound members and bring them some Easter joy!

H&K Fun Fact:

For those of you that may not know....do you know what Hugs and Kisses actually stands for?

Help Us Grow Spiritually and Kids In Sunday School Every Single Sunday

Next H&K Meeting- Tuesday, April 2nd 6:30- youth are invited to attend and bring ideas.

Churches and the Americans with Disabilities Act

As you may have read, our church is in the process of becoming an **A2A “Accessible to All”** congregation. This means more than just having a ramp. There are many aspects of making a building more accessible, as well as education about disabilities and community resources available to help. This article includes information regarding churches and the Americans with Disabilities Act and how compliance helps churches welcome all people—including individuals with disabilities.

The biblical principle of loving your neighbor is threaded into the life of churches. Often, however, churches are failing to love those in their midst when they inadequately provide accommodation for inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides guidelines for what is necessary for organizations to provide accommodation to individuals with disabilities. While churches must comply with portions of the ADA, *churches are exempt* from the ADA as it relates to public accommodation.

While churches are exempt from complying with the public accommodation provision of the ADA, many individuals close to the disabled community encourage compliance anyway.

There are “a lot of reasons” for exempt organizations to comply with the ADA, says Jennifer Mizrahi, President and CEO of RespectAbility, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of people living with disabilities. Mizrahi says, “I’m a firm believer that there’s an equal spark of God in every human being and that every soul is equal and to discriminate against people with disabilities is to deny somebody’s soul, to deny somebody’s faith, worth, and value as they connect to God spirituality and their faith community.”

Mizrahi points out that inclusion of individuals with disabilities has a positive impact upon the church. “The second thing is that faith communities are much stronger and better when they are

welcoming and respectful of all people.” There are practical reasons for churches complying with the ADA, too. By doing so, churches have the opportunity to provide an inclusive environment for a large group of people.

“One out of every five Americans has a disability, and most people with disabilities—you can’t see their disability,” Mizrahi explains. “It is a massive loss for churches if they don’t have people with disabilities in their congregation.”

It’s not just these one-in-five Americans who are affected when churches do not comply with ADA guidelines. Churches should also consider that failing to provide accommodation to individuals with disabilities also affects the families of those individuals. More than half (52%) of Americans have a loved one with a disability. For families with a loved one with a disability, a church’s lack of inclusion of individuals with disabilities both physical and mental, could be a deterrent to attending church.

“Nobody wants to be a part of a congregation that doesn’t welcome one of their family members,” Mizrahi states. “It definitely hurts church attendance quite significantly if they don’t make an effort on inclusion of people with disabilities.”

Churches can look to the ADA to understand how they would need to provide adequate accommodations for individuals with disabilities if they wanted to comply with the ADA standards despite doing so being optional for churches. The core thing about people with disabilities is the concept of equality, inclusion, and respect, so the law is really about access that is more physical in many ways.

One step that churches can take is to address with the individual their needs relating to their disability and ask how the church can provide a more inclusive environment for that individual, Mizrahi offers.

Even though they are not required to comply with the ADA's regulations relating to public accommodation, churches should consider voluntarily complying when they have the opportunity. One way churches can do that is by keeping the ADA guidelines in mind when making changes to their facility.

Trinity United Church of Christ of Berlin has already met compliance with many of the disability checklist items such as having a ramp and elevator, handicap parking, lever type door knobs, faucets and handicap stalls in the bathrooms. Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices available, and CD's of the service available upon request. Braille signage for the elevator, handicap seating available within the sanctuary, and adequate lighting and handrails for staircases. We are working on our education and trainings regarding disabilities and accommodations with this newsletter article being part of that education.

Churches can learn more about the ADA and (non-mandated) compliance by visiting the government website ADA.gov . RespectAbility also has a webpage dedicated to helping faith communities be inclusive of people with disabilities.

(This article was modified from an article by Elizabeth Jackson, the editorial intern for Church Law & Tax.)

When Is Easter?

Each year, the Lenten season is determined by the liturgical observance of Easter Sunday. The date cannot be fixed, since Easter always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after the Spring Equinox. This year, the Paschal full moon is on Monday, March 25th and the Spring Equinox occurs on March 19th. Therefore, the date of Easter Sunday is March 31st.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season with the placing of ashes on the forehead as a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God.

Oftentimes, the ashes are from the palms used in the previous

year's Palm Sunday service. Ash Wednesday is exactly 46 days before Easter Sunday. Observed during Holy Week is Maundy Thursday, which commemorates the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples. It is the last day of Lent and Good Friday follows, leading to Easter Sunday.

Live Streaming Options

From time to time, despite our efforts to provide you with reliable streaming services, we encounter problems. We are still investigating the reason we did have our Veterans Program live stream to Facebook. There are two other options for viewing which is our actual website at berlinucc.org or YouTube under Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin PA.

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

March 3	Jay Shaffer
March 10	Dave Creamer
March 17	Jay Shaffer
March 24	Bill Deal
March 31	Jay Shaffer
April 7	Peter Kaltenbaugh
April 14	Dave Creamer
April 21	Roberto Ochoa
April 28	Bill Deal

Bold dates indicate holy communion.

The Happy Cookers are very excited to show off their new stove, that arrived last Friday and was greatly needed! They would like to thank everyone that made this happen. The old stove was calculated to be 60 years old and served the church well.



Worship Assistants

March 3

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger (Cohen Clark), Chris King
Flowers: Nancy Hittie & Family
Ushers: Debbie Boyer, Jean Hart
Acolyte: Matt & Kaitlyn Miller

March 10

Sound: Colton Custer, Russ Hillegas
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty
Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King
Acolyte: Cohen Clark

March 17

Sound: Cohen Clark, Gaye Maust
Flowers: Michelle Vaughan & Nicole Parish
Ushers: Amy & Jason Clark
Acolyte: Vesper & Truitt Ogburn

March 24 (Palm Sunday)

Sound: Jim Darr (Carrisa Croner), Tom Croner
Flowers: Leonard & Shirley Gary
Ushers: Leanna Coughenour, Bill Landis
Acolyte: Cora & Lucy Wright

March 31 (Easter)

Sound: Tom Croner, Gaye Maust
Flowers: Debbie Boyer
Ushers: Ken Miller, Leonard Gary
Acolyte: Cora Wright

April 7

Sound: Chris King, Lori Gindlesperger
Flowers: Larry & Gale Hay
Ushers: Julie Petro, Pam Bush
Acolyte: Lily Countryman

April 14

Sound: Colton Custer, Russ Hillegas
Flowers: Michele Romesberg
Ushers: Tom Croner, Amanda Custer
Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

April 21

Sound: Cohen Clark, Gaye Maust
Flowers: Robert & Lois Boburchock & Family
Ushers: Sheron Engleka, Allissa Wright
Acolyte: Matt & Kaitlyn Miller

April 28

Sound: Tom Croner (Carissa Croner) Pam Bush
Flowers: Michele Romesberg
Ushers: Bob Brown, John Wisler
Acolyte: Cohen Clark

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.

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

*Church Secretary: Pam Bush & Jean Ann Darr
Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger
Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick
Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas
Virtual Organist: Rick Kimmel*

Consistory Elders:

*Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650
Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166
Jim Darr, Treasurer, 814-267-5260*

Consistory Deacons:

*Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour,
Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740,
Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis,
Julie Petro, Ann Slifco*

Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday

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

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

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 Croner, President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.

Easter Flowers:

Please note that Easter is March 31, a full week earlier than last year. Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter, please find the order form for your Easter flowers. We would like to get the orders in as soon as possible in order to provide the information to the florist in a timely manner. We have a variety of choices so please include your phone number in the event the office has any questions. The forms will also be available in the church.

Mary Forespring

Will be celebrating her 95th birthday on March 5th! Let's celebrate this milestone with her by sending cards to:

Meadowview Nursing Center – Rm 123

1404 Hay St

Berlin PA 15530

Even if they are late, they will be much appreciated!

HAVE A HAPPY SPRING

This is the day the
Lord has made;
We will rejoice and
be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NKJV



A Spring Renewal Prayer

🌸 *Heavenly Father,*

*As the world awakens from its winter slumber, we embrace the promise of spring—a season of hope and new beginnings. The frozen earth thaws, and life stirs beneath the soil. **Budding flowers, fresh green leaves, and singing birds** remind us of Your creative power and the beauty of renewal.*

🌧️ *Lord, just as You send abundant showers to nourish the earth, You also shower us with blessings. Your grace flows like the gentle rain, feeding our souls and allowing us to grow. We've been fed by Your abundant showers of life, and for that, we are grateful.*

🌱 *May this spring renewal be a time of spiritual growth for us. Let Your light shine upon us, illuminating our hearts and minds. May we blossom like the flowers, reaching toward the sun, and may our lives bear fruit that glorifies You.*

🙏 **Amen.**

🌸 *May this prayer accompany you through the season of new life and inspire you to embrace hope and joy.* 🌱 🌸