



The Lamplighter

Trinity United Church of Christ

February – March 2017

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity United Church of Christ,



For those of you that have been in church the last few weeks, you already know the big January news in the Downer household. My first grandchild – Mark David Downer – entered this world on January 14th, almost four weeks early!! Despite the early entry however, he was a whopping 8 lbs., 5 oz., and is doing great. Terri and I now find ourselves discussing our next visit to Northern Virginia while we're in the car on the way back from the most recent trip! Our son Joe and daughter-in-law Lauren are doing a great job and I've no doubt this will be one of the most loved and cuddled little guys ever.

People have often told us that becoming grandparents would be one of the most rewarding and precious times in our lives, but like most things, we often don't really understand until it happens. Terri and I are so anxious now to see the next little bit of growth, or the next achievement. This week, he's holding his head up for the first time and his eyes are open more. And fortunately, we have the modern technology of cameras on our phones and ways to share each memory quickly, so we get to see these things in near real time (but it's still not like being there). So now that I am experiencing grand-fatherhood for myself, I'm beginning to understand what all those folks were talking about.

So many things are like that in life. We often see others celebrating a hard-fought victory, or mourning the loss of a loved one, or suffering with a life-threatening disease, and we think we understand. But until you've been in these shoes for yourself, it's very difficult to completely empathize with what folks are going through. Perhaps that is why the older I get, the less I find myself seeing things in black and white. As I experience the trials and challenges of life, the larger the gray areas seem to become. Experience provides an intimate perspective that can shake the very foundations of our faith and call into question long-held beliefs and opinions. For some things, this can be a good thing. Having to measure our beliefs through the crucible of trials and temptations can prompt us to rethink some things. This is what it means to have a faith journey.

And while I now have fewer "certainties" in life, I'm certain of one thing about this journey – it's not one we're meant to be on alone. Just as it will take many people to raise Mark and help him become a faithful Christian and contributing citizen, so it is with us on our faith journey. We need people around us to encourage us and remind us of the important things in life. People like the members of our families, our friends, and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are all important contributors on this journey.

And for little Mark, he's got great parents, hopefully some good grandparents, future teachers and preachers and coaches that will be looking out for him, encouraging him, and helping him do the right things. And as he grows bigger and stronger, he will have opportunities to gain in knowledge and wisdom, make mistakes and learn from them, take risks and overcome obstacles – kind of like us, in all the many ways we struggle to learn and grow in our spiritual lives. So take courage my friends! It's ok to allow others to help you because we need each other. God never intended for it to be any other way.

God Bless,
Pastor Dave

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LOVE DEFEATS FEAR

by Rev. David Downer

Over Christmas this past year, I picked up a book several people had recommended to me entitled, "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. It was a story about a young man that grew up in a poor and troubled home in an addiction-torn Appalachian family from rural Kentucky. Many of the stories from Vance's earlier childhood brought back some not-so-good memories of my own early years growing up in northern Vermont, although I never experienced the depth of misery he describes in his memoir. My parents were poor but determined and in time overcame many of the problems that plagued their humble and sometimes difficult beginnings.

But so many families, then and now, have not been able to break out of what I see as a multi-generational spiral into despair and poverty. We don't have to look very far here in rural Pennsylvania to see evidence of this around us. Drug and alcohol addictions, broken families, domestic violence and abuse, and even children going hungry, are all indicators that there is something profoundly wrong in our communities. We are fortunate here in Penns Valley to have good schools and teachers, and access to good medical care when we need it, but not every place is like this. And while some have prospered in recent years, too many others have seen their professions and industries change or go away entirely, and watched as their standard of living declined. These difficulties have contributed to what I believe is an erosion of family values and structures.

Over the last year, I have watched as our nation continues down a path of anger and discord over what the right steps should be regarding our future. And I've wondered, what should I be doing as a Christian, and as a spiritual leader, as I see these things happening? I've tried to encourage you through my messages on Sunday to look for the good in others, to be kind and compassionate, less critical and more encouraging, and to show God's love through our words and actions. But is there something else we as the body of Christ should be doing?

Some scriptures I read recently from 1 John 4 (NRSV) are as follows:

"¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."

As I reflected on these words, it seemed to make sense that much of our disunity as a people is driven by fear. Fear can be a horrible thing that prompts us to do things we later regret. And then I realized that this scripture also describes a response to fear – love. Love can defeat fear if we are diligent and persistent in our pursuit to become Christ-like. And it comes down to how we treat people. When we succumb to anger, and turn that anger on others, we are allowing fear to have control in our lives. And when we, professed Christians and servants of God fall into this trap, what hope is there? We must be the peacemakers.

Just recently we read the Beatitudes in church, Matthew 5:1-11. And it was verse 9 that said, "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*" We are God's children, co-heirs of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are called to be peacemakers. So let it begin today, with each of us, and let's see what we can do to turn this tide of evil that is destroying our families and our communities. This world needs us, and God is counting on us.

CHURCH RECORD

Births

Leland James Hanson was born on January 21, 2017. He is the son of Sara and Michael Hanson.

Deaths

Larry G. Riegel, on December 19, 2016.

Brenda Kay Burd Wilt, on January 13, 2017.

Marriages at Trinity UCC

Adam Thomas Beranty and Miranda Lynn Fenush, on January 18, 2017.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

...to everyone who purchased a gift from the "Zerby Gap Angel Tree;" it was heartwarming to present these gifts to the boys and they were very appreciative
...to all who purchased poinsettias for Christmas services and to Tammy Besecker for arranging them so beautifully
...to the Chancel Choir for the beautiful anthems every Sunday
...to the congregation for your offering of \$235 to the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund Offering
...to those who attended Christmas Eve service and generously donated \$784.75 to the Hoffman Homes for Youth
...to Carol Clark-Baney for leading worship service on January 22 and Angela Auman for delivering the message
...to Craig and Martha Weidensaul of Tannenbaum Farms for providing Trinity with the beautiful Christmas trees for the sanctuary and to Tammy and Steve Besecker for keeping them watered
...to Robert Henry for installing the lights on the outside manger
...to Jean Brooks, Ruth Floray, Emily Martell, Teri Statham, and all the children who arranged and presented the Christmas pageant following the Christmas Banquet
...to the youth for their donation to the Heifer Project in lieu of receiving Christmas gifts from Sunday School
...to "Santa" for making the evening magical for the children on December 4th
...to Steven Besecker and Don Matter for fixing the lights in the sanctuary wreaths
...to the Budget/Finance Committee for their preparation of the proposed budget for 2017
...to the Nominating Committee and Pastor Dave for securing a full slate of officers and committees for 2017
...to all those who accepted the nominations for the various committees and offices
...to all who have contributed Box Tops for Education for the Centre Hall Elementary School
...to all who have volunteered to read the "Call to Worship" and "Scripture" on Sundays
...to Pastor Dave, Ruth Floray, Vickie Fultz, and Teri Statham for providing the Children's Message throughout the year
...to all who have provided the Friendship Bread that is given to visitors attending worship
...to Mike Frazier for taking the pictures of the sanctuary while it was decorated for Advent
...to Steve Besecker for installing the wall heaters in the Sunday School classroom

SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Bravo and thank you to Shirley Reed! Shirley has been singing with the Chancel Choir since 1976 when she and Bob moved to Centre Hall. Since then she has dedicated her time and talented soprano voice toward performing with the Chancel Choir. We have been rewarded with her inspiration and uplifting energy during the years and the many times she sang solo.

Due to some vision difficulties, Shirley has reached a pivotal decision to give up her "loft" seat and sit in a church pew on Sunday mornings. Now it is our turn to sing her praises. Thank you, Shirley, for sharing your love of our Savior through your songs. You have enriched our lives and we have so enjoyed your singing and personality.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jessye Smith and Alexis Witherite! They have each earned their Girl Scout Gold Awards. This is the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting. They truly deserve our recognition on completing all the accomplishments that are required to receive this award. We wish them well as they continue fulfilling their goals and dreams.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 12 – Valentine Spaghetti Dinner

5:00 p.m. The Youth and the Board of Christian Education are hosting a Valentine Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4-12, and children under the age of 4 eat free. Jackie Stover and her family will be doing the cooking. Come and enjoy a "sweet" evening.

Tuesday, February 28 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper

5:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper in the Fellowship Hall. Shrove Tuesday sparks the beginning of the 40 days leading into Easter. This year Trinity UCC will be hosting a fundraiser for a youth mission trip this summer. The event will be open to the public.

PRAYER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Are you looking for a way to be involved in a ministry in our congregation? Here is your chance to do something for the Lord and your church. You don't need any special talents or a lot of time. You won't be required to teach or prepare a lesson. You need not attend special meetings. All you need to be able to do is pray – and we can all do that.

Pastor Dave is initiating a Prayer Chain Ministry. Praying members will receive information via e-mail or telephone contact regarding individuals who wish to be lifted up for prayer. You then commit to pray for those individuals as you go about your daily activities. If you wish to be part of this spiritual ministry, please contact Pastor Dave.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the *Light of Remembrance*, which hangs above the choir loft, was given to Trinity in memory of Harold (Jack) Bradford by his family? This eternal light, or sanctuary lamp as it is also called, is a symbolic reminder of the presence of Christ.

The Single Candle Holders on the altar are the Epistle Candles. One is for the humanity of Jesus, the other one is for the Divinity of Jesus. The two Candelabras each hold three candles which represent the Trinity.

The earthenware chalice, bread plate, and flagon were given in memory of Bruce Knarr by his family.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Nate Althouse	Lance Arney	Denny Bressler	Sheila Corl	T. J. Coursen
*Phyllis Crater	*Sally Dreibelbis	*Jean Dunklebarger	Gracie Eisenhower	*Trudy Furner
Ray Guthrie	*Mary Hardy	*Leroy Harper	Russell & Myrtle Harpster	*John & Carol Hayes
Rev. John Hench	*John Krebs	Diane Matter	Denny McCloskey	*Miriam Myers
Nagle Family	Malcolm Obiri	Dean Rishel	Shane Royer	Guy Rudy
Joshua Shaffer	Susie Stevens	Tina Stevens	Laurie Stover	Shannon Stover
Jenn & Abbey Tice	Brett Tyson	Rebecca Wagner	Chris Wert	*Faye Winkelblech
Duane and Wilma Yarger	Bette Yingling			

[*In personal care residence]

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER 2016 and JANUARY 2017

Date	Worship Service	Sunday School	Date	Worship Service	Sunday School
December 4	88	35	January 1	45	no Sunday School
December 11	101	31	January 8	96	36
December 18	95	27	January 15	83	33
December 24	Christmas Eve Service -- 198		January 22	57	34
December 25	28	no Sunday School	January 29	79	29



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 1: 11:00 a.m. Council of Churches meeting at St. Luke Lutheran Church
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 5: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion; "Souper Bowl of Caring" offering
No Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
- February 7: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill Haven
7:00 p.m. Youth Group Parents Meeting to discuss mission trip options
- February 8: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 12: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Valentine Spaghetti Dinner served by the Confirmation/Youth Group
- February 14: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House in Centre Hall
- February 15: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 18: 10:00 a.m. Mission Trip Organizational Meeting at Nittany Mall
- February 19: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service; AED Updates Offering
3:00 p.m. Installation Service of The Reverend Rebecca Horn at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
5:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
- February 20: 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution
7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting
- February 21-23: Pastor Dave participating in Penn Central Conference UCC Mid-Winter Pastor Convocation in Lancaster
- February 22: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 23: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Committee Meeting (**DATE CHANGE**)
- February 26: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
- February 27: 6:30 p.m. SALT Committee Meeting
- February 28: 5:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Dinner open to the public by Trinity UCC
- March 1: 11:00 a.m. Council of Churches meeting at Trinity UCC
1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Dave, "Wind in the Wilderness"
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. Becky Horn,
Combined Choirs, soup and sandwiches before the service at 6 p.m.
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- March 5: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. First Sunday in Lent Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion
5:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
- March 7: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill Haven
- March 8: 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Dave, "Wind in the Wilderness"
7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. Mark Messner,
Grace United Methodist Choir
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- March 11: Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m.
- March 12: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday in Lent Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / Youth Group Meeting
- March 14: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House in Centre Hall
- March 15: 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Dave, "Wind in the Wilderness"
7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. David Downer,
Trinity Choir
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

March 19: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Third Sunday in Lent Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
 March 20: 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution
 March 21: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Committee Meeting
 March 22: 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Dave, "Wind in the Wilderness"
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. Becky Horn,
 St. Luke Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 March 26: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship Service with One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
 5:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
 March 29: 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Dave, "Wind in the Wilderness"
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. Mark Messner,
 Grace United Methodist Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 April 2: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion and
 Hartman Center UCC Camp Offering
 5:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
 April 4: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill Haven
 April 5: 11:00 a.m. Council of Churches Committee Meeting
 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Dave, "Wind in the Wilderness"
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. David Downer,
 Combined Choirs
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 April 8: 1:00 p.m. Community Easter Egg Hunt at Centre Hall Lion's Club
 April 9: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. Confirmation/Youth Group Meeting
 April 11: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House in Centre Hall
 April 12: 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Dave, "Wind in the Wilderness"
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 April 13: 7:00 p.m. Seder Meal Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. Mark Messner
 April 14: 9:00 a.m. Northern Association Youth host breakfast in Trinity UCC Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. David Downer
 April 15: Time TBD Holy Saturday Vigil at St. Luke Lutheran Church; message by Rev. Becky Horn
 10:00 a.m. Delivery of The Pie Shoppe orders
 April 16: 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (no Sunday School)
 10:45 a.m. Easter Worship Service and Confirmation Service
 April 17: 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry Distribution
 April 19: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 April 23: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service; Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith, Penn Central Conference Minister,
 will deliver the message
 April 26: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 April 30: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Responsibility	February 2017	March 2017
Head Usher	Carol Clark-Baney	George Moellenbrock
Alternate Usher	Ron Sweitzer	Steve Riegel
Altar Flowers	Tammy Besecker	Tammy Besecker
Altar Guild	Dorothy Strickler	Michele Brown
Communion	Carol Clark-Baney (Feb. 5)	George Moellenbrock (Mar. 5)
Caregiver	Lois Martz	Marian Smith
Choir Director	Terri Downer	Terri Downer
Fellowship Coordinator	Carol Clark-Baney	Joyce Barner
S.A.L.T.	Beverly Guyer	Dorothy Strickler
Marquee Manager	Richard Delaney	Richard Delaney
Oil in Candles	Carol Clark-Baney	Dorothy Strickler
Organist	Carole Smith	Carole Smith

Date	Greeters	Greeters	Acolyte*	Call to Worship	Scripture Reader	Children's Message
February 5	Robert and Ruby Bair	Carol Clark-Baney	Ella Smith	Pastor Dave	Harrison Reish	Vickie Fultz
February 12	Linda Barner	Joyce Barner	Maddie Gooch	Rick Arnold	Carole Smith	Teri Statham
February 19	Steve, Tammy, & Tara Besecker	Lauren, Alyssa & Andrew Boob	Jackson Romig			Pastor Dave
February 26	Denny & Vickie Bressler	Russell & Jean Brooks	Rylee Arney			Ruth Floray
March 5	Carol Brown	Michele Brown	Paige Auman	Pastor Dave		Vickie Fultz
March 12	Betty Burd	Vickie Creighton	Sam Martell			Teri Statham
March 19	Richard Delaney	Ruth Floray	Katie Martell			Ruth Floray
March 26	Scott, Ruth, Zach & Sara Floray	Ken & Sara Frazier	Kylie Auman			Pastor Dave
April 2	Mike & Carol Frazier	Glenn & Vickie Fultz	Sara Floray	Pastor Dave		Vickie Fultz
April 9	Henry & Beverly Garbrick	Charles & Beverly Guyer	Owen Miller			Teri Statham
*Pastor Dave will instruct new acolytes.						

Trinity United Church of Christ
104 North Pennsylvania Avenue
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Centre Hall PA 16828
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you
the desires
of your heart.

~ Psalm 37:4



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY – MARCH 2017

February 5:	Isaiah 58:1-9a	Matthew 5:13-20
February 12:	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Matthew 5:21-37
February 19:	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	Matthew 5:38-48
February 26:	Exodus 24:12-18	Matthew 17:1-9
March 5:	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Matthew 4:1-11
March 12:	Genesis 12:1-4a	John 3:1-17
March 19:	Exodus 17:1-7	John 4:5-42
March 26:	1 Samuel 16:1-13	John 9:1-41

