



# Peace be with you

JOHN 20:19



**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

Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

**Today's Theme:** The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

**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:** *Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

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★ CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY ★

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**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**

*(Psalm 24:1-8, used at the service of dedication on April 7, 1968)*

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

**Amen.**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it;

**For he has found it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ancient doors; that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.**

The risen Christ is made known to us, in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

# **CONFESSION OF SINS**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God has raised us to new life.

Let us confess to God our sins and all that waits for resurrection in our lives.

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

## **SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us repent of our sin and claim the promise of God.

God of love, in our failure to keep your commandments we have clung to the old life of sin within us. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Free us from the power of sin, guide us by your Spirit, and help us in our weakness, that we may live as your children, restored to new life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **ADORATION AND PRAISE**

### **ACT OF PRAISE**

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us pray the collect together.

Ever-present God, who by the power of the Holy Spirit transforms us individually and as a church to be your dwelling place, confront us here in the midst of our doubts, grant us your peace while we face our fears, and increase our trust that we may embrace life in all its fullness. Speak to us now the word that we need, empowering us to be a unifying presence in our broken world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:32-35

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

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

### THE PSALTER

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
**For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

### THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

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

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 20:19-31

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

***Glory be to You, O Lord.***

### THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

***Praise be to You, O Christ.***

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

*(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

We offer to you our common stewardship, loving God. We want to be faithful in meeting one another’s needs and in serving the world in Christ’s name. The gifts we bring today will not mark an end to our giving. We sense that you are sending us, as Jesus was sent, to share light with the world. Thus, we dedicate our time and effort as a further offering. May life and faith be extended to many through us. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. 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 abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We give you thanks 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. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy 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**

We boldly proclaim: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

## **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.**

## **COMMUNICATION**

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.**

*(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 need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your 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.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, elders, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

### ***SILENT PRAYER***

Let us pray together.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **BENEDICTION**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Robert Siever** in memory of my wife, Mary Lin.

The Worship Aids are given by the **Charlene Cristy** in honor and appreciation to Committee Members who serve at Trinity.

### **Ministering Today**

<b>Pastor/Celebrant</b>	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
<b>Lector/Assistant</b>	Rev. Jack Esbenshade
<b>Money Counters</b>	Bud & Kathy McCarty, Jeff Hackenberger, John Shelsky
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Charlene Cristy, Anita Rohrer
<b>Koinonia</b>	Paula Dennes
<b>Building Trustee</b>	Hank Fox
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Card</b> Evangelism Committee <b>Called to Care</b> Betty Tyndall <b>Visitation</b> Sue Bowman

### **Happy Birthday!**

Today – Wendy Harley

Thursday – Janet Harriger

Tuesday – Lauren Eyer, Anita Rohrer

Friday – Roger Bradley

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>2:00-10</b>	<b>7:00-40</b>	<b>TOTAL - 50</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>36</b>		
<b>Easter</b>	<b>6:30-10</b>	<b>8:00-43</b>	<b>10:30-133</b>
			<b>TOTAL -186</b>

## **This Week at Trinity Church**

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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM Bells</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12 Noon – Preschool Staff Mtg.</b>
	<b>6:30 PM – Executive Meeting---Choir Room</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 PM – Finance Committee---Isenberg Hall</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:00 AM -Mercersburg Study Group---Isenberg Hall</b>
	<b>1:30 PM – Pinochle---Isenberg Hall</b>
	<b>6:00 PM – Cub Scouts</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:00 AM – Men’s Breakfast</b>
	<b>7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7:45 AM – Eucharist</b>
	<b>9:00 AM – Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00 AM - Koinonia</b>
	<b>10:30 AM – Eucharist</b>

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

### **MEMBERS**

<b>Joan Sensenig</b>	<b>Hillary Bossert-Davis</b>	<b>George &amp; Ellie Latsha</b>
<b>Nancy Enders</b>	<b>Denise Huggins</b>	<b>Hedwig Hunsicker</b>
<b>Bob &amp; Marlyn Wible</b>	<b>Don &amp; Pat Miller</b>	<b>Nancy Patton</b>
<b>Dr. Janet Harriger</b>	<b>Joann Peck</b>	<b>Harry Himelwright</b>
<b>The Lehman family</b>	<b>Mary Lou Shaab</b>	<b>Scott &amp; Jane Owens</b>
<b>Donna Wolf &amp; Family</b>	<b>Donna Zirkel</b>	<b>Carmen &amp; Jerry Richards</b>
<b>Stan &amp; Pat Seachrist</b>	<b>Sam Minder III</b>	<b>Lainie Christensen</b>
<b>Rev. Dave &amp; Mid Gockley</b>	<b>Hank Fox</b>	<b>Pastor Harry Royer</b>
<b>Rev. Bob &amp; Nancy Musser</b>	<b>Mary Witmer</b>	<b>Rev. Ken Trauger</b>
<b>Betty Tyndall and family</b>	<b>Michael McDonough</b>	<b>Kathleen Sensenig Adams</b>
<b>Rev. Bob &amp; Judie Bistline</b>	<b>Ron Becker</b>	<b>Danielle Huggins Holbein</b>
<b>Rev. Jere &amp; Judy Chapman</b>	<b>Erika Otthofer</b>	<b>Dr. Blaine Connor</b>
<b>Joann &amp; Dawn Garvin</b>	<b>Shelly Family</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Phyllis Zimmerman</b>

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**The family of Justin Shiffer (friend of Pat & Stan Seachrist)**

**The family of Elisabeth Fuhrman (friend of Paula Dennes)**

**Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)**

**Kurt McEllhemmey** (relative of Betty Tyndall)  
**Mary Ann Hess** (friend of Betty Tyndall)  
**Grace Collier** (friend of Pat & Stan Seachrist)  
**Robert Smiley** (father-in-law of Steve Gold)  
**David Brown** (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)  
**Marshawn Howse** (grandson of Dave & Noreen Trostle)  
**Elizabeth Trostle** (mother of Dave Trostle)  
**Norma Mallard** (friend of Gail Kogut)  
**Tom Chapman** (brother of Rev. Jere Chapman)  
**Annette Stork** (niece of Pat Sensenig)  
**Logan Davis** (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)  
**Brian & Liz Culp** (son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)  
**Jean Weglarz** (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)  
**Melby Bush** (friend of Joan Sensenig)  
**Harvey & Dianne Sick** (friends of Judy Chapman)  
**Aaron Flickinger** (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)  
**Tom Riley** (friend of Bud McCarty)  
**Rev. Loy Garber** (former seminarian)  
**Roland Anderson and family** (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)  
**Gina McCarty** (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)  
**The Bruno family** (friends of Blaine Connor)  
**John Martin** (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)  
**Kelly Quick** (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)  
**Marianne Gibble** (friend of Trinity)  
**James Malone & family**  
**Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner** (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)  
**Janet Owens** (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)  
**Chad Zirkel** (son of Donna Zirkel)  
**Jordan Sensenig** (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)  
**Don Pfeiffer** (husband of Denise Pfeiffer)  
**Jake & Jean Otthofer** (parents of Dan Otthofer)  
**The Martin family**  
**Robert Richards** (brother of Jerry Richards)  
**Ronald Himelwright** (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)  
**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)

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

**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.

**NEW DIRECTORY:** Look for a draft of a church directory across from the church office and make any necessary changes by next Sunday!

**MYSTERY READERS :** Trinity Preschool is looking for Spring Mystery Readers for March and April. Please contact the Preschool through the church office or Email: [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org) to schedule a time to read a book to a preschool class. It's a fun way for Trinity members to support and be part of our preschool.

**TRINITY PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER:** It is not too late to buy S. Clyde Weaver sub coupons to support the Trinity Preschool. The cost is \$8 per coupon. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. **Make checks payable to Trinity Preschool and put in the white box outside the church office.**



**Thursday, April 11  
1:30 PM**

**LOOK FOR THE SIGN-UP SHEET ACROSS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE!**

**MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST:** The men will be meeting in April 13 at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office. This is open to all men of the church!



**PRAYER SHAWL:** The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, April 16 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

**KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP:** We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

**2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **April 28, May 5, 12, & 19.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **June 2.** 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.



## **Trinity UCC**

2340 State St., East Petersburg, PA 17520  
[www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org) 717-569-1632

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**Concert – 3:00 PM**

Freewill Offering Benefits Ting Ministries



**Music For Everyone Community Chorus And Ukelele Uprising**

**2024 CONCERT SPONSORS:** Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.



2160 Lincoln Highway East #18, Lancaster, PA 17602

717-299-1113

[info@parishresourcecenter.org](mailto:info@parishresourcecenter.org)

[www.parishresourcecenter.org](http://www.parishresourcecenter.org)

## Supporting Families Through the Critical Years



Rebekah Good Charles  
Laura Demastus

April 9, 7:00–8:30pm

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO WELLNESS

April 11,  
7:00–8:30pm

CARLY KESSLER



## DE-ESCALATING CHALLENGING SITUATIONS



April 23, 7:00–8:30pm

Lori Nimmon

**GRIEF GROUPS:** A few people have already signed-up for the small group focusing on grieving our losses. Here are some tentative dates that Pastor Rankin has scheduled for the first meetings:

**April 22 (Monday)---7-8 p.m.**

**April 24 (Wednesday)--1-2 p.m.**

You can sign-up by either contacting the church office or look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. Pastor Rankin has already ordered several copies of the book. Contact him if you have any questions!

## SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

Even though it is still winter, the warmer days of the Summer Camp season are right around the corner! Camp registration is open and ready for you to start planning your summer around weeks at **Kirchenwald & Nawakwa!** There are a wide range of camps this summer for all ages — kindergarteners through high schoolers, families, adults, and older folks. **There is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hartman Center Homecoming Camp (July 28-August 3).** Look for more information in the Parish Post or on the table across from the church office. Contact Anne Rankin for more information!

As you know, Penn Central Conference pays 50% of camp registration fees. 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”.

## SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE

Kirchenwald & Nawakwa

April 14, 2:00-4:30 pm



You're invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on Sunday, April 14 anytime between 2-4:30pm. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. **As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper!**

*If you have already registered for camp, why not bring a friend or neighbor with you? Show them the camp and get the [Invite-a-Friend Discount](#) for you and your friend.*

...**More Information - <https://www.lutherancamping.org/openhouse>**



**Save the Dates:** Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars.

**Lancaster Stormers Game (formerly Barnstormers)**  
**May 31, 2024**

**Stormers vs. Charleston Dirty Birds**



The cost is \$35 (ticket, suite rental, endless buffet for 90 minutes, gratuity). Children from ages 4-18 will be covered by our Youth Ministry account and those under 4 are free. You can sign-up by contacting Carol in the church office. We will need a \$15 deposit when you sign-up!



**Friendship Fest----July 14, 2024 – 4-7 PM**

**Food Trucks, Games, Fun Activities,  
Auscultation Brass Concert (5-6 PM)**

**Proceeds from the Friendship Fest will support the Trinity Preschool!**

**Watch for more details in the bulletins and future Parish Posts!**





# Save The Dates



## VBS 2024

**Trinity UCC, 2340 State St., East Petersburg**

**[www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org)**

**717-569-1632**

**July 15 - 18 6:30-8:30 PM**

**July 19 6:30 PM Closing Program**

Caretaker And Me Class - Under Five With Caretaker  
Children's Classes - Five Through Finished Sixth Grade  
Youth Volunteers - Contact Mrs. Slechta

Through stories, crafts, games, and music, ***"Reach For The Stars"*** reminds us that things that seem impossible to us, are possible with God.

Rev. Esbenshade will facilitate the teen/adult class. Studying the book, ***"Tradition In Crisis"*** by Peter Schmiechen, the class will examine how "Now is the time to reclaim the church based on the grace and community of Christ."

Mission Project - Habitat For Humanity

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**Look for the yellow VBS Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets on the table outside office.**



## OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

THE building of this New Church for a New Age has been one of the most challenging, exciting and rewarding undertakings of my ministry. We wanted our building to speak the historic Christian Faith to the Now generation, and this was no easy task in a day of secularization. It was exciting to study the theology of the Church fathers, to understand the Liturgy in the light of that theology, and to watch our faith expressed architecturally in a building made and designed by man. It was rewarding to work with dedicated and committed Christian men and women. There was great joy in learning and working together for the glory of our Lord. And there was great satisfaction in experiencing the joy and the cost of our mutual discipleship with Christ.

We gather now for a series of Dedication Services to dedicate this building of brick, mortar, wood and steel to the honor and glory of our God. It is fitting and proper that we should take pride in this accomplishment, but this edifice is not an end in itself but only a beginning. The time has now come for us to dedicate ourselves to the Mission of the Church. We have the place to gather in the Name of the Lord and the facilities to equip the saints. Now remains the main task of fulfilling our servanthood. I pray that we might be faithful in that mission and "announce good news to the poor, proclaim release for prisoners, recover the sight of the blind, let the broken victims go free, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Luke 4:18 & 19.

GEORGE R. GEISLER, PASTOR

April 1968

# GERANIUM ORDER FORM

Person(s) ordering Geranium Plants \_\_\_\_\_

Please order: \_\_\_\_\_ Red Geranium(s) @ \$6.00 each – 6" pot      **Total amount due \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designation as you would like it to appear in the bulletin:**

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Give plant to a shut-in member \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
\_\_\_\_\_ or plant geranium at church

The last date to order is Sunday, April 28, 2024. Give order forms and payment to Dan Otthofer, or place in offering or email the church office. If paying by check, please make it payable to Trinity United Church of Christ. Thank you!



**WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO PICK-UP THE GERANIUMS ON SATURDAY, MAY 18! SPEAK WITH PASTOR CHRIS OR CAROL FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



**FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**Psalms 133**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1—2:2**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does

sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
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