

*Martha
welcomed
Jesus
into her
home*

LUKE 10:38



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

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail: 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, Summer Supply Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"-to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

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. **Activity bags for children can be found in the Narthex.** Please sign our guest book in the Narthex and receive a gift of Trinity Bread from our greeters. 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.

HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES –If you have trouble with hearing, please check with one of the ushers for a Hearing Assist Sound Receiver.

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

Prayer As You Enter: *Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

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

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

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

Come, people of faith, trusting God's steadfast love. Take refuge in the eternal presence.

We want to acknowledge God first in our lives. We seek to rely on a power beyond ourselves.

Know that Christ is the image of the invisible God, the one in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

We are the church, gathered in Christ's name. We are the body of Christ, seeking to live faithfully.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, but we fear the Spirit's power.

Let us confess our slowness to embrace the new life of the Spirit.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Baptized in Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. We confess all of this in the name of Jesus Christ. 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)

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 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

We are gathered at the feet of Jesus to learn what you expect of us, O God. We are here seeking a word of hope amid all the bad news, the senseless suffering, and the evil deceit that surround our lives. We want to become mature in faith and responsible in action so you can work through us to bring changes that are needed in our world. Hear our prayer, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

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

PSALTER

Psalms 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

Who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

In whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

Who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

THE SECOND LESSON

Colossians 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"It's Not Fair!"

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Rev. Esbenshade

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

Through our offerings, loving God, we proclaim Christ to the world. We dedicate all we are giving to preaching, teaching, and outreach that move people toward Christian maturity. We offer ourselves as advocates for the poor and needy, as seekers for justice, as stewards of hope. We turn from false securities to put our confidence in you, that the mystery of your glorious Word may be opened up among all your people. In the name of Jesus 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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal and triune God, whom we worship as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ you spoke the word that brought the world into being. By the Holy Spirit you brought order out of chaos and breathed life into your creatures. In your great love, you stood by us in spite of our disobedience, correcting us with gracious reproof, and welcoming us again into your loving embrace. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sings to the glory of your 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!

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born of Mary, he came to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. To all who believed, he gave power to become your children. In ministry among your own Jesus cared for all, forgiving their failures, healing their hurts, and nurturing their faith, giving himself in utter sacrifice for those he loved. He inspired ordinary people to Spirit-filled living and displayed in his life, death, and rising again to the power of your Spirit.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

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

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

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

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

RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Enliven and uphold our brothers and sisters in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.
Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Rhonda Hartenstine** in remembrance of Gene’s birthday.

The Worship Aids are given by **Joan Cash** in honor of the Vacation Bible School Volunteers.

Attendance for Sun., July 13	7:45–17	9:30–62	TOTAL – 79
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THANK YOU: The Board of Elders and the VBS directors thank all who made VBS this past a week wonderful opportunity to learn more about our faith!

Today we welcome the Rev. Jack Esbensshade, a member of Trinity Church, as our guest preacher. Rev. Esbensshade, a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary, was ordained on June 6, 1971. He currently chairs our Stewardship Committee, serves on our Preschool Board and Memorial Garden Task Force, and leads our adult VBS Class. Rev. Esbensshade served the following ministries:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2017 | Interim Visitation Pastor, Trinity U.C.C., East Petersburg |
| 2010-12 | Interim Associate Pastor, Hamilton Park U.C.C., Lancaster |
| 1991-10 | Administrator/Executive Director, Ephrata Manor |
| 1990-91 | Assistant Administrator, The Lebanon Valley Home, Annville |
| 1978-90 | Pastor, Church of the Redeemer U.C.C., Hershey |
| 1973-78 | Pastor, St. Luke’s U.C.C., Lancaster |
| 1971-73 | Pastor, Tri-U.C.C. Parish, Penn Northeast Conference |

Ministering Today

Preacher	Rev. Jack Esbenshade	
Lector	Diane Rice	
Money Counters	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller	
Altar Guild	Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders	
Building Trustee	Pat Sensenig	
Ministries	Card Church Staff (Carol/Pastor)	
	Called to Care Nancy Enders	Visitation Janice Jenkins

Happy Birthday!

Today – Betty Tyndall

Monday – Jill Barnes, Rev. Ken Trauger, Jason Gold

Friday – Jenna Leinbach, Stefan Woerner

Saturday – Nick Fischer

This Week at Trinity Church

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

Today 11:00 AM – Community Meal Prep

Tuesday 5:00 PM – Community Meal @ First Reformed

Saturday 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:30 AM – Worship

Rev. Dr. Jim Haun, Supply Preacher

PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Rick Mowrer	Rev. Ken Trauger	Donna Zirkel
Ron & Donna Denlinger	Rev. Dr. Carrie Call	John Shelsky
Janice Jenkins	Marge Burger	Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman
Rhonda Hartenstine	Joann Peck	Scott & Jane Owens
The Lehman family	Mary Lou Shaab	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Donna Wolf & Family	George & Ellie Latsha	Himelwright Family
Sam Minder III	Betsy Bailey	Hank Fox
Rev. Bob Musser	Pat Seachrist	Danielle Huggins Holbein
Betty Fogle	Betty Tyndall & family	Michael McDonough
Denise Huggins	Erika Otthofer	Don Miller
Ron Becker	Joann & Dawn Garvin	Bob & Marlyn Wible
Arlene Hoxworth	Mary Lou Sturgis	Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline
Pastor Harry Royer	Mid Gockley	Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman
Kathleen Sensenig Adams	Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen	

Lexi Weeber & Ryan Bair on the birth of Logan Joseph Bair

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Family of Naomi Nagy (former member of St. Andrew/daughter-in-law of Rev. Paul Nagy, Trinity's pastor from 1940-43)

Family of Jeff Sweigart (friend of Dr. Janet Harriger)

Betty Lenker (sister-in-law of Jack & Charlene Cristy)

Janet Latsha (sister-in-law of George & Ellie Latsha)

Claudia Esbenshade (cousin of George DeLong, Jodi Keller, & Denise Gobrecht)

Sherry Kline (former substitute organist at Trinity)

Dennis Amour (father of John & Kayla Brennan's friend)

Lynnette Fritz (cousin of Betty Tyndall)

Deb Wealand (sister-in-law of Denise Pfeiffer)

Andrew Hicks (husband of Katie Weeber)

Marjorie Derck (sister of George Latsha)

Matthew Davis (brother-in-law of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

Zach Pfeiffer (son of Denise Pfeiffer)

John Zittel (brother-in-law of Denise Pfeiffer)

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)

Dan Congelton (friend of Nancy Enders)

Audria Husted (granddaughter of Chuck & Sue Husted)

Cindy Greiman (friend of Betty Fogle)

Carmen Sweigert (friend of Rhonda Hartenstine)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)

Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)

The Herr Family (Former Trinity Preschool Family)

Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)

David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)

Harvey Sick (friend of Judy Chapman)

James Malone & family

Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)

Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)

Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Disasters

World Peace

Church World Service & Other Faith-Based Relief Organizations

THE JULY/AUGUST PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

DEVOTIONALS: The July-September edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY on Tuesday, July 22 at First Reformed U.C.C. (40 E. Orange St. in Lancaster City).

Three ways you can help:

1. Sign up sheets to donate dessert and other items for the meal on table outside office.
2. Help cook and assemble 12 cheeseburger casseroles in the church kitchen on Sunday July 20 starting at 11 am.
3. On Tuesday July 22 starting at 3:00 help se-tup and serve the meal at First Reformed.

Sign up sheets on table outside office.

Questions? Please contact Kathy Cooley at 717-371-0346 or ksharkitt@gmail.com.

PASTOR RANKIN WILL BE AWAY from July 19-August 3. He will return to the office on August 4.

The pulpit will be supplied by the following pastors:

The Rev. Dr. Jim Haun, a retired U.C.C. pastor, will be preaching on July 27.

The Rev. Charlie Gross, a retired Presbyterian pastor and son of Trinity Church, will be preaching on August 3.

Pastoral care will be provided by the following pastors:

The Rev. Bob Bistline, a member of our congregation, will be covering pastoral emergencies from July 19-26. You can reach Rev. Bistline at 717-917-9716.

The Rev. Sandy Morris, a member of our congregation, will be covering pastoral emergencies from July 27-August 3. You can reach Rev. Morris at 717-385-1588.

2025 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts and the forms on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please submit the forms to Carol!

SAVE THE DATES

Calling All Teachers and Helpers for the 2025-2026 Christian Education

Ministry: The Board of Elders would like to meet with members of Trinity Church who are interested in serving in our Christian Education ministry (children, youth, and adults). We are planning a meeting on Monday, August 18 from 7-8:00 in Isenberg Hall. We will do some planning for this year (curriculum, teaching schedules, etc.). Look for a sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Rankin or one of the Elders (Sue Bowman, George DeLong, Bob Kilgore, or Karen Olley).

Lunch Bunch At Loxley's

August 24 at Noon

Sign-up sheet on table outside the office.

Deadline to sign-up is August 17!!!



Trinity Preschool Fundraiser

Monday, August 25th

6 – 9 PM

**1991 Miller Road
East Petersburg, PA 17520**





CHURCH PICNIC: The Parish Life Committee is planning to hold the annual church picnic at the Rapho Township Park on Saturday, September 6 from 4-6:30 p.m. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!!



THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO HAVE A FLOAT AGAIN THIS YEAR!

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN AUGUST AND THE SEPTEMBER PARISH POST TO SEE HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S PARADE!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Lancaster
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 19, 2025

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster CROP Hunger Walk registration is open

1:00 p.m. Registration

1:30 p.m. Program

2:00 p.m. Walk begins

(Location: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church)

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others through the Lancaster Food Hub and Church World Service!

You can register to walk or support one of our walkers at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-east-pete>

The members of Trinity who have already registered to walk are: Mark & Chris Eyer, Hedwig Hunsicker, and the Rankin Family.

Pastor Rankin is once again serving as the coordinator of the Lancaster CROP Walk. Thanks to Mark & Chris Eyer for serving as Trinity's coordinators again this year!

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

U.C.C. DESK CALENDARS: It is that time of the year to order the U.C.C. desk calendars. This popular, 18-month (July 2025 - December 2026) planning calendar for the UCC is 8.5" x 11" and spiral-bound. The calendar includes complete lectionary readings for every Sunday, special mission offering dates, special observances and a directory of national staff.

The cost is \$20. Speak to Carol Kratz if you are interested in purchasing a calendar. **The deadline to place your order is Monday, July 28!**

THE JULY-SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES are available on the table in the Narthex.

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP: Look for information about camp on the table across from the church office. There's information about the two Lutheran camps (Kirchenwald & Nawakwa) and the Hartman Center Spirit Week at the former Hartman Center Camp!

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".

BOOK STUDY: Pastor Chris is planning to do book study in the coming months via Google Meet. We will be reading Henri Nouwen's book *With Open Hands: Bring Prayer Into Your Life*. Contact the church office or Pastor Chris if you are interested in participating.

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

COPIES OF THE U.C.C. HOMES NEWSLETTER are available on the table across from the church office! Please read about one of our mission partners that we support through the Our Gift to Others mission offering.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE MT. GREтна TABERNACLE: We have brochures available on the table across from the church office with information about the worship services, concerts, and other events at the Mt. Gretna Tabernacle this summer!



July 20 Sunday 7 p.m. Hymn Sing

Congregational favorites from the Celebration Hymnal. Led by **Bob Kettering and Dr. Rod Shearer.**



July 27 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

Choir Festival A mass choir of over 100 volunteer singers from the region will present an inspiring program of varied styles of sacred music. Linda Tedford, guest conductor. *Sponsored by Loser's Music. Concert made possible by the Estate of Douglas Troutman.*

SPECIAL COMMORATIONS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

July 22---Mary Magdalene, Apostle

The gospels report Mary Magdalene was one of the women of Galilee who followed Jesus. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial. When she went to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus' body, she was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared. She returned to the disciples with the news and has been called "the apostle to the apostles" for her proclamation of the resurrection. Because John's gospel describes Mary as weeping at the tomb, she is often portrayed in art with red eyes. Icons depict her standing by the tomb and holding a bright red egg, a symbol of the resurrection.

July 23—Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died in 1373

Birgitta was married at age thirteen and had four daughters with her husband. She was a woman of some standing who, in her early thirties, served as the chief lady-in-waiting to the queen of Sweden. She was widowed at age thirty-eight, shortly after she and her husband had made a religious pilgrimage. Following the death of her husband, the religious dreams and visions that had begun in her youth occurred more regularly. Her devotional commitments led her to give to the poor and needy all that she owned, and she began to live a more ascetic life. She founded an order of monks and nuns, the Order of the Holy Savior (Brigittines), whose superior was a woman. Today the Society of St. Birgitta is a layperson's society that continues her work of prayer and charity.

U.C.C. MISSION MOMENT

Word and Work (7/20/2025)

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 10:38-42

There was a faded handstitched sampler hanging in the church kitchen that read, “God bless the Marthas among us.”

It was made by a blue-haired saint of the congregation who organized every Sunday coffee hour as well as all the church potlucks and community dinners. The kitchen was her holy ground, so heaven help the person who stepped upon it unaware of how things were done.

The story behind the sampler was that one day the blue-haired kitchen saint felt underappreciated by a growing movement in the church to cut back on all the feasting to pray and fast more.

Legend has it that she rolled her eyes, threw down her dish towel and huffed out of the kitchen muttering, “Let the Marys make the darn coffee.”

She, of course, was referring to the story of Mary and Martha, sisters who Jesus often visited in their hometown of Bethany. It was one such visit that Mary puts aside all her chores to sit at the feet of Jesus to listen and learn from him, leaving Martha with the sole responsibility of preparing a meal for their guest.

Martha’s anger begins to boil as rapidly as a pot of water over the fire. She demands that Jesus tell Mary to help her. Jesus chides Martha saying that her sister has chosen the better task.

If Martha had some embroidery thread on hand, I bet she would have furiously stitched the same message that hung in the church kitchen.

This story today is often used to call out our own misplaced busyness, calling us back to the importance of being still to listen to Jesus. We often pit the two sisters against one another, elevating Mary’s choice as the better one. But is all busyness misplaced? Is one sister’s choice better than the other’s?

While chances are we do need embrace the slow living trend more, life is not about dissing Martha and celebrating Mary. Life is about finding the balance between and work and rest.

What we fail to recognize is that followers of Christ are not called to either sit or serve but to ***both*** sit and serve, and that takes awareness of how we prioritize our time with God and schedule our activities so that both our bodies and spirits are being fed.

Yes, God bless the Marthas in the world that get things done. But God bless the Marys, too, who know when their spiritual wells need to be filled by retreating into quiet time of prayer and studying God's word. God bless us all as we seek balance in serving and learning, seeking and sharing. Now that's a message worthy of stitching.

God of word and work, help us to find balance in our walk with You so that we are not only serving Your children but also listening to Your beautiful words of life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)



THE PARK CITY DINER
884 Plaza Blvd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-435-8512
parkcitydiner.us

SHARING OUR SUCCESS

The Knight and Day Diner

The Park City Diner

sosparkcitydiner@gmail.com



THE KNIGHT AND DAY DINER
3140 Lititz Pike
Lititz, PA. 17543
717-490-6198
knoddiner.com

Every time you eat at our diners you will be making a donation to

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-*
*East Petersburg**

VOTED BEST DINER IN LANCASTER COUNTY 11 YEARS IN A ROW
(Lancaster Newspaper Readers' Choice Awards)- 2021
TAKE-OUT AND CURBSIDE AT THE ABOVE NUMBERS

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We recently received money for the last two quarters of last year which was a total of \$82. Thanks for your support.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a}Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Psalms 15

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth

or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]; Luke 11:1-13.

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