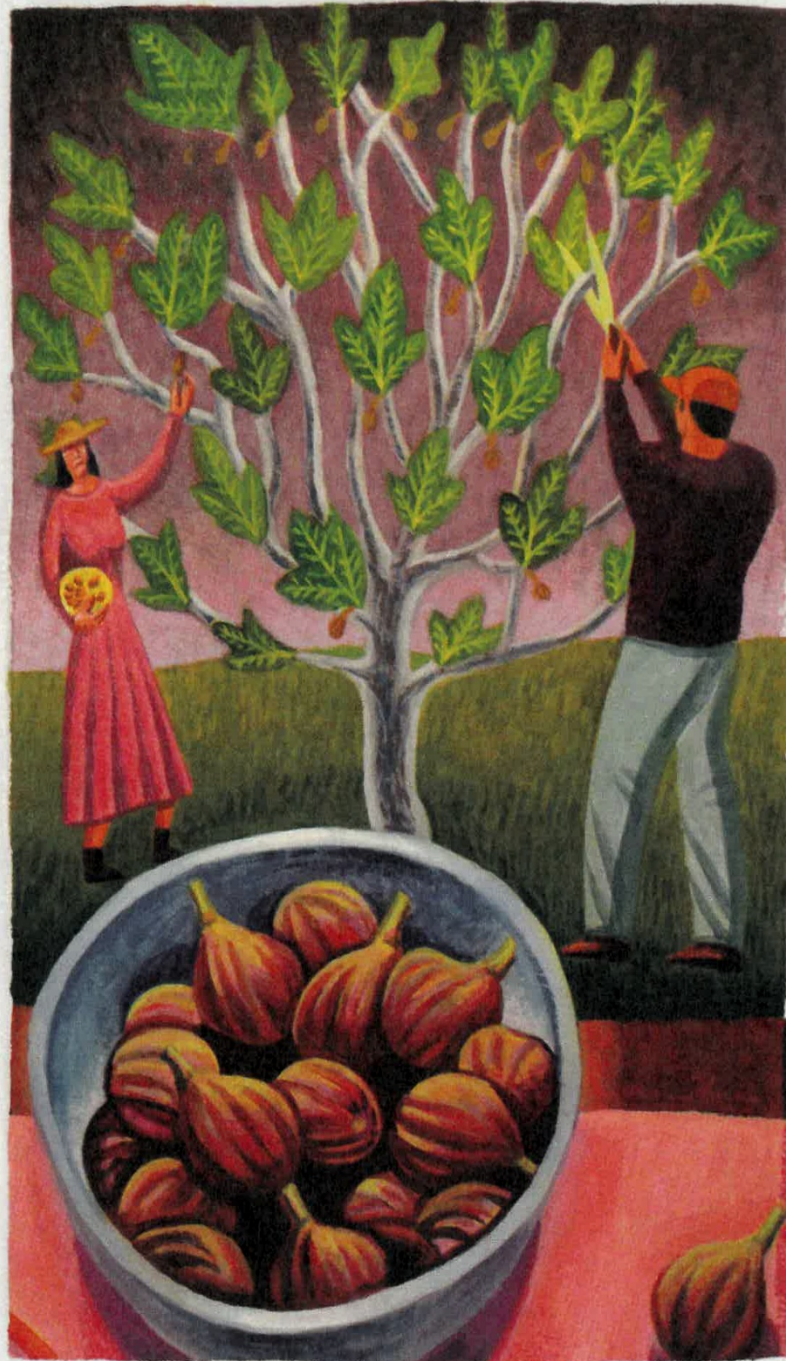


I have come looking for fruit

LUKE 13:7



**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

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

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### **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

**Today's Theme:** The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

**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:** *Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Why no alleluias or hymn of praise during Lent?** You may have noticed that the act of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'" ([http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No Alleluia.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm)).

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



**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*

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**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.**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

**Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land. We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.**

Listen carefully to God and eat what is good; delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

**Here our souls are satisfied with a rich feast. Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.**

God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship. We are called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.

**We have come to meditate on the living God. We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.

**Let us confess our sin in silent prayer.**

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

### **SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us return to God, confessing our sins in the assurance of God's abiding love.

**Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
Christ, have mercy.	<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>
Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## COLLECT FOR THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Let us pray the collect together.

Eternal God, whose call comes to us through the scriptures, in the remembrance of our baptism and in our shared life in the church, feed us now with your Word, that we may bear fruit. Confront us with your truth and keep us from being tempted beyond our strength, for we seek to be faithful in our covenant with you and responsible in our relationships with one another. May we together witness to your steadfast love in ways that transform evil into good; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

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

### THE PSALTER

Psalms 63:1-8

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

**So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

**When I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

### THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

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

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 13:1-9

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## SERMON

**"Flourishing in the Wilderness"**

**Pastor Rankin**

*(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

All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your Word to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on your gifts in generous response is necessary to life. In the name of 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 your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We thank you especially 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. Because you have come to us in Jesus Christ, enduring the Cross so that we might know eternal life, it is right that we should give you thanks and praise. With angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, the church on earth and the church in heaven we praise you with 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

## 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.**

## AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

## 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 the ushers 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.

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.



We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to pastors, elders, deacons, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. We also lift up the work of The Mix in the Lancaster community. Guide them as they provide a safe place for the youth of society. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

### ***SILENT PRAYER***

Let us pray together.

**Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **BENEDICTION**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by **Jeff Hackenberger** to the glory of God.

**The Worship Aids** are given by **Donna & Jack Esbenshade** in honor of the pastor and people of Trinity U.C.C..

## Ministering Today

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
<b>Lector</b>	Rev. Sandy Morris
<b>Money Counters</b>	Ron & Donna Denlinger, Denise Pfeiffer, Steve Shenk, Sue Bowman
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker
<b>Building Trustee</b>	Steve Gold
<b>Koinonia</b>	Gretchen Leinbach
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Card</b> Wired Word Sunday School Class <b>Called to Care</b> Anne Rankin <b>Visitation</b> Dottie Schadt

<b>Attendance for Sun., March 16</b>	7:45–10	10:30–81	<b>TOTAL – 91</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>20</b>		
<b>Lenten Service</b>	<b>21</b>		

## **This Week at Trinity Church**

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

Today	3:00 PM – Concert
Monday	10:30 AM – Community Meal @ Zion, East Petersburg 7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM – Bells
Tuesday	Special Election in Isenberg Hall 7:00 PM – Pastor/Parish (Choir Room)
Wednesday	1:30 PM – Preschool Enrichment Art Show 7:00 PM – Lenten Service
Thursday	1:30 PM – Pinochle 5:00 PM – Community Meal @ Zion Landisville 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts 7:00 PM – Christian Education (Choir Room)
Saturday	1-4 PM – Isenberg Hall in use 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM – Eucharist Followed by Welcome Lunch

## **Happy Birthday**

Today – Marvin Lehman III, Jack Richards

Monday – Kaitlyn Vargas

Wednesday – Mary Lou Shaab, Miguel Serrano

Thursday – Sue Husted, Gretchen Leinbach

Friday – Alexander DeLong

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

### **MEMBERS**

Lauren LaRouche

Ron & Donna Denlinger

Janice Jenkins

Rhonda Hartenstine

The Lehman family

Donna Wolf & Family

Sam Minder III

Rev. Bob Musser

Kathleen Sensenig Adams

Denise Huggins

Ron Becker

Arlene Hoxworth

Betty Fogle

Andrea Paulukow

Pat Seachrist

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Mid Gockley

Joann Peck

Mary Lou Shaab

George & Ellie Latsha

Betsy Bailey

Donna Zirkel

Betty Tyndall & family

Erika Otthofer

Joann & Dawn Garvin

Mary Lou Sturgis

Autumn Shenk

Himelwright Family

Dottie Schadt

John Shelsky

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Scott & Jane Owens

Carmen & Jerry Richards

Lainie Christensen

Hank Fox

Danielle Huggins Holbein

Michael McDonough

Rev. Ken & Marilyn Trauger

Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline

Bob & Marlyn Wible

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

The Family of Pat Miller

The Family of Mary Kathryn Hernley (aunt of Tobe & Pete Rohrer)

The Family of Deanna Rebeck (niece of George & Ellie Latsha)

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

Zach Pfeiffer (son of Denise Pfeiffer)

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

Carol Rogers (mother of Jamy Shelly)

Jessica Clawser (daughter of Betty Tyndall)

Bishop Nathan Baxter and family (friends of Trinity Members)

Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong)

Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)

Ryan Dennes (son of Paula Dennes)

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

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

Rev. Pam Illick (pastor of Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg)

Nancy Scholl (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

**David Haverstick** (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
**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)  
**Carol Hooper** (sister of Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen)  
**Marlene Harlow** (friend of Gail Kogut)  
**Chad Zirkel** (son of Donna Zirkel)  
**Kaitlyn, Ben, and Lucy Miller** (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)  
**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 MARCH PARISH POST** is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building. The deadline to submit information for the April Parish Post is tomorrow!

**DEVOTIONALS:** The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance. There are also Lenten devotionals available on the table across from the church office!



# Trinity Concert Series

*Presents*

J. P. MCCASKEY HIGH SCHOOL

# VOICES *of Freedom*



**Trinity UCC**



2340 State St., East Petersburg, PA 17520  
www.trinityeastpete.org 717-569-1632



**Sunday, March 23, 2025**

Concert – 3:00 PM

Freewill Offering Benefits  
McCaskey Friends of Music  
and Trinity's Music Ministry



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

## LENTEN SERVICES 2025 “SHADOWS OF THE CROSS”

Each Wednesday we will focus on a particular event in Christ’s journey to the cross. The shadow of the cross looms over every interaction, to give spiritual insight.

**March 26 (The Shadow of Denial):** Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

**April 2 (The Shadow of False Accusations):** Dr. Randall Zachman

**April 9 (The Shadow of a Last Chance):** Rev. Dr. Joel Hummel

**April 16/Holy Wednesday Order of Healing (The Shadow of Death):** Rev. Jack Esbenshade

**April 17 (Maundy Thursday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.)** Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin

**April 18 (Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.)** Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin

**Look for the Easter breakfast sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!**

### **Good Friday Breakfast at YMCA of the Roses**

Join us for community gathering that brings people of faith together to mark this important holy day with an inspirational message and ecumenical worship service in keeping with the Christian traditions of the YMCA.

**When:** Friday, April 18 @ 7:30 am (Doors open at 7 am)

**Where:** Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

**Details:** The speaker will be Rev. Dr. John Gordon Smith, Lead Pastor from Lampeter United Methodist Church, along with live music, and a buffet-style breakfast. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Call the church office to reserve your ticket.

**COMMUNITY MEAL ON MARCH 27 AT ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LANDISVILLE:** Trinity will be cooking and serving a sit-down community meal at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at 85 East Brandt Blvd. in Landisville on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM. **Sign-up sheets are posted in the table across from the church office for food donations and servers.** Persons helping to serve the meal must arrive at Zion Lutheran by 4:30 PM. Contact Nancy Enders or Paula Dennes with questions. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

**WELCOME LUNCHEON:** The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a welcome luncheon after the 10:30 service on March 30 to welcome new members or recent visitors to Trinity Church. This is a way for us to share with our guests about Trinity's story through the DVD and conversations around the tables. Mike Lichtenwalner and Pastor Rankin have updated the DVD! We hope that Trinity members will attend the luncheon to welcome new people to the congregation! **Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!**

**UCC YOUTH GROUP GATHERING:** Church of the Apostles U.C.C. is organizing a "Coming Out of Hibernation Youth Group" first gathering as a pizza party and short Bible study on Sunday, March 30 from 6-8 pm in Church of the Apostles' Youth Center in Rader Park.

This group is open to any youth in a U.C.C. church or any youth looking for a place to belong. This is a youth and lay led group with all adults having their clearances. Please talk with Pastor Chris or Anne Rankin for more information!!

**CHURCH MULCHING:** The Property Committee is looking for volunteers on **Saturday, April 5 @ 8:30 am** to mulch the church property. We will be doing this in conjunction with the Trinity Preschool families, AA Group, and the Scout troop. Look for the sign-up sheet in the hallway across from the church office!

**OPEN DATES FOR KOINONIA:** There are still two open dates for Koinonia during the month of March. The open dates are **April 6, 13, & 27**. If you could volunteer for any of those dates either use the signup sheet outside the kitchen or call the church office.

**2025 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **May 4**. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **March 30, April 6, & 27**. 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.



March 27, 1:00 PM  
Sign-up sheet on table outside office



## LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, April 9

**Where:** Oregon Dairy - in the Meadows Room (back of the restaurant).

**When:** April 9, 2025 at 12:30

**Sign up by date:** March 30, 2025 (sign up sheet is located outside the office).

**Additional information:** We can order off the menu or you can order off the buffet. We will get separate checks for each party.

**SPEAK TO DENISE PFEIFER FOR MORE INFORMATION!!**





**TRINITY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Preschool**



**1-day 2-day 3-day 4-day Enrichment  
Ages 2 – 6**

**2025-2026 School Year  
57 years of experience since 1968**

**2340 State Street  
East Petersburg, PA 17520  
(717) 569-1632 or [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org)  
Website: [trinityeastpete.org/preschool](http://trinityeastpete.org/preschool)**

**Registration fees & information:**

Registration for a new September school term opens at the beginning of January. Registration fee of \$75 and application are accepted in the order received and are non-refundable. You are invited to call or email for information. All classes are held depending upon enrollment. Registration forms are available on the website

**First tuition, due August 15.**

**Tuition for the 2025-26 term is:**

**Tiny Tots — \$437.00 (\$48.56 per month)**

**2-Day Class — \$875.00 (\$97.22 per month)**

**3-Day Class — \$1,250.00 (\$138.89 per month)**

**4-Day Class — \$1,688.00 (\$187.56 per month)**

**1-Day Enrichment Class — \$480.00 (\$53.33 per month) Enrichment begins in October**

**Our Philosophy**

Trinity U.C.C. Preschool provides a developmental approach to learning which cares for the whole child.

Each Sub Redemption Certificate: \$8.00  
Deadline to Order: April 15, 2025 Pick up  
at church office.

Please make checks payable to: TRINITY PRESCHOOL  
Sign-up sheet on table outside office.

### **WANTED: Mystery Readers For The Trinity Preschool**

If you would like to come in to the preschool to be a Mystery Reader, please follow the link below, sign up for one slot, and surprise our students with your favorite children's book. If you have any questions, you can contact Amy Grube, Preschool Director, at [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A8AE23A4FBC52-54859987-mystery>

**Summer Church Camp:** There are copies of the camp schedule for Nawakwa and Kirchenwald (Lutheran camps) on the table across from the church office. There is also an opportunity to go back to Hartman Center (former U.C.C. camp in Milroy, PA) July 27-August 2. The Rankin family will be participating in the Lutheran camps and the Hartman Center reunion week. Remember....church camp is for all ages!

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"**. For more information about church camp, speak to Anne Rankin, Trinity's Certified Camp Liaison.

# U.C.C. MISSION MOMENT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

## Open Invitation

### Isaiah 55:1-9

There's a general store in a sleepy New England village that hasn't sold a stick of penny candy or a bolt of fabric for more than 50 years. Residents are now turning the storefront into a community center, hoping to restore a sense of neighborly belonging that has vanished in recent years.

While clearing out cobwebbed corners and opening squeaky drawers, a thick leather ledger was discovered. Amid its columns, fading ink revealed not only the cans of corn and bottles of milk families consumed, but that many had not yet paid for the items. Page after page were the words "payment to come."

An elderly man who bought many a stick of penny candy as a boy smiled when he heard about the ledger, remembering how the store's owners would always give what was needed to families even if they could not pay for the items just yet. It's no wonder the store didn't survive, he mused.

Perhaps the storeowners, though, crafted their business plan from the words of the prophet Isaiah, who delivers an open invitation to us now on our Lenten journey to come, drink if we are thirsty, eat even if we have no means to pay for the bread. Come, no matter who we are or what our circumstances, and find belonging, acceptance and sustenance. Come, and let us take in all that God is offering.

This passage from Isaiah is so full of welcome, with God imploring us to come — and listen. Listen to the words of life. Come and listen — and look. At what? Look first at the past, remembering God's care and grace. And then, look to the future and know this care and grace is still abundant.

What are we thirsting for this day? What are we hungering for? Do we remember in our wanting that God is really all we need. Are we listening to the voice of love? Are we looking for the grace that was, is and will always be? Can we accept that we this day are being given an open invitation to experience the goodness of life?

There's a general store in a sleepy New England town seeking to offer something other than the penny candy and bolts of fabric of yesteryear. It wants to restore community. And that's perhaps, my friends, the thing we are most thirsty and starved for. For there is a divine ledger in which by our name our running tab is marked "paid in full."

Let us pray.

*God of community, let us say "yes" to that open invitation to come as we are before Your glory. Let us drop our pretenses and let go of judgments. Let us remember that there is a banquet table where all are invited to find fullness once again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
 come to the waters;  
 and you that have no money,  
 come, buy and eat!  
 Come, buy wine and milk  
 without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is  
 not bread,  
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
 and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
 listen, so that you may live.  
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
 my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
 a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
 and nations that do not know you shall run  
 to you,  
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One  
 of Israel,  
 for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
 call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake their way,  
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have  
 mercy on them,  
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
 so are my ways higher than your ways  
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Psalms 63:1-8****SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
 that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all  
 passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into  
 Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the

same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual  
 drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that fol-  
 lowed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless,  
 God was not pleased with most of them, and they  
 were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us,  
 so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not  
 become idolaters as some of them did; as it is writ-  
 ten, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and  
 they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual  
 immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three  
 thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ  
 to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed  
 by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them  
 did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These  
 things happened to them to serve as an example,  
 and they were written down to instruct us, on whom  
 the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you  
 are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No  
 testing has overtaken you that is not common to ev-  
 eryone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be  
 tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he  
 will also provide the way out so that you may be able  
 to endure it.

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told  
 him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had  
 mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them,  
 “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered  
 in this way they were worse sinners than all other  
 Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you  
 will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who  
 were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—  
 do you think that they were worse offenders than all  
 the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but un-  
 less you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree  
 planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for  
 fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gar-  
 dener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking  
 for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut  
 it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He re-  
 plied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig  
 around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next  
 year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

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