

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. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 A.M. SERVICE

**Today's Theme:** Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

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:** Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### MISSION MOMENT: TRINITY U.C.C. ENDOWMENTS (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Scott Owens

# 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 to this place of prayer; God is calling us.

Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

We have come to hear the Word of God.

#### We have brought with us all that weighs us down.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

#### Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.  $% \left( f_{\mathrm{G}}\right) =\left( f_{\mathrm{G}}\right) \left( f_{\mathrm{G}}\right) \left$ 

# **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 grace and glory, you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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)

#### 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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us pray the collect together.

God of love and peace, whose Word is offered to every person and group and nation, we long to hear and see and feel your presence with us. Send your Holy Spirit to overpower our excuses, lend new perspective to our troubled thoughts, and equip us to walk into the future with courage. Reign among us that we may proclaim good news to all who need it. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (PLEASE BE SEATED)

#### TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

# THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

#### THE PSALTER

Psalm 67

God, be merciful to us and bless us; look on us with kindness, so that the whole world may know your will; so that all nations may know your salvation.

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, because you judge the peoples with justice and guide every nation on earth.

May the peoples praise you, O God; May all the peoples praise you!

The land has produced its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us. God has blessed us; may all people everywhere honor God.

#### THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

St. John 14:23-29

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplant sun and moon.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD Praise be to You. O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

#### SERMON "I'm Leaving, But You Won't Be Alone!" 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

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you called us to do, we give thanks, O God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and an evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. We pray all of this 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.

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!

## 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.

(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. Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide conference ministers, pastors, elders, deacons, and all lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace. Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

#### SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

We give you thanks, Bountiful God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.

# **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

#### BENEDICTION



# CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chancel Flowers are given in honor of our church's dedicated female leadership provided by Denise Pfeiffer and Cherie Cataldi.

The Worship Aids are given by Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin in honor of their 8<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 24!

**Money Counters:** Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller, Denise Pfeiffer

Building Trustee: Nevin Cooley Lector: Diane Rice

Happy Birthday!

Today – Nolan Daly Thursday – Alex Otthofer, Lily Brennan Saturday – Ron Becker, Tim Geiger

Attendance for Sun., May 15	8:00-20	10:30-76	TOTAL - 96
Sunday School	14		

This Week at Trinity Church(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)Monday7:00 PM – SOT ChoirWednesday7:00 PM – Christian EducationThursday7:00 PM – Book StudySaturday7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AASunday8:00 AM – Eucharist9:00 AM – Sunday School10:30 AM – Worship



**ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES:** If someone is graduating in your family, please submit their name, school, and future plans with the church office!

**NEW MEMBERS:** Are you interested in joining Trinity U.C.C.? Do you know of someone looking for a church home? Please speak to Pastor Chris about joining our congregation.

**PASTOR AT CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Pastor Rankin will be attending the Mercersburg Convocation at Lancaster Seminary on Monday & Tuesday.

PRAYER CONCERNS: The family of Leon Litzenberger (uncle of Dina Slechta), Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Hank Fox, Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman, Don Miller, Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer), Anne Rankin, Donna Zirkel, Dave Miller (husband of Cherie Cataldi-Miller), Bob Kilgore, the Lehman family, Nancy Crawford (Pastor Rankin's mother), Judy Barr (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Sheldon Paulus (son-in-law of Chuck & Sue Husted), Sean McKelvey & family, Joann Garvin, Herb Charles, Rev. Phyllis Baum, Herb Holbein (father-in-law of Danielle Huggins Holbein), Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer), Rev. Paul Eyer (former pastor of St. Luke's), Danielle Huggins Holbein, Carole Connor, Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty), Mary Witmer, Mark & Mary Anne Ritter (friends of the Paulukows), Patrick & Mel(nephew of Marianne Gibble & his wife), the Martin family, Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards), Hillary Brennan (mother of John Brennan), Jim Newcomer (cousin of Sandy DeLong), David & Ann Potts (friends of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Pete & Nora Petrosky (friends of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Lvnn Dull, Hilma Slechta (mother of Mike Slechta), Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel), 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), Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Phyllis Zimmerman, Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley), Jaimie & Aurora Commero (friends of Sarah Paulukow), Mark Zody (friend of Denise Huggins), Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law), Carl Roth (Gretchen Leinbach's brother), Scott Summers, Rev. Frank Lantz, Lainie Christensen, Sandra Englert (niece of Betty Tyndall), Charles & Betty Booraem, Betty Tyndall and family, Dorothy Fasnacht, Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law). Bob & Marlyn Wible. Barry Moore (Donna & Ron Denlinger's brother-in-law), Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), Judy Wisniewski (sister of Chuck Husted), Elaine Sturgis (friend of Sue Husted), Doris Leaman, Judie Bistline, and the Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church).

**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.

#### GERANIUM ORDER FORM

Person(s) ordering Geranium Plants	
Please order:Red Geranium(s) @ \$5.50 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 memberYesNo	
or plant geranium at church	
The last date to order is Sunday, May 22, 2022. Give order forms	

Church of Christ. Thank you!





#### <u>\*TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-</u> <u>East Petersburg\*</u>

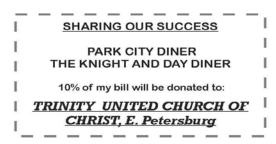
<u>VOTED BEST DINER IN LANCASTER COUNTY 11 YEARS IN A ROW</u> (Lancaster Newspaper Readers' Choice Awards)- 2021 <u>TAKE-OUT AND CURBSIDE AT THE ABOVE NUMBERS</u>

The Park City and Knight and Day Diners want to thank you, the local community, for your votes, to honor our diners, 11 years in a row, as: THE BEST DINERS IN LANCASTER COUNTY!! We want to give back to the community by offering our "SHARING OUR SUCCESS" (SOS) Program to local non-profits. We will donate 10% of your sales to the non-profit listed above. During checkout, at either diner, **please ask the cashier to donate your sale to the non-profit listed below**. The card does not need to be presented. (please give the name as shown to avoid confusion). At absolutely NO additional cost, you will be helping your non-profit with donations every time you, your friends and relatives eat at either diner, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes take out meals, use of our free banquet rooms for meetings or parties.

#### VOTED #1 BEST BREAKFAST SERVING BREAKFAST 24 HOURS

Look on our web sites for our full menu and specials

BOTH DINERS ARE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY-EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

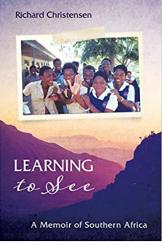






<b>THANK YOU</b> FOR YOUR SUPPORT! <b>WENDER TRINITY PRESCHOOL</b> SUB SALE   We would like to thank you for supporting our fund raiser. When you redeem your coupon at S. Clyde Weaver you get to choose from at least seven sub varieties:   Sweet Bologna · Ham · Italian · Turkey Roast Beef · Chicken Salad · Tuna Salad		Each Sub Redemption Certificate: \$8.00 BREAD OPTIONS: white sub roll • bread • tortilla wrap CHOICE OF YOUR CONDIMENTS: mayonnaise • mustard • creamy horseradish • olive oil • vinegar CHEESE OF YOUR CHOICE: American • Provolone • Swiss YOUR CHOICES OF VEGETABLES: lettuce • tomatoes • onions • marinated onions • sweet peppers banana peppers • bot peppers • black olives • pickles salt • pepper • herb mix • Parmesan		
P	lace your order form a	nd money in a	church office	
NAME	PHONE	QUANTITY	TOTAL	PAID (Please check)
			/ PRESCHOO	

## Learning to See: A Memoir of Southern Africa by Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen



Teaching in the southern African nation of Botswana in the early 1980s, Richard Christensen faced a new world, one endlessly fascinating and challenging. Experiencing warm hospitality from many people, sharing both joyful celebrations and painful struggles with students, he and his family encountered a deeper sense of the true meaning of community. Travel in apartheid South Africa and war-weary Zimbabwe gave him a fuller understanding of the reality of oppression and how people of faith endured their plight and kept hope alive. In this experience, so surprising in many ways, he came

to a deepened realization of the genuine freedom of the gospel and the hope it affords us. He saw that relationships are what save us, that the salvation of God in Christ is not merely personal and individual, but communal, and that we are thus more dependent upon one another than we realize. Learning to see the world with new eyes, he discovered not only a more expansive vision of the church and the world, but also a more honest and complete understanding of himself as a product of an affluent and segregated society. You can purchase book at either <u>Amazon.com</u> or <u>wipfandstock.com</u> ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: When we returned to worship in the midst of the pandemic, Pastor Rankin has taken on the altar guild responsibility each week. The pastor now is looking for a few more volunteers to help prepare the altar for weekly worship. The following people have agreed to serve: Nancy Enders, Hedwig Hunsicker, Karen Olley, and Jamy Shelly. The pastor is looking for another 2-4 people to serve. Pastor Rankin is willing to offer a training session for all volunteers. You can contact him or Donna Denlinger, the Elder representative to the altar guild.

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for worship volunteers on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office to sign-up!

Greeters: To welcome worshippers at the door for the second service.

**Ushers:** Beginning in June, we will return to passing the offering plate during the second service. We are in need of a few more ushers to complete our teams.

**Lectors:** Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 8:00 a.m. and/or 10:30 a.m. services.



<u>Use the signup sheet in the church hallway or call the church office.</u>

# CHURCH CAMP REGISTRATION

Even though the air is cold and snow is on the ground, 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. You can find printed brochures on the table across from the church office or view the schedule at <u>https://www.lutherancamping.org/forms/SummerBrochure.pdf</u>

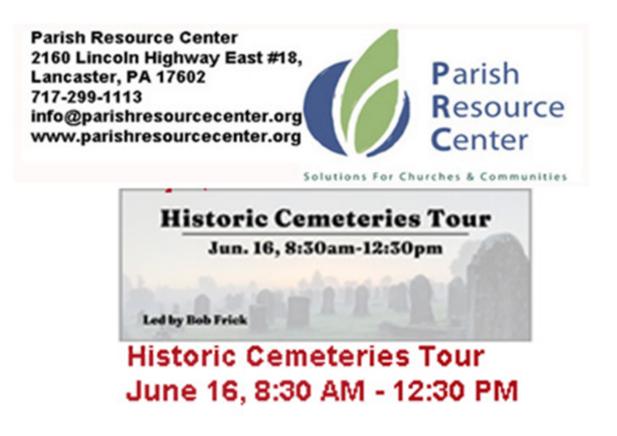
As you know, Penn Central Conference paid for 50% of camp registration fees last year. It is wonderful to be able to announce that that same generous offer stands again this year! You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. **Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with "Camp Scholarship"**.

# "HARTMAN CENTER SPIRIT WEEK" 2022

Save the date: "Hartman Center Spirit Week" will be returning this summer!

This will be a week of camp in the spirit, community, and traditions of Hartman Center. Registration information and a brochure will be available soon.

Saturday, August 6 through Friday, August 12 at Camp Mt Luther in Mifflinburg PA. Talk with Pastor Chris or Anne Rankin for more information.



**SNACKS FOR VBS**: Please leave the items you sign-up for in the kitchen marked VBS by Monday, July 11. In order to claim an item to donate, please use the signup sheet in hallway or call the church office, at 717-569-1632, or email Carol, at <u>secretary@trinityeastpete.org</u>. Thank you for your generosity.

100% Juice Pops - individually packaged (pack of 24) 3 needed

String Cheese - Individually packaged (4 packs-packages of 12 needed)

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT TRINITY U.C.C.



Join us for fellowship and game between Lancaster Barnstormers and the York Revolution! The cost is \$30 (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!

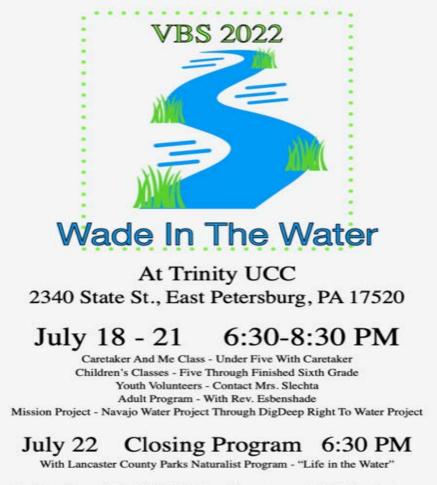


FOOD TRUCKS:

Stoney's Burgers & Fries Tri-County Barbeque Mista Twista Walko Taco Next Level Pizza

MAGICIAN (Eric Vera)

AUSCULTATION BRASS CONCERT



Register through the VBS/Rally Day Page at www.TrinityEastPete.org

Snack signup sheet for VBS in upstairs hall or call church office.



#### U.C.C. MISSION MOMENT: May 22, 2022 Acts 16:9-15 Disciples Together Rural Life Sunday

In today's reading, Paul gets called to Macedonia, which is far from the urban centers he has known. On this rural life Sunday, we celebrate pastors in rural communities, who also answer calls far from cities. Today, a few of those pastors reflect on the joys and challenges of being arural church pastor.

Dana Schindler, whose church recently celebrated 150 years together, says that a joy is thatmembers feel a real connection to the church. A challenge is related to the joy. Almost everyone is related and it can be difficult for new people who are not members of the 2 mainfamilies to feel accepted.

Whitney Prose Bruno writes, "We really are family. (Often literally.) Everyone knows everyone. This means you're welcomed with flaws and merits both. But the challenge is that rural churcheslike most organizational groups are in decline. An urban congregation has the opportunity to share church space with other congregations, and nonprofits. Community continues. A rural congregation does not. If the handful stop meeting, there's not another socialization and community for the elderly (not online) members to join."

Rural churches understand the importance of feeding one another. Sara Bartlett gives thanksfor the joy of shared vegetables from the many gardens in her community. Rev. Deanna Armstrong is proud of her small congregation which produced 200 pounds of food in its community garden. In a drought, at 6,200 feet of elevation.

Family and food are blended with a good bit of humor, too. Rev. Kimberly Shrader, who serves a two-point charge in Maine, says wryly, "The smaller of the churches I serve gave me a bit of asurprise when I first arrived. You see they have to turn the well pump off in late October, which means no restroom in the parish hall. The 200-year-old sanctuary building has no pumping at all. So, the worship service MUST BE 45 minutes, no longer, so they can get to the home of whomever is hosting fellowship."

When Paul received the call to Macedonia, the scripture tells us that he left for there, immediately. Whether they heard and answered the call at once, or responded more slowly, give thanks for rural pastors and the churches they serve today.

#### FIRST LESSON. Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

#### SECOND LESSON. Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

#### GOSPEL. John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

