

An aerial photograph of a large, dense crowd of people, seen from above. The individuals are wearing various colored clothing, creating a mosaic of colors. A semi-transparent red rectangular box is overlaid on the upper portion of the crowd, containing the text "Listen to me, all of you, and understand".

**Listen to me,  
all of you,  
and understand**



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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717-569-1632

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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

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

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**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**8:00 & 9:30 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and Life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

**Prayer:** *O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves. That we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

**GATHERING MUSIC (9:30 AM)**

**Christine Oetama**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

Come to listen for all God seeks to teach us.  
God has given us birth by the word of truth.

**We are drawn to God as to a lover.**

**We leap for joy when we know God's care.**

Every perfect gift comes to us from God.

God's image is a part of each one of us.

**God's grace has been poured into our lives.**

**Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.**

**HYMN #12**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

**9:30 Service**

## **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**

Trusting in God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

**Almighty God, who sent the promised power of the Holy Spirit to fill disciples with willing faith: We confess that we resist the force of your Spirit among us; that we are slow to serve you, and reluctant to spread the good news of your love. God, have mercy on us. Forgive our divisions, and by your Spirit draw us together. Enflame us with a desire to do your will and be your faithful people; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## 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.**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### **THE FIRST LESSON**      Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

*Though using language and images of a tender love story, the Song of Solomon has long inspired the tradition of allegorical interpretation. Jewish lore sees its meaning as a depiction of the love of the Lord with the covenant people. Furthermore, Christian interpretation has often seen this work as a depiction of the love of Christ and his church.*

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

#### **THE PSALTER**      Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9

My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king;  
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

**You are the most handsome of men; grace is poured upon your lips;  
therefore God has blessed you for ever.**

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever. Your royal scepter is a  
scepter of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness.

**Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness  
beyond your companions;**

Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

**From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; daughters of  
kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the  
queen in gold of Ophir.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

James 1: 17-27

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

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

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from the faithful heart.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## MEDITATION

“A Spiritual Health Crisis”

Pastor Rankin

## PEOPLE'S OFFERING

### THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(KNEELING OR SEATED)*

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, elders, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Comfort those who are recuperating, grieving, or experiencing other health issues. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### ***SILENT PRAYER***

#### **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.

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

#### **OFFERING DEDICATION**

Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all the bounty you entrust to our stewardship, O God of light. You have reached into the shadows, where we often flee, to rescue us and give us your work to do. As you have freed us from the chains of sin, we seek to offer healing to others as we listen and share and do. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.

### **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

**HYMN #258**

***We Give Thee But Thine Own***

**9:30 Service**

## **RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

God's Word transforms all who hear and heed it.

God blesses those who are doers of the Word.

**God anoints us with the oil of gladness.**

**Our hearts overflow with God's good gifts.**

You are the body of Christ! May you be strengthened with the power of God, the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**SENDING MUSIC (9:30 AM)**

**Christine Oetama**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by **Brenda and Harry Himelwright** in loving memory of our parents and other family members and friends who are not with us today.

**The Worship Aids** are given by **George and Ellie Latsha** in celebration of our 73<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Greeting Ushers:** **Dave Connor**, Hank Fox, Stan Seachrist, Paula Dennes, Denise Huggins

**Lector:** Rev. Jack Esbenshade (8:00)/Sally Rodenberger (9:30 a.m.)

**Building Trustee:** Hank Fox

### **Happy Birthday!**

Today – Kevin Daly, Gregory Gable, Kim Knoll, Kerry Kreider

Monday – Nancy Patton

Tuesday – Mark Shenk

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** The church office is open Monday-Friday from 9 AM-2 PM.

**THE SEPTEMBER PARISH POST** is available on both floors of the church building.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** The family of Ron Burger (son of Marge Burger/brother of Lori Daly), **Barry Richards**(son of Jerry & Carmen Richards), **Joan Kalbach** (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), **John Shelsky** (friend of Trinity Church), **Donna Denlinger**, **Cathy Hoshauer**, **Mike Wagner**, **Pat Miller**, **Nancy Patton**, **Gary Reynolds** (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), **Jackey Hoover**, **Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser**, **Phyllis Zimmerman**, **Donna Zirkel**, **Dave Connor**, **Linda Brown** (sister of Mike Wagner), **Sharon Brown** (sister of Sandy DeLong), **Jose Arroyo** (husband of Sandy & George DeLong's niece), **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**, **Ron Rogers** (Jamy Shelly's stepfather), **Rev. Frank Lantz**, **Lainie Christensen**, **Sandra Englert** (niece of Betty Tyndall), **Charles & Betty Booraem**, **Emma Nissley** (sister of Jane Starr, Nancy Patton, and Pat Miller), **Betty Tyndall and family**, **Virginia Schoffstall** (grandmother of Kayla Brennan), **David Potts** (neighbor of the Himelwrights), **Dorothy Fasnacht**, **Jo Jo Richards & family** (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law), **Doug & Mary Lou Shaab**, **Bob & Marlyn Wible**, **Lily Kilgore & family**, **Barry Moore** (Donna & Ron Denlinger's brother-in-law), **Sam & Rosemary Minder**, **Jordan Sensenig** (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), **Judy Wisniewski** (sister of Chuck Husted), **Elaine Sturgis** (friend of Sue Husted), **Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman**, **Doris Leaman**, **Kelsey (Minnich)** and **Tom Burgo**, **Judie Bistline**, **Hilma Slechta**, and the **Bonilla-Rodriguez family** (friends of Trinity Church).

**THE 2021 WORSHIP AIDS & CHANCEL FLOWERS:** You can either contact the church office or use the website under resources to sign-up for flowers and worship aids for 2021! Worship Aids dates available are: **September 12**. Chancel Flowers dates available are: **September 19 & 26**.

**MISSION PROJECT:** The VBS Mission Project is Schreiber Center For Pediatric Development. Anyone can give through their envelopes or online giving and specify Schreiber to participate in making donations. Please make checks payable to Trinity.



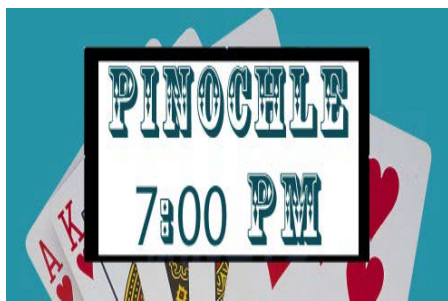
## WORSHIP NEWS

Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services next Sunday. You should bring your own elements or we will have pre-packaged elements.

Beginning September 12, our services will be 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We will also begin weekly communion that day at the 8:00 a.m. service.

We continue to stream the 8:00 a.m. service on the Trinity Facebook page and upload the recording to our website ([www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org)).

**PINOCHLE FELLOWSHIP:** Mark your calendars now because the



Pinochle Fellowship will meet again on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Look for more information in the September Parish Post. You can respond using the electronic version that Carol already sent via e-mail or on the website under Ministries! Speak with Karen Olley for more information!

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for worship volunteers at the in-person worship services:

**Greeters/Ushers:** To welcome worshippers at the door and to seat them in the sanctuary (9:30 a.m. service only)

**Lectors:** Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 8:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. services.

Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer

**CROP WALK RALLY:** The Lancaster CROP Walk Planning Committee invited to attend a rally for the 2021 CROP Walk at the Lancaster Food Hub on September 12 at 2 p.m. There will be a special program, tours of the food hub, and CROP Walk t-shirts available. Pastor Rankin and Rev. Bob Hunsicker serve on the planning committee.

The actual walk is on October 17 at the Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster. Mark & Chris Eyer are serving as our walk coordinators.

You can register as a member of the Trinity East Pete team at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/trinity-east-pete>. You can also make donations at this website.

## INSTALLATION OF CONFERENCE MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, a member of Trinity Church, will be installed as the sixth Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference at Lancaster Theological Seminary on September 12 at 3 p.m. Participants in the service will be at Lancaster Seminary, but the service will be livestreamed so you can view the service. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

### Parish Resource Center

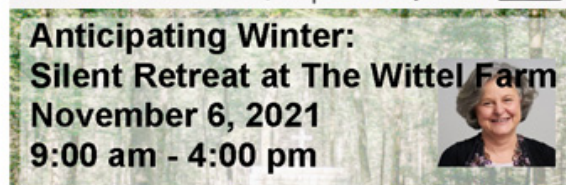
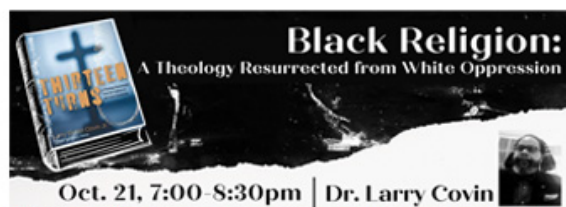
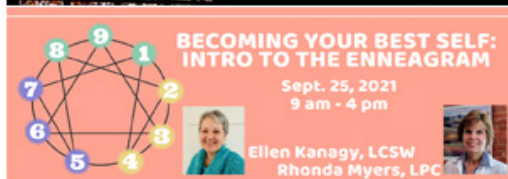


2160 Lincoln Highway East #18, Lancaster, PA 17602

717-299-1113

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

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



Mt. Gretna Tabernacle

## MT. GRETTA BIBLE FESTIVAL 2021

All Programs are in the Historic Tabernacle • 3<sup>rd</sup> St. & Glossbrenner Ave.

Parking GPS Address: 41 Boulevard St, Mt. Gretna PA 17064

Please visit [MtGretnaTabernacle.org](http://MtGretnaTabernacle.org) for any program cancellations.

A freewill offering will be received at each program.

**ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE** Updates will be posted on our website and Facebook page

**MASKS REQUIRED** at all programming in the Tabernacle during the 2021 Season.

All programs will conform to strict CDC Guidelines. Visit our website for updates.



## October 2

Saturday 2 p.m. Concert

**The Massed Choir** Composer Lloyd Larson will direct over 100 voices in a joyous Saturday afternoon concert. *Sponsored by Losers Music Inc. and Cornwall Manor*

## CHURCH COVENANT IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

As an individual who attends Trinity United Church of Christ I covenant to work with my fellow church members, family and friends to keep our community safe and healthy.

I covenant to. . .

*Wear a face mask as a symbol of love and care for others.*

*Sit six feet apart from others, leaving room for God to work in the in-between spaces.*

*Clean up after myself in the spaces I use because germs are everywhere I go too!*

*Honor and respect the sacredness of each person in this space and to stay home if I don't feel well, knowing God is with us wherever we are, whether inside or outside the walls of the church.*

*Work together with my church family in creating a safe and healthy space to gather for worship, fellowship, or church activities as one body, united in God's love.*

*Acknowledge the hard work ahead, and the commitment to care for one another.*

Together, we as the church, covenant to care and love one another in new and different ways as we:

- 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

## **A Wrinkle In Time**

**By Morgan Gould, from the book by Madeleine L'Engle**

For this year's Rally Day, we are able to make recordings and put them together to create a video of the Rally Day play, "A Wrinkle In Time," (by Morgan Gould, from the book by Madeleine L'Engle), which can be streamed for one day, September 12. Look for the link to find it on the church's website Home Page on Sunday, September 12.

COVID permitting, our intentions are to also have a showing of the recording on a screen at church, in the social hall at 9:00 AM, on Sunday, September 12. Masks and personal distancing will be required, just like at a church service.



**FIRST LESSON. Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

**SECOND LESSON. James 1:17-27**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**GOSPEL. Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."