

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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: O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (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.

The shepherd is calling us to new ventures.

We are invited to a higher quality of life.

We will not fear to walk through shadowed valleys.

God's love in Christ is with us everywhere.

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.

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us pray the collect together.

Great God, unknown to us in except in fleeting glimpses, we live for the moments when your voice is heard and your will is clear. We long to walk with you beside still waters and to lie down in green pastures. Nourish us now by your Word and Spirit, that we may join the heavenly chorus singing your praises while being of some earthly good to those who cannot hear the joyful sounds. In the name of Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;

For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE SECOND LESSON

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanguishes sin and suffering.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"In Simple Terms" (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE) Pastor Rankin

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

Revelation 7:9-17

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

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of the Good Shepherd. 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 up give them be to Cod Most High

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We give you thanks that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name. Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! (PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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

COMMUNICATION

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

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

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

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

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you. And also with you. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Inspire the works of prophets and saint who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding. Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes. 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 by **Charlene Cristy** in memory of James D. Diffenderfer.

The Worship Aids are given by John and Sarah Paulukow in memory of Jackie's Birthday on May 7th with all our Love. Also, to all mothers, have a **Blessed and Happy Mother's Day** and in remembrance of all our mothers who have passed.

Money Counters: Bud & Kathy McCarty, Scott Owens, John Shelsky, Jeff Hackenberger

Building Trustee: John Shelsky Lector: Jeff Hackenberger

Happy Birthday!

Tuesday – Peyton Fischer Wednesday – Cole Cataldi Thursday – Emilia Derstler, Jeff Hackenberger Friday – Karen Olley, John Shelsky Saturday – Erika Otthofer

Attendance for Sun., May 1	8:00-18	10:30-62	TOTAL - 80
Sunday School	19		

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m2 p.m.)		
Monday	7:00 PM – SOT Choir/7:45 PM-Bells	
Tuesday	1:00 PM – Prayer Shawl	
	7:00 PM – Property Committee	
Wednesday	7:00 PM - Finance	
Thursday	6:30 PM – Cub Scouts	
	7:00 PM – Book Study via Google Meet	
Saturday	8:30 AM – Men's Breakfast	
	7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA	
Sunday	8:00 AM – Eucharist	
	9:00 AM – Sunday School	
	10:30 AM – Worship	
	Rev. Charles Gross, Guest Preacher	

PRAYER CONCERNS: Christine Oetema, 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), Lynn 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), Donna Denlinger, Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shellev Wagner), Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, 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).

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

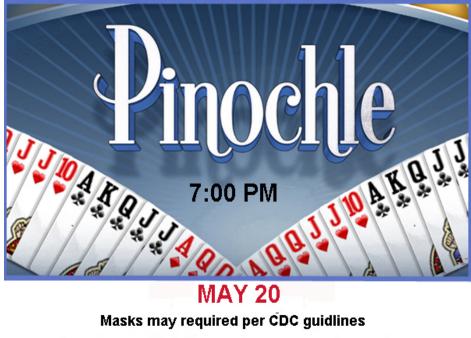
DEVOTIONALS: The April-June edition of *These Days* are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

GUEST PREACHER ON MAY 15: The Rev. Charles Gross, a retired Presbyterian pastor, will be preaching at both services. Rev. Gross was confirmed at Trinity Church on May 14, 1967. He graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2004 with Pastor Rankin.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men will be meeting on Saturday, May 14 at 8:30 a.m. at Family Fare Restaurant in East Petersburg. This is open to all men of the congregation! Call the church office to let them know you will be attending. Don't miss out on this time of fellowship.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR: Bring your lunch and enjoy the fellowship on May 19 from noon-1 p.m. in Isenberg Hall!

"KNIT IN GOD'S LOVE" PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Prayer Shawl group is planning to meet on May 10 from 1-3 p.m. in Isenberg Hall. Contact Betty Tyndall or Nancy Enders for more information.



Snacks and Drinks to share are welcome! Any Questions call: Karen Olley (717)598-0247



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

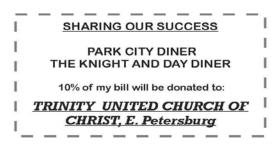
<u>VOTED BEST DINER IN LANCASTER COUNTY 11 YEARS IN A ROW</u> (Lancaster Newspaper Readers' Choice Awards)- 2021 <u>TAKE-OUT AND CURBSIDE AT THE ABOVE NUMBERS</u>

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

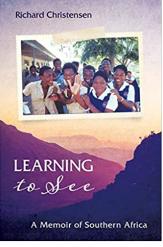






FOR YOUR SUPPORT! TRINITY PRESCHOOL SUB SALE We would like to thank you for supporting our fund raiser. When you redeem your coupon at S. Clyde Weaver you get to choose from at least seven sub varieties: Sweet Bologna - Ham - Italian - Turkey Roast Beef - Chicken Salad - Tuna Salad		Each Sub Redemption Certificate: \$8.00 BREAD OPTIONS: white sub roll • bread • tortilla wrap CHOICE OF YOUR CONDIMENTS: mayonnaise • mustard • creamy horseradish • olive oil • vinegau CHEESE OF YOUR CHOICE: American • Provolone • Swiss YOUR CHOICES OF VEGETABLES: lettuce • tomatoes • onions • marinated onions • sweet peppers banana peppers • hot peppers • black olives • pickles salt • pepper • herb mix • Parmesan		
Sweet Bologna	· Ham · Italian · Turkey	lettuce • tomatoes banana peppe	• onions • marinated ers • hot peppers • bla	onions • sweet peppers ack olives • pickles
Sweet Bologna Roast Beef - Chic	· Ham · Italian · Turkey	lettuce • tomatoes banana peppo salt •	• onions • marinated rs • hot peppers • bla pepper • herb mix •	onions • sweet peppers ack olives • pickles Parmesan
Sweet Bologna Roast Beef - Chic	· Ham · Italian · Turkey ken Salad · Tuna Salad	lettuce • tomatoes banana peppo salt •	• onions • marinated rs • hot peppers • bla pepper • herb mix •	onions • sweet peppers ack olives • pickles Parmesan

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 and the Wednesday Lenten services (just greeters for those services). Contact the church office to sign-up!

Greeters/Ushers: To welcome worshippers at the door and to seat them in the sanctuary (10:30 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 10:30 a.m. services.



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.

Lancaster Association Mission & Ministry Team invites you to the

HEROES WELCOME!

Sunday May 22, 2022 at Rader Park Pavilion

Gathering and Lawn Games at 4pm Cornhole, Ladder Ball, bring your favorite

Catered Picnic Supper at 5pm (Brats, Burgers, Salads, Desserts ~ \$15/person)

Program at 6pm

Congregations share stories of members who helped them survive and thrive through the pandemic.

The Trinity Consistory voted last year to honor Mike Lichtenwalner and Theodore Slechta for their assistance with our online services and other technology needs during the pandemic.

Registration and Reservations Required by <u>TODAY</u>!! Sign-up sheet is across from the church office! Ask Pastor Rankin for more information!!!



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 in offering or email the church office. If paying by check, ple Church of Christ. Thank you!	

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!

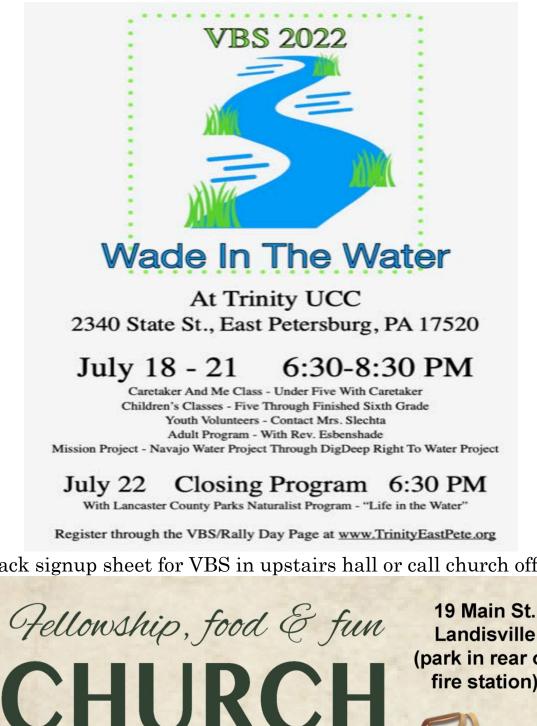


FOOD TRUCKS:

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

MAGICIAN (Eric Vera)

AUSCULTATION BRASS CONCERT



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

Picnic

AUGUST 21 - 3:00-7:00 PM

(park in rear of fire station)

FIRST LESSON. Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

SECOND LESSON. Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

GOSPEL. John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

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.

