

YOU HAVE COME TO
MOUNT ZION



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. Carolynne 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

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

Today's Theme: Remember the Sabbath day. Call the Sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's Day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

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.

God rescues us from cruelty and injustice. In steadfast love, God delivers us from our enemies.

We remember the rich heritage we have received. We give thanks for God's grace and mercy.

This is God's holy day; a time to lay aside narrow interests. How will we honor God in word and deed?

We will delight in the Word and works of our God. We will join together in praise and good works.

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

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

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us.

God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and shame.

Let us silently confess our sin before God.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Gracious God, we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you. Show us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

O God, whose will is broader than our best traditions and whose mercy runs deeper than our finest sympathies, speak your Word to set us free from attitudes that cripple, habits that are hurtful, and dispositions that divide. Enlist us as willing disciples so others may meet Jesus Christ through us. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 1:4-10

The call of the prophet Jeremiah does not depend on either Jeremiah's abilities or his age. God will give him the words to speak. Even before Jeremiah was born, God appointed him a prophet to the nations, to minister in the difficult years before the Babylonian exile.

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

THE PSALTER

Psalm 71:1-6

Lord, I have come to you for protection; never let me be defeated!
Because you are righteous, help me and rescue me. Listen to me and save me.

Be my secure shelter and a strong fortress to protect me; you are my refuge and defense.

My God, rescue me from wicked people, from the power of cruel and evil people.

Sovereign Lord, I put my hope in you; I have trusted in you since I was young.

I have relied on you all my life; you have protected me since the day I was born.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses from the Old Testament, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life.

When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"Relying on God!"

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

O God, we cannot forget all your benefits. Accept our offerings as expressions of praise and acts of true worship. We pour out our thanks for all you have given us and for all you do for us. We are grateful for the opportunities you grant us to help others. May healing come to all who suffer and freedom be granted to those weighed down and bent over with heavy burdens. Use us and our gifts to bring the changes for good that you intend for our world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you have revealed your mighty presence to us. Have we not heard? Have we not known? In the beginning, you swept across the earth with your Spirit of life and renewal. When we forgot or neglected your truth, you redeemed us and renewed us. From the earth's first gardens to the mountaintop storms, you have spoken to us, and entrusted us to be your people. From laws on tablets to warnings from prophets, you have spoken your truth and renewed your covenant with us, reviving us and reclaiming us through your grace and love. And so, with your people on earth, with all of creation, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise:

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!

Holy are you and blessed is your holy name. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ to reveal your powerful love for the world. Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying, welcoming any and all, Christ continues to reveal your presence, renewing our souls even now. Through Christ's powerful love and endless grace, we are invited into your presence, rescued from our sins, and led onto your path of justice and righteousness. In Christ's grace, you renew and reclaim us as your holy people, children of mercy and truth. As children of your covenant of love, sealed by water and the Spirit, welcome now with joy and gratitude, remembering how Jesus shared bread and wine, renewing and reviving the lives of his closest friends, his most faithful disciples, even as they faced their deepest fears and their greatest sins.

(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.

*(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.

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

You crown your church with steadfast love and mercy. Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You satisfy the needs of all creatures. Protect the habitats of fish and birds. Repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster, that all creation may thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make your ways known to all people. Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy. Raise up activists and community organizers to restore places affected by violence, poverty, and inequality. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You provide justice for all who are oppressed and relief to all who are afflicted. Heal those who are bent over by addiction, depression, and anxiety. Set free all who cry out under the weight of mental, emotional, or physical distress. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You call us to delight in the Sabbath. Renew our bodies, minds, and spirits in this worshiping gathering. Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, study, and service. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Loving God, in this Holy Communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Anne, Zachary, Rachel, and Andrew** in honor of Pastor Chris' birthday yesterday!

The Worship Aids are given by **George & Ellie Latsha** in celebration of their 74th Wedding Anniversary.

Money Counters: Lee Bossert, Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk

Building Trustee: Hank Fox

Lector: Diane Rice

Altar Guild: Hedwig Hunsicker, Charlene Cristy

Happy Birthday!

Today – Kristen Richards

Saturday – Rylan Shelly

Attendance for Sun., Aug. 14 7:45–20 9:30–52 **TOTAL – 72**

This Week at Trinity Church

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

Today 3-7 PM – Church Picnic

Monday 6:30 PM – Presentation by Dr. Christensen

Wednesday 7:00 PM – Christian Ed.

Friday 6:30-10:00 PM – Cub Scout Movie Night

Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:30 AM – Worship

THE JULY-AUGUST PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building.

VBS MISSION PROJECT : This year's VBS mission project is the Navajo Water Project Through DigDeep Right to Water Project. You can donate to the offering by marking the special designation box on your offering envelope with "VBS Mission".

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.

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

PRESCHOOL SUB FUNDRAISER: There are still 11 Sub Coupons for S. Clyde Weavers available at \$8.00 each. Please contact the church secretary to purchase them.

PRAYER CONCERNS: The family of Sheryl Bell (friend of Pat & Stan Seachrist), Hedwig Hunsicker, Carmen Richards, Kathy Baker (mother of Kayla Brennan), Donna Zirkel, Pat Seachrist, Don & Pat Miller, Brian Barr (son of John & Dolly Barr), Sam Minder III, Marlin "Moe" Weaver (brother of Dottie Schadt), Carole Connor, Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Robin McComsey (neighbor of Himelwrights), Rylan Brent (relative of Chuck & Sue Husted), Hank Fox, Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman, Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner), Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer), Bob Kilgore, the Lehman family, Judy Barr (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Joann Garvin, Herb Charles, Rev. Phyllis Baum, Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer), Rev. Paul Eyer (former pastor of St. Luke's), Danielle Huggins Holbein, Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty), Mary Witmer, the Martin family, Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards), Hillary Brennan (mother of John Brennan), Jim Newcomer (cousin of Sandy DeLong), 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), Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Phyllis Zimmerman, Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law), Carl Roth (Gretchen Leinbach's brother), 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), Doris Leaman, Judie Bistline, and the Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church).

PICNIC SCHEDULE

2:00 Set up by Picnic Committee

3:00 Welcome Table- Pick up your Name tag and handout for the Hymn Sing; Examine the guessing games and the schedule for the day; Pick up your Icebreaker Bingo Card and a Pen; Place your Food items on the appropriate tables.

3:30 Hymn Sing - Gretchen Leinbach

4:00 Announcements, Prayer and Enjoy the food!

4:45 Icebreaker Bingo - completion/award prizes

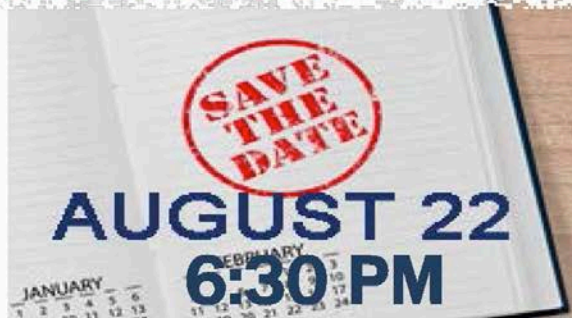
5:00 Cake Walk. Announcement of Guessing Games winners - Anne.
Desserts become available.

5:30 Games begin: Brain Teaser Trivia - Cathy Bingo - Cherie/Denise, Face the Cookie Game – Cathy, Water balloon Toss – Kayla, Dress Up Relay - Cherie/Denise. Prizes for game winners awarded.
Bocce Ball; Corn hole; Ladder Ball; Word Puzzles - all available throughout the picnic.

7:00 Clean-Up

**Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.
There is also a sign-up sheet for the cake walk at the church picnic.**



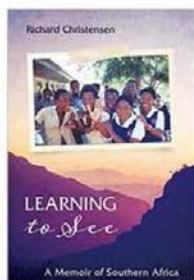


Come and hear a special presentation sponsored by T.W.O.
(Trinity Women's Organization)



Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen, author of *“Learning to See: A Memoir of Southern Africa”*, shares the highlights of his experiences teaching in the African nation of Botswana. Experience new freedom as he shares how his time in Africa opened his eyes to what God is doing in His church despite difficult circumstances. 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. Don't miss out, come and join us!

Trinity United Church of Christ
2340 State St.
East Petersburg, PA
717-569-1632



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

You can purchase book at either [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
or [wipfandstock.com](https://www.wipfandstock.com)

**Dr. Christensen will have books to sell at this event!
The cost is \$28 and you can pay using cash or checks.**

Trinity Sunday School is Calling You!

Teacher Positions are available at ALL Levels starting in the Fall 2022 Elementary, Middle/High School, and Adult!


Join the team. Be a part of Christian Education. No experience necessary. Training and mentors are available, if desired.

The only real qualification is to like learning and sharing of the Bible with others.


Proverbs 22:6 (English Standard Version)

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it





Calling all Singers and Ringers
2022-2023 Season Starts



September 12, 7:00 - 8:00 PM SOT Choir
September 19, 8:15 - 8:45 PM Canticle Ringers

*New Singers and Ringers Welcome
Contact Michael or Dina Slechta

Fall Worship Hours

Starting September 11th

SERVICE TIMES

7:45 AM & 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM KOINONIA-10:00 AM

It's time to get ready for the 2022 East Petersburg Day Parade!



Saturday, September 17th
Meet at the church at 8:00 AM

We will be decorating the float on September 16th around 6 PM. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. If you have any questions, please contact either Pastor Chris or Anne Rankin.

NURSERY COORDINATOR NEEDED: We are hoping to revitalize our nursery care during the second service. The Board of Elders is looking for someone to contact volunteers and create a schedule. If you are interested, contact Pastor Rankin, Tim Geiger, Jeff Hackenberger, Donna Denlinger, Karen Olley, Kathy McCarty, or George DeLong.

2022 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS

Contact Carol in the church office to sign-up for chancel flowers and worship aids for 2022. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Upcoming dates for chancel flowers are: September 11, & 18. Upcoming dates for worship aids are: September 4, 11, 18 & 25.

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: We have returned 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 7:45 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. services.



Mt. Gretna Tabernacle



MT. GRETNA BIBLE FESTIVAL 2022

All Programs are in the Historic Tabernacle • 3rd St. & Glossbrenner Ave.

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

Please visit MtGretnaTabernacle.org for any program cancellations.

A freewill offering will be received at each program.

Summer at the Tabernacle

Worship, Speakers and Concerts

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

August 21 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

The Susquehanna Chorale One of the premier choral groups in the nation, directed by Linda Tedford, makes its traditional late summer appearance. *Sponsored by University Music Service of Hershey*



August 28 Sunday

7 p.m. Concert

QuintEssentially Brass

A quintet with engaging personalities and sparkling instrumental performances ends another season.



GIVING ONLINE: Contributing your donation using our website: trinityeastpete.org....**RESOURCES, PAY ON LINE.**

For several years, members have been able to make weekly/recurring donations on-line in lieu of paying cash/checks or by mail. On-line donations save the cost of a check and envelope and if using the recurring feature, remembering weekly to prepare your envelope. Presently we have several individuals/families using on-line donations either weekly or recurring.

*We believe that financial transparency builds trust and is a mark of stewardship so we want to take a moment to remind you that there is a small cost for this convenience. You'll have the opportunity to help cover the cost of processing when you give. Please know that this is **100% optional**, but we appreciate your partnership in making your gift go as far as possible to impact our mission.*

We have never asked our members to cover these costs especially since 2020 at the start of the pandemic. The costs are 1.05% when paying by check, 3.05% when paying by credit/debit card.

Beginning on July 1, we added a feature to our on-line giving whereby you can help to cover the costs of paying by check or debit/credit card. This is entirely **OPTIONAL**. There will be a check-off block to use if you wish to cover your transaction cost in addition to your contribution.

THE INTERIM COMPARATIVE (6 MONTH) FINANCIALS for Trinity Church are available on both levels of the church building. For more information, speak to Scott Owens (church treasurer) or a member of the Finance Committee.



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

SHARING OUR SUCCESS
The Knight and Day Diner
The Park City Diner
 sosparkcitydiner@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

SHARING OUR SUCCESS
PARK CITY DINER
THE KNIGHT AND DAY DINER
 10% of my bill will be donated to:
TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST, E. Petersburg



U.C.C. MISSION MOMENT

August 21, 2022/ Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 13:10-17

Healing Reign

For eighteen years the woman in today's story suffered an ailment that kept her bent over and in pain. Jesus knew how to bring healing to the woman who suffered, but those around him wanted him to wait until after the sabbath. Jesus knew that suffering could not wait. If healing was available and ready at once, then it should be enacted.

Look around. What kind of suffering do you see in your region or neighborhood? Is there suffering that has been allowed to linger because it seems that it is never the right time to heal? What kind of healing can you and your congregation bring to those broken places?

Pray this prayer as you open your heart and mind to the suffering in your midst and the healing that might be available to alleviate that suffering.

Jesus, our friend and brother,
We breathe in and we breathe out.

With each breath in,
we receive the suffering of our neighbors.
With each breath out,
we exhale your healing power.

With each breath in,
we pray for courage and insight
With each breath out,
we become more like you.

With each breath in,
we feel your strength and clarity
With each breath out,
we step forward, reach toward.

Jesus, our friend and brother,
Guide us, we pray, as we breathe, pray, become, feel, step, reach, heal. Amen.

FIRST LESSON. Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

SECOND LESSON. Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

GOSPEL. Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.