

United Church of Christ of Trappe

May 2022 Newsletter



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Worship Schedule

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Blended Service 9:00 AM

3rd Sunday of Mo. Healing Service 9:00 AM

2nd & 4th Sunday of Mo. Children's Sermon 9:30 AM

A TIME TO SOW

I am ready for Spring and so is the world around me. The trees are full of blossoms and they seem to be bursting with buds. By the time this newsletter reaches your hands we will be in the full season of Spring. Farmers and gardeners will have tilled to soil for another growing season.

Growing things certainly is a satisfying task. One of the parts of farm life that I miss the most is planting season. By mid-April, we had started planting corn and were usually finished by mid-May. After the seeds were in the ground it was a matter of keeping an eye on the weeds, praying for sufficient rains, and watching the corn grow. Sharon and I also had a garden; however, most of its care was given by Sharon. We planted what most people plant in a home garden; onions, lettuce, carrots, peas, beans, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, and so on. Nothing is more satisfying than going out to the garden, picking fresh vegetables, and preparing a delicious meal.

The month of May will usher in the season of planting. On Sunday, May 22, we will hold our traditional service of "The Blessing of The Fields." It is so fitting, in our modern world, that we remain connected religiously with the seasons of planting and harvesting. It would be so easy, in this world where family farms are diminishing and corporate farms are the norm, where suburbia is swallowing our rural landscape, to lose the connection that we as a people have to the land. More and more, our planting and harvesting takes place when we go to the grocery store and buy what it is we need. As the suburban world encroaches upon us, this will be a scenario common to the majority of residents of our area.

Many times, Jesus would use agrarian images as methods of teaching those who would listen. The parable of the "sower" clearly describes the perils of a farmer who is trying to establish a crop. It is also a story about how vulnerable the word of God is when it is trying to become established in the hearts of those who hear. Those who listened to Jesus understood the importance of a productive fig tree, a well cared for vineyard, and the necessity to separate chaff from grain. Jesus used these images as a way to connect with those who listened. These images served as the vehicle for his word.

Besides being useful as a means of telling the story, images of planting and harvesting also illustrate a fundamental understanding of God's creation. This world we live in is alive. God created it that way. God created humanity and the earth to exist in harmony, with one interacting with the other to produce good things. And in the midst of the interaction, there is the hand of God.

As we go about our planting this spring, let us all remember the sacredness of what we are about. We are carrying out a practice that has gone on for literally thousands of years. Let us all find time in our busy schedules to thank and praise God for our fertile soil and the bounty that it will produce. Let us also take time to see, and touch, and smell the beauty that spring brings.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Pat

May Scripture Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
May 1	Acts 9:1-6	Psalms 30	Revelations 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 8	Acts 9:36-43	Psalms 23	Revelations 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 15	Acts 11:1-18	Psalms 148	Revelations 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 22	Acts 16:9-15	Psalms 67	Revelations 21:10,22-22:5	John 14:23-29
May 29	Acts 16:16-34	Psalms 97	Revelations 22:12-14,16-17,20-21	John 17:20-26
June 5	Acts 2:1-21	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17

ATTENTION, ATTENTION

The monthly Women's Breakfast will be held on the SECOND Thursday of May at 9:00am in the Spring Ford Dinner in Spring City. Please ask for the St. Luke's group and they will let you know where we are. Please plan on joining us and catching up with each other.

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CHURCH LIFE !!!!

Church Life has planned event, the cancelled White Elephant Breakfast on Saturday July 16th at O'Gradys in Phoenixville at 10:00am. Remember your items that you put away for the January White Elephant that was cancelled, well get them out again so you can now get rid of them!!!.

Our Church Picnic on Sunday September 18th church service at 10:00 with the picnic to follow bring your own place settings and your appetite to the Pavilion on Black Rock Road

Remember this is a St. Luke's eating event, bring your appetite!!!

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Organist Search Committee Report – 2/20/2022

After a two-year search, the Organist Search Committee has a potential candidate to fill the position. During that search time, there had been numerous leads, ideas, suggestions and one seemingly good applicant, but they all dried up as we learned that organist/music directors are in high demand and short supply. Honestly, we weren't sure what direction to head in next.

With the Holy Spirit's help, out of the blue Irina Shmeleva, our past organist, contacted me and offered to help us out. Her citizenship issues had been resolved and she feels a strong connection to our congregation members.

She has since been interviewed by the committee and elders to become our Director of Music. There were some concerns expressed. Irena has another church where she serves as organist, but she truly wants to help St. Luke's with our situation. The major concern on both sides of the table was her time constraint: We would need our service to begin at 9:00 to give her the chance to get to her other church service. After lengthy discussions, as a committee, we felt that the benefit of live music was worth the change of worship time.

Special evening services were also a concern. She had a solution that her husband, also a musician, was willing to fill in during any conflicting service times. She is willing to pre-record any music that may be necessary to meet her time restrictions.

This time change would need a special Congregational Meeting to be approved. A three-month trial period was agreed upon by both sides if the congregation agrees to the time change.

If nothing else, the covid restrictions have taught us all that we have to find new ways of doing things. The past two years has also taught the search committee that a compromise may be necessary to give our worship the advantage of REAL music.

Today's meeting went a long way to providing a path forward.

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ATTENTION MEN

The men of St. Luke's meet the 4th Wednesday of each month for breakfast at Café 29 on Route 29 in Collegeville. Join them for a discussion of your choice. They would be glad to see you.

May 5 Bill Leopold
May 9 Bob Keyser
Cynthia Brown
May 10 Linda Boyer
May 11 Don Wanamaker



May 20 Pete Leneweaver
May 26 Linda Miller
May 28 Leah Keyser
May 29 Amanda Conrad

MISSIONS UPDATE

Ghana Initiatives. Just a quick reminder about 2 important programs in support of St. Luke's outreach in Ghana.

✝ **Teacher Sponsorship.** You/your family can now be a monthly sponsor of the teachers at the St. Luke's Day Care center. It's easy! Pick your month and let Corie know. Write St. Luke's a check for \$100.00 and designate "Ghana teacher sponsorship" on the memo line. Who will step up to the challenge?

✝ **Gas cans for Ghana.** Yeah! After a rather long COVID interruption, we're resuming our 2nd Sunday of the month Noisy Offerings on April 10th Dig deep into your pockets. Look under the seat in your car, check the couch cushions and don't forget to look under your mattress, either! Be prepared to throw your spare change or bills into our new gas can collectors. Fund will be put towards a longer term goal to provide a mini-van. This will enable more regular, reliable transportation of children.

Those of you who Zoom or may not be in the sanctuary in person every Sunday can also participate. Just use the memo line on your check so the funds can be tracked correctly.

Our friends in Ghana are ever grateful for your continued support!



**Daily Bread Community
Food Pantry**

Daily Bread Update. We recently saw a status report on the Daily Bread's search for a new permanent facility. Now that funding has been secured, their Search Team has been actively locating suitable buildings in Montgomery County with the necessary space, lay-out and move-in readiness in the right price range. A facility that meets their needs was identified on Germantown Pike, a short distance away from the current location. Some preliminary discussions took place. Unfortunately the facility was taken off the market just as another buyer was identified. The Search Team was disappointed but has not lost hope. They are in active pursuit of other opportunities. They plan to keep everyone updated on progress. Please keep the Daily Bread in your prayers. Then this wonderful non-profit can continue to faithfully serve members of our community in need.



May Sunday Leader Schedule



Church Access Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to open and close the church on Sundays. Please see **Nancy Claycomb** to schedule and review tasks. If you wish to be an usher/greeter please see **Brenda Kurtz** or sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

9:30 Blended Service

	<u>Lay Leader</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
May 1	Bev Spaid			
May 8	Kathy Narrigan			
May 15	Tom Lloyd			
May 22	Jim Narrigan			
May 29	Corie Bowers			
June 5	Sue Linkenhoker			

Sunday Leader Scheduling Note

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, **please find a replacement** by switching dates with someone on the schedule and contact the church office as soon as possible so we may make note of the change. **If you are unable to find a replacement, please contact the church office and we will be happy to do so.**

Articles for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday. Newsletter deadline for the June Newsletter is May 23rd and mailing is May 26th.

PRAYER LIST

People in need of prayers: The Dallar Family, Linda Miller, Nick Iacorinno, Amy Miller.

People with on-going conditions and prayer needs: Barbara and Mark Nieweg, Betty Murphy, Casey S., Debbie Parker, Eli and Ella Vivian, Greg Kimmich, Jack Murphy, Mike Richardson, Mitzie Oxenham, Nancy Lewis, Rod Bowers, The Evans Family, Tim Heiser and Tricia White Heiser.

DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?

St. Luke's UCC is now registered for [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Go to www.smile.amazon.com and type in "St. Luke's United Church of Christ Trappe" for all your future Amazon orders and St. Luke's will receive .5% of the proceeds.




Have fun shopping and THANK YOU!

Amazon Smile Update! Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "St. Luke's United Church of Christ of Trappe" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone.
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features.
3. Select "St. Luke's United Church of Christ of Trappe" as your charity.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  May Day	2	3 10:00 Bible Study	4	5 7:30 GANON	6	7
8 9:00 Service in Sanctuary with Rev. Morris And on Zoom 	9 7:00 Missions 7:00 Church Life	10 6:30 Elders 7:30 Council	11 7:30 Audubon Orchestra	12 9:00 Women's Breakfast 7:30 GANON	13 7:30 Audubon Symphony Concert	14
15 9:00 Service in Sanctuary, with Rev. Morris And on Zoom	16	17 10:00 Bible Study	18 7:30 Audubon Orchestra	19 7:30 GANON	20	21
9:00 Healing Service in Sanctuary with Rev. Morris Children's Sermon And also on Zoom	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 10:00 Bible Study	25 9:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Audubon Orchestra	26 7:30 GANON 7:30 Toastmasters NEWSLETTER MAILING	27	28
29 9:00 Service in Sanctuary with Rev. Morris And also on Zoom.	30  Memorial Day Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives	31 10:00 Bible Study				

**ST. LUKE'S U.C.C. OF TRAPPE
200 WEST MAIN STREET
COLLEGEVILLE PA 19426-2007**

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**Dated Material-
Deliver Promptly**



St. Luke's Mission Statement

**Centered in God,
guided by His Word,
we share Christ's love with all.**