

Thank you for worshipping with us this day.

If you are visiting with us today, please sign the guest book located in the Narthex.

~~~~~

### Calendar of Events

Mon. (5/18) 7:00PM Board Meeting

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal

5/20 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Sun. Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday - Holy Communion**

**5/24 9:00AM Sunday School**

*(Kid's Sunday School ends for Summer Break)*

**9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**

*("Images of Christians" - Runners - Hebrews 12:1-13)*

**10:00AM Worship Service**

Mon. **Memorial Day**

5/25 1:00PM - 7:00PM Picnic

2:30PM Service

4:00-7:00PM Music by the Washington Band Of Annville  
Sponsored by Leibensperger Funeral Homes, Inc.

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal

5/27 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Sun. Worship in the Old Church**

**5/31 9:00AM Adult Sunday School**

**10:00AM Worship Service**

*VBS meeting after worship*

Tue. (6/2) 9:30AM Music and Worship Meeting

~~~~~

Acknowledgements:

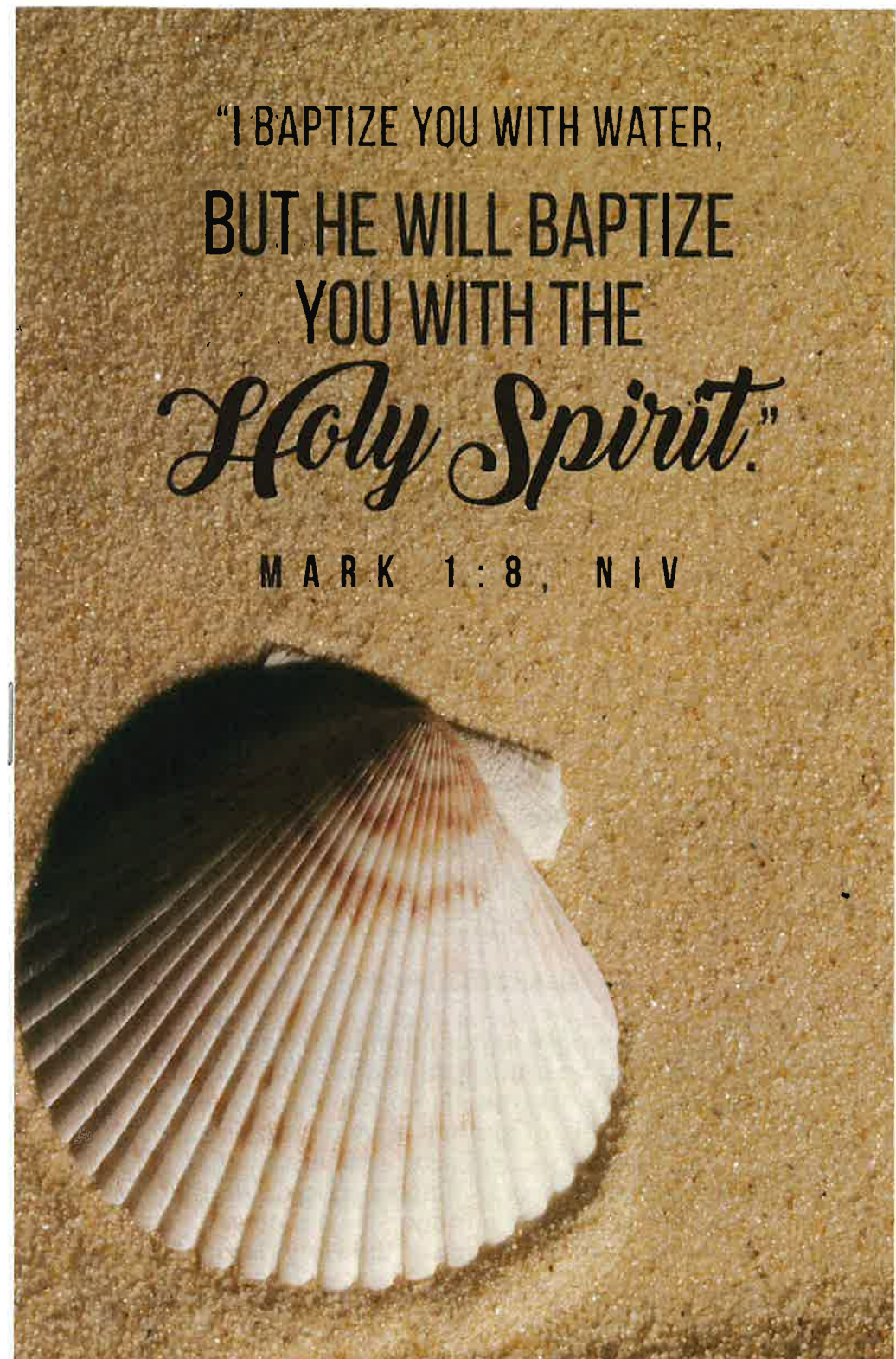
Permission by CCLI license #2391601

The Lutheran book of Worship—Augsburg Publishing, 1978

Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office for Church Life and Leadership, 1986

The Worship Sourcebook of CRC Publications, 2004

www.ministrymatters.com



We welcome you to Salem (Belleman's) Church.

We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Church of Christ.

~~~~~

Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Pastor (610-334-5130)  
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Joe and Bobbie Jo King, Sextons (484-671-2531)

Church email: [salembellemans@frontiernet.net](mailto:salembellemans@frontiernet.net)  
Web Site: [www.bellemanschurch.org](http://www.bellemanschurch.org)

~~~~~

Church: 610-926-0461
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Worship at 10:00 a.m. weekly

~~~~~

*Children's Bulletins are available in the pink crate in the entrance of the church.*

~~~~~

Mission Statement:

**With the strength of our combined traditions
We strive to be unified through CHRIST as...
A community that reaches out and welcomes
individuals of various ages and faith
backgrounds... offering a diversity of
opportunities in worship and service... so that
we are spiritually enriched by the power,
promise and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

Ascension Sunday

May 17, 2026

In today's gospel the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

~~~~~

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Prayers for Healing*

Mark Zipp, Peggy Hartman, Maya Hein, Dorothy Dougherty, Richard Hartman, Richard Bausher, Livia Kiwak, Sindy Bachman, Robert Elliott, Shirley Felix, Mathew Machmer, Arlene Gilmer, Joan Huey, Audrey Hess, Xavier Shaffer, Larry Blatt, Sophia Moore, Brenda Anderson, George Kunkle, Joe Barton Sr., Batdorf Family

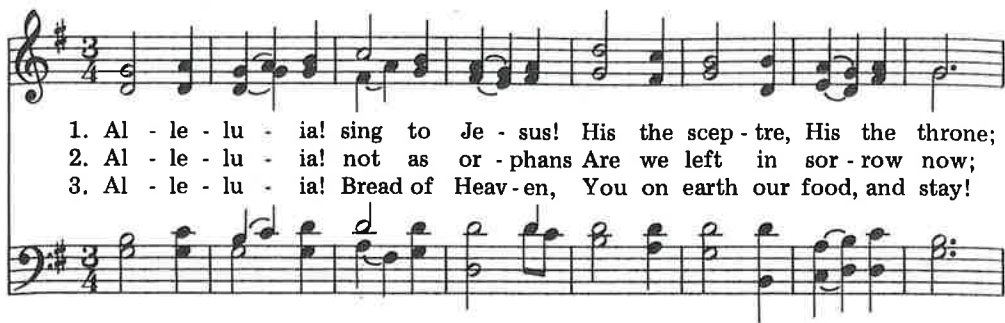
Note: Please know that not all hospitals notify the church when a parishioner has been admitted. Please make the office or Pastor Kevin aware if anyone from our Belleman's family has been hospitalized. Thank you!

*Military*

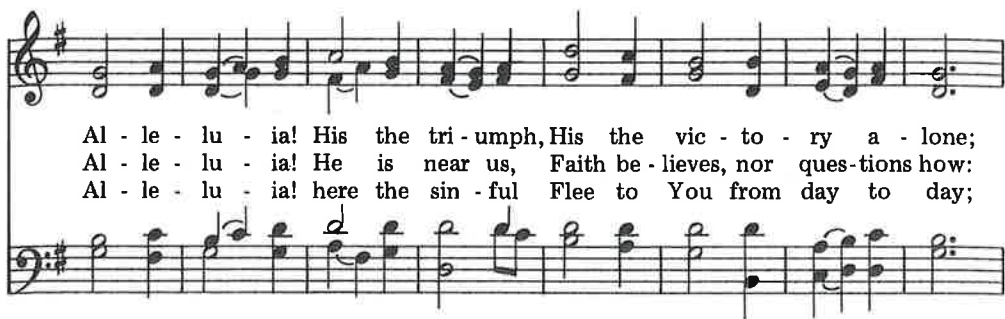
Alfred Cross, Bradley Hoppes, John R. Wesner, Phillip Spatz, Cydney Lawrence, CWO2 Josh Linderman, Andrew Cichowicz, J. Michael Fluck, David Peterman, MSgt Kevin Mohn, Nathan P. Stump, Andrew D. Potts, Anthony Butt, Alex Hoffman, Dakotah Dailey, MAJ Michael Kufro, SSgt. Matthew Wurster, Dustin Spatz and all men and women serving our country.

*Prelude*

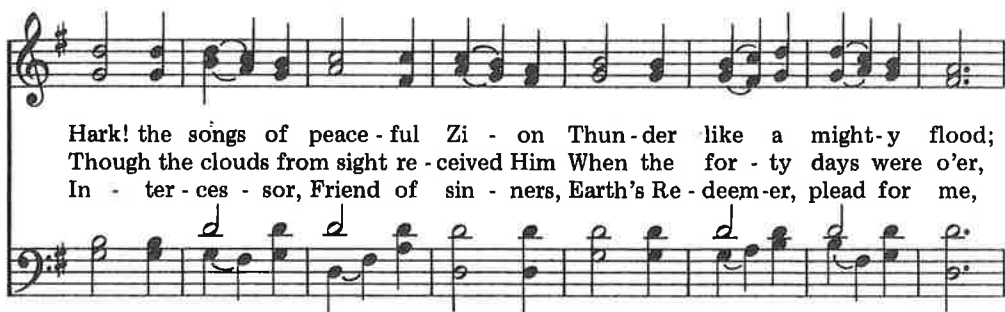
*\*Gathering Hymn*




1. Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! His the scep - tre, His the throne;  
2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans Are we left in sor - row now;  
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Heav - en, You on earth our food, and stay!



Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone;  
Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us, Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how:  
Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful Flee to You from day to day;



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood;  
Though the clouds from sight re - ceived Him When the for - ty days were o'er,  
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,



"Je - sus, out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."  
Shall our hearts for - get His prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
Where the songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea. A - men.

*\*Call to Worship*

Shout to God with songs of great joy!  
**Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!**  
God has made us whole.  
**God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.**  
Come, let us celebrate the love of God!  
**Let us praise God's name and serve God joyfully. Amen.**

*\* Call to Confession*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
**We have to confess, O Lord, that we are people who want to have everything proven for us. Forgive us for our arrogant doubts and attitudes of smugness. Help us remember that everything Jesus taught us was to prepare us to help build God's realm here on earth. We are called to be people of faith, not of absolute proof, as we understand it. Let us place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We pray in his Name, Amen.**

*\*Acknowledgment of God's Forgiveness*

Praise the Lord!  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of God's peace with those around you!  
(The sharing of hands/hugs are optional.)*

*\*Praise Hymn (Sung)*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
Sing to God a hymn of praise.  
He who on the cross as Savior  
For the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,  
Now is risen from the dead.**

*\*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Proclaiming The Word - Read by Louise Elliott*

*SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 1:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

*PSALM 47*

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

<sup>2</sup> **For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup> He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

<sup>4</sup> **He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**

<sup>5</sup> God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

<sup>6</sup> **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

<sup>8</sup> **God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup> The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

*SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23*

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*\*Alleluia (Sung)*

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

*\*The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: *Luke 24:44-53*

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." <sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Children's Message*

*Jingle Offering: Trinity UCC Fire near Pittsburgh*  
(see page 15)

Hymn

1. Hail the day that sees Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2. There for Him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!  
3. See, He lifts His hands a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!  
4. Lord, be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

To His throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates; Al - le - lu - ia!  
See, He shows the prints of love! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Raise our hearts to reach Thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!  
He hath con - quered death and sin, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!  
There Thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

En - ters now the high - est heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Bless - ings on His church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in Thee! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Sermon

# Service of Holy Baptism

Please follow along in the baptismal service insert.

## Thomas Ronald-Paul Krajewski



Baptized  
into the  
**Faith**

Son of

Michael and Jennifer (King)  
Krajewski

Offering

Choir Anthem

*\*Offering Response (Sung)*

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!  
Because He lives, All fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!**

*\* Pastoral Prayer*

*\*The Lord's Prayer*

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; 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.**

*\*The Benediction*

*\*3-Fold Amen (Sung)*

*\*Sending Hymn*

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.  
4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."  
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

~~~~~

Altar Flowers are in celebration of the wedding of Samantha and Josh presented by their families.

~~~~~

Please keep in mind.... **Belleman's ongoing program** in support of the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry.....

Non-perishable donations may be dropped off in the Narthex and will be delivered to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry on a monthly basis. Canned fruit and vegetables are always needed.

**Thank You** for your participation!

~~~~~

Summer 2026 Mission Work

When: June 8 - 12, 2026

Workdays will be from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day.

Where: 1261 Fairview Drive, Leesport

Reason: This house has been without siding for a number of years and was noticed by a church member. We look to make a difference for this family by giving their house a facelift.

The work: Work will be outside and will include hanging siding and other exterior work as time allows.

How to help: Feel free to show up and serve a whole day, half day or all week, whatever you can fit your schedule. If you have ever wondered what a mission trip is like, this is your chance!

This is also a great opportunity for youth to get involved in mission too! Please sign-up in the narthex.

Other info: Lunch will be provided each day. Feel free to bring your own tools if you have them. Don't worry if you have never done anything like this before, we will show you how!

Please contact James in the office if you have any questions.

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC at Belleman's Church

Monday, May 25, 2026

Picnic Food available 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Items available include:

**Burgers - Hot Dogs - Fries - Turkey BBQ - Drinks
Chicken Noodle Soup - Ham and Bean Soup - Beef Vegetable Soup
Ice Cream - Desserts - Raffle
Quarts of soup and BBQ available for take-outs**

**Music by: The Washington
Band of Annville
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by Leibensperger
Funeral Homes, Inc.**



Memorial Day Service - 2:30 p.m.

The service takes place in both cemeteries with participation by local groups including the POS of A and Cub Pack 154.

We need YOU!!!

Your help will be greatly appreciated for Memorial Day.

There are many ways to help:

1. Help by **donating a cake** at the Refreshment Stand.
2. Help in the **refreshment stand**. There are a variety of jobs for you to choose from.
3. Help **setup and clean up** the grove.
4. Help **carry a flag** for the Memorial Service.

There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for these volunteer opportunities or **please contact the church office if you are available to help out. Thank you!**



It's never too early to start thinking about VBS...save the dates...



This Summer's Vacation Bible School event will be conducted the evenings of **July 27-30, 2026** from **6:00PM to 8:00PM**.

Again this year, VBS will be located at the Church Grove/ Fellowship Hall!

Please use the QR code link to the sign-up page...



We hope you will come and be a part of Vacation Bible School 2026!

From Trinity UCC: (near Pittsburgh)

On the afternoon of Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Trinity United Church of Christ, Dorseyville, faced a devastating tragedy. A fire broke out in our historic building, quickly spreading to the roof of our 150-year-old sanctuary.

We thank God no one was hurt.

The Impact

While our local fire departments performed heroically to save the structure, the intense heat combined with the volume of water needed to extinguish the blaze caused extensive damage:

- Significant structural damage to the rafters and roof.
- Widespread water damage throughout the entire facility.



- The loss of our primary worship and gathering space for the foreseeable future.

Our Path Forward

Trinity UCC has been a pillar of this community for 175 years. While our building is damaged, our spirit is not. As we navigate the coming months, our congregation will continue to gather for worship in temporary locations throughout the neighborhood.

We are committed to rebuilding, but we cannot do it alone.