



May 22, 2016

### Trinity Sunday

A time-honored symbol of the Holy Trinity has been the triangle, with each side, or point, representing God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. The Trinity has often been one of the theological issues that denominations have sought agreement on before joining in different kinds of ecumenical relationships. Theological ideas about the nature of God and how we understand the Sacraments played a major part in the discussions among the four denominations that came together to become the United Church of Christ. The idea then was that we would become one and others would join us in our unity.

Today, we have many different kinds of ecumenical and interfaith relationships with many organizations and religious institutions who share our values. And, as John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, says, "Our vision is expanding as we listen to a still speaking God." That vision is one that points to an older ecumenical value of simply bringing churches aligned with Christ together into one body. Reverend Dorhauer has a passion for the mission of our denomination and has called us all to think about the kinds of partnerships we can nurture that will help us to realize the mission of our church—a mission begun long ago in those separate denominations—a mission of social justice and speaking out on behalf of the marginalized in our society.

The United Church of Christ has always spoken of "testimonies" of faith rather than "tests," recognizing that the creeds put forth in the early years of the church were intended to walk a middle way between extreme positions that fought for supremacy. In the twenty first century,

the ideas that bring us together are more often about the vision we have of the Realm of God that includes everybody in the kind of radical welcome for which we have become known.

What we share emphatically about our faith in the United Church of Christ is that God is indeed still speaking. Humans use theological language to describe indescribable realities and experiences that have goaded prophets to speak words of justice and critique inequality and call out oppression. Such testimonies of belief have shaped the mission of the United Church of Christ. What are you doing in your congregation to build partnerships in your community that will further your understanding of the Gospel and its mission in the world?

### Getting to Know :

### Calvary UCC

1231 Rt. 100, Barto, PA 19504



The vision of Calvary UCC in Barto, Pa. is to share God's love in worship and fellowship while being present in the community. We do our best to walk in the footprints of Jesus, to care for our sisters and brothers, and to

reach outward in the spirit of love.

As we discover the needs of our members and the community, we respond. It is our hope this service will grow as it fills a need.

In 2015 Calvary formed Calvary United Cancer Crusaders and participated in the Boyertown Relay for Life. We also support Boyertown Area Multi-Service with food, resources, and our presence as they care for God's children. Calvary has a Resource Room with information on many local agencies along with a computer which is available to the community. Those in need are welcome to stop by and use this room.

The folks at Calvary frequently gather for times of learning, prayer, and fellowship including: Monday morning Bible study, monthly lunches with Pastor Linda, and our Spiritual Links prayer chain delving into new spiritual practices. During the months of April through October we offer TGIF—a Friday evening time to gather for food and conversation around the fire pit. Another addition at Calvary is BookWorms—a group of readers who meet to discuss the month's reading and how it fits into our lives. Calvary also hosts dinners for the community throughout the year.



Prayers are requested for Calvary UCC in Barto and Rev. Linda L. Kozlowski.