

TOUCHSTONE

November 2020

Vol. 39 No. 11

Trinity United Presbyterian Church • 79 W. Fayette Street, Uniontown, PA 15401
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www.facebook.com/trinityupc

Worship | Service | Proclaim | Discipleship | Community

Calling all COWBOYS and COWGIRLS!

Horseback Riding

November 14th at 12:00 PM
(Meet at Church building at 11:30 to carpool)



Remember to wear boots and old clothes!

Rain or Shine...We Ride!

Evening on the Lawn Update!

Last month we gathered together for a fun evening on the lawn. We had hotdogs, a fire-pit and cornhole! We had a blast singing songs and reading from God's word. Kids were running and laughing, and playing games. For a second it felt as if everything was back to normal. It was nice to be able to meet as a group and fellowship again. I'm looking forward to when we can do this again!



Our Fellowship

Happy Birthday

5—Cindy McMahon
13—Michael Peddicord
13—Ricky Peddicord
14—Betty Montgomery
18—Suzanne Williams
20—Colby Peddicord
20—Jalyn Shanaberger
26—Cleveland McCourt
27—Joy Fike
27—John Rapano
28—Anne Ulmer
30—Dan Eddy



Happy Anniversary

November 20
Doug & Patty Yauger

November 28
George & Ginny Tanner

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Reverend Jim Gear, Pastor
James Vlosich, Discipleship Coordinator
Bill Dreucci, Director of Music
Brett Vanderlaan, Organist/Children's Choir Director
Meg Grimm, Secretary • Bill Thompson, Sexton
Ministers: All the Congregation

Men's Discussion Group continues
to meet on the third Wednesdays,
7:30 am at Mark C.'s...
a safe distance maintained!
Temporarily, through January 2021,
the **Men's Breakfast Group** is
meeting with them.



LISTEN-UP MEN!

Prayer List

"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

Please especially pray for these:

Nov 1—8	Jason & Marua Tran, Bill, Ellen, Anne and Will Ulmer, Jane Updegraff, Jerome & Julie Venick, Rick & Nancy Vernon
Nov 9—15	James & Caitlin Vlosich, Amanda Walker, Ellie Wallencheck, Jane Walsh, Mary Watson, John & Diane Williams
Nov 16—22	Scott, Jamie and Morgan Williams, Kristin Williams, Jim Williams, Eric and Brooklyn Williams, Wayne, Amanda and Lily Workman
Nov 23—30	Wayne and Elsie Workman, Doug & Patty Yauger, Karen Young

Church News

Youth Group Update

Youth Group this year has been so much fun, especially considering how limited we are because of COVID 19. Regardless, we have had some great discussions about faith. When we were reading about Peter walking on the water with Jesus, one of our student's asked "Do you think if the other Apostles had faith like Peter, that they would have gone out on the water?" This was one of those moments when a youth group student unexpectedly asked a great question that I never even thought about asking myself. Having a deep question like this occurs more frequently than you would expect. Something I've noticed this year is that the student's are asking questions and sharing a little bit more of their life with us. Because of their questions, it has led me to ask myself some of those same deep questions. Our students here at Trinity United Presbyterian Church Youth Group are asking questions and seeking answers. If we go to God as we ask and seek, some amazing answers may come our way!

-James V.

Visit the church webpage,
www.trinityupc.com, to see the church calendar.

Check your email for updates. Email the church office if you need to be put on the church email list.

Pastor Jim's Bible Studies

FINALLY, Pastor Jim's Video Bible Study: Paul's Prison Letters

Catch it on Trinity's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/trinityupc/>

Dial in today and dig deep into Paul's Prison Letters, beginning with the Book of Ephesians.

The prison epistles - Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon - are so named because they were written by the apostle Paul during one of his incarcerations.

Wednesday Night Skype

Every Wednesday we meet on Skype to have a Bible discussion. Sometimes we have a study on a specific book of the Bible, or we will discuss a certain topic. If you are someone who is unsure of the effectiveness of a Bible study using the internet, I encourage you to give this a try. Using the internet to gather together is becoming the new normal and using this resource is a lot simpler than you may think. If you have any questions about Wednesday Night Skype, please reach out to me and I would love to help.

Wednesday Night Skype

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m.

-James V.

Sunday School

Last month, the class read about pain and how sometimes it can actually be a good thing. Pain is something that can bring attention to that we may be in harm's way. For example, if you couldn't feel pain and you placed your hand on a hot stove unexpectedly, you would do serious damage to your hand! Sometimes pain can be a good thing.

If you are interested in learning about the Problem of Pain please let me know!

-James V.

Fall Elder / Deacon Retreat 2020

November 21, 10 am – 1 pm

Worship --- Service --- Proclaim --- Discipleship --- Community

Topics:

Present Progress on the 10-Year Plan
 Understanding Missional
 Collective
 Healthy Church



Relational Foundations
 Being Missional
 Kingdom Minded



Church News

Children's Video Message

In 2020, kids are always in front of a screen. Popular trends our kids participate in include: Snapchat, Tik Tok, Youtube, and Facebook. Because of the added screen time (especially because of the pandemic), I think that there is an importance for the Church to put Christ-focused content on some of those same platforms. It always amazes me how God can use anything as a tool to shine His light and get the message of Jesus broadcasted far and wide.

The Children's Video Messages are a great way for your child to hear God's word and hopefully ask you questions. The only way to get answers is by asking questions and that is my hope with these videos. I hope they will inspire questions to be asked and faith in Christ to grow.

- James V.

Food Outreach

Twice a month here at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, we pass out food. This is a great opportunity to be part of our local mission effort. If you come to be a part of this mission, I promise you that the Lord can use this time to help you grow in your relationship with Him. There are different areas of need we have in this food outreach. If you would like to serve, please reach out to us.

-James V

Food Pantry

The second and fourth Monday of each month

12:00 - 1:00

Moment of Devotion Videos

Facebook has become a great way to bring Gospel-centered content to a large number of people. Doing these videos has been so much fun for me personally. When I put together these videos, I remind myself of the purpose of the Moment of Devotion videos. The purpose being to propose a question or idea that someone can use to grow closer to Christ. If you are scrolling through Facebook and see one of these videos pop up, I encourage you to watch it and pray to God and see if He has anything to tell you!

-James V.

Darts & Devotions

Are you looking for something to do on Thursday mornings?!

Darts and Devotion is for you!

Can't throw a dart? Neither can we!

We invite you to come be a part of this group. We drink coffee and read Scripture every Thursday morning from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We hope to see you there!

D&D: Thursdays 10:00am-12:00pm

-James V.

Church News

Bethel Bible Series: Congregational Phase Start-Up, January 2021

January is just around the corner and we will be making many descriptions concerning the Bethel Bible Series between now and then. In a month or so, you will start to be given the opportunity to sign up for the first 8-week class, starting in mid-January: "Old Testament 1".

The hour and 15 minutes long classes will be laid-out along these lines:

(The actual day of the week and times are yet to be determined)

7:00 pm – Gathering, Devotional, Snacks available

7:10 pm – Lecture and Discussion

7:50 pm – Break and Snacks available

8:00 pm – Questions and Discussion

8:15 pm – Dismissal



This month's hike will not be until Saturday, December 5

("too much" going on in November)

Sheepskin Trail

Meet at the Church at 11 am

Upcoming this Fall/Winter - Layering-in Trinity's new Small Group Focus

THESES WILL BE SAFE

Now is the time to start thinking about whom you are going to be inviting to our safe and Fun Activities!

Word-Share-Prayer

- Stepped-Up Men's Group Activities, including Axe Throwing on October 28
- Increased Youth and Children's Ministries
- Stewardship Invitations
- Horseback Riding, Nov. 14 including a CD – Yo Yo Ma – "Goat Rodeo"
- Children's Choir and Music Training
- Continuing Series, "You Asked for it – Series on what people want to hear"
- Welcoming Church Invitations and plans unfolding for the **"Being a Welcoming"** Church Ministry
- Christ the King, Advent, Beatitudes and Jesus the Shepherd Worship Series

Church News

Tuesday Night Bible Study: Disciples are made - not Born:

"Making Disciples Out of Christians --- Helping Us Grow to Maturity in Christ"

7 pm

Nov. 3 - Evangelism and the Disciple

Nov. 10 - Multiplying Your Efforts

Nov. 17 - Choosing a Life Objective



Trinity - Where are we headed? Disciples are Made, NOT Born...

We are preparing ourselves to be more active in evangelism, in ways that:

Are **In Keeping** with who we are

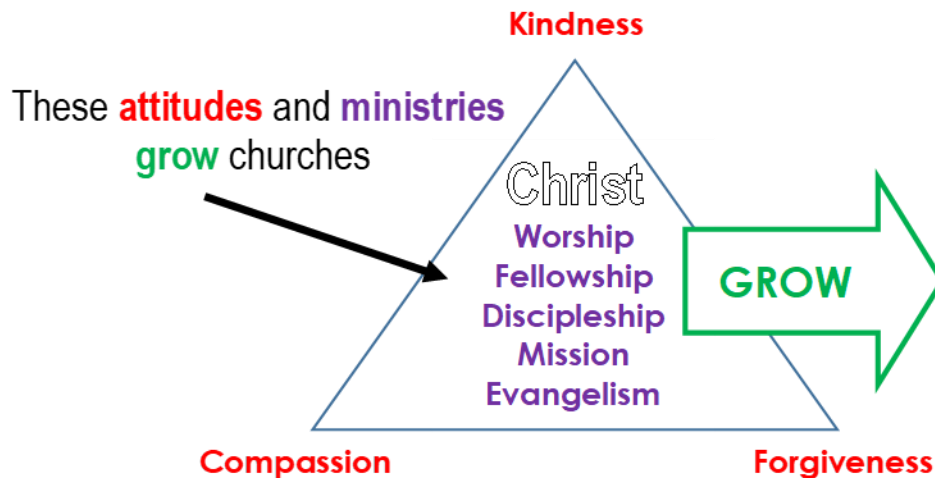
Are a **Blessing**

Are **Challenging**

More Classes on this material will be offered in the Fall of 2001, such as...

→ Recruiting and Training → Encourage-Empower-Equip → Out of the Saltshaker

Conversion to Christ is one thing ▲ Discipling in Christ is totally another



Music Department

🎵 NOTES FROM THE BENCH 🎵

By Brett Vanderlaan

The Good Shepherd

Earlier this year, Pastor Jim and I discussed the idea of using the theme of “Shepherd” for a series of worship services. This fall, we are bringing this idea to fruition over a number of Sundays through messages, prayers, hymns and other music. By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have already conducted some of the early services addressing this theme.

The image of God or Jesus as a shepherd occurs many times throughout the scriptures as well as in spiritual poems, artwork, and devotions. There are a few details about sheep and shepherds to consider when studying the prevalence and significance of this imagery.

Sheep have a reputation for being wayward, vulnerable, meek, gullible, and dependent animals. Sheep are also social animals that tend to congregate, move and act in groups while still exhibiting a stubborn will and a propensity for getting lost. Keep this in mind when thinking of God’s people as His flock.

A shepherd is one who cares for a flock of sheep by protecting them, leading them to pasture and water, and bringing them into the fold at night. Shepherd was an important venture in Biblical times, and many of the Old Testament patri-

archs were shepherds (Gen. 13:5). David was a shepherd as a young boy, and many of the leaders were called shepherds of the people – including David (Ezek. 34). In the New Testament, remember that the angels appeared first to shepherds abiding in the fields to announce the news of Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:8-15).

Perhaps of greatest importance is the statement that Jesus made directly about Himself as the “Good Shepherd” (John 10:11-16). He also told the parable of the shepherd seeking the lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7), and referred to His followers as sheep when charging Simon Peter to care for those who follow Him (John 21:15-17).



Of course, there are many occurrences of sheep imagery in the poetry of Christian hymns and scripture. The 23rd Psalm is likely the most familiar (“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...”). There are six different

settings of this psalm in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#170-175). We will sing some of those during these weeks. Yet, the idea of shepherding is not unique to that psalm. You will hear many references to sheep and shepherds in the music, prayers, and spoken word while we explore this theme and call upon our Lord to “Savior, like a shepherd lead us.”

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)

Note: Reference for some material in this column:

The New Combined Bible Dictionary and Concordance, Baker Book House, 1981.

Pastor's Article

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9

I ran across the following quote, I did not, at the time, know who said it or where it came from, but it was in my illustration files: "Jesus doesn't just overcome the event. He overcomes the environment where the event happens. In these challenging days, we cannot forget what Jesus told us in II Corinthians 12:9, that His grace is sufficient for us. You will find that out during these days, if you haven't found it out already. The sufficiency of Jesus Christ for those who have put their trust in Him will be on display everywhere." Then, two weeks later, I ran across the same quote from a totally different source...God is getting my and your attention. Wow! That is a very powerful group of words - Jesus not only overcomes the event in our lives that is attacking us, but he also overcomes the entire environment around the event that is giving rise to the attack in the first place! God is in charge in no uncertain terms! And God's powerful care and concern for us is on display and is noticed by everyone. Amen.

"Incarnation literally means *embodied in flesh or taking on flesh*. The incarnation of Christ is a central Christian doctrine - that God became flesh, assumed a human nature, along with Jesus' eternal divine nature, and became a man in the form of Jesus, the Son of God and the second person of the Trinity."

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form... - Colossians 2:9

J. I. Packer says that The Incarnation of Jesus is the Most Staggering Christian Belief – God with us – God right there in our lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Emanuel – God with us – Jesus came to earth – God came to live in and among his creation.

J. I. Packer also states, that when this is accepted, all the rest of the realities of Jesus make *much* more sense to those struggling in their faith.

I am now convinced that "with" is one of the most important words in the Bible. God WITH us – Emmanuel. There is nothing that is impossible for God and it is natural for God to do what we see as supernatural. When we come to this understanding of God choosing to live among his creation, but not being bound by the limits of that created universe; paired with the realization that there is nothing God cannot do; we simultaneously come to the fact that the miracles of Jesus were God working naturally in our world. Those miraculous deeds are not actually supernatural to God, they are just God living his normal, natural life. God does these kinds of things all the time – that is one reason why we call God, God.

What is attacking you and making your life unsettled? What are you struggling with overcoming these days? Give these concerns to God. God will handle all these problems, in what seems to us to be in miraculous ways, but they are just God going about living his every day, natural, victorious life. "The sufficiency of Jesus Christ for those who have put their trust in Him will be on display everywhere."

-Pastor Jim

Sustaining Grace

1001 New Worshiping Communities: Pittsburgh Seminary teams up for 'Sustaining Grace'. The new book explores the dynamic between new faith communities and the denominational system.

Touchstone article written by PCUSA, Edited by Pastor Jim



PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Church Planting Initiative has teamed up with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities to create the book "Sustaining Grace". The book explores the dynamic between new faith communities and denominational systems through the lens of stewardship and sustainability. As a collection, these essays suggest a need to facilitate innovation with established congregations and new faith communities.

Thus, problems of sustainability are not for church planters to solve alone, but rather are related to the theologies of stewardship and the ecclesial system to which they belong. Issues of vision are not for denominational systems to theorize alone but are given shape on their historic foundations in the creative and prophetic structures practiced in new faith communities.

"Sustaining Grace" speaks to a central tension in the growing movement of church planting —the mutual need for and the mutual frustration between establishment leaders and innovators, conservators and risk takers.

"Sustaining Grace" is available wherever books are sold.

TRINITY'S WORSHIP THEMES FOR ADVENT AND EPIPHANY:

Jesus, God Incarnate | Emmanuel, God *WITH* Us

- The most Staggering Christian belief
- When this is understood and accepted, all the rest of the realities of Jesus make much more sense to those struggling in their faith

Worship Themes

October 2020

11/1	All Saints' Day Theme: Jesus the Shepherd #3 Passages: Hebrews 2:14, 17-18; 4:15-16 Message: "The Man"	<i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>
11/8	Caregiver Sunday Preaching: Elder Doug Yauger Moment for Mission: IFVC – Carol Ashton – sign-ups	Pastor Jim on vacation (11/7-9)
11/15	Theme: You Asked for it! – part 9 Stewardship – How Much to Give to God? Passage: 1 Peter 4:10 Message: "How Much Is Enough?"	
11/22	Christ the King Sunday Theme: Christ the King Passage: Ephesians 1:15-23 Message: "The Undisputed, Overwhelmingly Victorious King Jesus"	
11/29	First Sunday of Advent Theme: God Incarnate – part 1 Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:44b-49 Message: "The Second Man"	

Christian Education on the Way!

As the year 2020 comes to its final months, we can look back at all the challenges the church has faced and we can see how God shined His light even in the midst of darkness. With that same mindset, I thought about how Christian Education is for our children. Having programs that shine the light of Jesus can be used to bring light to dark areas - areas in which our children may be unsure of. Having a kid embrace the joy of Jesus Christ is beyond exciting to be a part of. Going into 2021, **Trinity United Presbyterian Church** wants to offer classes for our children. Regardless if it's Children's Sunday School or Children's Church, we want to have something in place so that we can reach the children that walk through these doors.

-James V

Our Mission is to worship and serve Jesus Christ by proclaiming his Gospel to all persons.
As servants of Christ, we will always be a community of love, hope, service and reconciliation.

Return Service Requested

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