

TOUCHSTONE

October 2020

Vol. 39 No. 10

Trinity United Presbyterian Church • 79 W. Fayette Street, Uniontown, PA 15401
724-437-2709 • www.trinityupc.com • trinityupc@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/trinityupc

Worship | Service | Proclaim | Discipleship | Community

Evening on the Lawn

Friday, October 9th at 5:30

Join us as we have a fun time playing games, having food, and singing a few songs around the fire. This is an event for all ages and we highly encourage you to bring your families along. Remember it's October - so dress warm!

Bethel Bible Series

Our Bethel Bible Series Teachers are back at the Training needed to become your Teachers in January!

Bethel Bible Series Congregational Phase Start-Up

January 2021

Trinity Church
Spaghetti Dinner
(Take Out Only)

Dinner includes: Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert and a drink.

Date: Saturday, October 17th

Time: 5:00p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Trinity Church

Tickets - \$7.00 (See James Vlosich)

Benefits Trinity Missions



This month's hike will be on the Sheepskin Trail here in Uniontown --- Saturday, October 24 ---
Meet at the Church at 11 am

More details later



Our Fellowship

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1—Seth Caton | 10—Cole Waligura |
| 4—JW Eddy | 15—Brittany Eddy |
| 6—Michelle Borland | 19—Natalie Goodwin |
| 8—Bob Cahn | 21—Brianna Kolencik |
| 8—Jean Rendina | 24—Alaysha Shaffer |
| | 25—Savannah McCourt |
| | 27—Barbara Lombardo |
| | 28—Billy Addis |

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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

Happy Anniversary

October 3
Jack & Barbara Leone
28 years

October 9
Seth & Amy Caton
10 years

October 10
John & Jean Nass
39 years

October 23
Andrew & Amanda Hostetler
10 years

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:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Oct 1—5 | Laurie Savage, Ray & Shirley Savage, Amanda Scarfo, David Scott, Robin Semans, Bill, Tanya, Tyler, Alaysha, Kami, Kaelyn, Journey, Maci and Presten Shaffer |
| Oct 6—11 | Andrew, Brandi, Jalyn and Autumn Shanaberger, Tonye Sharp, John, Terri and Alec Sharp |
| Oct 12—18 | Craig Smith, Neil, Christie, Kaitlyn and Drew Springer, Harry and Dorothy Springer |
| Oct 19—25 | William Springer, Greg Spowls, Francis, Leslie, Jeffrey and Philip Squires |
| Oct 26—30 | Don Stone, George and Ginny Tanner, Jack, Donna, Drew and Lindsay Teeter |

Church News

Youth Group Update

The students are back and we are teaching the Youth Group about taking the next step in their faith. It can be hard to navigate life when you are a teenager. Sometimes as a teenager, we can be very unsure on what path to take. At Youth Group we want to help our students with taking the step in their growth and development as young Christians.

If you want to be a part of helping the Youth Group students take the next step, reach out to me. I know there's an area that we could use your assistance!

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

-James V.

Sunday School

Join us on Sunday mornings as we read and discuss C.S. Lewis's classic "The Problem of Pain". If you didn't start on week one, it's no problem at all. The way that the class is set up allows us to have discussion even if you missed a week. We are using what we learn from "The Problem of Pain" and read the Bible and try to understand the existence of pain more clearly.

-James V.

Pastor Jim's Bible Studies

Pastor Jim's Video Bible Study on Trinity Facebook

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/trinityupc/>

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

September → Ephesians

Question: What are the prison letters?

Answer: "The prison epistles - Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon - are so named because they were written by the apostle Paul during one of his incarcerations. It is generally accepted that Paul wrote the prison epistles during his first Roman imprisonment.

Paul's time in captivity was no less profitable to us today than it was to the first-century churches he loved so well."

- taken from "Got Questions?"

Wednesday Night Skype

In the month of September, we read through the book of Ruth. In the book of Ruth, we learned how Boaz became the "family redeemer" for Ruth. A family redeemer was a relative who would take responsibility for an extended family member. This idea was placed into the law to help those in situations such as Ruth's, who was a widow. When it comes to us, we have a redeemer in Jesus Christ. Jesus came into this world to save us from our sin. Jesus has redeemed and guarantees our salvation.

We had a great study on Ruth as a group. We always welcome anyone new with open arms! If you want to learn about the Bible - Wednesday Night Skype is a great choice!

Wednesday Night Skype

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

-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

Kids have questions about everything. Looking back I can remember all the questions I had about the Bible when I first became a believer. Small video messages and devotionals always help me with trying to figure out different Biblical topics. I encourage you to take some time and watch these Children's Video Messages with your children/grandchildren and give them a chance to ask you about questions they may have.

- James V.

Trinity UP Preschool is having their Fall Hoagie Sale Fund Raiser. Eight-inch hoagies from New Salem Mini Mart or Hoagie Cards are available for \$7 each.

Options: Italian, Ham & Cheese, Turkey

Orders and Money Due: Wed, Oct 14

Delivery: Wed, Oct 21

Moment of Devotion Videos

When it comes to learning about the Bible, I have always enjoyed reading short devotionals. Doing this has taught me so much! You may not think reading or watching a 3 minute devotional every day is much, but it adds up. If you watch or read a 3 minute devotion every day for one year, that adds up to 1,095 minutes. That's roughly 18 hours worth of study! Remember that even the smallest amount of time learning about God's Word adds up as long as we stick with it.

-James V.

Darts & Devotions

Throwing darts has become a weekly assembly at Trinity United Presbyterian Church. There is a devoted group of men who meet and read from the Bible, as well as practice for a Dartball season that may or may not happen anytime soon. Regardless of if the league chooses to play this season, we here at Trinity United Presbyterian Church will continue with Darts and Devotions.

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

-James V.



These things are on the "Drafting Board"...

Upcoming this Fall/Winter

- Youth Sunday, October 11th
- Layering-in Trinity's new small group focus: **Word-Share-Prayer**
- Worship Series on "The Beatitudes"
- Worship Series on "Jesus the Shepherd"
- Continuing Series on "You Asked for it – Series on what people want to hear"
- Stewardship Invitations
- Welcoming Church Invitations and Opening-Up our lives
(Being a Welcoming Church)
- Christ the King Worship Series
- Advent Worship Series

THESES WILL BE SAFE

Now is the time to start thinking about whom you are going to be inviting to our Coffee Hours, Breakfasts, Side Yard Events, Worship Services, Picnics, Take-Out Dinners and Fun Activities!

Church News

Tuesday Night Bible Study 7 pm - with masks - with distance!

“Disciples are Made not Born”

Oct. 6 Outlook

Oct. 20 The Cost of Discipleship

Oct. 13 Jesus as Lord

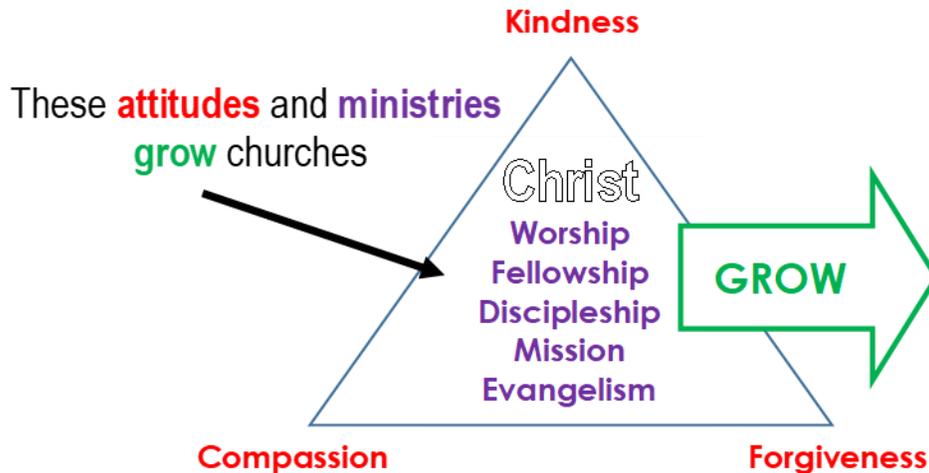
Oct. 27 A Proper View of God and Us

Disciple Making is not easy. JFK said, “We are not going to the moon, because it is easy. We are going to the moon, because it is hard!” Becoming a disciple of Jesus is hard and challenging - It is a life-long process - It has many ups and downs - And, we need to remain faithful to Jesus Christ's Great Commission:

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make** disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:16-20

As we remain faithful to Jesus's calling, we will experience the fulfillment that comes from being faithful to the purpose for our creation. Disciple Making is not just about conversion to Christ, it is just as much about nurturing disciples into maturity in Christ, over the years.

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



Music Department

NOTES FROM THE BENCH

By Brett Vanderlaan

Canons, Rounds, and Fugues, Oh My!

It has been said that imitation is the best form of flattery, and perhaps it is. In the case of music, **imitation** takes many forms. This column will explore the idea of imitation within a particular piece of music (not of one piece being similar to or based upon another). The compositional device of having different voices or parts repeat the same musical idea in succession has been employed for centuries. As early as the 12th century, there is evidence of music in which a particular motive or melodic fragment is presented by different instruments or voices one after another with or without some amount of overlap. Successive statements of an imitated motive may be exact, or they may have changes that avoid obscuring the imitation (including starting on a different pitch, slight variations in one or more intervals, or rhythmic adjustments). More elaborate changes can include **inversion** (where the imitation goes up where the original went down by the same intervals) or **retrograde** (where the imitation is the original motive played backwards, literally).

The simplest form of a musical piece based upon imitation is a **round**. Common examples of this would include “Row, row, row your boat,” “Frere Jacques,” or even TALLIS’ CANON (hymn numbers 535-“Go with Us, Lord” and 542-“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*). In a round, each part performs the exact same melody separated by a certain amount of time (one phrase, half of a phrase, etc.). More sophisticated versions of a round include the *rota*, *caccia*, *chace* and *canon* dating from the 14th century onward. These forms often employ the techniques of inversion, retrograde, starting on different pitches, or even retrograde inversion. Other forms of music that use imitation appear in choral music (masses, motets, madrigals, and chansons) and instrumental music (ricercars, canzonas, fantasias, and capriccios).

Perhaps the crowning example of an imitative musical form is the **fugue**. A fugue is an expanded piece built on the imitation and development of a single musical idea called the **subject**. [A double fugue is based upon two distinct subjects.] In the exposition, the subject will be presented first by one voice (or part). The subsequent entry of the subject is called an **answer**. The answer is usually at a different pitch. Each voice, line, or part will then enter with the subject or an answer. As the texture thickens, voices will typically continue to play a specific, repeated countersubject or other accompanying figures. After all voices have entered, a section called an **episode** will connect to the next set of entrances of subjects and answers, usually in a different key. A fugue often ends with a final set of statements of the subject and answers in the original key.

While J. S. Bach is considered the ultimate master of fugal composition (as exemplified in his work *Art of Fugue*), fugues have been written by composers well before and after Bach’s era. Many fugues modify aspects of the strict form, but the listener can usually identify repeated entrances of the subject. For example, a *fughetta* is a short piece that employs imitative entrances and reaches a conclusion soon after all voices have entered. *Fugato* refers to a fugue-like section of a larger piece of music, and may be heard in symphonies, concertos, chamber music or larger choral

Every Note

J. S. BACH
The Art of Fugue
FUGA I
a 4 voci. J. S. Bach.

Andante con moto.
sempre legato

cresc.

works. For the organ, fugues can be presented as stand-alone pieces, or in conjunction with other pieces such as Prelude and Fugue, Toccata and Fugue, or Fantasia and Fugue.

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)

Prayer-Share-Word



"I stir the pot a little to promote creativity...Congregations looking for ways to be the church together during and even after the pandemic might well find what they're looking for in the early church practice of house churches."
- Pastor Aaron Teter

Small Groups are now being put together by our Christian Education Committee. They are starting to form and some of Trinity's existing groups are being adjusted to fit into the small group model (Prayer-Share-Word). Small Groups will begin to encompass a larger part of Trinity's church life in the spring.

A small group is a group that meets every week or every other week for fellowship, prayer, Bible study/discussion, and/or to do an activity, (and maybe share a light meal or snack) in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

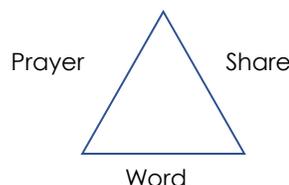
It is less of a location and more of a style...outside or on a front porch might be an excellent location at this time. Some groups meet for a simple, relaxed dinner, a bit of Bible study, then prayer. The groups are usually completed in an hour and a half. As long as there is Fellowship, Prayer, and Bible study (and a snack), the group fulfills all the "requirements" of a small group.

Prayer-Share-Word

The goal is to facilitate conversations of healing and grace, grounded in the Word and the lives of the saints. Thereby opening the door to invite the Holy Spirit to create an atmosphere of fun and meaningful conversation or activity and support. Right now, we would have to meet while garbed in a mask and maintaining a safe distance apart. The pandemic is like a winter storm; as long as it is going on, we have to deal with it. Once it passes, we can go back to "life as usual"; and after this temporary period is over, the body of Christ will have some small group ministry tools to continue to make Trinity stronger.

This is a ministry and will require a bit of training for our small group leaders and the administrator of the ministry/program. Pastor Jim is ready and trained to help Trinity in this area. It comes down to "preaching the Gospel with our daily lives", and being a Christian in our normal, everyday lives. Saint Francis said, "Preach the Gospel, and if you have to, use words."

Pastor Jim



Tutoring Here at Trinity? Why not?

Savannah students on the RISE

Clergy-led coalition provides seven church-based learning Pods for students



Pictured to the left are some of the members of the RISE Coalition, or **R**eligious **I**nstitutions **S**upporting **E**ducation. Rev. John Ruehl is in the tan jacket, while Dr. Eric Mason is at left. Thanks to the Rev. John Ruehl and a handful of other faith leaders in Savannah, Georgia, about 150 students in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System are beginning virtual learning for the 2020-21 in *their local churches*. Ruehl, an

at-large member of Savannah Presbytery, was appointed by Mayor Van R. Johnson, II over the summer to organize and head the RISE Coalition. Ruehl said the idea to make pods for in-person virtual learning possible in churches and in a few Savannah-area businesses came simultaneously to him and to Dr. Eric D. Mason, pastor of the Jesus First Community Church.

Tutoring here at Trinity? Why Not? We have adults who have the desire...we have facilities that could be used...we have adults with lots of knowledge and are willing to share...we have patience.

Trinity ---Ministers: all the Congregation

Our Mission: 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.

I, your pastor, have begun discussions with area pastors in Uniontown churches to look at the above idea. More information later! Let me know if you have any interest in this outreach and if a significant number of us feel the call, we will begin talking about it at Session.

We will always be a community of love, hope, service and reconciliation.

Pastor Jim

Who among you are lonely?

During pandemic, the need for fellowship deepens

By Erin Dunigan; edited by Pastor Jim

The pandemic has heightened the loneliness epidemic in America, raising awareness among congregations that the lonely among them might not be so obvious. On some level, someone in the church is feeling the pain of feeling disconnected. Here, a worshiper sits a safe distance away from others in Putnam United Presbyterian Church in New York.

Loneliness as a phenomenon is nothing new - nor is loneliness unheard of within the life of a congregation, especially among single adults and those who are housebound or in nursing homes. But with the new norms of social distancing, **loneliness has taken on a new level of intensity for many Americans**. In the United States some 35.7 million people live alone, or approximately one-third of households. This number has nearly doubled in the past 50 years. *Living alone and loneliness are, of course, not the same thing*. However, since COVID-19, those who were already isolated are finding themselves even more so, which is disconcerting especially since a lack of human connection can leave individuals more susceptible to a variety of health concerns. *Loneliness has been linked to more vulnerability to viruses, as well as increased stress*.

Churches that have been unable to meet together physically in all of the traditional ways that marked fellowship are facing a great ministry conundrum: How do churches connect with people without physically connecting? At a time when a hug, hand holding or a visit are most needed, those are the very things that are off-limits. It is a challenging time as the church seeks ways to provide for those in her family who are most vulnerable to loneliness, but also remembers those in its midst who might be too easily overlooked.

Getting better at checking in

The Rev. Thom Shuman is the transitional pastor at Galloway Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. He is also the father of an adult son, Teddy, who lives in a facility for people with mental and developmental disabilities. Shuman's adopted son, who had fetal alcohol syndrome as a child, has lived the past 25 of his 34 years in and out of different psychiatric placements that provide the safety, security and structure that are essential for him. He has also depended on regular visits...**"When this is all over, whenever that is, we need to do a better job of checking in with people...I think the challenge for the church, especially in this time, is to minister to and with the people that God brings through your door, and to see them as blessings, opportunities to love God and your neighbor even more"**, said Shuman.

And while congregations are getting creative with visiting people in ways that do not require the human touch - be it drive-by birthday parades or nursing home visits with residents standing by the windows waving to loved ones safely outside - nothing can or will replace the healing power of touch.

Worship Themes

October 2020

10/4	World Communion Sunday	Peace Offering
	Theme: Peace Globally and in Ourselves	
	Passages: John 14:27; Proverbs 3:5-6	
	Message: "Peace"	
	Notes: Peace must be within before it can be Global	
10/11	Youth Sunday	
	Theme: Youth	
	Passages: I Timothy 4:12	
	Message: "Being an Adult in Spirit..."	
10/ 18	Evangelism Sunday #2	
	Theme: Jesus the Shepherd #1	
	Passages: Psalm 100:3; John 10:10-14	
	Message: "The Good Shepherd"	
	Notes: Young Life Speaker	
10/25	Reformation Sunday	
	Theme: Jesus the Shepherd #2	
	Passages: Mark 6:3; Hebrews 13:8	
	Message: "The Constructor"	

The leaves are beginning to change; fall is in full swing. While Trinity Church as a whole plans for fall activities and re-starts programs, we want you to know that the church staff helps maintain safety measures at the building. During staff meetings and close interactions with others, we wear our masks. Bible studies, Sunday School and other church meetings are pre-set up to promote social distancing. Director of Music Bill Dreucci and Organist Brett Vanderlaan found ways to continue our beloved music ministries, carefully taking all concerns into consideration. The choir currently practices and performs every other week. The Children's Choir enjoys music-related activities to continue learning while not singing. The preschool follows strict protocols that include masks. Sexton Bill Thompson regularly cleans areas of the building that are in use the most, as well as ensures that masks and hand sanitizer are always accessible. We pray for peace and good health to all this fall season! God bless.

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