

# TOUCHSTONE

November 2019

Vol. 38 No. 11

Trinity United Presbyterian Church • 79 W. Fayette Street, Uniontown, PA 15401  
724-437-2709 • [www.trinityupc.com](http://www.trinityupc.com) • [trinityupc@gmail.com](mailto:trinityupc@gmail.com)  
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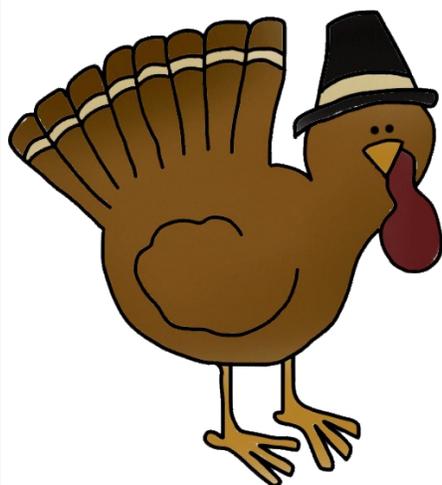
Worship | Service | Proclaim | Discipleship | Community

**You are invited!**

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trinity Church Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 24, 2019 at Noon

Join us following worship for a Thanksgiving meal and fellowship in the chapel. The turkey, beverages and place settings will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and feel free to invite family and friends.



Also, again this year, the Mission Committee will be collecting money for Heifer International, a global nonprofit that works to eradicate poverty and hunger by distributing farm animals to families in need around the world. Last year \$280.00 was collected and used to send several flocks of chickens. This year we hope to raise funds not only for chickens and bees, but perhaps a goat or pig, as well!

-Church Family and Mission Interpretation Committees

### Bethel Bible Series Update:

Your Nine Dedicated Teacher Trainees are off and running this fall learning about God's Word and how to teach it. They have one year left of training, then they will be teaching and leading you into great areas of ministry and learning in 2021. Therefore, we will have Nine New Leaders in Trinity, just raring to go by the fall of 2021! **Amen.** What will Nine New Leaders here at Trinity do for helping to accomplish God's Purpose through Trinity?! LOTS!

# Our Fellowship

## Happy Birthday

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



## Happy Anniversary

November 20

*Doug & Patty Yauger*

November 24

*Bill & Ellie Wallencheck*  
35 years

November 28

*George & Ginny Tanner*  
51 years

**Trinity United Presbyterian Church**  
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[trinityupc@gmail.com](mailto:trinityupc@gmail.com)  
 Reverend Jim Gear, Pastor  
 Reverend Dr. John Sharp, Pastor Emeritus  
 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



FREE Beginner Tap Dancing Lessons on Tuesdays! See Joy Fike!

## 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—6 Bill and Meg, Bailey, Jacob and Grace Cahn, James Carbin, Seth and Amy, Seth II, Casey, Jacob and John Caton, John Chidester
- Oct 7—13 Mark & Carol Clites, Ted and Andrea, Jackson and Logan Collins, Tammi Consavage
- Oct 14—20 Jacquelyn, Jackson and Preston Core, Margaret Crossland, Nancy Davis, Donovan and Angela DeAngelo, Abigail Dowling
- Oct 21—31 Bobby and Morgan, and Callen Dugan, Melissa, Chelsea, Ryan and Savannah Duley, Ben and Brittany, and Brantley and Brynna Eddy, Dan and Alyssa, and Grace Eddy

# Events



Church Hike November 16 12:00 pm

## BEAR RUN NATURE RESERVE

WE ARE HIKING IN THE SAME PLACE,  
BUT ON A **TOTALLY DIFFERENT TRAIL**

Bear Run Nature Reserve is located off PA Rt. 381,  
approximately 3 miles south of Mill Run, Fayette County, PA...  
right near Fallingwaters. **Eating out in Ohiopyle afterwards!**

**Get Out There, in the Fall and make a difference in Your Life!!!**



## Men's Ice Fishing Discipleship Weekend

The fish are not here, on the road, gentlemen...  
They are in the lake, under the ice!  
We will find them this winter!!!

# The Trinity Recital Series

*presents*

**California Singers**

Sun Nov 10 | 3 pm



**CALIFORNIA  
UNIVERSITY**  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

# Church Ministry

**Second Saturday** 5 - 7 pm, Second Saturday each month

Informal Worship

Meal

Local Mission Project

**This is a Worship and Mission Opportunity!**

## November 9

**Theme:** Veteran's Day, Service and Sacrifice

**Meal:** Hot Dogs or Hamburgers & apple pie

**Worship:** Informal with lively hymns

**Mission:** Care Packages

**Food** always Good

**Worship** always Informal

**Mission** always Local

**AND,** opportunities for the Saints to serve in meals, worship, service

## MEN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE



Men's Breakfast – November 6,

7:30 am

Westminster Room

Men's Discussions – November 20,

7:30 am

Mark C.'s Restaurant

Men's Dartball – Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

**Big History --- Big Discipleship --- Big Brotherhood**

Men's Fall Trip! Let's Get-R-Done!



**Prayer Group** has moved to The Last Wednesday Night of the month at 7 pm, by popular demand!

**Prayer Group**...Praying for Trinity and her ministries; local, county, commonwealth, national and international needs.



**November Theme:** How to find time to Pray

**Location:** The Upper Room

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 pm

# Evangelism—Four Questions Answered



What is it?  
 Why is it needed?  
 Who will do it?  
 What will it look like here at Trinity?

**What is it?** Evangelism is the sharing of the Good News (the Gospel of Christ) in Word and deed. Plain and simple, evangelism happens when people, who do not know Jesus, find out about him and his reality in ways they can understand.

**Why is it needed?** Without evangelism, in some sort of way, no one can come to Christ and accept him as Lord and Savior. Jesus made it very clear in the New and Old Testaments that we must Go out and Spread the Good News.

**Who will do it?** The entire Church is called to do evangelism, but the reality is that only about 15% of any church feels the call to be about this work on a regular basis. That is ok, because it only takes about 5-10% of the people in a church, to pick up this ministry to do excellently in being evangelistic. Yes, it is true that some people do it very well, some do it very poorly and some just never do it.

### **The excuses end here.**

We, here at Trinity, all need to do it better and more often...yet, some people have the spiritual gift of evangelism, or the ability to converse well with others and therefore do evangelism very well, but that does not let the rest of us off the hook.

I have read these statistics and quoted them often...they run pretty much as the following:

The average Episcopalian asks someone to church about once every 28 years...

The average Catholic asks someone to church about once every 15 years...

The average Presbyterian...about once every 7 years...

The average Southern Baptist...about once every 4 years...

The average Evangelical in an Independent Church...about once every 2 years...

The average Believer in a Big Box rapidly growing Church...about once every few weeks or months...

**You, I am sure, get the idea...**

AND about 70-80% of your friends and family will say YES and be glad you asked them!

(this is a demographic fact)

**What will it look like here at Trinity?** An interweaving of Obedience, Partnership and Support is the model we are putting together.

**Obedience to Jesus** - accepting his call to talk about him with others. Obedience is the cornerstone of evangelism – Jesus said, go and tell and show the love of God. When we choose not to “go-tell-show”, then we are simply being disobedient. Nobody wants that!

# Church News

## **Book Journey** (Book Club—Second Tuesday of Each Month, 7:00pm)

Kristin Hannah's 2015 bestseller *The Nightingale* will be the topic of discussion at the next Book Journey on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. This highly acclaimed novel tells the story of two sisters in France during World War II, and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation of France.

As always, new members or one-time visitors are cordially invited to join our small, congenial group.

Jean Nass, Group Leader

## Youth Group

**W**e are worth the investment. This is a recurring point that keeps making its way through the conversation at this year's Youth Group. The Gospel of John has been showing our teenagers in every chapter just how much God loves us. It has been a blessing to have conversations with our teens about how much of an impact having a relationship with Jesus Christ can have on us. As we move into November, we will continue to read through the book of John. If you would like to be an adult supporter for Youth Group let us know and we will be sure to find a spot on our team for you!

Youth Group—Thursdays from 5:30-6:45

Continued from Pg 5...

**Partnership in the Gospel** – we have the opportunity to do this “go-tell-show” as a Church united by Christ. True, our Evangelism Committee and Teams (still coming together as we go through the fall) will lead us...but, that does not, in any way, mean that they will do all the evangelism. We all need to do our parts (big or small).

**Support by the Church** – evangelism costs a lot of money...salvation is priceless. God always supports 100% of what he calls his saints to do. Evangelism takes a lot of time, energy and talents... God always supplies the needs of all his saints.

How will you help? Do you want your church to be here in 20 years?

### **This IS the issue! This IS the time to act!**

It is going to look different around here at Trinity...evangelism will be coming to the forefront of many of our thoughts in a few years here at Trinity. Evangelism will start to take shape in Worship, Bible Studies, Christian Education and Mission this Winter, Spring and Summer. Training, Encouraging and Equipping begins this Fall and Winter. This is just a hint of what your committees and ministry teams are planning. Stay tuned!

ps. Bringing your friends and family to Worship is **not** the only avenue to use in Evangelism. Here are some others at Trinity: Second Saturday's, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Dartball, Church Picnics, Bowling, Concerts (in and outside of the church building), Book Journey, Mission Trips, Men's Groups, Women's activities and Retreats, Choir and Bells...the list goes on and on...

We just need to start asking people to visit with us!

- Pastor Jim

# Music Department

## NOTES FROM THE BENCH

-by Brett Vanderlaan

With this column, I plan to initiate a regular (or at least periodic) series of columns about the music that is being offered in worship. I may also discuss musical activities that are happening at the church or in the community. For this first installment, I would like to focus on hymns.

Usually, three hymns are chosen for the worship service each week. In selecting these hymns, I try to match some element(s) of the theme for the particular service. This may be based on the pastor's message, the scripture readings, the liturgical calendar, communion, the season or a holiday, or another point of emphasis in the service.

There are MANY hymns and songs from which to choose.

I do attempt to avoid frequent repetition of the same hymns (we have sung 3 hymns twice since last December – out of over 130 total), and I do attempt to introduce new tunes and texts (remember all music that you like was once new to you).

Ultimately, the words are important in each hymn or song. A hymn text can be read as poetry, as a prayer, or as a devotional prompt. Even in a hymn that seems unrelat-

ed to the service at first glance, an observant participant is likely to find a word or phrase that specifically ties in to some aspect of the worship (it might be found in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of the 3<sup>rd</sup> stanza, for instance).

If you have feedback on particular hymns, please share it with me or drop a comment in the suggestion box. Also, if you have a favorite hymn that you would like to request, let me know that as well. It probably won't be sung the following week, but I will record the request and try to work it in when appropriate.

Finally, let me encourage each of you to sing hymns with energy and vitality! Accuracy and quality are not being judged, but rather let your hearts and minds be focused on God. Both St. Augustine and Martin Luther have been credited with professing the concept that when one sings to the Lord, it is essentially like praying twice. With this in mind, we can all "[M]ake a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Psalm 100:1a)

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)



Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord  
Psalm 98:4

# Church Calendar

Visit [calendarwiz.com/trinityupc](http://calendarwiz.com/trinityupc)  
or the church webpage, [www.trinityupc.com](http://www.trinityupc.com),  
to see the church schedule and plan ahead!

## November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm	2
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends Adult Bible Discussion Group with James Vlosich 10:00am - 11:00am Adult Sunday School Class 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 11:00am - 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship 12:00pm	4 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Uniontown Concert Chorale Practice 7:00pm - 8:00pm	5 Election Day Men's AA Group - Westminster Room Unavailable 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Dartball Game 7:00pm	6 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Alanon - Parlor Unavailable 8:00pm - 9:00pm	7 Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm - 6:00pm Youth Group 5:30pm Handbell Practice 6:00pm - 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm - 8:00pm	8 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm	9 Second Saturday Worship 5:00pm - 7:00pm <b>Children's Choir Singing</b>
10 Birthday Sunday Adult Bible Discussion Group with James Vlosich 10:00am - 11:00am Adult Sunday School Class 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 11:00am - 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship 12:00pm California Singers Recital 3:00pm	11 Veterans Day Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Uniontown Concert Chorale Practice 7:00pm - 8:00pm	12 Men's AA Group - Westminster Room Unavailable 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Dartball Game 7:00pm	13 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Session 7:00pm Alanon - Parlor Unavailable 8:00pm - 9:00pm	14 Youth Group 5:30pm Handbell Practice 6:00pm - 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm - 8:00pm	15 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm	16 
17 Adult Bible Discussion Group with James Vlosich 10:00am - 11:00am Adult Sunday School Class 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 11:00am - 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship 12:00pm	18 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Uniontown Concert Chorale Practice 7:00pm - 8:00pm	19 Book Journey 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's AA Group - Westminster Room Unavailable 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Dartball Game 7:00pm	20 Men's Group @ Mark C's Diner 7:30am Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Alanon - Parlor Unavailable 8:00pm - 9:00pm	21 Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm - 6:00pm Youth Group 5:30pm Handbell Practice 6:00pm - 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm - 8:00pm	22 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm	23
24 <b>Children's Choir Singing</b> Adult Bible Discussion Group with James Vlosich 10:00am - 11:00am Adult Sunday School Class 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 11:00am - 12:00pm Thanksgiving Potluck Fellowship Lunch 12:00pm	25 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Uniontown Concert Chorale Practice 7:00pm - 8:00pm	26 Men's AA Group - Westminster Room Unavailable 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Dartball Game 7:00pm	27 Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Alanon - Parlor Unavailable 8:00pm - 9:00pm	28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed Preschool 9:00am - 3:00pm	30 



## Pastor's Article—Finding a Way to Climb the Steps

“Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that, you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves toward the goal of maturity.”

Romans 12:2 Phillips translation



◀ ☒: The world wants you. The world wants to force you into its way of thinking. ☒ ▶

### **BUT,**

God has you already, God the Holy Spirit already lives inside of you. Do not surrender to the distortions and selfishness of the world. God lives within, do not let the world try to squeeze God's way of life out of you and replace it with self-centered interests and greed. Let God continue to restore you into God's image and remold you to think, act and believe like God. If you let God work in and through you, you will quickly notice that you will be “practicing the very acts and lifestyle of God”. The more you allow God to reside within you and live his life through you, the more you will find yourselves “practicing the acts” of God in your daily lives. You will see yourselves moving toward the goals you and God have set for yourselves. This will become a natural process and will not be full of the roadblocks you may have encountered earlier in your lives.

You can think of this as a staircase with lots of little steps, ones that are not too large, but are just the right size for you to make gradual and continual progress. A staircase leading you closer to God and his will for your life. Part of this staircase and revealing of God's will for your life comes out of a life of Stewardship – putting God first in your life and moving away from being selfish.

“Remember, sparse sowing, sparse reaping; sow bountifully, and you will reap bountifully.” II Corinthians 9:6 NEB

Living God's ways takes a long time to fully develop. You do not learn all the ways of God in a couple years. The ways of God working in our lives through discipleship and stewardship takes many years. We must let God work; we must let God move us toward his goals of maturity for our lives. It is a step-by-step kind of business. It is a keep-moving-on kind of business.

What are you now financially giving to God through his church? Is there a way you can raise that one or two percent? If you are giving God 2% of your income now; do you see a way that you could raise that to 2.5 or 3 or 4% next year? You may not see a way, but God does. God sees how he can encourage you to put him more towards being first in your life and raise that financial giving a percentage point or two. If you start out on this path, you will feel a lot better about yourself in the process. Go ahead, challenge yourself and watch God respond and bless your socks off with joy and purpose! Go ahead! Give it a shot! Give God a chance to change your life through discipleship and stewardship, step by step.

Your friend, Pastor Jim

# Sunday Morning Bible Study

***“Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “Completely meaningless!”*** (Ecc. 1:2 NLT)

Last month, I started the article in the Touchstone with that same Bible verse. The reason why it has made a return for this month is because “everything is meaningless” is still very much a part of our Sunday discussions. Life can throw many tempting objects our way. Often we can accumulate treasures and titles that we sometimes value more than our relationship with God.

The class is reading about how nothing in this world lasts forever. In fact, with enough time these material things will corrode or will be forgotten. This class has helped me to open my eyes to the passions that drive me. I think to myself, “Is what drives me from God or from man?”

Solomon teaches us about feeling restless and dissatisfied. The only one that can truly satisfy us is God. With everything in the culture pushing us away from God, reading Ecclesiastes can help us to keep our focus on Christ.

Sunday Morning Bible Study—10:00-10:40

James V

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**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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79 West Fayette Street  
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