



The Christian Flame

December 2024-January 2025

Freeport, Grace Natrona Heights
Trinity Brackenridge

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www.trinitybrack.org

Pastor: Diane Randolph

The mission of the United Methodist Church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion, because the Holy One of Israel is great among you. Isaiah 12:6 CEB

Siblings in Christ,

Peace, Hope and Joy of the Lord be with you all!

During this Advent Season, it is my prayer that each of you will find opportunities to reflect on your faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember His providential loving care and the Joy of His salvation. Joy brings an abiding assurance that God is with us, Emmanuel. In His presence, we may begin anew that prayerful relationship with our Lord Jesus and His Church community. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is Jesus Himself. For this reason, our hearts may be filled with Joy to know that all that we Hope for has been fulfilled in the Christ Child who was born and laid in a lowly manger at Bethlehem. ¹⁰ *The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.”* (Luke 2:10-11) In short, with Christ we have everything!

This Christmas Eve I ask that you each invite friends and extended family to church with heartfelt welcome. I pray that we may all gather for worship with Joy and Thanksgiving. We are planning special music in each church of the Freeport/Grace/Trinity charge and expect unique services within each as we celebrate together God’s presence in our lives and God’s dominion over all things of this world.

Christmas is a wonderful time to thank Father God for the Lord Jesus Christ who is the greatest Gift of Christmas ever given. We also thank God for many good and gracious gifts of the Lord throughout the year and especially within this Holy Season. We recognize that true Peace on Earth and Joy flows from our gratitude and praise of God in our lives.

May you deeply sense the Love of the Lord Jesus Christ as He offers manifold blessings during this sacred time of Peace, Hope and Joy. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Diane



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Submitted by Amanda Bartel*

The Kids at Trinity are walking through the Bible. We are starting at Genesis and the end goal is Revelation. It is important to teach our children biblically. We are teaching the children how to read the bible and learn to interpret the scripture, starting from the beginning.

The past several years the kids have been walking through the bible using the SuperBook Series, which gave the kids a visual account of those popular bible stories. Stories, such as Noah and the ark, the tower of babel, Daniel in the lion's den, and so much more. But now we are diving deeper into the bible using curriculum from teachsundayschool.com.

We went over the stories such as Moses parting the Red Sea as God commanded him to bring the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt. The goal was to go to the land of promise, but they ended up wandering in the desert for 40 years. What happened during that time? Well, that's exactly what we're going over. God miraculously took care of the Israelites, his chosen people, and they got a first-hand account of the awesome power of God. It's amazing the things I have learned, so far myself. I have read these books so many times, it's amazing that there is still more to learn.

The last few weeks we have gone through the book of Leviticus. This is often a book that is not well read, primarily because there is no longer a need to make sacrifices and sin offerings because Jesus paid the ultimate price and became the sacrificial lamb for our sins. It is important to look at the books such as Leviticus in the Old Testament as a tool. There are also the laws that God gave to Moses to help govern the people of Israel. Have you ever heard someone quote the phrase "an eye for an eye" that comes from the book of Leviticus. When Jesus came and taught during his ministry, he told us to "turn the other cheek". I encourage you to dive through the bible and connect the dots through scripture, you will be surprised at what you find.

GIRL SCOUTS



Four Girl Scout Troops meet regularly at Trinity, serving girls from second to eighth grade. The Girl Scouts have been hard at work. It's so wonderful to see young girls who have a love for serving God and reaching out in Christian love into their community. For more information on joining Girl Scouts go to www.gswpa.org to search for troops available.

In September, the Cadet Girl Scout troop met at The Ronald McDonald House at Children's Hospital to provide a meal for the many families who are staying there. The girls came together to provide a well-balanced meal of chicken stir fry over rice, fruit salad, and of course Girl Scout Cookies for dessert. The families were very appreciative and enjoyed the meal the girls chose for them. The girls toured the Ronald McDonald house while there and got to see first-hand how they are helping families with terminally ill children, during a difficult time.

In October, the girls were focused on nutrition instead of candy. Being conscious of the choices of food they put into their bodies. It was fun to watch them create a healthy snack from ingredients provided.

In November, there were two focuses for the Cadet girls ages 12-14. The first was working with the Daisy and Brownie girls honing their leadership skills. Ava Bartel, an active member of Trinity, was found to have a knack for keeping the younger ones entertained. They also celebrated Veterans Day by collecting candy and other items that were donated. They made treat bags and cards for Veterans to pass out at the VFW. Thank you for your service, Veterans!



Holiday Country Store



A big "shout out" to all who in any way contributed to the success of the Holiday Country Store which was held on Saturday, Nov. 2. It takes many hands and hearts to bring this event to fruition each year. To: the Crafters who began in February; the many who contributed to the bake sale; those who worked behind the stations and in the kitchen; the people who donated supplies and monetary gifts; our clean-up crew-THANK YOU! A thank you, too, to everyone who attended. We hope you enjoyed the shopping and the dining and the fellowship. It is a pleasure to have this event each year and help Trinity United Methodist Church to remain as a presence in our community and serve the community with warm heart of Christ.

We realized a profit of about \$6400. The General Fund will receive \$5100 of this money; the remaining money will be used as start-up funds for next year.

Speaking of next year, the Crafters begin on the first Tuesday of February 2025. We meet every Tuesday from 9-11. There is no charge-all that is needed is a willing pair of hands and a love of good fellowship. We are a prayer group as well and support a mission project. Another perk is that we go to lunch after crafting. For more information see or call Betsy Buco, 724-224-1062. Hope to see you there.

God bless you,
The Heavenly Hands Crafters



Submitted by Linda Hugan

LOVE GIFT We are collecting a "Love Gift" for our employees for Christmas. If you are interested in contributing, please put your contribution in an envelope with your name and mark it as Love Gift. Your envelope can be placed in the offering plate, dropped off in the white box outside the office door and sent in the mail.



Submitted by Evey Callender

Cookie tray orders are due December 2 with pick-up Saturday, December 15 from 10:00am until noon or Sunday after worship.

We will be making vegetable soup in January and wedding soup in February. Order forms can be picked up in the narthex or called into Evelyn @724-353-9042 and leaving your name, telephone number and how many quarts that you want. Specific date and time for pickup will be on the order form.



Thank you to Tom and Nancy Fannie for the new water cooler in the Narthex.

Your 2025 offering envelopes are now available in the narthex. Please pick them up to save mailing costs.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

Submitted by Karen Fazio

The Worship Committee is asking all members who are able, to help take down the Christmas decorations on January 5th after the church service. If you can sit in a pew and wrap tissue paper around ornaments to be stored for next year you are able. If you can climb on a ladder and take down wreaths, you are able. All abilities and ages are needed.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Submitted by Karen Fazio



The Worship Committee welcomes everyone to decorate the altar for Christmas with the purchase of beautiful red poinsettias. Poinsettias will be arranged on the altar for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

You can purchase plants individually, as a dedication in honor of someone, or in memory of a loved one. Cost for poinsettias is \$12.00. In lieu of a poinsettia you may donate to the Noah Fund (“rainy day” monies to meet unexpected and emergency needs). Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 15. Please include cash or checks made out to TUMC with your order form.



2024 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Cost \$12.00 each. Check or cash due with order. **Write Poinsettias on the check and envelope please.** All orders due by Sunday, December 15, 2024. Please pick up your flowers after Christmas Sunday worship.

Name of Donors Telephone Number

Check off one of the following: Poinsettia on the Altar Donation to Noah Fund

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____ @ \$12.00 each _____ Total Enclosed

\$ _____ Noah Fund Donation in lieu of a poinsettia

VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES

Submitted By Amanda Bartel

Clearances are important for us as a church to serve safely. If you are wanting to volunteer for any children ministry, safe sanctuary requires our members to have clearances. The clearances needed to volunteer are State Police Criminal and Child Abuse clearances. They can be done online at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/default.aspx>.

If you prefer to fill out your clearances and mail them in, I have provided an easy way to do this. I have printed out the forms and provided the mailing address already filled out on the envelope. I have pre-made these and will pass them out to each church as requested. I am also willing to host another meeting to help those who need and want help filling out their forms. Please contact me (Amanda Bartel) at 724-504-7876 or at bartelkaw@gmail.com.

TAX SAVINGS GIVING FOR SENIORS

Are you 70 ½ or older?

Did you know you can donate directly from your IRA or 401K to TUMC? The gift can count as your required minimum distribution (**RMD**) and is not taxable if you follow the rules for qualified charitable distribution. Direct contributions keep the distribution out of your taxable income so it's a benefit to those who don't itemize. It can also save money for itemizers because an IRA/401K payout that doesn't show up on the tax return can't increase your adjusted gross income. Your adjusted gross income controls how much of your Social Security benefits are taxed and whether you're subject to the high-income surcharge on Medicare premiums.

Ask your IRA or 401K administrator for details on this tax saving strategy.

GET YOUR INCOME TAXES DONE FOR FREE

Submitted By Chris Steele

For Households Earning Up To \$65,000 Per Year
Filing Joint or \$45,000 Filing Individual

Avoid Hidden Fees and Get 100% Of Your Refund

DROP OFF AND PICK UP - IN-PERSON TAX HELP

Call Beth at AVAC 724-226-0606 to schedule an appointment at Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Office, Monday & Thursday 10AM-2PM; Central Presbyterian Church Tuesday 10AM-2PM; or Center Church Tuesday & Thursday 5PM-8PM Saturday 10AM-2PM

VIRTUAL TAX HELP

Get started today at GetYourRefund.org/FreeTaxPrep. Securely send photos of your documents. Volunteers will work with you over the phone to complete your return.

FILE ON YOUR OWN

You can file your own federal and state taxes for free online at MyFreeTaxes.com

**IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY
CALL 9-1-1**

If you ever need to call 911 to get emergency help to the church it is important that you provide the following information: **Church name**, Trinity United Methodist, **Address** (847 Tenth Avenue, Brackenridge), **Entrance** (Front Door or Lower Side Door). Also mention the church is across the street from Prospect Cemetery. 911 dispatch is located near the Pittsburgh airport. Simply saying help is needed at Trinity Church is not enough.



HELPING HANDS

Ava and Amanda Bartel would like to start a class once a month to teach those who would like to learn crocheting, knitting, cross stitching, and other skills. If you are willing to

teach or learn please reach out to Amanda Bartel 724-504-7876 or bartelkaw@gmail.com



Two florists offer special pricing for TUMC altar flowers.

Lehman Flower Shop. The price for a single vase is \$25.00. The price for two end vases is \$50.00. Flowers include mini and large carnations and daisies in your choice of colors along with baby's breath and greens.

Bailies Flower Shop price for a single vase is \$35 and \$60 for two end vases. Flowers include carnations, daisies, and mums in your choice of colors along with greens.

Karen Fazio is available to help with any questions.

Sign up for flowers on the chart in the Narthex or call Karen. When signing up, please include the florist, name, phone number, name of person you are honoring or remembering, whether you want a single center or two end arrangements and choice of flower colors. Payment must be made by the Sunday of display. Checks made to TUMC can be placed in the offering plate with your name, date of display and Flower Fund on the envelope. You may also purchase flowers directly by calling Kathy Bailie 724-224-9557 or Joyce Lehman 724-224-3770 to order any other type of arrangement. For donation credit please submit a copy of the paid invoice.

Submitted by Karen Fazio



The Agape Thrift shop at Grace United Methodist is open Wednesdays from 1 pm to 4 pm.

The Thrift store at Freeport United Methodist is open from noon to 3 p.m. on Mondays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

The Sparrow's Nest at AVAC is open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Both churches and AVAC accept clean and smoke-free clothing.

Deadline for the February/March issue of The Christian Flame is January 15. Please give all articles to Chris Steele or send to her email at clsteele@gmail.com

Editor: Chris Steele
Proofreaders: Betty Ruediger,
Colleen Rudolph
Assemblers: Betty Ruediger,
Colleen Rudolph, Beth Sarver,
Charlie Steele



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Alan Acre	13	Matthew Snebold	22	Cadence Schrag
1	John Graham	14	Pamela Metzler	22	Pegi Woodman
1	Benita Horger	15	Eileen Reckhart	25	Madelyn Skursky
6	Timothy Cornuet, Jr.	17	Lorri Wildi	25	Mary Carol Stitt
8	Kathryn Lydick	18	Evelyn Callender	26	Margie Freehling
11	James Gezo	18	Adriane Homa	30	Caden Callender
12	Matthew Fannie	20	Carol Wildi	30	Alyce Dunn
12	Dianne Schmitt	21	Dominic Ruediger		
13	Brian Alter	21	Beth Sarver		

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Debra Beale	12	Addison Bernstein	25	James, Michael
3	Deborah Bartrug	12	Joshua Bonnett	25	Matthew Matarrese
3	Christopher DeAngleis	12	Benjamin Spencer	25	Cortney Striebig
4	Delano Hemphill	14	Karen Vanderhoff	26	Todd Pungratz
4	Evelyn Ingle	17	Gabriella Pater	26	Charlotte Ward
4	Joseph Painter	20	Seneca Maskas	27	Macey Cornuet, Jr.
5	Jessica Eshenbaugh	20	Charles Tindall	27	Jeremy Vanderhoff
5	Brady Rametta	21	Ryan Scisciani	28	Thomas Brown
6	Anthony Jump	21	Donald Stover	28	Ashley Dudzik

If we missed your birthday, please contact Colleen Rudolph at trinitybrackenridge@gmail.com

In Honor and Memory

The following donations have been received:

In Memory of:

Mildred Meanor and **Ernestine Sarver** by Howard & Beth Sarver

Lori Bernesser by Karen Fazio

Frank Jerome by Craig Jerome


Ron Reckhart by Eileen Reckhart

For All Saints Day in memory of **Our Parents** by Ron & Betsy Buco


For All Saints Day in memory of **Beverly Franz** by Karen Fazio

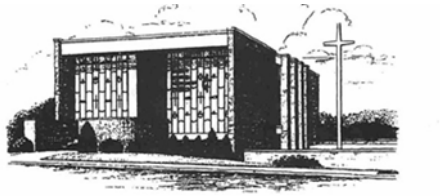


December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School	2 Christmas Cookie order forms due 6 PM Marital Arts	3 Men's Steak Dinner 6 PM Discipleship IV Bible Study	4 6:30 PM Study of Luke's Gospel 8 PM A.A./AI-Anon	5	6 6 PM Girl Scouts	7 10AM NA
8 8:30 AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School	9 6 PM Education 6 PM Marital Arts 7 PM Marital Arts Anniversary Party	3 6 PM Discipleship IV Bible Study	11 6:30 PM SPR 6:30 PM Study of Luke's Gospel 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	12 12 PM Blood Drive 6 PM Brownie & Daisy 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Admin. Council	13 10AM AVAC Board 6 PM Daisy and Cadet	14 10AM NA Christmas Party
15 8:30 AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10 AM Poinsettia Order 10 AM Sunday School	16 9 AM AVAC Christmas Store Set Up 6 PM Marital Arts 6:30PM Trustees	17 9 AM AVAC Christmas Food/Gift distribution 6 PM Discipleship IV Bible Study	18 6:30 PM Study of Luke's Gospel 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	19	20 6 PM Girl Scouts	21 10AM NA 10 AM Christmas Cookie Pick-up
22 8:30AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10 AM Christmas Cookie 10 AM Sunday School	23 6 PM Marital Arts	24 10 PM Quartet 11 PM Service	25 	26 6 PM Brownie and Daisy	27 6 PM Daisy and Cadet	28 10AM NA
29 8:30AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Visitation Meeting	30 6 PM Marital Arts	31 New Years Eve				

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<p>Pastor Diane may be contacted by phone 412-716-8392 from 9:00am to 9:00pm for regular communication and any time for emergencies, illnesses and deaths. Her regular office hours are on Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 Freeport, 1:00-3:00 Grace, and 3:00-5:00 Trinity You may make an appointment to meet in any office.</p>						
5 8:30 AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School	6 6 PM Marital Arts Class	7 6 PM Discipleship IV Bible Study	8 6:30 PM SPR Meeting 8 PM A.A./AI-Anon	9 6 PM Brownie and Daisy Troops 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 Admin Council	10 6 PM Daisy and Cadet Troops	11 10:00AM NA
12 8:30 AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School	13 6 PM Education 6 PM Marital Arts	14 6 PM Discipleship IV Bible Study	15 8 PM A.A./AI-Anon	16	17 6 PM Girl Scouts	18 10:00AM NA
19 8:30 AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship SOUP PICKUP 10 AM Sunday School	20 6 PM Marital Arts 6:30 PM Trustees meeting	21 6 PM Discipleship IV Bible Study	22 8 PM A.A./AI-Anon	23 6 PM Brownie and Daisy Troops	24 6 PM Daisy and Cadet Troops	25 10:00AM NA
26 8:30A M Hospitality 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Visitation	27 6 PM Marital Arts	28 6 PM Discipleship IV Bible Study	29 8 PM A.A./AI-Anon	30	31 6 PM Girl Scouts	



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
847 Tenth Ave, Brackenridge PA 15014

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail to:

4:00pm **Grace** Christmas Eve Worship Service with Pastor Diane Randolph preaching.
6:00pm **Freeport** Christmas Eve Service with Bell Choir and Pastor Diane Randolph preaching.
10:00pm **Trinity** Brass Quartet Concert
11:00pm **Trinity** Christmas Eve Service with Pastor Diane Randolph preaching.

Christmas Eve December 24th

