



The Christian Flame

August – September 2024

Trinity United Methodist Church
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www.trinitybrack.org

Pastor: Diane Randolph (revdrandolph@gmail.com) 412-716-8392

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

²⁸ We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Beloved Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you so very much for your loving prayers and wishes for returned health.

On July 5, I was admitted to the hospital through the emergency department as I experienced extreme pain and swelling over my body, unable to walk or move within the bed much. It all started with a shingles shot which the doctor said could possibly have been mis-administered into a vein instead of to the muscle. A team of doctors, neurologist, rheumatoid, orthopedic, general practitioner, etc. physicians examined and ran many tests over the five days of my stay; an EKG, three MRIs, two sonograms, and many blood tests including for ALS. No root cause was confirmed; only the shingles shot suspicion remains, which has been documented to have occurred in others.

I have less swelling and less pain now, as I am working through physical therapy. I stand on the word of God. God is yet in control and working for the good of us all. We are in this season of life together; your good is my good and my good is your good. Let us each look to the Lord for that good at this time and at all times. We are to thank God, not necessarily for an adversity but certainly *within* any adversity. I thank God within this illness to know in a very real way that when I am weak, God is strong.

It has been a surprising and unusual experience for me, yet I only look back at it as being slightly frightening to have gone through, as the Holy Spirit was my very present help and comfort in the hospital within my time of uncertainty. I am expected to be back in the pulpit on August 18. Then of course, the Fall begins a busy season with Charge Conference and then Advent and on through the liturgical year.

I am recovering well, resting and healing and I expect to be ready. Yes, I'm healing! Praise the Lord!

Love, Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Diane

The **Annual Western Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference** took place from June 6 to June 8 of this year in Erie, Pa at the Bayfront Convention Center. The annual gathering brought together clergy and lay members from across the region to engage in worship, fellowship and the business of the church. The theme for this year's conference was "Dress for the Harvest," inspired by Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

Key highlights of the conference included:

1. Opening Worship and Keynote Address

* The Rev. William Meekins Jr. delivered the sermon during the opening worship service, emphasizing the importance of answering God's call to serve amidst the plentiful harvest.

*Bishop Cynthis Moore-KoiKoi presided over the conference, addressing the state of the church, the decisions made at the General Conference, where delegates from around the world came together in North Carolina to make decisions for the United Methodist Church and its Book of Discipline. This conference removed any sentences in the Discipline which prevented pastors from marrying same sex partners and any passages that disciplined pastors who did conduct same sex marriages. This is now being left to the individual pastor and church to decide what seems appropriate for them. It also removed passages from the Discipline which did not permit LGBTQ+ people to become pastors. It also removed passages from the Discipline which did not permit LGBTQ+ people to become pastors. **Bishop Moore-KoiKoi also emphasized the importance of unity and mission in her opening address.**

2. Workshops and Discussions:

* Various workshops focused on equipping church leaders with tools for ministry, community engagement and spiritual growth.

*Discussions were held on critical issues facing the church, including church growth, outreach programs, addressing social challenges and the role of technology in ministry.

3. Legislative Sessions :

* Delegates participated in legislative sessions to discuss and vote on key issues affecting the denomination and local congregations.

*Proposals regarding church governance, mission initiatives and financial stewardship were considered and acted upon.

*The conference budget for the coming year was reviewed and approved, with a focus on allocating resources to support local churches and outreach programs.

4. Fellowship and Networking:

*Attendees had opportunities for fellowship, networking and sharing experiences with fellow United Methodists from across the region.

*Special events included communal meals, workshop services, and social gathering designed to strengthen the bonds within the church community.

5. Closing Ceremony :

*The conference concluded with a service of worship and celebration, sending participants back to their home churches with renewed energy and commitment to their ministries.

The conference served as a time of spiritual renewal, learning and planning for the future, and reflecting on the church's ongoing commitment to its missions and values.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn M. Callender

Storytime in the Park

Submitted by Amanda Bartel

Story Time in the Park is a summertime program held at Brackenridge Park on Wednesdays from 11am to 12pm. Kids enjoyed a story, craft and some great lunches provided by our Storytime in the Park team. Thank you to all who read, helped with craft, lunches, and setting up and tearing down.

Grace: Linda Shaefer, Carol Peters, Kim Doney **Trinity:** Amanda and Ava Bartel, Fran Alter, Kathy Flis, Karen Fazio, Jan Valasek, Jill Chieruzzi, Andrea Chieruzzi, Kathy Russel, Buff Nolen, Chris Steele

It was amazing to be able to come together as a church charge and serve the community. I personally look forward to more opportunities to serve alongside each other.



Church camp is an amazing time for a kid. A time to be away from social media, technology, and even parents. Giving kids an opportunity to meet with God on their level. We had 4 kids go to church camp this year and here are their tales from camp. All the children are truly grateful to the church for working hard to give them this opportunity.

Jaysa Quinell: Thank you for sending me to church camp. I don't get to go to church every Sunday like I want. When my mom dropped me off I quickly made friends and was excited for her to go. I had such an amazing time at church camp last year, as it was my first time, that I was excited to go again this year. I was really bummed when I started to get sick halfway through camp and my mom had to pick me up.

Ava Bartel: I went to Camp Allegheny this year and it was my first time at this camp. I did the H2O experience and found out that I like to Kayak. This was my first time going to a camp and feeling like I fit in. I got to see kids from other camps ride horses and now I want to do that next year. We learned about the armor of God. We acted out the 7 deadly sins in a skit and it was really fun. I loved the activities and friends that I made. The songs were cool too. Oh and the food was good.

Weston Bartel: This year was my first time at church camp. I wanted to go to camp like my big brother and sister. I went to Jumonville. I got to sleep in the top bunk and brought my sleeping bag. My mom asked me if I learned anything new about Jesus, and I said "yep" I learned about the armor of God and the shield of God. I learned about the fruits of the spirit. I told my mom I liked the songs but I don't sing. I brought home 3 rocks, 2 sticks, and 1 feather. It was my treasure and I still have them. I walked up a really big mountain to the cross, it was a big journey and my feet were hurting. We also played games at the park. It was really fun. I didn't want to come home.

Kolten Bartel: This was my last year I will be going to church camp. I went to Jumonville to do the Ultimate Games with my best friend Jonathan. Camp is always an active time for me. We do a lot outside. I learned to be right with God today, so you will always be prepared. My favorite part about camp was having a good conversation with one of the pastors about my questions on the bible and my faith and about the rapture in the book of Revelation. I really like playing the games. My favorite was frisbee golf. Going to church camp has impacted me in a positive way.

Submitted by Amanda Bartel

VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES

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.

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearance/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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Children's Sunday School will resume in September, the date TBD. We will be going through each book of the Bible and learning about them as well as continuing the Superbook series because our kids absolutely love it. Superbook is good for literally all

ages! If you are interested in learning how you can get the Superbook at home for your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews etc. it is easy. Go to the website



Kids Bible, Videos and Games

at: <https://us.en.superbook.cbn.com/> or download the Superbook app. *Submitted by Amanda Bartel*

Disciple Bible Study classes will also resume sometime in September. Watch the bulletin for more information.

If you are interested in joining a Bible Study on Forgiveness contact Amanda Bartel.



We will have 4 Girl Scout troops meeting at Trinity this fall. 1 Daisy and 1 Brownie troop will meet every other Thursday. 1 Daisy and 1 Cadet troop will meet every other Friday from 6 – 7:30pm. To join Girl Scouts, go to www.gswpa.org to search for troops available.

Submitted by Amanda Bartel

Crafter Opportunity

Ava Bartel and her mother Amanda would like to start a class once a month to teach those who would like to learn crocheting, knitting, and cross stitching. If you are willing to teach or learn please reach out to Amanda Bartel 724-504-7876 or bartelkaw@gmail.com



STUFF THE BOX

During the month of August, we will be collecting pencils, mechanical pencils, markers, folders, Kleenex tissues and feminine hygiene products to donate to Highlands School District. *Submitted by Linda Hughan*



Donuts With Disciples

August 22 and Each 4th Thursday throughout warm weather.

Harrison Hills Park Overlook Pavilion
10:00am-11:30am

All are invited to join us for conversation, community building, checking in with each other...Because EVERY DISCIPLE NEEDS A DISCIPLE...and...of course...DONUTS!!! Please RSVP to: Sally Snyder 724-902-9047 or REVSJ92@GMAIL.COM.

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



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



Submitted by Every Callender


Place your orders for Mariana's pizza and hoagie items through August 4th. Pick up your order at Trinity on Thursday August 15th from 11am till 1pm. Order forms are available in the narthex.



Thank you to **Bill Barnett** and **Alan Fisher** for all the "extra" time they've had to put in to get the new telephone system and internet up and running! What would Trinity do without you?

**LGBTQ People and the Bible:
Contextualizing
& Understanding Scripture
Workshop**

**First United Methodist Church
251 Main Street, Leechburg
Monday, August 5th @ 6:00 P. M.**



Featuring the Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell
James Kelso Professor Emeritus
of Hebrew and Old Testament
at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

**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.

Are You a Biblical Church Member?

“Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it” 1 Cor. 12:27

In his book, I Am a Church Member Thom S. Rainer writes,

“Church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. We join our churches expecting others to serve us, to feed us and to care for us. ...

God did not give us local churches to become country clubs where membership means we have privileges and perks. He placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to teach, to give ...

With church membership, **everyone** has a role or function. That is why some are hands, feet, ears or eyes. We are all different, but we are necessary parts of the whole.

Because we are all different with different gifts and abilities, we will function differently from other members. But if we are true and biblical church members, we will be functioning members. ...

One of the ongoing questions you should ask yourself and God in prayer is, ‘How can I best serve my church?’”

Here are some current places where you can serve:

Become a greeter on Sunday morning. Say hello or good morning and welcome all who enter our doors. Let Fran Alter know if this is how you want to serve.

Buy, bake, donate Sunday morning treats for our hospitality table. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or let Lisa Distillo know you are willing to serve in this way.

Volunteer to join the list of liturgists. You will receive the liturgy during the week giving you time to practice what you will read on Sunday morning. Talk with Pastor Diane or Fran Alter if you are called to serve as a liturgist.

Join the list of members that offer a children’s sermon on a rotating basis. There are many resources online to help you prepare your children’s message. See Amanda Bartel to have your name added to this list.

Offer to make phone calls, join the visitation team, fold newsletters, take part in a fundraiser, make an extra donation to support a project, help in Sunday School, perform special music, the list of opportunities goes on and on.

Find a way to become a biblical church member using your time, talents and resources to serve others.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2	Gayle Mosley	16	Michele Vertosick	24	Susan Denham
4	Tom Fannie	17	Craig Jerome	24	Janet Valasek
8	Maryella Acre	17	Ariella Ruediger	27	Cynthia Fisher
10	Arlene Hill	19	Matthew Beale	28	Cameron Callender
10	Karen Humes	19	Terry Cousins	28	Joshua Denham
13	Donald Rummel	19	Bonnie Fisher	28	Natalie Homa Susan Lutman
14	Robert Gibson	20	Charlie Steele	29	Linda Hughan
15	Kayla Beale	21	James Collins	29	Bill Ruediger

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Becca Bowser	17	Robert Swiklinski	25	Sarah Witucki
1	Bethanne Henry	19	Lisa Uhric	26	Barbara Johnson
6	Cindy Hooks	20	Kelly Gezo	26	Jackson Spencer
9	Dennis Aftanas	20	Rocco Przybylek	27	Cynthia Slike
9	Jerry Johns	23	John Fetchko	28	Kolten Bartel
10	Jon Logan	24	Audrey Rogacki	28	Brian Schmitt
14	Melissa Beale	24	Linda Rummel	29	Lisa Cook-Proco
15	Bethany Boberg	24	James Stewart	30	Marlena Ruediger
		24	Michael Huston	30	Joselyn Schrag

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

In Honor and Memory

The following gifts and memorial donations to the General Fund have been received.

In Memory of:

Judy Jarosinski by Bob & Linda Gibson

Bonnie Robinson by Ernest & Constance Barch, Bob & Linda Gibson

Harold Meanor by Howard & Beth Sarver

Vivian Meanor by Beth and Howard Sarver

Viola Bibza by Arlene Hill

Rev. Jim Morris by Eddie Florence, Earl & Deborah Killian, Matthews Wall Anchor Services, Dave & Lanita Myers, Howard & Beth Sarver

A donation to the Noah Fund was received in memory of **Rev James Morris** by Eileen Reckert

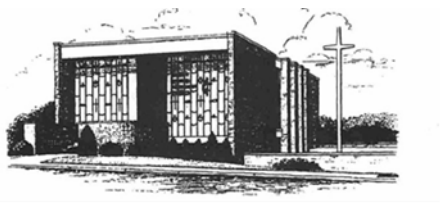


August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Diane is on leave through August 11. Contact Rev. Howard Russell for needed pastoral care. Hgrussell72@aol.com Phone 724-						
4 9AM Worship Hoagie Orders Due	5 6PM Martial Arts	6 9AM Heavenly Crafters	7 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	8 6:30 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Admin. Council Meeting	9	10 10AM NA
11 9AM Worship 10AM Ecumenical Worship Freeport River Gazebo	12 6PM Martial Arts 6:30 PM PPRC Meeting	13 9AM Heavenly Crafters	14 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	15 11:00AM - 1:00 PM Hoagie Pick up	16	17 10 AM NA
18 9AM Worship	19 6PM Martial Arts 6:30PM Trustees Meeting	20 9AM Heavenly Crafters	21 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	22	23	24 10AM NA
25 9AM Worship	26 6PM Martial Arts	27 9AM Heavenly Crafters	28 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	29	30	31 10AM NA Printablecalendarhub.com

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship	2 LABOR DAY	3 9AM Heavenly Crafters	4 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	5	6	7 10AM NA
8 8:30AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship	9 6PM Martial Arts	10 9AM Heavenly Crafters	11 6:30 PM PPSR 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	12 6:30 PM Finance 7:30PM Admin. Council Meeting	13 10AM AVAC Board 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	14 10AM NA 6:00 Gospel Explosion
15 8:30AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship	16 6PM Martial Arts 6:30PM Trustees	17 9AM Heavenly Crafters	18 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	19	20	21 10AM NA
22 8:30AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship	23 6PM Martial Arts	24 9AM Heavenly Crafters	25 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	26	27 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	28 10AM NA
29 8:30AM Hospitality 9 AM Worship	30	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 Trinity, 1:00-3:00 Grace, and 3:00-5:00 Freeport. You may make an appointment to meet in any office.				



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
847 Tenth Ave, Brackenridge PA 15014



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail to:

Saturday, September 14 at 6:00 Trinity United Methodist Church

Free Will offering will support Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.

for more information.)

Come and experience the uplifting voices of our Community Choir as they perform a variety of musical selections. Special guest performers, will bring their inspirational sound to the stage, promising an unforgettable evening of music and joy. (It's not too late to offer your voice. Call AVAC at 724-226-0606

