



Volume 7, Issue 11
2022
November

The Trinity Times



On November 6th we return to Standard time and turn back clocks 1 hour at 2 am! Also, November 6th is *All*

Saints Sunday, and a time to remember those who have gone before us in the Faith. This year we will remember our loved ones who passed since last November: Sara Ciccone, Paul Groff, Bill Helmick, and Betty Walmer. During the worship service we will read the names, ring a chime, and ask family members or friends to light a candle in the loved one's honor.



November 11th is Veteran's Day, honoring those who served our country, past &

present, in peacetime or in war, wherever and whenever they were sent. God bless you, Veterans! On Sunday November 13th we will list the members of Trinity who are veterans in our worship bulletin.

November 13th is *World Kindness Day!* This day encourages us to be kind to others and help create a nicer, better world. You will find kindness rubs off and generates even more kindness☺

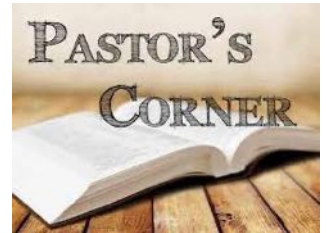


On November 23rd there will be a Thanksgiving *Eve Service* at 7:00 p.m. at Hebron UMC. In addition to the joint choir with members from the participating UMC Churches, our Pastor Jessica Ross will be bringing the message.



November 27th is the first Sunday in Advent. As in past years our Advent Worship Services will have the lighting of the Advent Wreath. If you are on Zoom, you may wish to have your own "safe" advent candle ring to light or turn on. Please volunteer to help with the reading of the litany and lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath during the worship service.

We Need an Extra Helping of Thanksgiving! *Seasonal Thinking*



November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. I used to think that for once we have a holiday in America that brings families together without offending any religious tradition; we come together to share the Lord's bountiful harvest, to celebrate family, with joy and a grateful heart. But this Holiday is all about the most fundamental teaching of our Lord.

As we remember the Pilgrims and Native Americans coming together to break bread, and enjoy a turkey dinner, we remember our history. We remember how the Natives of this land suffered and are still suffering to this day. As United Methodists we repent of the injustices inflicted upon indigenous people. As we give thanks we also are repentant, humble, and the words we say in our humble confession are ever before us.

"We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty." *UMBOW Confession*

With these words on our hearts, let us spend more time saying "thank you", instead of saying, "I am in need". Let us share how grateful we are to live in freedom, instead of grumbling about all the things we need to improve on. What if our mouths were full of praise instead of complaints? What if our hearts were full of the joy of our salvation, and not the bitterness of anger?

What if we truly came together at the table in thanksgiving?

This month's challenge: Love thy neighbor, "sit at the table" with the "Liberal Niece", and the "Right-wing Uncle". Let us sit at the table with all who are different from ourselves, and let us break bread together. If we are truly on our knees before God, can we really see the color, creed, economic status, political affiliation, or gender of who we are next too?

Pastor Jessica

LISTENING CORNER..



01Gloria Clark
 01.....Matt Neblock
 09.....Joe Grandi
 17.....Nancy Frey
 19..... Kathy Zehring

22.....Joy Ellen Bastian
 24.....Jill Brickley
 24.....Walt Zehring
 25Jack Stouffer
 28.....Annika Evans

Liturgists

Date

October 30	Keith Earle
November 6	Barb Querry
November 13	Dea Kishpaugh
November 20	Rick Clark
November 27	Deb Forry



If you are unable to serve as lay reader, please call... 717-838-2812.



November Missions

Please bring non-perishable food items for placement on the altar on **Harvest Home Sunday** (November 20th). All items will be taken to the Lebanon County Christian Ministries Food Bank. Pick-up one of the collection bags in the parlor and take it home to fill and bring back to the church. If you have any questions, see Dea Kishpaugh. The next time you're out shopping and see a "buy one-get one free", consider donating the extra to Harvest Home Sunday!



In November, we will again collect monetary donations for the United Women in Faith Christmas Stocking Project. Stockings are sent to nursing homes with an attached tag that identifies the name of the donating group. Checks can be sent to the church with UMW missions in the memo.

Please help us fill the **United Methodist Committee on Relief** flood buckets (now called "cleaning kits") or donate money to buy the items needed to help those in need after a disaster. UMCOR is usually one of the first groups on the scene of a disaster and the last to leave. 100% of the monies donated goes to the ones in need and not for administration costs. Donate the items on the list in the parlor or send in a check to Trinity UMC and put in the memo "UMCOR".





DISCRETIONARY FUND

Many times throughout the year the pastor is asked to help members of Trinity or the community as they go through difficult times. During days prior to Zoom, monetary gifts that were given as we approached the communion table helped to support this special fund. During the Thanksgiving season, please consider helping those in need by making a special gift marked for the "Discretionary Fund".

It takes a lot of dedicated people each Sunday to provide a meaningful worship experience. The Worship Team wishes to thank Pastor Jessica for her inspiring messages and Dea & Jack Kishpaugh for the beautiful fall decorations throughout the church. Thanks to Caroline Jacobs for our organ music and the Trinity Choir for their Music Meditations. We also thank camera operators Mike Querry, Jack Kishpaugh, Keith Earle, and Carol Hollich. A special thanks to Gloria Clark and George Hollich for presenting the Zoom worship services. Thanks to Dave Walleet for his behind the scenes work on the hymn boards and beyond. And last but not least, we thank the Liturgists for leading the worship services.



LAITY SUNDAY

Laity Sunday (held on October 16th) was a time to reflect on the ministry of the laity, knowing that without the leadership of the people in the pews from the very beginning, we would not be The United Methodist Church in the present. It is because of the clergy and laity partnership that we continue to reach out in ministry to the world. We thank Gloria Clark, Betsy Allwein, Sally DeJesus, George Hollich, Carol Hollich, Caroline Jacobs, Dea Kishpaugh, Jack Kishpaugh, Marilyn Smith, George Wilkins, and the Choir for assisting with this service.



Christmas Cards for People in Prison

The EPA Christmas Cards for People in Prison program is a way we can help incarcerated persons experience God's love. Blank cards can be obtained online, by postal mail, or picked up in the parlor. Please return signed cards to the parlor by November 2.

On Wednesday, October 19th many shoppers from Trinity were seen using their discount shopping pass at the 25th Annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event. Thanks to Sally DeJesus for again coordinating this great fund-raising project.



Bell Ringers Needed!

The Salvation Army is again asking local organizations for volunteers to assist in raising money to support their local programs for people in need. Trinity has agreed to provide bell ringers at the *Lebanon Farmer's Market* on Saturday, November 26 from 8:00 to 2:00. Please alert Sally DeJesus of your willingness to help in this mission project and be a bell ringer for one hour that day.



Reading the Bible
in November

As we continue our journey through the Bible, we will focus on Thanksgiving this month. After we complete our Book of Isaiah readings on November 13th, we will read 10 Psalms about Thanksgiving...

Psalm 18, Psalm 32, Psalm 34, Psalm 40, Psalm 66, Psalm 92, Psalm 107, Psalm 118, Psalm 124, & Psalm 138.

Our Church Prayer

*Dear Lord,
We love you and we praise your Holy Name. Help us to be an obedient church. Help us to love one another, reach out with love to the needy and oppressed. We pray for strength to continue the work you have called us to do. Help us to reach out as we reach up to you. By your mercy grant us healing, compassion, and strength to do your blessed will for ourselves, our families, our community, our conference, & our world. In the Name of Jesus our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen.*



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jim & Betsy Allwein | Brossman family |
| Penny Brown | Carol Chriswold |
| Judy Derr | Gail Emerich |
| Kathy Graby | Kim Hollich |
| Jacobs family | Wilson Justiniano |
| Steve Miller & family | Joshua Mullins |
| Marian Mitchell & family | Linda Perini |
| Karen & Bob Neblock | Alissa Plant |
| Marilyn Smith | Snyder family |
| Tracy Snyder | Pat Swartz |
| Reba Sterner family | Brandi Tamayo |
| Joyce Twigg | Carol Yeagley |
| Dave Wease & family | Judith Wentzel |
| George Wilkins family | Wire family |
| Walt & Kathy Zehring | |
- Our Church, Community, and Country
Families & recovering victims of crime & abuse
All who are sick & shut in & their caretakers
All those devastated by natural disasters
Issues surrounding Ukraine
Our men and women in uniform**



If you don't properly dispose of the unneeded medications in your home, they might find a new one!

Unneeded prescription medication—those that are old, unwanted or no longer needed – are a public safety issue, too often becoming a gateway to addiction. Stop by the Take Back Day collection site at the Lebanon VA Medical Center on Saturday, October 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. There will be a drive thru at the 1700 South Lincoln Avenue entrance. Lebanon VAMC police will be at the information map sign with collection bins.

Sunday Bible Studies in November



We conclude our fall theme *God's Exceptional Choice* in November with *We Are God's Artwork*. This final unit highlights how God continues to choose people for his will. These four lessons explore Paul's teaching to Christians in the city of Ephesus regarding the life-changing nature of God's choice over their lives—and ours. Paul explained the far-reaching nature of God's choice when he wrote that God's people are blessed, "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." For God's people, being chosen comes with responsibility and commitment. Our actions and choices will be reflected in light of God's choice. The weekly topics include...

November 6

God Picked You!

Ephesians 1:1–14

November 13

Christ Is Wisdom

Ephesians 1:15–23

November 20

We Are God's Handiwork

Ephesians 2:1–10

November 27

God Gives Tools for Our Protection

Ephesians 6:10–18

In some instances, God calls people to leave large cities just as he had called the family of Abraham to leave the city of Ur. However, in other instances, God calls people to live and serve large, influential cities—like Paul in Ephesus. Each context provides God's people with unique challenges as they became his ambassadors to the world. In the 1st century AD, cities were built along trade routes, shipping corridors, or both. These cities served as ideal locations for the gospel message to take root and spread. Ephesus, a city on the western coast of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), was no exception. A large harbor provided the city access to shipping routes in the Mediterranean and highways connected the city to the rest of Asia Minor and the far reaches of the empire. As a result, Ephesus was an ideal stop for the apostle Paul during his missionary journeys.



Paul preached that to inherit the kingdom of God, we must live with obedience and good works in Christ. He said that because evil in the world is all around, we can expect to be tempted daily, and must be prepared to fight against it. Paul warns that we need to be ever vigilant and willing to resist temptation and live in a manner that reflects Christ. So our question is **"Are we listening to the words of Paul?"**

A recent poll revealed that 10% of those on church roles cannot be found; 20% of our church members never attend church; 25% admit that they never pray; 35% admit that they do not read their Bibles; 40% admit that they never contribute to the church through time, talent, or treasure; 60% never give to missions; 70% never assume *responsibility* within the church; 85% never invite anyone to church; 95% have never won anyone to Christ... **BUT! 100% expect to go to heaven!**

God's exceptional choice can never be doubted. He desires that each of us live in a manner that reflects His choice. We need to remember that the temptations that come into our lives are no different from what others experience. When we are tempted, he will show you a way out! So... when we come face to face with temptation, we need to look for the way out that He has promised. Then skedaddle. Flee. Run as fast as we can.

There will be times in our lives when the challenge is not to *find* God's will, but to *follow* God's call. This call may lead to a different job, a new neighborhood, or even to an unknown land. Yet if we remain faithful to God and trust in his steadfast promises, he will bless us deeply. Join us in November as we discuss, **We Are God's Artwork**.

November 6

1. Redemption and forgiveness come in accordance to the riches of God's _____. *Ephesians 1:7*
2. All people, regardless of their belief, are marked with the Holy Spirit. T/F. *Ephesians 1:13*

November 13

1. Paul gives thanks for the faith and love of the Ephesians. T/F. *Ephesians 1:15–16*
2. God placed Jesus to be the _____ over the _____ church. *Ephesians 1:22*

November 20

1. God is described as being "rich" in what? (grace, mercy, love) *Ephesians 2:4*
2. Believers are created in Christ Jesus to do good works. T/F. *Ephesians 2:10*

November 27

1. The primary opponents of believers in spiritual struggle are flesh and blood. T/F. *Ephesians 6:12*
2. The sword of the spirit is described as "the _____ of God." *Ephesians 6:17*

MINUTES - ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 2022 via ZOOM

Facilitator: George Hollich

Minutes: Carol Hollich (summary to appear in the November newsletter)

Attended via Zoom: Deb Forry, Sally DeJesus, Joyce Dissinger, Elmer Fair, Kitty Fair, Carol Hollich, George Hollich, Dea Kishpaugh, Jack Kishpaugh, Pastor Jessica Ross, Marilyn Smith

Housekeeping – Attendance, Approval of Past Minutes & Agenda

Devotions – Do Not Follow the Ways of the World - Isaiah 6:8

Calendar Dates that Reflect our Ministry

Unless announced differently --- other than the 9:15 In-Person Worship, the 9:15 Streamed Worship Service & Committee meetings are held via ZOOM.



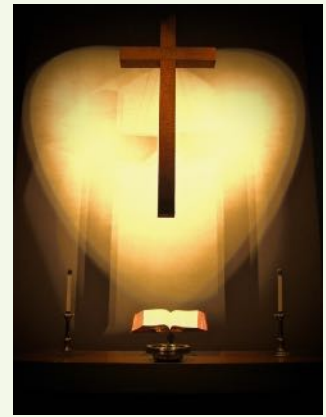
- October 9 – Ad Board Meeting via Zoom (1:00 pm)
- October 11– Charge Conference via Zoom (6:00 pm) Cancelled
- October 16 – Laity Sunday
- October 18 – Finance Committee(7:00 on Zoom)
- October 19 – Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends
- October 20 – Last day to submit articles for November Trinity Times
- October 25 – Charge Conference (6:00 at Trinity and on zoom)
- November 6 – (Daylight Savings Ends) Communion & All Saints’ Day

- November 13 – Veteran’s Day (Put list of veterans in the bulletin and in the Trinity Times)
- November 17 – Special Worship Team Meeting (7:00 on Zoom)
- November 20 – Last day to submit articles for December Trinity Times
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Service at Hebron UMC (7:00 pm - Pastor Jessica Preaching, Combined Choir)
- November 24 – Thanksgiving
- November 26 – Trinity at the Market ringing the bell for the Salvation Army – volunteers needed
- December 4 – Communion and Ice Cream Social
- December 7 – Staff Parish (7:00 pm on Zoom)
- December 8 – Regular Worship Team Meeting (7:00 pm on Zoom)
- December 11 – Ad Board Meeting via Zoom (1:00 pm)



Discussion - Current or Emerging Projects that Clarify Our Ministry

- **2023 Nominations Report for Charge Conference** – The 2023 Nominations report is attached to these minutes.
- **Bible Studies** - Rev. Rick Clark’s Bible Study meets every Thursday morning at 10:30. The book being studying is “Sacred Pathways” by Gary Thomas (Nine ways to connect with God.) George Hollich’s Sunday School class has about 8 people attending. They have good discussions. Pastor Jessica will start a Bible Study in January. She will also start a confirmation class after the worship service for some of our youth.
- **Communications** – Gloria Clark had a report on the Website and Face Book page. We have many more people looking at our sites. Gloria is asking for team leaders to give her items she can put onto the website to let people know what our church is doing, especially mission projects. Gloria recommends visiting the following site that discusses the challenges of our digital society: (<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/church-must-think-more-critically-about-digital-presence>). This website presents the need for digital presence that is vital and allows people to attend church from anywhere, but stresses the importance of LIVE church and need for in-person interaction that is being lost in the virtual world. George Hollich is getting the Trinity Times out each month, and Pastor Jessica, Deb Forry and Carol Hollich prepare the bulletins each week.
- **Clothes to Go** - This is an important ministry, but questions exist as to how to best utilize our resources. We will not have a sale in the fall or winter but might have one in the spring. It was suggested to keep the clothes in one room and have it available for anyone who comes into our church in need of items. More info on this later.
- **Flood Buckets** – We will have flood buckets (Cleaning Kits) in the parlor and a list of items to fill them. We will also take contributions for each bucket and send to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).
- **Ladies’ (& Men’s) Luncheon** - Hoss’s is closed on Tuesdays – Different day? Different venue? – TBA later



- **LINKS** – The UMC clergy meet to discuss combined church services for holidays, but we hope they will again begin to discuss other joint projects with the Lebanon UMC churches. Concern was, also, expressed that lay representatives from the churches are no longer part of these meetings.
- **Use of Church Spaces** –NAA continues to hold meetings at the church 2 days a week. Calvary decided to not use our facilities for their Hispanic ministries.
- **New ideas & programs** – Salvation Army bell ringers from Trinity will be needed on November 26 in the back of the Lebanon market on 8th Street from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 8 ringers are needed. Please let Sally DeJesus know if you are willing to help and what time you prefer.

Highlights from Reports that Support Our Ministry

- **Finance** – Barb Querry – We have paid all bills including the conference bills. The totals are: General Fund - \$15,850.37, Money Market - \$43,158.57, and Capital Campaign - \$176,001.40. We also have the Ameriprise Financial Services Fund (from Judie Kendig) of \$239,339.61.
- **Missions** – Dea Kishpaugh – There was a big turnout for our FREE clothes -to-go in August with 400 items distributed. We gave \$150 to “Hurdles for Housing”. In September, we had very few people at clothes-to-go & only a few items sold. In October we gave 106 pounds of food and personal care items to LCCM. We will celebrate Harvest Home Sunday (food for LCCM), fill Cleaning Kits, and send Christmas cards to prison inmates in October and November. We will also donate 30 Christmas stockings to Christian Women United. Nancy Frey made the net stockings and we are asked to bring supplies to fill them (list at church). Donations for this are also accepted. Sally DeJesus’ craft table at church is making gifts for the Lebanon police officers in October, the Willow Terrace residents in November, and poinsettia ornaments for Christmas Eve participants in December.



- **Staff Parish** – George & Pastor Jessica reported that SPRC reviewed the reports & goals that will be shared with the District Superintendent at Trinity’s Charge conference.
- **Trustees** – Jack Kishpaugh – The trustees found a new heating and air conditioning service. The air conditioning in the parlor and back Sunday School room is now working. The boiler is working but they have to work on the circulation of the hot water. We need to update the thermostats and consider a new outside sign for Trinity. We might have to replace the owners since the refrigerant is no longer available. They reminded us to NOT touch the thermostats and time clock. Some tabs for the clock are missing.

- **Worship Team** – Carol Hollich – An organ tuning is scheduled for November. The choir will be singing every Sunday except the 5th Sunday of the month when we will have special music. The congregation is asked to enter the sanctuary quietly to meditate during the gathering music before 9:15. We have “newcomer” packets for the usher to hand to new people attending the service. We will be sending out letters to the families that have members that passed away this year asking them to attend the All -Saints Day service on November 6th. Rev. Rick Clark will be asked to help with the lighting. Harvest Home bags will be available for the congregation to fill with food supplies for LCCM and will be placed on the altar the Sundays before Thanksgiving and taken to LCCM after November 20th. We need family volunteers for the Advent candle lighting starting on November 27th. Orders for poinsettias will begin on November 15 and end on December 6th. The red poinsettias with gold foil will cost \$7.00 each. Christmas Eve will be a family Carol and Scripture service, beginning at 6:45 with special music by our organist. Sally DeJesus will have a children’s message and an ornament to present to those attending. On December 25 we will have a regular service with carols. We will have a special meeting on Thursday, November 17 to make final arrangements for Christmas.
- **Education** – Sally DeJesus – Sally asked for a confirmation class to be started. Pastor Jessica agreed to start one during the Sunday School hour. The kick-off will be on December 4th at the ice cream social.
- **Finance** – George Hollich – All bills are paid and we are up to date on our apportionments.
- **Parish Visitor** – Rev. Rick Clark is visiting the sick and shut in.
- **Pastor Jessica** –A copy of Pastor Jessica’s report is attached to this report.

3:00 Adjournment

Next Meetings: Tuesday, October 25, 6:00 pm - Charge Conference
Sunday, December 11, 1:00 pm via Zoom



CHARGE CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson (*Elected by Charge Conference*): George Hollich

Recording Secretary (Appointed by the Chair): Carol Hollich

EX OFFICIO

Pastor: Jessica Lynn Ross

Lay Member of Annual Conference: Gloria Clark

Staff/Parish Representative: To be elected by SPRC

Church Treasurer: Keith Earle

Worship Representative: Carol Hollich

Education Representative: Sally Ann DeJesus

Lay Leader: George Hollich

Missions Coordination: Dea Kishpaugh

Trustees Representative: Jack Kishpaugh

Financial Secretary: Mary Gruber

Finance Representative: Barb Querry

AT LARGE MEMBERS - (3 year term, permitted to repeat)

Class of 2023

Carol Yeagley

Barb Wallett

Dave Wallett

Class of 2024

Kitty Fair

Jack Stouffer

Elmer Fair

Class of 2025

Marilyn Smith

Joyce Dissinger

Deb Forry

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Co-Chairpersons (Elected by Committee): Jack Kishpaugh & Dave Wallett

AT LARGE MEMBERS - (3 women, 3 year term, permitted to repeat)

2023

Jack Kishpaugh

Mike Querry

Barb Wallett

2024

Keith Earle

Dea Kishpaugh

Dave Wallett

2025

Jim Allwein

Barb Querry

STAFF-PARISH

Chairperson (*Elected by Charge Conference*): Keith Earle

EX OFFICIO

Pastor: Jessica Lynn Ross

Lay Leader: George Hollich

Lay Member of Annual Conference: Gloria Clark

AT LARGE MEMBERS - (limit of 6 consecutive years)

2023

Barb Querry

2024

Keith Earle

2025

Sally DeJesus

Leslie Dissinger

FINANCE

Chairperson (Elected by Committee): Keith Earle

EX OFFICIO

Pastor: Jessica Lynn Ross

Lay Leader: George Hollich

Treasurer: Keith Earle

Financial Secretary: Mary Gruber

Ad Council Chair: George Hollich

Staff/Parish Representative:

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Gloria Clark

Trustees Representative: Keith Earle

AT LARGE MEMBERS - (limit of 6 consecutive years)

2023

Sue Robson

Joyce Dissinger

2024

Rick Clark

Tod Dissinger

2025

Barb Querry

NOMINATIONS and LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EX OFFICIO

Pastor: Jessica Lynn Ross, Chairperson

Lay Leader: George Hollich

AT LARGE MEMBERS Nominated/Elected at Charge Conference (3 year term, permitted to repeat)

2023

2024

2025

Sally Ann DeJesus

Carol Hollich

Dea Kishpaugh

WORSHIP

Chairperson: (Elected by Committee) – Carol Hollich

EX OFFICIO

Pastor: Jessica Lynn Ross

Music Director: Carol Hollich

Organist: Caroline Jacobs

Ushers: Dave Wallett, Sr.

Greeters: Claire Earle

Flowers & Communion Steward: Donna Mease

Sound/Video Operator: Jack Kishpaugh

AT LARGE MEMBERS - (3 year term)

2022

2023

2024

Betsy Allwein

Deb Forry

Jack Kishpaugh

Barb Wallett

Sally Ann DeJesus

Pat Swartz

EDUCATION/WITNESS

Chairperson: (Elected by the Committee) –

EX OFFICIO

Pastor: Jessica Lynn Ross

MEMBERS

Dea Kishpaugh, Sally Ann DeJesus, George Hollich, Marilyn Smith,
Tina Washington, Betsy Allwein, Carol Hollich

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Reba Sterner

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Lebanon County Christian Ministries: Pastor Jessica Lynn Ross

Community Homes of Lebanon: Pastor Jessica Lynn Ross

LINKS – Sally DeJesus, Pastor Jessica Lynn Ross, Rev. Rick Clark

CARING & HOSPITALITY TEAM

Pastor: Jessica Ross Parish Visitor: Rev. Rick Clark

Sally Ann DeJesus, Joyce Dissinger, Deb Forry, Carol Hollich, Donna Mease, Karen Neblock, Sue Robson,
Reba Sterner, Jack Stouffer, Pat Swartz, Joyce Twigg, Barbara Wallett, Tina Washington

COMMUNICATIONS

Pastor: Jessica Lynn Ross Lay Leader: George Hollich

Gloria Clark, Joyce Dissinger, Deb Forry, Carol Hollich, Barb Querry

MISSION / OUTREACH TEAM

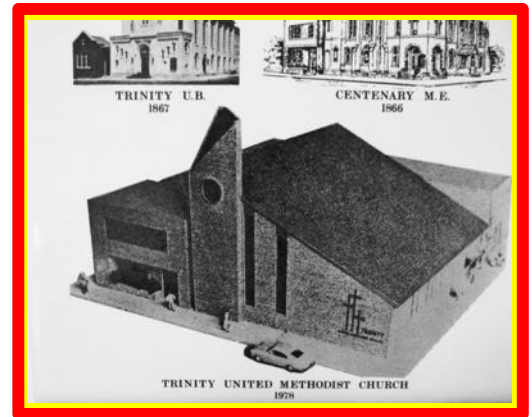
Rachel Brossman (Prayer Warriors), Claire Earle (Prayer Chain), Pat Swartz (Cornwall, UMW),
Dea Kishpaugh (Monthly Mission Projects), Sally DeJesus (Music Camp and Willow Terrace),
Jack Stouffer (First Friday), Pastor Jessica Lynn Ross (Emerging Ministries)

STATE OF THE CHURCH - REPORT OF THE PASTOR - OCTOBER 11, 2022

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LEBANON

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Total Membership as of September 2022.....	200
Active Members.....	59
Inactive Members.....	26
<i>(Database being updated; numbers may not be exact)</i>	
Average Attendance in 2022.....	45
(33 in person, 12 ZOOM)	
Average Attendance in 2021.....	43
(28 in person, 15 ZOOM)	



IN MEMORIAM

Since January 1, 2022, the following members of Trinity United Methodist Church are now in the presence of the Lord:

- Bill HelmickDate of Death: February 9, 2022
- Sara Ciccone.....Date of Death: April 13, 2022
- Paul GroffDate of Death: April 14. Husband of Joan Groff
- Betty F. Walmer.....Date of Death: August 9, 2022

We are grateful for each one’s valuable contributions to our lives and the life of our church, and look forward to a joyful reunion in God’s eternal Kingdom.

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED

- Vicki Swartz..... 2021
- Debra Ludwig..... 2021
- Joseph Grandi 2022

We are grateful for the faithful service of those who have transferred, and pray that they will continue to love God and be a blessing to all in their new spiritual home.

NEW MEMBERS

- Debra L. Forry.....August 7, 2022

We praise God for blessing us with a new member who is willing to use her gifts for the building up of God’s kingdom here at Trinity.

WORSHIP



Celebration: Trinity currently has one Worship Service that is traditional. Individuals seem to appreciate the traditional service and we are blessed to have an adult choir, and a gifted music director, Carol Hollich, who continues to be a blessing for our church. We are also blessed to have liturgists who do very well at leading worship, and an organist, Caroline Jacobs who not only provides organ music and accompaniment for the choir, but continues to expose us to new hymns and songs. We are blessed to have the preaching gifts of Rev. Dr. John Carter & Rev. Richard Clark, retired elders, and Lay Leader, George Hollich, CSM.

The attendance tends to be highest on 1st Sundays when Holy Communion is celebrated. George Hollich continues to lead our ZOOM Worship Ministry which began during COVID as a way to reach out to members who were unable to attend worship and to limit public events such as Worship due to the risk of COVID 19 Exposure. Trinity is continuing to utilize the ZOOM technology in order to create safety for the immuno-compromised, those unable to attend service, as well as all those who are doing their best to keep safe and healthy.

Future Focus: We mainly address the worship needs of an older population. A couple of years ago two services were combined into one service to include the needs and/or desires of other Christians who do not currently worship with us. The sanctuary was upgraded to include audio/visual capabilities. We continue to expand our audio and visual capabilities to include social media, such as FaceBook and YouTube videos. We are looking into working within our community to assess the needs of the neighborhood. We are a church that is on a block with several other churches. This makes it vital for us to be visible in the community. An online presence is a definite boost to our mandate to reach all "to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Preaching sermon messages that are Biblically sound and adhere to the Wesleyan tradition are given weekly to encourage, discipleship, holiness, stewardship, faith, comfort, and strength in the Lord.

DISCIPLESHIP

Celebration: Discipleship is as basic to Christianity and our mandate as United Methodists. Without Discipleship there is no real Christianity. Discipleship starts with teaching, with learning, and by understanding what is expected of us as Christians. This is done by education as well as example. These have been made possible through the volunteer efforts of Marilyn Smith, George Hollich, and Rev. Richard Clark, retired elder. Trinity has a strong prayer ministry that includes a prayer chain that starts the moment information is received that prayer is needed. We have just started a monthly prayer bulletin and praying for the church and conference weekly as well as for our sick and shut in. We also have a community fellowship with Mission Link for clergy that meets monthly, and a monthly fellowship for all that meets at a restaurant in our Lebanon Community.

New Focus: These new opportunities for learning are consistently utilized by church members. These studies can be used not just to become more informed about our faith, but to form deepening bonds with one another and deepen our commitment to God. Bible studies are also ideal places to bring new people who might be interested in learning more about Christ in a safe place. More participation could help strengthen us and help us keep Jesus forefront in our lives. Bringing new people into our groups has the potential to strengthen our entire congregation. Ideas for small groups going forward include:



- A monthly pastoral message to the congregation through our Trinity Times.
- A Grief Share program
- A Lifetree Cafe Program
- An outreach program in collaboration with a Spanish Speaking congregation to reflect the increasing Latino population in Lebanon.
- A New Members class to be offered via a video/powerpoint presentation from "A Disciple's Path" for new members and for all those who desire a refresher on our United Methodist History and Doctrine.

OUTREACH – WITHOUT AND WITHIN

Celebrations: Our outreach ministries continues to be healthy and growing. Although we are a small church, all of our members are hard working with hearts dedicated to reaching the least and the lost. Our Mission ministry report is attached that details how each month we continue to reach out with food and clothing to the community. Dea Kishpaugh leads and organizes these various monthly outreach programs, like Stuff the Bus, and food collection for both Lebanon County Christian Ministries, as well as our own small food pantry. Our visitation minister, Rev. Rick Clark, visits and maintains contact with homebound members. Members of Trinity faithfully collect Flood Buckets (Cleaning Buckets) for those impacted from natural disasters. Our Card Ministry ensures that cards are sent out for Members and Friends we miss each week. Gloria Clark does on-going work to maintain our Web and Social Media presence. George Hollich (assisted by notes and items from the congregation) provides a monthly **Trinity Times Newsletter** that details all that is going on at Trinity and is available in print and on line.

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Our Crafts Ministry works weekly to provide crafts for our Police and Emergency Responders, providing beautiful creative expressions of God's love thru Arts and Crafts.

We also support Community Homes and participate in monthly meetings at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, and the Lebanon City Council through our continued presence and financial gifts.

New Focus: In addition to current outreach activities, we are creating a new welcome packet that will be given to all persons who come to visit for our church. The information includes: Church Information/ history, website, worship times, and a bookmark and pen with the name of Trinity UMC.

We are expanding a Crafts Ministry that is organized by Sally DeJesus and are blessed to have a significant number of our congregation that are gifted crafters.



We continue to support a local NA Group that meets at Trinity 2x per week and a pastor's discretionary fund is available for use with those that are in need in our community. 2 families have already received financial assistance for food through the generosity of Trinity Members.

Other future programs include a breakfast or lunch to be provided for local EMS / Police / and Fire Fighters, Pet Supply Donations, and an Ice Cream Social. I am eager to learn about existing community programs that are in place to help feed the insecure and the homeless.

MEMBERSHIP

Celebration: We have a very dedicated group of members and constituents who attend regularly and are involved in numerous ministries. We welcomed our first new member this year, our church secretary Deb Forry. We praise God for blessing us with a new member.

New Focus: We must constantly be aware that many people we know, including family members, neither have a vibrant faith nor attend any church. We need to keep inviting them to attend. We have an Adult Sunday School and Weekly Bible study to strengthen and grow in our faith. At present I am focusing on learning the strengths and needs of the congregation in order to build upon the collective gifts of the church. I am open to new ideas and supporting the ongoing work of Trinity.

BUDGETARY ISSUES

Celebration: We praise the Lord that we are presently not in any financial difficulty and Trinity's apportionments are up to date. Much of this success is due to our Trustees and Finance Committee teams who work hard to maintain the church building and finances.

New Focus: As I get to know the congregation and understand it's unique history, I am planning to send a yearly thank you letter to the congregation in appreciation of their presence, gifts, and service to the Lord at Trinity.

CONCLUSION

Trinity UMC is a vital congregation that is working toward expanding their outreach to increase membership and presence in the community through an increasing online presence, welcoming visitors, and providing for the needs of the local community. We thank the Lord that we can once again listen to our Trinity Choir, as music is one of the many gifts of Trinity. We are truly blessed to have gifted members who are crafters, singers, musicians, and engineers who are involved in various activities throughout the year that lend beauty, intelligence, and spiritual comfort to our congregation and community.



"For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7), as we live out our Trinity Mission: to be a church where "Faith, Hope, and Love abide to encourage all to respond to the call of Christ."

Respectfully Submitted, Jessica Lynn Ross
Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church