

Volume 8, Issue 8 2023 AUGUST

# The Trinity Times

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

# A Message of Gratitude

I was both pleased and surprised when the congregation presented me with a basket of flowers for my 1-year anniversary with Trinity. (Article on page 3.)

The flowers are still blooming! This brings to mind a few verses that remind me to always be grateful to God.

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!"

### 1 Chronicles 16:34

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus!"

### Philippians 4:4-7

All too often when I pray to the Lord, I go to my petitions first, praying for what I need when I know that my prayers should always start with thanking God for all God's many blessings. Your gift of remembering my first year, reminds me to always begin with a thank you to Almighty God for all God does.

The peace of God that Paul explains about in Philippians is an incalculable gift that we, who belong to Christ, are the beneficiaries of. What an incredible, awesome gift! How do we get this amazing gift? By rejoicing always in God, and letting our actions reflect the words we read in the Holy Scriptures!

I thank God for you as I endeavor to do all I can to preach, teach, and serve Trinity UMC to the best of my ability.

Pastor Jessica



August 28
First Day of School
City & County



Father, let every spirit of doubt, fear, unbelief and disobedience, in my life be consumed by Your fire and that August be blessed for me and my household. Our going out shall be a blessing, and our coming back shall be a blessing in Jesus name. Amen

## Did you know?

Senior Citizens have a holiday! In 1988 President Ronald Reagan declared August 21 to be Senior Citizens Day - created to bring awareness of social, health and economic issues that affect senior citizens.

Carol Y

### WANTED ...

Have you considered singing in the choir, singing a solo, or playing an instrument in church? If so, see our Music Director, Carol Hollich! The choir returns to the Choir Loft on September 10 to help with an *Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing* (see article on

*page* **2**). The fall season kicks-off with a covered dish choir picnic at the Hollichs and short rehearsal on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Please consider adding your voice to our choir!

### AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

<b>Date</b>	<u>Liturgist</u>
Aug. 6	Barb Querry
Aug. 13	Dea Kishpaugh
Aug. 20	Gloria Clark
Aug. 27	Keith Earle



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

# SAVE THE DATE

# Trinity Bazaar - November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Our Bazaar Committee met and decided to have a "small" Bazaar for the Lebanon community on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00. Current plans include a Silent Auction, hot dogs in front of the church,

and other Bazaar goodies! Please consider what you can make... or items you can donate for the Silent Auction.

More importantly... WE NEED YOU... not only to help set-up (which will start in mid-September) and spread the word, but your presence on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to help greet the guests, man the booths, & assist in cleaning-up!

We will also be participating in Lebanon's First Friday Art Walk since November 3rd is

The art walk date, as well!

Note to self... will pray for those who hurt me. God sees all. He is my defender. He doesn't want me to become anary, bitter, anxious or afraid. In His time, He will reveal all that is hidden and make right all the wrongs.



August 23 Bill Thompson

August 25 Rachel Brossman

### Next Meetina Rachel Circle August 8 – 1:30

The Rachel Circle led by Marilyn Smith will gather on

complete a study of Experiencing the Spirit by Blackaby in the Trinity Parlor at 1:30. **Books under** consideration for their next study include, Knowing Jesus by Dr. David Jeremiah, "Experiencing Resurrection, the Experiencing the Cross, (both by Blackaby). All are invited to join in this afternoon of study, fun and fellowship.

# Thanks Trustees!

It's great to again have the air conditioning in the sanctuary. Thanks to the trustees for all your work keeping the church building cleaned, cooled, and items fixed. We appreciate all you do to keep our Trinity building in tip-top shape!

## HYMN SING

On Sunday, September 10th during the 9:15 worship service, we will have an oldfashioned hymn sing. Please let us know your favorite songs

by filling out a card and placing it on the offering plate at the church or sending an email to Carol (carolhollich@comcast.net). Requests received by August 15th will be included in the planning of the hymns (or praise songs). Be there to praise the Lord in sona!

# Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Throughout the year the pastor is asked to help members of Trinity or the community as they go through difficult times. Please consider helping those in need by

making a special gift marked for the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund".



August 1 – You are invited to *Celebration Villa* (Elmcroft) at 1:30 to join the choir in leading a 2:00 Hymn Sing for their residents.

<u>August 2</u> – SPRC Meeting at 7:00 via Zoom.

<u>August 3</u> – Worship Team meeting at 7:00 via Zoom

August 6 - Communion

<u>August 14</u> – Ad Board Meeting at 7:00 via Zoom

**Sept. 3** – Communion

**Sept. 5** - Choir picnic and rehearsal at the Hollich's at 5:30 p.m.

**Sept. 10** – Old fashioned Hymn–Sing at the 9:15 service

# Pastor Jessica's 1st Year at Trinity

On July 2 we celebrated Pastor Jessica's first year at Trinity with refreshments after the service and a floral bouquet on the altar. We thank the congregation for their help in making her time with us a smooth one. Her office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00 to 12:00. If you wish to speak directly



with her, her cell phone number is 570-216-7301.

Over the past year in addition to preparing Sunday Worship Services and visiting with members of the congregation, she has prepared monthly prayer booklets that are available in the church parlor or can be sent upon request via email or snail mail. She also takes communion to Willow Terrace on the first Sunday of the month and

conducts a worship service for the residents of the American House on the third Sunday of the month. She loves to have congregational helpers with these projects. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to lead us in the upcoming days and months.

### MISSION PROJECT - STUFF THE BUS!



Donations for our annual Stuff the Bus Campaign will be accepted until July 28. See Dea Kispaugh for needed items and the latest details!

grant me the serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change:
courage to change
the things I can,
and wisdom to know

the difference.

Let me begin by thanking all of you for your prayers, messages, cards, and thoughts during this looong time of recovery. I am reminded again and again that the title of my last sermon was, "God, Give Me Patience...NOW!" The last couple of weeks I've been thinking that the Lord may be subtly suggesting that it's time to go back and reread the book of "Job."

Today marks 8 weeks since my spinal surgery. I am hopeful that this marks the start of a turn- around in being able to do some things — like physical therapy, walking, and writing and using the

computer. It's been a long haul getting here — and added a lot to Gloria's daily agenda. The first couple of days were spent trying to work the anesthesia out of my system (translation: slept a lot). Then, a UTI showed up. The first course of antibiotics was too short, so there was an afternoon-long trip to the emergency room and more antibiotics (translation: another week of sleep).

There seemed to be light at the end of the tunnel – until I fell on July 4<sup>th</sup>! It was in the bedroom. I was looking at something on my dresser when my legs gave out without warning. I was wearing the neck brace, and Gloria broke my fall. This had never happened before. It's apparently thought to be an episode of low blood pressure – but it shook my self-confidence about moving around and was a setback. That's the update.

Again, Thank you for your continued prayers, thoughts, and messages. Looking forward to being able to again visit with you in person. Your Pastor of Visitation,

Rick Clark





The Baron family Vera Brumbaugh The Brossman family The Clark Family Dan Earle The Geist family The Jacobs family Tom Leahy Karen & Bob Neblock Alissa Plant Don & Bonnie Sherman Marilyn Smith Reba Sterner family Pat Swartz & family Judith Wentzel Carol Yeagley George Wilkins family Our Church, Community, Country, and World

The Bastien family Jill Brickley Penny Brown Joyce Dissinger Gail Emerich Kim Hollich Wilson Justiniano Steve Miller & family Linda Perini Pastor Jessica & family Marie Smith Snyder family Jack Stouffer Joyce Twigg & family Wire family Dave Wease & family Walt & Kathy Zehring

# Prayers of Thanksgiving

Issues surrounding the Ukraine

Our men and women in uniform

Sunday June 18, during our American House Fellowship, Andrew Knepp and Stanley Swigonski accepted the Lord, Jesus the Christ into their hearts. They have been invited to fellowship with us at Trinity. We praise God for them and we join in praying for them as they begin their journey of faith. Praise be to God.

Families & recovering victims of crime & abuse

An end to war, hatred, divisiveness, & oppression

Traveling mercies for safe & refreshing vacations

Safety for Children & Youth from worldly values

All who are sick & shut in & their caretakers

All those devastated by natural disasters

We pray for Liliana & Natalina as they continue their walk with the Lord & travel their journey of faith. Our prayers of Thanksgiving are for the safety for all new believers and for us to continue in our faithful witness to the saving power of Jesus the Christ.

### Prayer for Our Church

Dear Lord.

We pray for our church family and all of those



on our sick and shut-in list. Grant them healing, mercy, and grace. We pray for all who are suffering and pray for your Holy intervention into every situation that needs your loving, guiding, comforting hand. O Lord, help us to continue to magnify your name with gladness and praise you in all that we do.

We humbly pray for not just our church to grow, but for the growth of the body of Christ universal. Bless us O Lord, that we may shine your light so that others may see you clearly and follow you in the way we should go. In the Name of Jesus the Christ our Lord and Savior We Pray. Amen.

## A Prayer for August

Dear Lord, We are blessed with the opportunity to thank you, and praise your Holy Name. We thank you for all you do every day, for blessings seen and unseen. We pray O Lord that we can always remember your goodness, as we confront the difficulties in our lives. We pray for calmness in the midst of heated arguments. We pray for your grace in the midst of busyness and deadlines. We pray that we can open doors to your Hope to those that are despairing. We pray that we will never compromise our faith for you O Lord, when faced with those who say they don't believe in you. And we pray for those who see a hungry child and are able to help, but are unwilling to lend a hand. Lord we pray for all, and humbly ask you to strengthen us when we feel weak and guide us when we feel lost, and teach us when we don't know what to do. For we know that one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. We pray this prayer in Jesus name, Amen.





- Treats for Sunday Morning
- Altar Flowers
- Sept 10 Favorite Hymns for Hymn Sing
- Sept. 24 Worship & Picnic at North Lebanon Township Park



# Summer Music



Aug. 6 - Julia Evans - Violin Solo

Aug. 13 - Mary Zehring - Flute Solo

Aug. 20 - Gloria Clark - Flute Solo

Aug. 27 - Matilda Phillippy

& Carol Hollich - Keyboaard Duet

Sept. 3 - Mary Zehring - Flute Solo

Sept. 10 - Senior Choir leads the Hymn Sing

We thank Carol and George Hollich for hosting a summer covered-dish at their home on July 9. In spite of rainy weather



outside, we enjoyed good food, giggled as we watched the birds and the animals frolicking in the rain, and had a great time of fellowship on the inside!

# Saving Good-bye to Caroline!



On Sunday June 25, we said farewell to our organist Caroline Jacobs who for the past 16 years has been a faithful servant of God. Her retirement day was marked with refreshments, flowers, gifts, and words of praise. Her presence in our sanctuary will be missed!

# **DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

Trinity's annual Church Picnic at North Lebanon Township Park (North 7th Street and Kimmerlings Road) is being planned for Sunday, September 24th. The worship service led by the pastor, guitars, and choir members will begin at 10:30 and be



followed by a covered-dish picnic. And, of course, we hope to have a cake walk and wonderful desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board later in August to indicate the covered-dish you are planning to bring. Please come, bring your family and friends, enjoy the outdoors, worship in nature, play games for all ages, and stay as long as you wish. There is a large parking lot and walkway into the pavilion for the handicapped members, convenient rest room facilities and a large kitchen for the chefs. There will be no Sunday School.

# Sunday Bible Studies in August



The theme of the Summer Quarter, *THE RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF GOD* concludes with a series of lessons in August that are entitled, "*God's Eternal Reign*". The teachings of the apostle Paul tell us that kingdom-living behavior is required of all believers. Such behavior is summarized in the command to love others and live a life filled with spiritual "fruit". Rather than tearing others down... living in light of God's kingdom calls believers to build up other believers. His letter to the church in Corinth reveals his deep concern regarding the inportance of the kingdom. The Corinthians were reminded that the Lord will be the final judge regarding their behavior and that arrogance would have no place in His kingdom. The titles of our studies in August include...

August 6 August 13 August 20 August 27 Inheriting the Kingdom
The Nature of the Kingdom
Judgment in the Kingdom
God's Kingdom Will Be All in All

Galatians 5:13–26 Romans 14:10–23 1 Corinthians 4:1–6. 17–21

1 Corintnians 4:1–6, 17–21 1 Corinthians 15:20–28

There is no human way to fully envision the awesome power of our Lord; however, one way to view it is to remember Him standing before His apostles after His resurrection from the dead. There He stood, having overcome sin, Satan, and the grave. He had placed the boot of authority on the chest of death and stepped out of the grave in awesome power. Stand on a mountain and look across the incredible expanse, and remember that He formed everything in your view with merely His word. Gaze upon the sea and remember that underneath

resides untold life forms that our God made by simply saying, "Let it be." Look up into the night sky and see the glistening stars and note that scientist tell us that there no less than 100 octillion in number (that is 1 followed by 29 zeros). How mighty is our God?

As we conclude our lessons for the summer, perhaps the following words by a former State Senator from Georgia who read them to the Senate after he had undergone a cancer operation will sum up our discussions this month...

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;

"I asked God for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things.



I got nothing I asked for... but everything I hoped for;

In spite of myself, my prayers were answered - I am among all men most richly blest."

God's kingdom and rule are in contrast to the temporary rule of earthly monarchs and their kingdoms. Earthly rulers can be weak or strong, selfish or benevolent, unwise or wise, but God's rule over Heaven and earth is totally and completely righteous. God is all-powerful. He is not devious to gain power, because he has all the power. He is not desperate to retain power, for it cannot be taken from him. He is righteous and just. All people—then and now—are invited to enter into his righteous rule. Join us and learn about "God's Eternal Reign".

### August 6

in the command to love your neighbor as yourself	Galatians 5:14
ave done what to the flesh? (buried it, burned it, cr	ucified it) Galatians 5:24
vill bow. T/F	Romans 14:11
kingdom of God? (righteousness, respectability, jo	y, peace) Romans 14:17
" things that are hidden in darkness.	1 Corinthians 4:5
ower, not in	1 Corinthians 4:20
ive in sacrifice. T/F	1 Corinthians 15:22
od will destroy? (Satan, death, fear)	1 Corinthians 15:26
	in the command to love your neighbor as yourself ave done what to the flesh? (buried it, burned it, crevill bow. T/F kingdom of God? (righteousness, respectability, journey) "things that are hidden in darkness. ower, not in ive in sacrifice. T/F od will destroy? (Satan, death, fear)



# Finding and Gathering Sunday School Handout – July 30, 2023

(Thoughts to consider in the upcoming week.)

Study Text: Matthew 13:44-52

**KEY VERSE:** He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." -Matthew 13:52

# Unexpected Treasure

On an episode of *Antiques Roadshow*, a man came with a beautiful violin to be appraised by one of the show's experts. It had been in his family for years and had a label inside with the year 1519, supposedly the year it was made. The violin was unusually ornate with extra carvings, inlaid wood, and even an oil painting on the



back. Rather than having a carved scroll at the end of the pegbox, it had a detailed carving of a bearded man's head, a rare feature for such an instrument. The owner seemed confident that such a sixteenth-century instrument would be very valuable. But the appraiser quickly disabused him of this notion. The appraiser judged the violin to have a false date on the label, the instrument being a glitzy commercial product of a nineteenth-century French shop. But since it was old and of good quality, the appraisal was given to be in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,000 still far below what the owner expected. But then the episode took an unexpected turn. In the violin case was an accompanying bow of more recent vintage, from the 1940s. The bow looked bad because it needed to be rehaired. The expert identified the bow as having been made by French master craftsman Eugène Sartory. Consequently, the bow was appraised at \$14,000 to \$15,000, about four times what the violin was worth! And this may have been a modest estimate—a Sartory bow sold at auction in 2017 for \$214,000! The man had a treasure without realizing it. If he had sold the violin in its case and unwittingly included the bow, he might have received much less than he could have. To have discerning eyes and ears is indeed important.

# Achieving Focus, Finding Gems

Visitors to the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas get to search for rocks, minerals, various gemstones, and real diamonds. The park is one of the few places where people can keep what they find. In May 2021, Christian Liden brought his homemade mining equipment and searched the crater. On the 3rd day, he found a 2.2—carat diamond! He was so excited that he asked his friend to pick it up for him because his hands were shaking so much. Mining for diamonds involves, among other things, a single-minded focus that disregards lookalike diamond wannabes. What would happen if we had that focus in our search for the kingdom of Heaven?

# Sorting Rice from Sand

While a missionary in Ukraine, I sat in the dimly lit home of a woman who had few worldly possessions. Her hut was on a rutted dirt road in a village on the outskirts of a metropolitan area. She lived with her son and his family, and spent much of her day cooking on a camping stove and trying to keep their home clean and warm. As I sat in her kitchen, I watched her spread a scoop of rice and gravel over the kitchen table that she had gleaned from the dirt road. Slowly and painstakingly she separated the rice from rocks and grains of sand. I commented that in my life in the United States, rice did not come mixed with pebbles! In reply, she shrugged her shoulders and smiled as if to say, "Someone has to do it."

- 1. What steps will you take in the coming week to proclaim the message of God's kingdom?
- 2. What ways can you use your hobbies and interests to cast a wider "net" to evangelize to others?
- 3. Do you live taking your eternal future for granted or are you focused on your search for the kingdom of Heaven?

page 7

<b>Kingdom Teachin</b>	g	1
Complete the following crossword on Matthew 13:44-52	d puzzle based	
ACROSS  2. The promised punishment will in the of teeth.  4. Jesus promised that they will separately wicked from the righteous at the fighteous at the streasure hidden where?	arate thee end of time.	4
2. The fishermen separated the	of heaven is like a treasure, new an fish from the bad fish. heaven to a merchant who found a v	
	rything that his followers might have to give hing below that you had to give up i	
In Mark 10:28-31, Jesus warned the kingdom of God. Circle everyth	that his followers might have to give hing below that you had to give up i	n order to follow Jesus.
In Mark 10:28-31, Jesus warned the kingdom of God. Circle everythe Family Relationships	that his followers might have to give	
In Mark 10:28-31, Jesus warned the kingdom of God. Circle everyth	that his followers might have to give hing below that you had to give up i Home	n order to follow Jesus.
In Mark 10:28-31, Jesus warned the kingdom of God. Circle everythe Family Relationships Girlfriend/Boyfriend	that his followers might have to give hing below that you had to give up i Home Friends	n order to follow Jesus.
In Mark 10:28-31, Jesus warned to the kingdom of God. Circle everythe Family Relationships Girlfriend/Boyfriend Job/Income Plans/Ambitions	that his followers might have to give hing below that you had to give up i Home Friends Habits	Other:

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# Trinity United Methodist Church

757 Willow Street, Lebanon, Pa. 17046

Where "Faith, Hope and Love abide to encourage all to respond to the call of Christ."

# 9th Sunday after Pentecost – July 30, 2023

(The service begins at 9:15 with the fellowship area opening at 9:00.) To be a part of 9:15 worship on the computer go to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83023369831 or join by phone by dialing 1-646-876-9923 and entering 830 2336 9831 when prompted.

The flowers on the altar are in memory of

### **Gathering Music**

Prelude O Master Let Me Walk with Thee - Smith Organist: Matilda Phillippy

### Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship Psalm 105: 1-11

Hymnal #828

Liturgist: Sally DeJesus

- L: O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.
- P: Sing to the Lord, sing praises; tell of all God's wonderful works.
- L: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- P: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek the Lord's presence continually.
- L: Remember the wonderful works God has done,
- the miracles and judgments God has uttered,
- P: O offspring of Abraham, God's servant, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.
- L: The Lord is our God, whose judgments are in all the earth.
- P: The Lord is mindful of his everlasting covenant, of the word commanded for a thousand generations,
- L: the covenant made with Abraham, his promise sworn to Isaac, and confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant saying,
- P: "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

### Hymn #540

## I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode, the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God: her walls before thee stand, dear as the apple of thine eye and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend; to her my cares and toils be giv'n, 'til toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heav'nly ways,

her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be giv'n

the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heav'n.



# **Opening Prayer**

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts on us than we are to seek them, and are willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading** 

Genesis 29: 15-28

**Gospel Reading** 

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

N.T. page 14 & 15

Special Music Wade in the Water - Spiritual

Pastor Jessica

O.T. page 26

**Doxology & Offering Prayer** 

Dear Jesus, In Whose Life I See Hymn # 468

Dear Jesus, in whose life I see all that I would, but fail to be, let thy clear light forever shine, to shame and guide this life of mine.

Though what I dream and what I do in my weak days are always two, help me, oppressed by things undone, O thou whose deeds and dreams were one!

Sermon

The Kingdom of God Is Like...

Lay Leader, George Hollich

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Sally DeJesus

Hymn #467

Trust and Obey

Hymnal #467

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

### Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

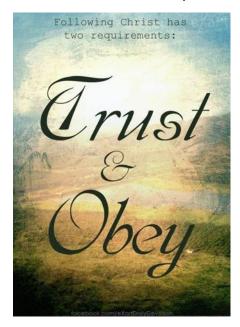
Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay;

Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

But we never can prove the delights of his love until all on the altar we lay;

For the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]



### **Benediction**

Benediction Response America the Beautiful (chorus)

America! America! God shed his grace on thee And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Postlude

Recessional – Asper

Finding and Gathering Matthew 13: 44-52



Organist: Matilda Phillippy