



Volume 8, Issue 2

2023
February

The Trinity Times



HAPPY FEBRUARY TRINITY!

When it comes to February we automatically think of Valentine's Day and Black History Month.

Valentine's Day is all about the celebration of love and Black History month is all about celebrating the rich history of African Historical and contemporary achievements in America and the world that have benefited all humankind.

"the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

Jeremiah 31:3, NRSV

The above verse comes to mind. God's continued care and amazing grace infuses us with the love of Christ to continue to love in the face of difficulties. The constancy of God does more than sustain us, we are empowered to do more, be more, and love more. By God's mercy we are blessed to continue to love and utilize God's gifts to us to bless others despite oppression and desperate circumstances. Our loving God creates and makes new pathways while continuing to shower love upon us all regardless of our beginnings. Because of God's steadfast love we share the love in our hearts and celebrate in a way that shouts our love with joyful gladness.

Jesus gave His life for us for our salvation without our having to earn it. This is God's LOVE. **(John 3:16)**.

This is valuing all. This is our rich dynamic history and legacy. To love all with the love given to us by God through the grace of God's only son our Lord Jesus the Christ. Peace and blessings,

Pastor Jessica



According to legend on Tuesday, February 2, if the groundhog sees his shadow, we will have 6 more weeks of winter... but if he does not see his shadow... We will have an early spring! The whole idea derives from a Pennsylvania Dutch superstition and other German-speaking areas where the badger (German: Dachs) is the forecasting animal. It also appears to be an enhanced version of the folklore that clear weather on the Christian Holy Day of Candlemas forebodes a prolonged winter.

Ladies' (& Men's) Luncheons



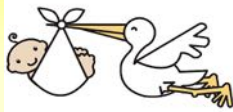
At the January Fellowship Planning meeting it was decided to "spice" things up in the new year with different venues & times for our monthly luncheons. We had a Tuesday lunch at Hoss's in January. On Wednesday, February 1 at 10:30, we will go to the Lebanon Vo Tech for a smorgasbord. This luncheon is limited to 12 people and will have a "first come, first serve" sign-up sheet in the parlor. If there are more signed up, we will try to get other seats. For more information about the fellowship planning meeting see the article and a tentative calendar on page 5.



10... Gary Robson
15... Tina Washington
15... Ted Frey
21... Sue Robson



Anthony and I are so grateful for all the outpouring of love and prayers for us and our baby girl, Isabelle Marie.



Obviously her early arrival surprised us, but we have seen many blessings during this time. I am sorry I have not been able to respond to everyone who has reached out individually, but please know both Anthony and I are incredibly touched. We look forward to bringing our little girl home to share with everyone!

Beverly Smith Baron
(Marilyn Smith's granddaughter)



Our winter Bible Studies are up and discussing great topics! Any and all are invited to be part of any or all of these studies. The Sunday morning study that follows worship is an in-person and Zoom class led by George Hollich. Their theme is *From Darkness to Light*. The 10:30 Thursday morning Zoom Study led by Rick Clark is enjoying discussions centered on the book, *Sacred Pathways* by Gary Thomas. For more information and a copy of the book, call Rick at 717-272-0350. On Wednesday evenings at 6:00 Pastor Jessica leads a study on the Book of Revelations. This group meets in-person and will soon be available also on Zoom! For more information talk with Pastor Jessica!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 12th, Trinity will celebrate [Souper Bowl Sunday](#) with your donations going to LCCM. This year we are collecting cans of soup and monetary donations for Lebanon County Christian Ministries. LCCM is in need of donations to purchase items most needed for distribution in our community. Thank you in advance for your support again this year.



Liturgists

Feb. 5 - Barb Querry
Feb. 12 - Dea Kishpaugh
Feb. 19 - Betsy Allwein
Feb 26 - Rev. Richard Clark

If you are unable to serve as the liturgist, please call... 717-838-2812.



Thank you

Dear Trinity UMC family,
Thank you so much for all your gifts for Christmas. May God bless you richly and abundantly this New Year. With warmest thanksgiving,
Pastor Jessica

Thank-you...



Thanks to all those who helped take the poinsettia plants to those members who find it difficult to move about as freely as they would like! All expressed their thanks and appreciation to those who remembered them with cards and flowers!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



<i>Jim & Betsy Allwein</i>	<i>Dean Berger</i>
<i>Isabelle Marie & the Baron family</i>	
<i>Jill Brickley</i>	<i>Brossman family</i>
<i>Penny Brown</i>	<i>Judy Derr</i>
<i>Gail Emerich</i>	<i>Joan Groff</i>
<i>Kim Hollich</i>	<i>Caroline Jacobs & family</i>
<i>Wilson Justiniano</i>	<i>Steve Miller & family</i>
<i>Joshua Mullins</i>	<i>Karen & Bob Neblock</i>
<i>Linda Perini</i>	<i>Alissa Plant</i>
<i>Marilyn Smith</i>	<i>Snyder family</i>
<i>Pat Swartz</i>	<i>Brandi Tamayo</i>
<i>Joyce Twigg</i>	<i>Reba Sterner family</i>
<i>Judith Wentzel</i>	<i>Wire family</i>
<i>Carol Yeagley</i>	<i>Dave Wease & family</i>
<i>George Wilkins family</i>	<i>Walt & Kathy Zehring</i>

Traveling mercies for all those on the road
Our Church, Community, Country, and World
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

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.*



Trinity's Telephone Prayer & News Grapevine



Have you heard? We have created a telephone network for use by the prayer chain and to communicate other important church news such as cancellation of services or events. It works like the original prayer chain, but since we have added the phone numbers of all those who actively participate in the work of the church, it is also available for other types of announcements! If you prefer to be contacted by email or want to be contacted only about specific types of church news, please let your caller know. Also, if your phone number changes, please let the church office know at 717-273-1970. A copy of the network is included in this newsletter on page 11.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



Each month the pastor is asked to help members of Trinity or the community as they go through difficult times. Gifts placed into a pew envelope and marked "Discretionary Fund" is one way you can support this special fund. Please consider helping those in need!



Don't forget **Valentine's Day** is on February 14th. It is a festival of love and time to give cards, flowers or presents to friends, family and loved ones. Originating as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus... it is recognized as a cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world.

There are numerous stories associated with February 14 such as one that has Saint Valentine (imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to persecuted Christians) restoring sight to the blind daughter of his judge. He wrote the judge's daughter a letter and signed it, "**Your Valentine**" as a farewell before his execution.

Adult Sunday School – February



We will be considering **God's Call** in our Sunday School lessons in February. The final lessons in our winter theme, **From Darkness to Light** take us to the New Testament epistles and their teachings on the inclusive nature of God's call. God's assessment does not always match our human evaluations. As a result, he may call those people whom the world considers lowly and unremarkable.

God's call may lead to suffering in the lives of the called. This is not suffering for suffering's sake. Instead, God's people can experience his presence in their trials. Since God "has destroyed death" his promises bring hope. The ultimate effect of His promises is holiness. Some people may consider God's call to be peculiar or a cause for stumbling. Nonetheless, God remains faithful through his merciful call that leads to salvation and holiness. Our lessons in February are entitled...

February 6

Résumé of Those Called

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

February 12

Reminder of the Call

2 Timothy 1:3–14

February 19

Responsibility of Those Called

James 2:1–12

February 26

Results of the Call

1 Peter 2:1–10

Have you ever stopped to think about the call of God? When Moses was called, he pleaded, "**Lord, please! Send someone else.**" It's easy to have faith in God and trust him when we're sitting on the couch binging on Netflix. But the truth is like Moses when it comes to God calling us to action, we, too, tell God, "**No!**" Or perhaps we are more subtle and drag our feet and whine a lot, hoping that God will eventually get the message and just give up on us and change his mind. I'm wondering if the idea of God as Father comes from us acting like children so much of the time:



- "Have you dumped the garbage yet?" "I will; as soon as I finish this episode."
- "Have you gone to talk to Pharaoh yet?" "I will; as soon as I finish roasting these marshmallows."

How do you know you've been called? The fact that you're reading this far is the sign that you have been called. God has called you for something; that's why you're here.



What is it that God is calling you to do? What have you been trying to avoid? What excuses have you been making? It's nothing God hasn't already heard. Or maybe you're right where God wants you, doing what he has for you to do, but you're stressed and burned out because you're relying too much on your own ability.

What is God saying now? I have come down to this earth, I have seen through your eyes, I have heard through your ears, I have experienced your suffering. I came to rescue you from the power of sin in your lives and lead you into a new kingdom flowing with mercy and grace.

So, join us in February as we conclude our unit on **From Darkness to Light** and discuss **God's Call and** how God is sending you out into the world to lead people to him

February 5

1. For believers, the message of the cross is like what of God? (power, wisdom, peace) **1 Corinthians 1:18**
2. Paul observed that preaching Christ crucified was _____ to the Gentiles. **1 Corinthians 1:23**

February 12

1. The name of Timothy's grandmother was _____ . **2 Timothy 1:5**
2. Through the putting on of hands, Timothy received the "gift of God." T/F **2 Timothy 1:6**

February 19

1. God chose the poor of the world to be rich in _____ . **James 2:5**
2. The "royal law" of Scripture consists of loving one's neighbor as oneself. T/F **James 2:8**

February 26

1. Believers are to offer physical sacrifices acceptable to God. T/F **1 Peter 2:5**
2. Which was not given by Peter to describe believers? (priesthood, nation, body) **1 Peter 2:9**

Fellowship and



Worship Opportunities

At the Fellowship Planning meeting on January 14 there was great fun and fellowship. The group met in person for the first time since January of 2020 to talk about plans for 2023. It was quickly decided that the three year suspension of live activities had taken its toll 😊 Many of the things that were possible in planning for 2020 would be difficult (if not impossible) to have in 2023 because of the advancing age of our congregation. The following

tentative calendar for Fellowship Activities and Church Meetings was put together. Many of our Church meetings will continue to be offered via zoom. If you think of something that has been missed, a nice place to visit, or another activity, let the Fellowship Secretary (Carol Hollich) know, so she can add it to the calendar. As in the past, there will be sign-up sheets in the parlor for activities that need advance preparation.

Have a great and healthy 2023!

The Fellowship Group



Trinity's 2023 Tentative Calendar

- Jan. 17 – Ladies' & Men's Lunch at Hoss's (12:00)
- Feb. 1 – Lunch at Vo Tech - *Tail Gating* (10:30 am - limited to the first 12 sign-ups)
- Feb. 1 – Staff Parish (7:00)
- Feb. 2 – Worship Team (7:00)
- Feb. 12 – Souper Bowl Sunday (collect canned goods & \$ for LCCM)
- Feb. 13 – Ad Board (7:00)
- Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday Service at Good Shepherd UMC (7:00)
- Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 – Lunch and Lenten services (12:00- 1:00) (Need soups)
- Mar. 3 – Lunch at Vo Tech - *Fabulous 50's* (10:30 am - limited to the first 12 sign-ups)
- Mar. 30 – Worship Team (7:00)
- Apr. 2 - Palm Sunday
- Apr. 5 – Staff Parish (7:00)
- Apr. 6 - Tenebrae Service (7:00)
- Apr. 7 - Good Friday Community Service at Trinity (12:00)
- Apr. 9 - Sunrise service at Coleman's Park (6:30 am)
- Apr. 9 - Easter Service at Trinity (9:15 am)
- Apr. 10 – Ad Board (7:00)
- Apr. 12 – Ladies' & Men's Lunch at ???? (12:00)
- Apr. 30 – Fifth Sunday Lunch for the Community (11:30 to 1:00)
- May 3 – Lunch at Vo Tech - *Star Wars* (10:30 am - limited to the first 12 sign-ups)
- May 14 – Mother's Day (flowers for all)
- May 18, 19, & 20 - UMC Annual Conference
- May or June – Longwood Gardens
- June 7 – Staff Parish (7:00)
- June 8 – Worship Team (7:00)



June 12 - Ad Board (7:00)
 June 14- Lunch at ? (12:00)
 June 18 – Father’s Day (gift to men)
 June 25 or later – Church sponsored Chicken Barbecue
 July 9 – Picnic and games at Hollich’s (5:00)
 Aug.14 - Ad Council (7:00)
 Sept. 13 – Ladies’ & Men’s Lunch at Hoss’s (12:00)
 Sept. 24 – Devotions & picnic at North Lebanon Township Park (10:30)
 Oct. 4 – Staff Parish (7:00)
 Oct. 5 – Worship Team (7:00)
 Oct. 9 - Ad Board (7:00)
 Oct. 11 – Ladies’ & Men’s Lunch at ??? (12:00)
 Nov. 3 – Silent Auction / Crafts / Hot Dogs / other? (4:00 to 8:00)
 Nov. 22 – Community Thanksgiving Eve service at ??? (7:00)
 Dec. 6 – Staff Parish (7:00)
 Dec. 7 – Worship Team (7:00)
 Dec. 10 – Caroling to shut-ins at 2:30
 Dec. 11 - Ad Council (7:00)
 Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Service (7:00)
 Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Worship Service? (9:15)
 Dec. 28 – American Music Theater (3:00)
 Jan. 7, 2024 - Planning Meeting (time TBD)



Ongoing....

Pastor Jessica’s Bible Studies: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (in-person and on Zoom)
 1/11, 1/25, 2/8, 2/15, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/12

Rev. Richard Clark’s Bible Studies: Thursdays at 10:30 am on Zoom

Sunday School Study every Sunday at 10:30 am (in-person and on Zoom)

Choir Practices – Tuesdays at 1:30 pm - September through May

Tools for Ministry Dates Announced...



It’s time for the proverbial toolbox to help build and repair church ministries to fix what’s broken and improve what’s working. That requires leadership development and training and is why *Eastern PA Conference* plans *Tools for Ministry* workshops each year!

This half-day event consists of two sessions of diverse, dynamic learning opportunities for all laity and clergy. In 2023 there will be 3 March dates at 3 different locations and for the first time since 2020 will occur onsite. In our area the event is scheduled for March 18 at Church of the Good Shepherd UMC. Other dates and locations include March 4 at Palmer Theological Seminary in St. Davids. and March 11 at Asbury UMC in Allentown. More information and registration details will be announced later this month.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6: 1-8

page 866

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5: 1-12

page 4

Special Music

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Carol Hollich & Caroline Jacobs

Doxology & Prayer of Dedication



Hymn #504

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame,
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best, for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary. **(Refrain)**

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me. **(Refrain)**

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, it's shame and reproach gladly bear
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away where his glory forever I'll share **(Refrain)**

Sermon

Order in the Court

Pastor Jessica Ross

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jessica Ross

Hymn #163

Ask Ye What Great Things I Know

Ask ye what great thing I know that delights and stirs me so?
What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

Who defeats my fiercest foes? Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my waiting heart, healing all its hidden smart?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be?
Who will place me on His right with the countless hosts of light?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.

This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so:
faith in Him who died to save, Him who triumphed o'er the grave,
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.



Benediction

Benediction Response

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way, Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Postlude

Voluntary - Selby

Organist: Caroline Jacobs



God Promises His Presence

Joel 2: 21-27

(Thoughts to consider in the upcoming week.)

Study Text: Joel 1:1–4; 2:18–31

KEY VERSE: *Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.*

—Joel 2:27



Rebuilding After Loss

In 1874, swarms of grasshoppers swept through parts of the Great Plains of North America and laid waste to crops, wood, paper, and even people’s clothing. These kinds of insects measure no more than one-and-a-half inches long, but when numbered in the billions, they have the potential to destroy thousands of acres of crops. The result of the destruction was total; people reported that land appeared as if it had been ravaged by wildfire. Immigrants to Kansas were among the hardest hit by the swarms. People’s livelihoods depended on bountiful crops, but the crops had been devoured and were no more. The renewal of the land and the restoration of the people took years and required assistance from the entire nation. A natural disaster of this level feels foreign for modern readers who have never experienced it. However, many people in today’s world still suffer hardship because of destructive plagues of insects. The people of Judah and the prophet Joel could report on this type of destruction firsthand. Both the people *and* their land needed wondrous and miraculous renewal.

The Year Without a Summer

The year 1816 has been declared the Year Without a Summer. Mount Tambora, a volcano located in Indonesia, had erupted violently a year before. The resulting volcanic ash circled the globe and obstructed sunlight as far away as Europe and North America. Daily average temperatures dropped. A New York newspaper noted that parts of the state saw hard frosts during every month of that summer. Food shortages were unavoidable, leading some people to call that year “eighteen-hundred and starve-to-death.” The world would recover, but only after several years passed. During the time of Joel’s proclamation, the people of Judah experienced a locust plague and famine. However, the prophet proclaimed that God’s people should rejoice. Restoration would come and rains would return to the land. Joel’s words were intended as comfort to God’s people—their restoration was at hand! What prevents you from hearing God’s promises?

Wrong Ingredients

My sugar cookie dough looked like cake batter—slightly runny and less dense than cookie dough should be. I added more of the contents from the flour tin to the dough, hoping to thicken the runny mixture. After adding several heaping spoons from the tin, my cookie dough had not changed. I tasted the dough and realized that I had made a horrible mistake! I had switched my tin of powdered sugar with my tin of flour. No wonder the cookie dough was the consistency of cake batter; it contained almost no flour and over twice the intended amount of sugar! Only after I threw out that batch of dough and remade it with correct ingredients did the cookies turn out as I planned. I ate *plenty* of those cookies! The people of Judah failed to follow God’s commands. They tried to add the wrong ingredients of idolatry and selfishness. After they experienced the consequences of their sin, God worked wondrously and gave them the opportunity to start over. They were to be a renewed people with plenty.

Thoughts to Consider

1. What “wrong ingredients” prevent you from noticing God’s wondrous work?
2. Without bragging, how do you share with neighbors your blessings from God?
3. How do you recognize feelings of guilt from feelings of shame?

God Promises His Presence

Lesson 9, Joel 2:21-27, NIV

Hope Quotes

Based on your study of Scripture and life experience, how would your group respond to someone who made any of the following statements?

Once you choose hope, anything is possible.

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

The miserable have no other medicine, but only hope.

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

Hope's Foundation

For a Christian, hope is not some power-of-positive-thinking exercise in self-help. Instead, our hope is based on the sure foundation of God himself. Find statements about hope from the list of Bible references below. Rewrite three of these in your own words.

Scripture	My Paraphrase
Psalm 31:24	
Psalm 33:18	
Psalm 78:7	
Psalm 119:81	
Psalm 147:11	
Ephesians 2:12-13	
Colossians 1:27	
1 Thessalonians 5:8	
1 Peter 1:3	

TRINITY PRAYERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – 2023

Communication with our Trinity family is vital. Modifying our existing Prayer Chain we have created the following network to make sure that concerns and announcements are shared quickly with our attending congregation. If the following information needs correction or additions, please call Carol Hollich (717-838-2812) with any changes.

