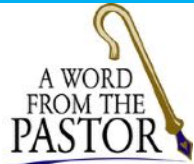




Volume 8, Issue 7
2023
JULY

The Trinity Times



Let Freedom Ring!

Hello Trinity,
One of my favorite songs is a song entitled, *I'm Free*. It is a song that just repeats, *I'm free* over and over again for most of the 7 minute song! So how can one continue to listen to a song that just repeats, *I'm Free* over and over again? Because the freedom that I and all of us enjoy is the freedom we have in Christ! In The United States of America we are free to worship Almighty God, Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, and the Holy Spirit. The Godhead 3 in 1.

The freedom we have in Christ is life giving, life fulfilling and life everlasting. In this song after about 4 minutes, the words to Amazing Grace is sung followed by the lyrics "I'm free" again. it is our theological understanding in a song! We have the freedom to accept Christ through God's amazing grace"

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:7-8 (NRSV)

The freedom we have in Christ and the grace of God are equipping us to live a life of holiness as children of God's promise. Let us remember that as we celebrate our Independence we also celebrate our dependence on Almighty God!

Pastor Jessica



Hot Dog and Ice Cream Social!



At June Ad Board meeting it was decided to have a hot dog and ice cream social on Sunday, July 30 from 11:00 to 1:00 for our congregation & the community.

We will need helpers with the grilling of the hot dogs and with serving the community. It will be held on the first floor so no one has to do steps. Please stay and share in welcoming those who stop by.



Do you want to purchase or place flowers on the altar for the 9:15 worship service? Please call the church office or Donna Mease to

check available dates & let them know your wishes. If you are bringing flowers for worship please be sure to have them at the church at least 10 minutes before the service for arranging and placement on the altar.



Information Updates

We have received many additions & corrections for the directory of those who have been supporting Trinity with their presence, gifts, and/or service over the past year. And so we have updated the directory and plan to send it early this month via email or snail mail with print copies available at the church. As changes or updates occur, please call our church secretary, Deb Forry at 717-273-1970.



Our sympathy and condolences to our Pastor Jessica Ross on the passing of her mother, Lillian, on May 30. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Date

July 2
July 9
July 16
July 30

Liturgist

Barb Querry
Dea Kishpaugh
Betsy Allwein
Sally DeJesus



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



July 2	Liliana Harrison
July 7	Birdella White
July 16	Tod Dissinger
July 18	Betsy Allwein
July 24	Jack Kishpaugh
July 31	Vicki Swartz

Much Appreciated...

I just wanted to say, "Thank You" for the kind gesture of Tootsie Rolls for every member of the Lebanon High School Staff for their dedication and the "Role" they play in our children's lives each & every day!



Bill Giovino
LHS Principal

(Kudos to Sally DeJesus and the Sunday Morning Crafters who were responsible for creating the Tootsie Roll treats given to all staff members of the Lebanon School System.)

At the Keyboard This Summer



As described in the Ad Board notes on page 6, while we are in the process of finding a full-time organist/pianist for Trinity, we will be utilizing substitute organists. Carol Hollich and Matilda Phillippy will substitute in July and August. Matilda will be visiting with us at worship on July 2nd and 9th. Please introduce yourselves and make her feel welcome.



Thank You Trinity!

can't thank you enough for all your kind support since my mother passed away. This loss has been very difficult for me. Your cards, correspondence, and calls expressing sympathy, support, and encouragement have been invaluable to me, my family, and loved ones as we navigate this grief journey.

God Bless You!
Pastor Jessica

After Church Celebrations



June was filled with a number of after-worship celebrations! On June 11, we celebrated the 65th wedding anniversary of Walt and Kathy Zehring. Son, Dean, created a beautiful cake in recognition of the day. On June 18 Deb Forry provided a decorated cake and refreshments in honor of Father's Day and Sally DeJesus had "Knock Our Socks Off" gifts for the men in attendance. June 25 featured a recognition of our organist, Caroline Jacobs who played her last service at Trinity and was retiring after 16 years of dedicated service to Trinity. On that day we also celebrated the 80th birthday of our Lay Leader, George Hollich. We thank God for these milestones in the lives of our congregation and express gratitude to those responsible for the goodies & gifts.



We encourage you to call or email the church office if...

- You or a loved one needs prayer.
- You or a family member is ill or hospitalized.
- You have returned home from the hospital.
- You are homebound either permanently or temporarily and desire communion.
- There's a new baby.
- A family member dies.
- You have moved, are in college, or are in the service.
- You would like a pastoral visit.
- You wish to add or remove a name from the prayer list.
- You have an announcement for the bulletin or the Trinity Times.

Help us provide good pastoral care by keeping us informed.

Thank you!!!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



<i>The Baron family</i>	<i>Vera Brumbaugh</i>
<i>Jill Brickley</i>	<i>Brossman family</i>
<i>Penny Brown</i>	<i>The Clark Family</i>
<i>The Daubert family</i>	<i>Joyce Dissinger</i>
<i>Gail Emerich</i>	<i>Kitty & Elmer Fair</i>
<i>Joan Groff</i>	<i>Kim Hollich</i>
<i>The Jacobs family</i>	<i>Wilson Justiniano</i>
<i>Tom Leahy</i>	<i>Katie Marchak</i>
<i>Steve Miller & family</i>	<i>Karen & Bob Neblock</i>
<i>Linda Perini</i>	<i>Alissa Plant</i>
<i>Gary Robson</i>	<i>Pastor Jessica & family</i>
<i>Don & Bonnie Sherman</i>	<i>Marie Smith</i>
<i>Marilyn Smith</i>	<i>Snyder family</i>
<i>Reba Sterner family</i>	<i>Jack Stouffer</i>
<i>Pat Swartz & family</i>	<i>Brandi Tamayo</i>
<i>Joyce Twigg & family</i>	<i>Tahlia Valdez</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>

Our Church, Community, Country, and World Families & recovering victims of crime & abuse
Issues surrounding the Ukraine
All who are sick & shut in & their caretakers
An end to war, hatred, divisiveness, & oppression
All those devastated by natural disasters
Our men and women in uniform
Traveling mercies for safe & refreshing vacations
Safety for Children & Youth from worldly values

Prayer Requests

Please send an email or call the church secretary with the full names of those you wish included on Trinity's prayer page. As a reminder... after 4 weeks names are removed from the prayer page unless an extension is requested.



I want to thank the people of Trinity Methodist Church for their calls, cards, and especially for your prayers. It is such a blessing to belong to such a kind, caring congregation. You all have prayed for me so much! I really do appreciate it and will try to stay well. Thanks again. Elmer says thanks for the prayers for him, also.

Kitty Fair

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 Monthly Prayer

Dear Lord,

We praise your Holy Name. Because you live, we also shall live. As we focus on the founding of our Country, help us to stand firm in the faith upon which our Country was founded. As we are reminded of our sins from the past, help us to celebrate our hope for the future. Help us to celebrate our love for You, Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. Keep us from letting buzz words set us against one another. Equip us to turn away from evil and divisive rhetoric. In honor of St. Francis Prayer, prayer for peace, I write:

- Where there is pride, help us to take pride in you.
- Where there was slavery help us to be slaves to your will for peace
- Where there is injustice, empower us to act justly.
- Where there is hopelessness let our hope be continually in You.

In Jesus the Christ's Holy Name We Pray.
 Amen.

Heavenly Father!

Each day is a new day -- a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone and with it all regrets, mistakes, or failures I may have experienced. Today is a good day to be glad and give thanks! So, *Thank You Lord for today -- a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that You want me to be. Amen*"

Sunday Bible Studies for July



The theme of the Summer Quarter is **PARTNERS IN A NEW CREATION** and we will discuss **"The Word: The Agent of Creation"**. The *Gospel of John* pictures the ministry of Jesus as more than his journey to the cross. Jesus came as a light to the world, one that shines brightly for "grace and truth". John sees this as one key to humanity's return to what God intended at the beginning. Grace and truth are evident in Jesus' miracles. One example is the healing of the official's son when Jesus' statement of truth was immediately followed by his gracious act of healing. Jesus came not to judge the world, but he told the truth of judgment to come nevertheless. Another powerful example of the grace and truth combination is the resurrection of Lazarus. The Holy Spirit Jesus promised to send is "the Spirit of truth". This month's study concludes with John's vision of the New Jerusalem in the book of Revelation. This vision presents the Holy City restored, but much more than that it is enhanced to a glorious degree. The titles of the weekly studies are...

July 3
July 10
July 17
July 24
July 31

The Word Becomes Flesh
The Word Heals
The Word Saves
The Word Resurrects
The Word Gives Peace

John 1:1-14
John 4:46-54
John 12:44-50
John 11:17-27, 38-44
John 14:15-29

The Gospel of John introduces Jesus as "the Word." In Stanislas Dehaene's book about the human brain, *Reading In The Brain*, he notes that the average adult reader has 50,000 or more words stored in his mental dictionary. In a fraction of a second the brain matches the word being read with the memorized meaning of that word. The Apostle John never heard of Dehaene's research, yet he still seemed to understand that though there are many words, there is only one **Word** that translates to eternal life.



The Word is God—not a magical genie that exists to answer our quick prayer when we decide we need to hear from Him. Hearing the Word is the first step in understanding the nature of God, but it's hard to hear His still, small voice when we don't silence the competing voices around us. We are so surrounded with the voices of media and culture—not to mention the continual beeps and reminders of our own schedules—that many can't hear the Word even if it is *shouted* to them.



A husband read an article to his wife about how women use 30,000 words a day to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, "That's because we have to repeat everything to men." The husband turned to his wife and said, "What?"

What good is hearing the *Word*, if we're not willing to respond? In this month's readings we will discover that those who heard the Word were also those who had a habit of responding! God speaks to those who listen *and* obey. Successful ministry and successful leadership take place when we hear and respond to His call. Join us in July and join in discussing, **"The Word: The Agent of Creation"**. In the meantime consider the following...

July 3

1. "In the beginning was the _____." John 1:1
2. John the Baptist was sent to do what? (be an apostle, bear witness, be the light) John 1:6-7

July 10

1. Jesus changed water into wine in the city of _____ . John 4:46
2. Jesus noted that people wouldn't believe without what? (**pick 2** - signs, wine, myrrh, wonders, money) John 4:48

July 17

1. Jesus claimed that he had come to judge the world. T/F John 12:47
2. Judgment occurs when? (never, the last day, when we're good enough) John 12:48

July 23

1. Bethany, the town of Lazarus, was close to what city? (Nazareth, Heliopolis, Jerusalem) John 11:18
2. Jesus told Martha that he was the resurrection and the _____ . John 11:25

July 30

1. Jesus said that to love him meant doing what?
 (keeping his commandments, reaping material blessings, finding peace) John 14:15, 21
2. Jesus referred to the Spirit as the Spirit of _____ . John 14:17



Hear God's Whisper - Laity Academy #2

United Methodists of Eastern PA will be listening for God's still, small voice to speak to their minds and hearts with new knowledge and fertile aspirations when they attend the annual EPAC Laity Academy, August 4-5, at Eastern University in St. Davids. The courses offered comprise the core Christ Servant Ministry categories of Speaking, Leading and Caring and along with the Basic Course features courses like **Disciple-Making Small Groups, Preaching to be Heard, Servant Leadership, and Making Every Prayer Count.** If you have never attended the Laity Academy, it is an experience you won't forget! For more information, talk to CSM Conference Director, George Hollich.

NEW BEGINNINGS...



By doing what needs to be done right now, we make the most of each present moment. As long as we are alive, we are always free to begin again. Instead of following an old, worn-out habit, make a fresh start this moment on the rest of your life. Each day is a new start. Each moment is a beginning. --Anonymous

Administrative Council Meeting via Zoom June 12, 2022 - 7:00 pm - Minutes



Facilitator: George Hollich

Minutes: Carol Hollich (*summary to appear in the July Trinity Times*)

Attendance via Zoom: Gloria Clark, Deb Forry, Carol Hollich, George Hollich, Dea Kishpaugh, Jack Kishpaugh, Barb Querry, Pastor Jessica Ross, Marilyn Smith, Dave Wallett, & Barb Wallett. **Not present:** Sally DeJesus, Joyce Dissinger, Keith Earle, Elmer Fair, Kitty Fair, Karen Neblock, Reba Sterner, Jack Stouffer, & Carol Yeagley.

Housekeeping – Attendance, Approval of Past Minutes & Agenda

Devotions – Don't Sit on Your Assets (Matthew 14: 13-21) (excerpted from an article by Joseph Daniels)

Ministry without utilizing assets is like a sports car without a country road. When we don't utilize our assets, we miss the greater possibilities for ministry. Too often people and churches complain about what they don't have instead of discovering, celebrating, and using what they do have. One of the best examples of this is found in Jesus, who in the midst of teaching experienced the problem of more than 5000 very hungry people. He asked the disciples, "What do you have?" Jesus knew that the disciples possessed some asset that could help resolve the problem and 5000 were fed!

Calendar Dates that Reflect our Ministry - other than the 9:15 In-Person Worship, the 9:15 Streamed Worship Service & Committee meetings will be held via ZOOM, unless other arrangements are announced.

June 12 - Ad Board (7:00)

June 18 – Worship & Father's Day (gift to men)

June 25 – Worship (Caroline's last Sunday and reception)

July 2 – Worship & Communion

July 9 – Worship (9:15). Covered Dish Picnic at the Hollich's (5:00)

July 16 – Worship (9:15) (Substitute organist is Matilda Phillippy)

July 23 – Worship (9:15)

July 24-28 – Possible vacation days for Pastor Jessica

July 30– Worship (9:15) 5th Sunday Serving (11-1 - hot dogs and ice cream – need volunteers)

August 2 – Staff Parish (7:00)

August 3 – Worship Team (7:00)

August 4 & 5 – Laity Academy – Eastern University (beginning of training for Laity for different ministries)

August 6 – Worship & Communion

August 13 – Worship

August 14 – Ad Board (7:00)



Discussion - Current or Emerging Projects that Clarify Our Ministry

- Bible Studies – The Rachel Circle meets every other week on a Monday at 1:30 (call Marilyn Smith for the dates). Pastor Jessica’s study of Revelations is on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, and Rev. Rick Clark’s Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 10:30. If you are interested in joining any of these discussion groups, call the office for more information.
- Communications – Gloria Clark – Gloria Clark said how much better our Zoom service is than at other churches because of the recognition of the people on Zoom each week and a chance for them to speak to others before the service begins. Also our camera mobility is better. She reported on how many are looking at us on Facebook (between 9 and 17) and the worship service (7-9). We have 77 followers, and if they “like” us, our information goes out to their friends. It was suggested that those people on Zoom can send in a prayer request on “Chat”, and that item will be prayed for all week. We thank Gloria for a great website and work with Facebook.
- Flood Buckets – People can always send in a donation for the flood buckets, but as of now, other mission projects will be started.
- LINKS – Pastor Jessica meets with the other clergy for lunch once a month but missed the last meeting. She still is pushing for the laity to be invited. The new pastor at Cornwall UM Church wants to collaborate with us.
- Use of Church Spaces – Narcotics Anonymous continues to meet at church on Tuesdays and Saturdays.



Highlights from Reports that Support Our Ministry

- Missions – Dea Kishpaugh – We sent out the flood buckets in May and gave \$150 worth of men’s, women’s, and children’s underwear to LCCM. We also donated 211 pounds of food and toiletries to LCCM. In June and July we are collecting school supplies for the Lebanon Schools.
- Finance – Barb Querry – All bills are paid but deposits are not equaling expenditures. We have estate endowments that help pay the bills right now. We are replacing the broken sign on the church out front.
- Staff Parish – They have worked on getting an ad together for a church organist/pianist. Carol Hollich presented a report on who might be available. We might have to employ substitutes. SPRC also worked with the Trustees on securing a cleaning service for the church.
- Trustees – Jack Kishpaugh – A new door handle was installed at the front inside door. We also have a new pencil sharpener. Ames Cleaning Team was hired to clean the church every Monday morning. We ordered a new building sign from Horst Signs.



- Worship Team – Carol Hollich – There will be a gift for the Trinity men on Father’s Day, thanks to Sally DeJesus. Caroline Jacobs is retiring as our organist on June 25th. There will be a reception for Caroline after the service planned by the SPR team and the Worship Team. We are now looking for an organist/pianist to replace Caroline. We have 3 substitute organists who are willing to help. The Staff Parish Committee will be putting out an ad and a flier asking for applications. Any applications will be sent to Pastor Jessica or Carol Hollich. We ask the congregation to keep their eyes and ears open for any potential musician that might be able to apply. Carol will play in July and August with the help of Matilda Phillippy, organist at Londonderry Village. The organ does need a re-tuning.



We will try having communion around the altar rail on August 6th and see if it works well enough to continue it in the fall. We hope to have a memorial service for Pastor Jessica’s mother, Lillian, in the near future. Donna Mease is asking for people to consider ordering altar flowers for the end of July and August. We are looking ahead to Grandparents’ Day on September 10th for a Hymn Sing. Requests will be taken. **(A discussion ensued on how to do the communion up front. We may try different ways to see what works best for our current congregation.)**

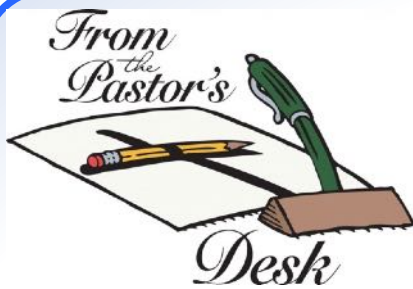
- Education – Sally DeJesus - We thank Sally and her helpers for making the recognition favors for the Lebanon School employees.
- Parish Visitor - Rick Clark – Rev. Clark’s visits are on hold since his neck operation on May 22. He thanks everyone for the prayers, calls, and cards. He says you are welcome to stop in at his house to visit, but call first. Pastor Jessica is visiting members in the hospitals, nursing homes, and rehab centers. Please let her know if someone needs a visit.
- Pastor Jessica – The pastor thanked everyone for their prayers, calls, and cards on the passing of her mother, Lillian Ross. Her complete report is attached to these notes and is available in the church office
- Other... November 3rd First Friday Art Walk – Possible Silent Auction and additional items.
- For our 5th Sunday mission in July we decided to have a hot dog and ice cream social for Trinity members and the community. We asked to use Dave Walle’s grill for the preparation of the hot dogs, Deb Forry volunteered to get the Hippy hot dogs, and Pastor Jessica will provide the ice cream and toppings. **Others will be needed to help.** A make shift committee will be formed to plan the details.



8:45 Adjournment

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: August 14 -- 7 pm

(Ad Board Meeting Schedule - February, April, June, August, October, December)



PASTOR'S NOTES - MAY/JUNE 2023

"For faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen." Hebrews 11:1

Please accept my gratitude for all your heartfelt phone calls and prayers, on the passing of my mother. I cannot thank you enough for your kind support, and encouragement. You are such a blessing. I praise Almighty

God for each one of you. My mother, Lillian's obituary can be viewed at "StephensonNelsonFH.com". Change can be a little scary. But God did not give us a spirit of fear!

We are saddened that our organist for 16 years is retiring, but we are happy for her retirement and pray that she will have a blessed, restful, and fun retirement. Thank you, Caroline Jacobs, for all your dedication, skill, and service to Trinity UMC!

OUTREACH

- Outreach efforts are continuing in the form of visibility in the community and working on learning the history and traditions of Trinity.
- Our Welcome Packets are updated and available to give out to first time visitors.
- Presently I am continuing to work on a Brochure about Trinity UMC that can be included in our welcome packet. The Brochure will include our history, service times, missions work, and general information about our congregation and staff.
- Pastor plans to attend monthly meetings in the community. Including Every Neighborhood Matters.
- Pastor will be providing a worship service every 3rd Sunday at: AMERICAN HOUSE 2:30PM, 25 South 9th Street, Lebanon, PA 17046. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall available for anyone who would like to sign up to be part of this ministry. Please let Pastor Jessica know if you would like to participate. A sincere thank you to Barb Querry, Henry Emerich and Mary Gruber for their invaluable assistance on May 21st. The people at American House were thankful and appreciative of our worship service and the provision of lemonade, cupcakes, and chips. Thank you, Trinity!
- Praising the Lord, for our Education/Crafts Ministry, Sally DeJesus provided gifts from Trinity to our Educators in the Lebanon School system. Thank you so much for all who worked diligently creating each gift with love.
- Rachel Circle, directed by CSM Marilyn Smith, will now be meeting at the church at 1:30PM on Monday's. The next meeting is planned for June 12, 2023.
- Community Free Pizza event sponsored by Sally DeJesus, Thank you to Sally for all her efforts.

PRAYER

- Our Prayer Booklet Monthly continues to be updated with a church prayer and our sick and shut in list. Every 1st Sunday the names are lifted aloud to the Lord, and our church prayer is read in unison.
- Altar Prayer every Sunday
- Prayer Team and Prayer Chain - Weekly Daily Prayer for Church.
- The Prayer Chain has been updated. Special thank you to Clair Earle & Carol Hollich for their diligent work making phone calls to keep the congregation apprised of all prayer concerns.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN GOD'S HOLY WORD

- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL after the Worship Service with George Hollich. This is an in-depth Study that follows the Liturgical Calendar. No sign up is needed. All are welcome.
- PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 on ZOOM. We are studying: The Book of Revelation which is a 20-week study that is open to all. We are currently up to chapter 9.
- BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. CLARK is an opportunity to deepen your faith through the study of a particular Christian Book. Presently the book being studied and discussed is "*Jesus in the Psalms*".

CHURCH USAGE AND PARKING LOT

- Funeral Guidelines available in Pastor's and Secretary's office
- A Yearly Calendar is posted on the Office Bulletin Board. Thank you Carol and George!
- Outreach and suggestions for fundraisers are needed. Perhaps a Hot Dog grilling event in the parking lot & backyard area held after church on a Sunday. Perhaps combined with a yard sale?

WORSHIP

- Our worship meetings are fruitful as we continue to work on expanding our online presence.
- We continue our monthly ministry of bringing Holy Communion to 800 Willow Street.
- Trinity Choir Meets every Tuesday at 1:30 (Sept-May). No Choir rehearsals during the summer. Thank you to Carol and all our choir members for letting God use you to sing to God's glory.
- Worship Announcements list for the Liturgist
- Worship Service start time: 9:15 Prayer before service at 9:10

HOSPITALITY

- Flowers for Trinity are coordinated by Donna Mease
- A coordinator is needed for the sign-up list for after the service fellowship time. Thank you to all those who provide such wonderful snacks for our after-service fellowships.

VISITATION / PASTORAL CARE

- Our Visitation List is continually updated and the office should be called as visitation needs arise. Visits continue to be made to Penn University Hospital in Hershey and Rehab Center in Hershey, Good Samaritan in Lebanon, Elizabethtown Nursing and Rehabilitation, as well as visiting parishioners in their homes, or who are in Nursing and Assisted living facilities. There is continued coordination with our Minister of Visitation, Rev. Rick Clark regarding visitation needs of Trinity. (Note: Rev. Clark is currently recuperating from surgery. Please support him with your prayers.)
- The membership directory is currently being updated. Please submit new addresses and/or changes to contact emails and phone numbers to the church office.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Meetings and collaborative efforts
- Question: Can Parsonage sale funds be utilized for outside of the Church beautification?
- Announcements to congregation regarding building issues and a summary of work completed.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Thank you to Trinity for your continued support of this ministry for those in need in our community.
- The use of funds includes \$25.00 for assistance of community individuals seeking financial, food, transportation, or heating assistance.
- Monies placed in the 5-gallon jug outside the Secretary's office are used for the discretionary fund.

SAFETY

- There is need for an Emergencies Preparedness Handout with information on how to stay safe in the event of an active shooter, fire, severe weather, health emergency, or using a defibrillator or Epi Pen.
- Emergency phone tree procedure is on the Church Bulletin Board. Thank you George and Carol
- Last one out of the church should please check that lights & doors are closed and locked per fire codes.

GARDEN AND PLANTS

- Exterior and Interior Beautification Efforts. Thank you to Deb Forry, Reba Sterner, and all who have been working diligently to keep our plants, flowers and gardens looking beautiful.
- Future plans: Grant for gardening. Community or to grow and sell flowers, vegetables, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Trinity Times - last day to submit information is the 19th of each month. Thank to George for his work on getting our Trinity Times published Monthly. They are always beautifully done.
- Facebook and Website updates and submissions should be given to Gloria Clark who is our FaceBook and Website Administrator
- General Office Hours 9-12 Mon. Tues. and Fri.
- Visitation Monday and Friday Afternoons and/or by appointment as needed/ desired.

Respectfully Submitted, *Pastor Jessica Lynn Ross*

InterLink

Peace to the Nations

Sunday School Handout – July 2, 2023

(Thoughts to consider in the upcoming week.)

Study Text: Zechariah 9:9–17

KEY VERSE: *The Lord their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. —Zechariah 9:16*



Extreme Preparations?

When overnight guests are expected, the host is often faced with decisions of how to prepare. The preparations may vary according to the status of the visitor. At one extreme is a regularly used room may be vacated and receive a deep cleaning—windows washed, bedspreads laundered, carpet steamed, etc. At the other extreme are situations calling for little or no preparation, with the guest being expected to sleep on the couch; relatives or the kids' friends are more likely to experience no special preparation for their overnight stay. A brief description of what was to be done to prepare for the arrival of the ultimate dignitary, the Lord God, is found in Isaiah 40:3–4. This passage is cited in the New Testament as being fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist. People reacted to John's message in various ways. At one extreme were reactions of sincere repentance by unlikely people; at the other extreme were attempts to discredit John. Only those at the proper extreme of heart preparation were able to recognize a prophetic fulfillment when it happened right before their eyes.

A Surprising Nature

Imagine a father playing a board game with his young son. The game involves buying and selling things with play money; thus the youngster learns quickly the value of the money in his hand. As the lad expresses his appreciation, his father responds, "Someday I'm going to give you thousands of dollars." The boy is eager to receive the gift, but what he doesn't realize is that his father is referring to real money. The father doesn't make the distinction at the time of the promise because his son hasn't yet reached the age where he can appreciate the difference. When my parents were newlyweds in the 1960s, they accepted a large loan from an elderly relative as a down payment on their first house. What appeared to be an unselfish act of generosity soon turned into misery for my parents. The anxious gentleman repeatedly called them to ask about repayment. He fretted to other relatives about the loan, even though my parents were making all their payments on time. My dad worked overtime hours in order to be able to repay the loan early and be freed from this emotional pit. Thirty years later, my parents loaned money to me and my wife for the same purpose. But the loan actually turned out to be a gift because they ultimately refused to accept repayment. Which of these two accounts better illustrates the surprising nature of King Jesus? How should your conclusion be reflected in your service to him?

The 50-Cow Wife

In a certain African tribe, it was the custom for a man to give a gift of cows to his bride's father as compensation for the father's expenses in rearing her. A particularly desirable match from a prominent family might fetch a bride-price of 20 or even 30 cows. Much more common was a gift of 10 cows or fewer, due to the poverty of the area. A young man once came to a village with a vast herd of 50 cattle, and he offered a father the whole herd in exchange for his daughter—a plain, shy girl with dim marriage prospects. Shocked, the father hastily agreed. The village did not hear from the couple for a year. But one day the man returned with a glowing, beautiful woman by his side. She was adorned like an African princess and was carrying a healthy baby. At first the people of the village thought he had taken a different wife. But looking closer, they realized she was the one from their village! "How did you know that she would actually become a beautiful woman?" they asked. He replied, "A woman's true beauty is found in the eyes of the man who values her most." God values you more than anything—so much so that he purchased you at an astounding price. Are you willing for God to hold you up like a crown for the whole world to see how and why he values you?

- 1. How does a time of feasting remind you of God's goodness?**
- 2. What areas of your life might you describe as a prison?**
- 3. Who in your life demonstrates an attitude befitting a jewel in God's crown?**

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

5th Sunday After Pentecost – July 2, 2023

(The service begins at 9:15 with the fellowship area opening at 9:00.)

To be a part of worship on the computer go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89476691443>
or join by phone by dialing 1-646-876-9923 and entering 894 7669 1443 when prompted.)

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are in memory of husband, James and son, Roger
by Joyce Twigg*

Gathering Music

Prelude *America, the Beautiful* -Arr. Hayes Carol Hollich, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Liturgist: Barb Query

Call to Worship

Psalm 13

UMH 746

L: How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

P: How long will you hide your face from me?

L: How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

P: How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

L: Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

P: Lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

L: lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him";

P: lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

L: But I trusted in your steadfast love;

P: my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

L: I will sing to the LORD,

P: for the Lord has dealt bountifully with me.



*Hymn #696

America the Beautiful

Oh, beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Oh, beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

Oh, beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.



Opening Prayer

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Apostles Creed

Old Testament

Genesis 22: 1-14

Bible O.T. pg.17

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10: 40-42

Bible N.T. pg. 11

Special Music

Jesus is Calling America -Peterson

Carol & George Hollich

Doxology & Celebration of Gifts

Hymn #430

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee In lowly paths of service free
Tell me Thy secret, help me hear the strain of toil, the fret of care
Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love
Teach me the wayward feet to stay and guide them in the homeward way
Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee in closer, dearer company
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong
In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way
In peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee, O Master, let me live



Sermon

Jehovah Jireh

Pastor Jessica Ross

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

UMH # 12

Hymn #437

This Is My Song

This is my song O God of all the nations
A song of peace for lands afar and mine
This is my home the country where my heart is
Here are my hopes my dreams my holy shrine
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine
My country's skies are bluer than the ocean
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine
But other lands have sunlight too and clover
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine
O hear my song Thou God of all nations
A song of peace for their land and for mine
This is my prayer O Lord of all earth's kingdoms
Thy kingdom come on earth Thy will be done
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve Him
And hearts united learn to live as one
O hear my prayer Thou God of all nations
Myself I give Thee let Thy will be done



Benediction

Benediction Response

America the Beautiful (chorus)

America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

Postlude

God Bless America - Berlin

Organist: Carol Hollich



Peace to the Nations

Zechariah 9: 9-13, 16-17