



A publication of Trinity United Presbyterian



TOUCHSTONE

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Trinity United Presbyterian Church
79 W. Fayette Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
www.facebook.com/trinityupc

Phone# 724-437-2709
Website-www.trinityupc.com
Email-trinityupc@gmail.com

Worship | Service | Proclaim | Discipleship | Community



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9 NKJV



Weekly Services @ Trinity

Young Adult Small Group



Tuesdays @ 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact
Caitlin or James



Adult Sunday School

Sunday School

Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.

With James V.

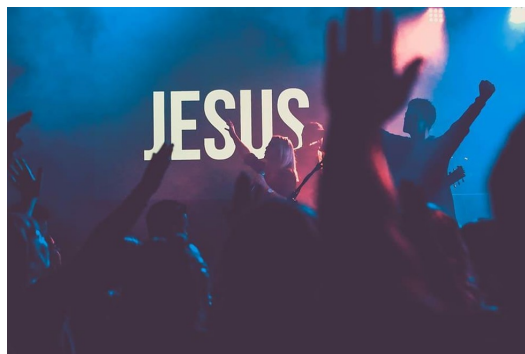
April Lessons

4/7 *Faith of Four Friends* (Luke 5:17-26)

4/14 *Faith of a Centurion* (Luke 7:1-10)

4/21 *Faith of a Woman Who Loved Jesus* (Luke 7:36-39, 44-50)

4/28 *Faith of a Canaanite Woman* (Matthew 15:21-28)



Youth Group

Thursdays @ 5:30–6:45 p.m.

With James V.



THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE is looking for a few people who are willing to video record a brief statement of what Christ has done in their life. This could be done either in the form of a monologue in front of a camera or as a dialogue (interview) with Pastor Simpson. These "testimonies" will then be posted on the church website. The purpose is simple. We want to encourage others in their journey of faith. If you are willing to help with this project please speak to Pastor Simpson.



Pastor's Page

HOLY WEEK is intended to be a time in which **we** engage in spiritual self examination. We are to spend time quietly examining how **we** are living our lives as compared to how our Lord would have us live them. Here are 12 questions to help in that **process**. You might want to print them off and post them some place where **you will** see them once or twice a day (ie. the night stand by your bed, near the tv remote, or on the refrigerator). Perhaps they will aid **us** in the process of spiritual and personal **growth**. I pray that Holy Week will truly be a "Holy" week for all.

1. What are the things that I grumble about the most?
2. What bad habit do I have that **irritates others**?
3. Am I too busy to read God's **Word** (the Bible) each day?
4. **Is** there anyone that I have offended and to whom I need to apologize ?
5. Do the things that I say in everyday conversation honor God?
6. Do my media choices (things **I** watch on TV, the internet, and the music that I listen to) honor God?
7. Are there good deeds that I have been putting off doing?
8. Am I greedy or stingy? (CLUE: Get out your tax return and see what percentage of **your** gross income **you** give to **charity**.)
9. Does the way that **I** spend my money honor God?
10. When was the last time that **I** shared what **Jesus** means to me **with** someone else? (With whom did I share my story?)
11. What do I do to help the poor, the needy, the hungry, and those less fortunate than myself?
12. Am I **too busy** to spend time in prayerful conversation - speaking to and listening to God's word for my life?



Notes From The Bench



-by Brett Vanderlaan

April 2024

The Postlude

What is the purpose of the **Postlude** at the conclusion of the worship service? Perhaps you have not specifically thought about this issue, but it can be an interesting question. Let's begin by making it a multiple choice question (and consider your response before reading the rest of this article):

Q: What is the purpose of the Postlude? (choose all that apply)

- (A) To provide exit music as everyone leaves the sanctuary
- (B) To put an exclamation point on the entire service ("Amen!")
- (C) To send everyone out in a joyful mood
- (D) To plant a tune to hum, whistle, or sing for the rest of the day (or week)
- (E) To respond to the theme(s) of worship in a meaningful way
- (F) To show off the talents of the organist (pianist) or how loud the organ can be
- (G) To provide time for prayer and reflection at the close of the service
- (H) To allow the organist to practice presenting an upcoming recital piece
- (I) To make it difficult to have a conversation with friends and visitors
- (J) Other (not listed above)

To be entirely honest, "all of the above" is possibly the best answer. Certainly, each of the explanations (or criticisms) above has been offered at some point or time at various churches. In fact, as I conducted a wide sweep of research on the topic, many of these reasons were mentioned or addressed. Some may be a bit tongue-in-cheek, but they carry at least a bit of truth with them as well.

Given the broad array of interpretations, I decided to consult the Book of Order for the PCUSA (our denomination's official document). Music is addressed in a number of places, but a "postlude" is never explicitly mentioned. There is no mention at all of *any* concluding music after the "Blessing and Charge" - only hymns or responses in the "Sending" portion of the worship service following the "Word" and "Sacrament" sections. However, this does not prohibit the inclusion of music at the close of the service. As with the Prelude, music can be added to worship as an act of prayer or praise. The important caution is that music should NOT be used as a "cover for silence" or for "entertainment or artistic display." The focus needs to be on God and enhancing our worship experience in a meaningful way. Closing music can be used as a transition from the **sacred** time and space of worship to the **earthly** environs where we are charged to share God's love and the Gospel with the world.

Let me finish this article with a few personal comments and a return to the multiple choice responses. I am not seminary-trained, but I see the Postlude as a concluding response to the worship service and its theme(s). I try to select music that reflects the messages contained in the service. Keeping in mind that each and every Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (especially in this season of Easter), I usually pick music that is joyful and full of praise to carry us from a holy setting into our regular weekly routines. Therefore, the postlude is often loud and utilizes many of the organ's resources. For some services, such as those during Holy Week, a postlude may be omitted or more reflective music may be played. To summarize, I strongly affirm response (E), and also support (B), (C) and/or (G). If (A) or (D) occur, that is acceptable as well. So, feel free to sit and listen to the Postlude or have a conversation while you head toward the fellowship time - just take God with you!

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)



Bright Beginnings Center For Learning

Bright Beginnings has had a wonderful school year and we are excited to see where the future takes us! As always, thank you for your support and prayers. If anyone wants to donate to the preschool, we are always accepting supplies such as, white cardstock,

colored cardstock, paper towels, Lysol wipes, and tissues. If you wish to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to Bright Beginnings Center for Learning. We are a non profit, this means any monetary donations can be used as a tax write off for your records.

The preschool has open registrations for the upcoming school year! We are offering half days and full days to better accommodate families and children getting ready to go to kindergarten! Please call Emily Bowers for the days and times we are enrolling for.

Help spread the word about our preschool! You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and Google. You can see all of our pictures of the wonderful things the kids are doing and learning!

We'd like to thank the church for blessing us with the use of your building.

Classes are Monday, Wednesday and Friday all day or half day.

For more information, contact director Emily Bowers at 724-812-2862.



**Nursery is available
during the Sunday
Morning Worship from
11:00 a.m. - 12:00**



Children's Church

Available during worship.



Darts & Devotions

Thursday's @ 10:00 a.m.
Devotions by Doug Yauger



"Soup Ministry"

If you know someone who could use cheering up because of a sickness or loss, Trinity wants to show that person love by delivering them soup.



Call the church @ 724-437-2709 and give us the name + address of the person to whom the soup will be delivered. It's that easy!

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-John 13:34-35

Happy Anniversary



Laurie Ann & Jason Krall 4/17

Happy Birthday!



Jackson Core	04/02	Wendy Myden	04/15
Linda King	04/03	Charles Anderson	04/16
Brynna Eddy	04/05	Richard Franks II	04/17
William Cahn	04/11	Michael Miller	04/18
Jacquelyn Core	04/11	Jason Tran	04/22

Let's Hit the Lanes and Bowl a Few Frames!



The Church Family Committee is planning a fun event for Trinity members and friends for Sunday afternoon, April 7. We will be gathering at **Manor Lanes in Hopwood from 4:30 - 7:00** for a bowling party. A sign-up sheet will be in the chapel starting this Sunday, March 17. It doesn't matter whether you are adept with strikes and spares or more likely to send your ball down the gutter, please join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship! **Cost is \$10.00/person for shoes and two games.** Please arrive about 15 minutes early to select you ball and get your shoes. Snacks, drinks and pizza will be provided.

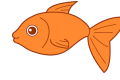
The Church Family Committee



Interfaith Missions



Loaves & Fishes Ministries



A Few Feeding Many - Every Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m.

"The Road Less Traveled." Thursday's @ 10:00 a.m.

If interested in volunteering at the Interfaith Office (Call Carol @ 724-438-0709)

There are approximately 500+ homeless people in our area, men, women & children. As you know we started a program called "**Loaves & Fishes**" to make sandwiches to feed the homeless one day a week. We are now initiating a second service to the homeless called "**The Road Less Traveled.**" (Thursday's @ 10:00 a.m.) Where we will provide another day of sandwiches using the supplies that are generously given to us. We also would request warm clothing, such as sweatshirts and socks. To help our neighbors in need.

A special thank you to everyone who volunteers @ Loaves & Fishes & The Road Less Traveled.

Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies & clothing. The clothing has already been put to good use & was much appreciated.

The needs continue & donations of toothbrushes & toothpaste would be much appreciated as well.

Donations can be dropped off during the office hours.

-Interfaith Office- Mon-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

-Church Office- Mon-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Kindred Souls



Kindred Souls meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, for a luncheon, & time of fellowship. This is for single & widowed women. All women are welcome, not just church members.

The next luncheon is Wednesday, April 10th @ Eat'nPark @ 11:30 a.m.

For more information call Carol @ 724-438-0709

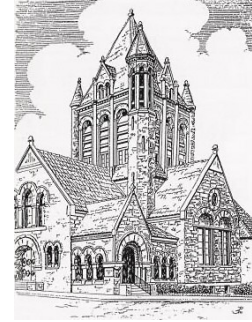
Reservations are appreciated by the day before. Thanks!



Trinity's book discussion group "Book Journey" will meet on Tuesday, April 16 - location to be determined. For information on what book we will be reading, contact Jean Nass at 724-437-4424 or call the church office.



Rev. John Simpson— Pastor
 James Vlosich, Discipleship Coordinator
 Bill Dreucci, Director of Music
 Brett Vanderlaan, Organist/Children's Choir Director
 Rachel Vlosich/Office Manager
 Bill Thompson, Sexton
 Ministers: All the Congregation



Our Mission is to worship and serve Jesus Christ by proclaiming his Gospel to all persons.
 As servants of Christ, we will always be a community of love, hope, service and reconciliation.

Check your email for updates.
Email the church office if you need to be put
on the church email list.

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Trinity United Presbyterian Church
 79 West Fayette Street
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