

A publication of Trinity United Presbyterian

TOUCHSTONE

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



September/October 2025

Vol. 42 No. 29

BRAND NEW BRIGHT RED PEW PADS

In every church that I have served I have seen people leave the church (quietly)..... (very quietly).....

They stop attending worship even though they have attended regularly for years. But, no one misses them and no one ever calls on them to see where they went and for what reason. The conclusion that they ultimately reach and that they tell others around the community is that **“NO ONE AT THAT CHURCH CARES ABOUT ME !”** Sometimes the pastor gets the blame and sometimes the congregation simply gets the reputation of being an *“uncaring, unfriendly congregation”*.

That is where our new red pew pads come in. They can be an important means of knowing who is here, who is missing, and who has begun to miss REGULARLY.

INORDER, for this process to work we need **ONE COMMITTED PERSON** who is willing to commit to:

- 1) Collecting the pads each week (after worship or early in the week)
- 2) Recording on paper or on the computer who was in attendance each Sunday
- 3) Noticing who has been missing for 4 weeks in a row
- 4) Notifying the pastor of the name and phone number of these people

It then becomes the pastor's responsibility to CALL that person. To tell that person that we have noticed their absence from worship. And, to enquire if everything is ok or if there is a need or problem that they would like to talk about.

(Some pastoral needs like: sickness, family troubles, job loss, etc.)

This process is also essential in spotting visitors!

It is NOT a complicated process but it does take **One Person Committed** to the success of this process ... and a pastor committed to following up.

MIGHT YOU BE WILLING TO BE THAT PERSON ?

IT WOULD BE A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO SERVE GOD AND YOUR CHURCH.

If you are interested or if you would like more information contact
Pastor Simpson at 724-244-6114 or speak with me after church.

THANK YOU!

PASTOR SIMPSON

Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. with James

September

In September, the Sunday School lessons:

9/7 *Isaiah's Call and Ministry* (Isaiah 6: 1-8; 38: 1-5)

9/14 *Hezekiah's Discovery* (2 Chronicles 30:1-9, 26-27)

9/21 *Hilkiah's Discovery* (2 Chronicles 34:15-22, 26-27)

9/28 *The Servant's Suffering* (Isaiah 53:1-7)

October

In October, the Sunday School lessons:

10/5 *Jermiah's Call and Arrest* (Jermiah 1: 6-10; 26: 8-9,12-15)

10/12 *Jermiah's Discovery* (Jermiah 7: 1-11, 21-23)

10/19 *A Family's Example* (Jermiah 35: 5-11)

10/26 *Changes Promised* (Jeremiah 31:29-34; John 1:17)

Sunday Worship Service Leaders

September Worship Leaders

07—Jeff Martinec

14—Susan Fox

21—George Tanner

28—Nancy Davis

October Worship Leaders

05—Nancy Vernon

12—Jim Williams

19—Jeff Martinec

26—Susan Fox

**Volunteers Needed for the Coffee Fellowship
after worship service**

**Please consider signing the list on the table at
coffee hour!**



Notes From The Bench

by Brett Vanderlaan

A Fond Farewell

As many of you know, this will be my final “Notes from the Bench” column. August 10th was my last Sunday playing organ at Trinity. More on my next endeavor comes a little later in this article.

I want to begin with a grand expression of gratitude to all of the people of the Trinity congregation and community. It has been an absolute pleasure to work and worship with you for these past six and a half years. Trinity UPC has a magnificent, historic building and a wonderful organ – both have brought me significant joy and reverence. However, as the song states, “The church is not a building [or organ] . . . the church is a people.” My musical and spiritual life has been enriched regularly by the staff members and choir members. I appreciate the support and friendship offered by the Session and those in the congregation (members, regular attendees, remote watchers and listeners, and visitors). I value the experiences I shared accompanying and working with soloists, ensembles, and instrumentalists. And I can’t express enough how thankful I am to have worked with Bill Dreucci – as a colleague, a mentor, and a friend. I will miss you all!

A few highlights of my time at Trinity between December, 2018 and August, 2025 include the following. I have expanded my playing repertoire (including a handful of compositions or arrangements of my own). I have adapted the children’s choir program to fit the interest of those involved, including teaching piano to Noah Jimenez who has sung and played in services. Bill Dreucci and the Session supported the initiation of the Trinity Summer Organ Scholar program which just completed its first successful cycle with Badyn Woodford. And as a congregation, we have offered prayer and praise to God through a wide variety of hymns and songs. I recently read somewhere that a typical congregation has about 150 hymns that are familiar and regularly sung in worship. We have sung over 310 hymns from our primary hymnal, not counting at least 20 more from “Sing the Faith” and 30 more from other sources. Well done faithful followers of Christ!

One metaphor I want to share with you is the idea that each one of us is on a “faith journey” throughout our lives (I’ve heard this mentioned by multiple pastors). At times, the paths of our journeys merge, and we travel a portion of the same road together. Inevitably, those paths will also likely diverge again at some point – due to any number of circumstances. A church community is a group that travels the road together – some for a short stretch, others for a long distance. Individuals and families come and go, but the church and all of us continue to walk with Christ toward our place in God’s kingdom. This summer, my path took a sudden turn away from the familiar path I was on, and I am now heading toward new horizons.

As I write this column, I am beginning a new job as the music teacher at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone, Maine. The school is a public, boarding, magnet school with a STEM focus. I only learned about the school itself over the July 4th weekend. The open teaching position was too ideal to pass up. It allows Kim and myself to accelerate our plans to eventually move permanently to Maine (Kim will still be teaching at Penn West in California, PA this academic year); it allows me to return to the classroom, this time with a focus on music rather than science (yet in a “scientific” community); and it allows our family some more flexibility as our personal and collective goals evolve.

This leads me to a second metaphor – a musical one this time. The musical term modulation refers to a piece of music changing from one key to another. It occurs to me that my life is undergoing a rapid and significant modulation during these months. I received the job offer on July 25. We loaded a truck on Aug. 11, took Kai to college in Wooster, OH on Aug. 12 (to begin his junior year), drove the truck to Maine (with a stop to visit my dad in New York) on Aug. 13-15, unloaded the truck and unpacked at the small school-provided house on Aug. 16-17, and I began teacher meetings on Aug. 18. Students arrive tomorrow (Aug. 20) through Saturday, and classes begin on Aug. 25. My “song” has gone through many keys quickly during this modulation to a rather “remote” key. Importantly, I realize that Trinity is also in the midst of a modulation as well. Not only in the transition from one organist to another, but also in the search for the next pastor. However, let me point out that in most lengthy pieces, when a modulation occurs, the music eventually returns to the “tonal center” (the primary key or note of the entire piece). This tonal center or note is present at the beginning (Alpha) and the end (Omega) of the piece and serves as an anchor or foundation as the music moves through different keys. For the Church, for Trinity UPC, for any church, and for each of us, that tonal center is Christ!

I hope that my music has brought you closer to God, enriched the worship experience, and touched your heart and soul in meaningful ways. May the peace of Christ be with you all!

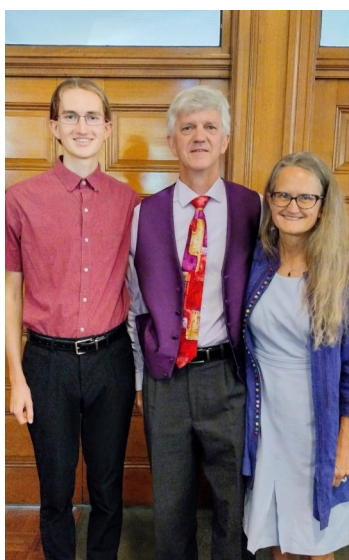
Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)

Brett Vanderlaan



The congregation would like to thank you so much for your loving devotion to provide our church with your beautiful music over the past many years. We have truly been blessed with your musical ability and we want you to know how much we appreciated your time and talent. You helped to make our church a very special place of worship.

Post Service Farewell Luncheon for Brett



Brett & Family



Rev. Simpson & Brett



Bill Dreucci & Karen
with Brett



Luncheon Servers



Kai, Brett & Kim





**The Chancel Choir will resume
rehearsals on Thursday, September 11
at 7:00 pm.**

If you are interested in singing in the choir join
us on September 11th.

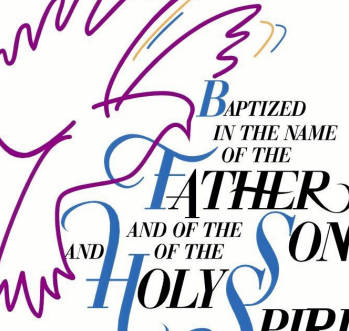
The Chancel Choir will provide special music
for Sunday, September 14th worship service.



**The Handbell Ringers will resume rehearsals
on Thursday, September 18
at 6:00 pm.**

If you are interested in learning handbells
please join us September 18th

A future date will be scheduled for the Handbell
Choir to provide special music.

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BAPTIZED
IN THE NAME
OF THE
FATHER
AND OF THE
SON
AND OF THE
HOLY
SPIRIT





Church Family Picnic 8-16-25
Hosted at
Bill & Ellen Ulmer's Home



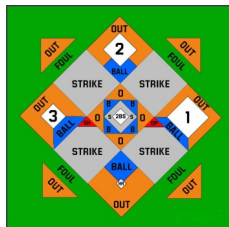
World Communion Sunday

October 05, 2025



Darts and Devotions

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.



small group

Sept/Oct Tuesdays

5:00 pm

Bring your Bible, Coffee, and a notebook to
this time of discovering God through
Scripture.



Interfaith Missions

1.

Loaves & Fishes Ministries

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

2. Trinity's Blue Bird House: For those less fortunate than us.

Multiple ways to help:

- Drive clients to their medical appointments.
- Help make sandwiches every Tuesday @ 10:00 a. m. in Carol's office.

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

Interfaith Office Hours are Mon.—Thurs.—9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Need : Small Water Bottles (8-10 oz)



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 September luncheon is Wednesday, Sept. 10th at Red Lobster 11:30 am

The October luncheon is Wednesday, Oct 8th at Rizz's Restaurant 11:30 am.

For more information call Carol @ 724-438-0709

Reservations are appreciated by the day before. Thanks!



Trinity Book Journey

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 11:30 am at Bob Evans

The Book is "Happiness Falls" by Angie Kim

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 11:30 am at The Olive Garden

The Book is "Then She Was Gone" by Lisa Jewell

All are Welcome!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either

Susan Fox, @ 724-970-9066 or sefox55@gmail.com

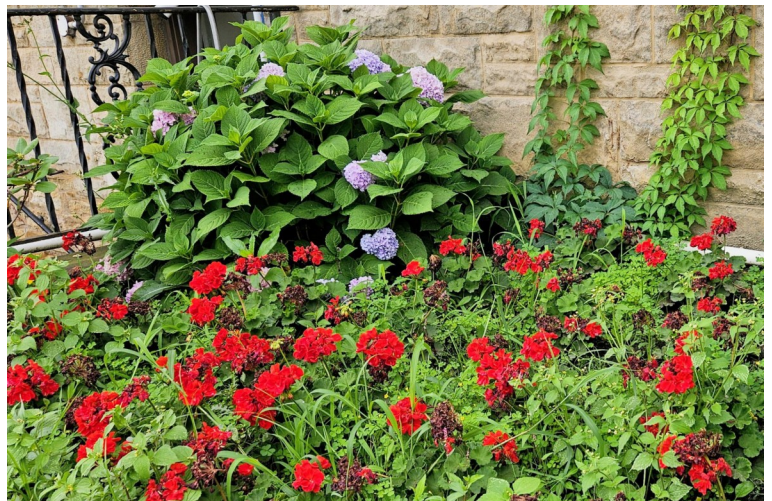
OR

Cindy Jones, at 724-437-7856 or cbjonz1@aol.com

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to purchasing memorial and honorary red geraniums that adorned our Chancel Table for the Memorial Day weekend. They are now in full bloom on the Fayette St. side of our church (where our electronic sign is located). If you haven't seen them, it's worth a special trip! Thank you for giving our church a welcoming look that says, "Come worship with us"!

Cindy Jones





SEPTEMBER

9/11

Youth Group (5:30 p.m)

Lesson: "Welcome Back"

Scripture: John 8:32

9/18

Youth Group (5:30 p.m)

Lesson: "Prejudices"

Scripture: John 4:7-10

9/25

Youth Group (5:30 p.m)

Lesson: "Turning From God"

Scripture: John 6:60-69



OCTOBER

10/2

Youth Group (5:30 p.m)

Lesson: "Leaving Sin Behind"

Scripture: John 8:3-11

10/9

Youth Group (5:30 p.m)

Lesson: "God is Not A Party Pooper"

Scripture: John 10:10

10/16

Youth Group (5:30 p.m)

Lesson: "His Love In Us"

Scripture: John 13:34-35

10/23

Youth Group (5:30 p.m)

Lesson: "It's The Truth"

Scripture: John 14:6

Youth Outings



The Trinity Youth Group
Caddie Shak Family Fun Center
Thursday, August 11, 2025



On September 11th,

The Youth Group will be starting tack at Trinity.

A fun addition to the Youth Group schedule this year is the monthly student Bible Study.

The subject of this Bible Study will be on *Prayer*.

**Throughout the year in this study,
we will discuss what prayer is,
why we should pray,
and how to pray.**

**I know this will be an excellent study
because our students already have great conversations**



During August 6-8 our joint VBS was held at Uniontown Church of the Brethren, The rooms were filled with western décor and the smiles and laughter of 34 children and junior helpers. The children learned about the greatest truth of all—GOD IS GOOD. Here are the pictures of the age groups of kids at VBS!



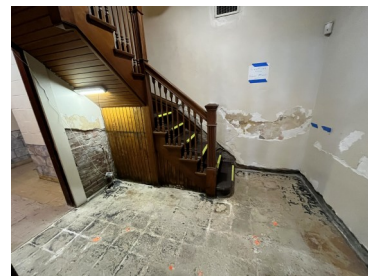
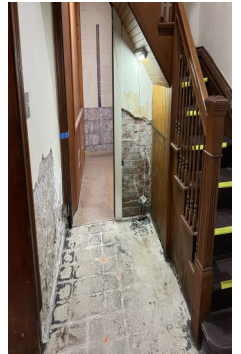
Friday Night
Parent Program





Having a Bible and a reference booklet is a great help with your study of God's word!

**For more information, speak with
James Vlosich or call the
Trinity office at 724-439-0709**



We have been having a lot of renovations being done around the church. Roof being worked on, Front door restored, Bottom of stairwell water damage repair...

2025 INTERFAITH GOLF OUTING



Includes:
18 Holes of Golf
Dinner

8:00 am
Registration
9:00 am
Shotgun
Start

19TH FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
2025

UNIONTOWN COUNTRY CLUB
25 Bailey Lane
Uniontown, PA 15401

WIN PRIZES!

Hole in one: New Car

Skill Prizes:

Longest Drive

Closest to the Pin

Longest Putt

Prizes for the top 3 teams

COST

Four Person Scramble Format:

\$125 per player (\$110 if paid by 8/30/25)

\$500 per team



Scan QR Code to register

For more information call Dr. Bob Norman, Jr. @ 724-812-3218 or the office @ 724-438-0709

INTERFAITH GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION

UNIONTOWN COUNTRY CLUB
25 BAILEY LANE
UNIONTOWN, PA 15401

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

Sponsorships:

Friends of Interfaith Business Sponsor:

\$600 (includes Golf, lunch & Tee Box Sign)

Beverage Cart Sponsor:

\$250 (Name on Beverage Cart Sign)

Tee Box Sign:

\$125 (Name on Tee Box Sign)

Scan QR to
register online



SPONSORSHIPS:

Business Name: _____

GOLFERS \$125 (\$110 IF PAID BY 8/30/25 OR \$500 PER FOUR-SOME)

Player #1	_____	Phone/Email: _____
Player #2	_____	Phone/Email: _____
Player #3	_____	Phone/Email: _____
Player #4	_____	Phone/Email: _____

Complete form and return with your check made payable to: IVCGF

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Fayette
79 W. Fayette St.
Uniontown, PA 15401

For more information call Dr. Bob Norman at 724-812-3218

Future Events

September 1 - Labor Day Holiday - Office will be closed

September 7 – Beesontown Singers at 4:00 pm

September 7 – Deacons Meeting at 9:00 am in Interfaith Office (before Sunday School)

September 8 – Uniontown Chorale in Chapel 7:00 pm

September 10 Al-Anon's Annual Dinner (in basement) 5:15 pm

September 10 Session Meeting (in Chapel) 6:00 pm

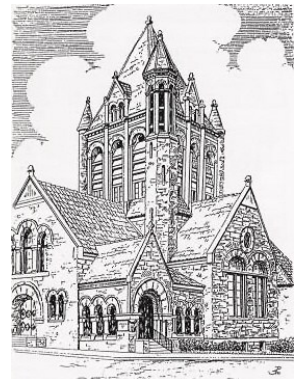
September 11 Youth Group resumes at 5:30 pm

Average Worship Attendance 2024: 36 (based on available numbers) 34

Average Worship Attendance 2025: (YTD): 45 (based on available numbers)

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Adult Sunday School</u>
SUNDAY, Aug 03	48	N/A
SUNDAY, Aug 10	63	8
SUNDAY, Aug 17	49	10
SUNDAY, Aug 24	52	9
SUNDAY, Aug 31	36	9

Rev. John Simpson— Interim Pastor
James Vlosich, Discipleship Coordinator
Bill Dreucci, Director of Music
Barb Slavin Secretary/Office Manager



**Check your bulletin and email for updates.
Call the church office if you need to be put on the church
email list.**