

TOUCHSTONE

May 2022

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Trinity United Presbyterian Church • 79 W. Fayette Street, Uniontown, PA 15401
724-437-2709 • www.trinityupc.com • trinityupc@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/trinityupc

Worship | Service | Proclaim | Discipleship | Community

We will miss you, Mrs. Welch!



Our wonderful preschool director is retiring! We will miss her, but we are happy for Donna Welch, “Mrs. Welch,” who has devoted herself to the preschool ministry for the last 21 years. She brought the program to Trinity a few years ago and worked to build up here. It is now one of our most thriving ministries. Families and children love Trinity UPC Preschool! The program will be left in the hands of Emily Bowers, “Miss Emily,” who has been training with Donna this year.

To show your support of the preschool and thank Donna, plan to celebrate her retirement with us following Worship on Sunday, May 22 in the Chapel during coffee fellowship.

Everyone is also invited to come watch this year’s preschool closing program on Friday, May 20th at 9am in the sanctuary.

May 15, 4-7pm

We had so much fun at the last Church Game Night, that we’re planning another one! Join us on Sunday, May 15 from 4pm-7pm in the church chapel. Bring your favorite game!



Our Fellowship

- 1—Bill Long
- 5—Bailey Cahn
- 5—Cayley Hostetler
- 6—Kaden Maxwell
- 8—Nancy Fagler
- 9—Tad Borland
- 10—Sue Baron
- 11—Denise Peddicord
- 19—Brendan Krall
- 21—Janine Adao
- 24—George Tanner II
- 30—Clara Link
- 31—Julie Venick

Happy Birthday

In Memorium
H. Donald Stone Jr.
March 18, 2022

Happy Anniversary

- May 6
Bill & Ellen Ulmer (34 years)
- May 15
Harry & Dorothy Springer (57 years)
- May 20
Dan & Vickie Leone (28 years)
- May 22
Jeff & Melissa Maxwell (23 years)

Happy Mother's Day!

Visit the church webpage,
www.trinityupc.com, to see the church calendar.

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

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 Reverend Jim Gear, Pastor
 James Vlosich, Discipleship Coordinator
 Bill Dreucci, Director of Music
 Brett Vanderlaan, Organist/Children's Choir Director
 Jen Starcher, Temporary Secretary • Bill Thompson, Sexton
 Ministers: All the Congregation

Prayer List

"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

Please especially pray for these:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Abigail Dowling | Bobby, Morgan and Callen Dugan | Melissa Duley and Family |
| Ben and Brittany Eddy and Family | Dan & Alyssa Eddy and Family | J.W. Eddy |
| Matthew Etling | Nancy Fagler | Jerry & Beth Fike |
| Greg Fike | Mark & Joy Fike | Susan Fox |

Church Music Sunday! May 15, 2022

🎵 NOTES FROM THE BENCH 🎵

By Brett Vanderlaan

Celebrating Church Music and Congregational Song

ON MAY 15, Trinity UPC will observe Church Music Sunday. **Musical offerings will be presented by the Chancel Choir, the Trinity Ringers, the Trinity Community Children's Choir, various instrumentalists, and the organ.** However, perhaps the most significant musical offering may be made by the congregation. Please consider this month's column an invitation to raise your voice and "sing to the Lord" – especially on the 15th – but also at every opportunity.

The concept of congregational song is fundamental to Christian worship. Paul exhorted the Ephesians to address "one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart" [Eph. 5:19]. The psalmist wrote: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in joyous song and sing praises." [Ps. 98:4] This is but one among numerous calls to sing to the Lord. (see Psalms 69, 81, 98, 100, 149, and 150, for example)

Notice that the directions are to sing to the Lord, NOT to the gathering or to each other. Psalm 149:1 says "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful." So the *assembly of the faithful* is explicitly implored to participate in the singing – and this involvement would be most evident in our congregational responses and hymns. This should be sufficient encouragement to sing out in full voice. However, many of us do not feel comfortable or confident singing when others might hear us.

In 1891, Presbyterian minister Rev. Thomas De Witt Talmage delivered a sermon in Brooklyn focused on church music. In it he commented that "It is amazing how some people, who have voice enough to discharge all their duties in the world, when they come into the house of God have no voice to discharge [the] duty [of singing to the Lord]." He went on to explain that

An obstacle to church singing has been an inordinate fear of criticism. The vast majority of people, singing in church, never want anybody else to hear them sing. Everybody is waiting for somebody else to do his duty. If we all sang, then the inaccuracies that are evident when only a few sing would not be heard at all; they would be drowned out. God only asks you to do as well as you can, and then, if you get the wrong pitch or keep wrong time, he will forgive any deficiency of the ear and imperfection of the voice. Angels will not laugh, if you should lose your place in the musical scale, or come in at the close a bar behind.

Paul gave the Corinthians the example to "sing with the spirit [heart] and . . . with the mind also." [I Cor. 14:15] Rev. Talmage encouraged his congregation by saying

I have also noticed the power of sacred song to soothe perturbation. You may have come to God's house with a great many worriments and anxieties, yet,

Church Music Sunday Continued...

perhaps, in the singing of the first hymn, you lost all those . . . If you have anxieties and worri- ments, try this heavenly charm upon them. Do not sit down on the bank of the hymn, but plunge in, that the devil of care may be brought out of you.

This sentiment resonates with the American composer Charles Ives who thought that music was not simply about sound, but rather an expression of the spirit (human and divine). It has been reported that Ives (and his father George) valued the music of amateur marching bands or a hymn lustily sung in a country church more highly than a polished performance in a concert hall. Some of this "sound" is conveyed in Ives' compositions.

In other words, fear not, sing out, and add your voice to the praise, thanksgiving, petition and supplication we offer in the music of our responses and hymns. I will close this sincere invitation to join in song with a final quotation from Rev. Talmage:

A singing church is always a triumphant church! . . . O men and women of Jesus Christ, let us go into all our conflicts singing the praises of God, and then, instead of falling back, as we often

do, from defeat to defeat, we will be marching on from victory to victory.

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)



Note: References for some material in this column:

"Sacred Song" - A Sermon Preached by Thomas De Witt Talmage at the Dedication of the New Jardine Organ in the Brooklyn Tabernacle, September 20, 1891. [reprinted in *The Tracker*, vol. 65, no. 3, July 2021, pp. 10-18.]

"Ives the Man: His Life," Jan Swafford © 1998 by Peermusic, Ltd. - found at Charles Ives Society website: <https://charlesives.org/ives-man-his-life>

Church News

Thank you for these 11 years, from Meg

Dear Trinity Congregation,

With the reluctance that comes from eleven wonderful years of working for the extraordinary ministry of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, I have resigned my position as Church Secretary. My husband accepted a position outside of the home, and we decided that I should be our son's primary caregiver during the work week. I have always felt that the Trinity congregation deserves the best, and I can no longer devote all the time that is needed for this position. This will allow someone new to devote time and faith to the ministry.

My role with Trinity has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I have learned so much from so many dear, Trinity friends. It was a privilege to have known, loved and worked with pillars of the faith, such as Retta Semans, Paul Williams, John Sharp, Bob Cahn, and others. Everyone at Trinity has given me grace upon grace. It was my pleasure to serve you, to help preserve and protect Trinity history, and to be used by the Lord in this type of role. It was never a job for me but always ministry. Every time I entered the quiet sanctuary to set out bulletins or another task, my eyes would drift to the Ascension window, and I would be overwhelmed with gratitude anew. The Lord has been so good to us all, and I look forward to knowing that someone new will be as blessed as I have been. I trust that the community will also continue to be blessed by you, as Mary Martha Lorenzo once told me, "Trinity will always be there."

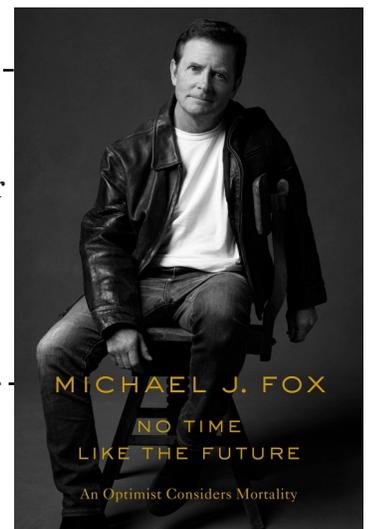
My last day as Church Secretary is currently Friday, May 13. As so many friends and family are still part of Trinity, I look forward to continuing to enjoy my relationship with you, and I will be praying for you!

Love in Christ Jesus,

Meg Grimm

Book Journey will meet on May 17 at 11:30 at Mark C.'s Diner. We will be discussing "No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality" by Michael J. Fox. New members or one-time visitors are always welcome. For more information, feel free to contact me.

Jean Nass, Group Leader



Interfaith Fundraisers

2022 Interfaith Golf Outing

Friday, June 17, 2022

Duck Hollow Golf Club

8:00am Registration

9:00am Shotgun Start

Four Person Scramble Format: \$75/Player;
\$300/Team

Includes: 18 Holes & Cart, Dinner, Skills Contest

Cash Prizes: \$400 (1st) \$300 (2nd) \$200 (3rd)

For more information call 724-439-6179



Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Spring Dance

Saturday, May 21 at Mallards Landing, Duck Hol-
low Golf Club

Doors open at 6:30pm

Buffet dinner at
7:00pm

Tickets are \$40 per
person

Dancing to the Al-
lies 8:00-11:00pm



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.

Return Service Requested

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79 West Fayette Street

Trinity United Presbyterian Church

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