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TOUCHSTONE

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Trinity United Presbyterian Church
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Worship | Service | Proclaim | Discipleship | Community



Psalm 147: 16 “He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.”

The Path of Discipleship with James Vlosich

Get Back... to Jesus

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to see who I consider to be one of the greatest songwriters and most influential cultural figures of the 20th and 21st centuries, Paul McCartney, perform in Pittsburgh. It was an incredible evening. For nearly three hours, McCartney played 35 songs (not bad for an 83-year-old man). The night was filled with hit after hit, spanning his time with *Wings* and, of course, *The Beatles*. Few musicians have a catalog of music as deep and beloved as his (apologies to Taylor Swift fans).

In preparation for the concert, I came across a quote from McCartney that stayed with me. Reflecting on his time with The Beatles, he once said:

“The Beatles were always about optimism and love. We really believed love could save the world.”

At first glance, this sounds like a bold, perhaps even radical, claim. Can love really save the world? What does that kind of love even look like in practice?

As we journey through the season of Lent, the Church proclaims that the answer is **yes**, there is a love that saves. For forty days leading up to Easter, we focus our hearts and lives on the love that saves humanity from sin, the love revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

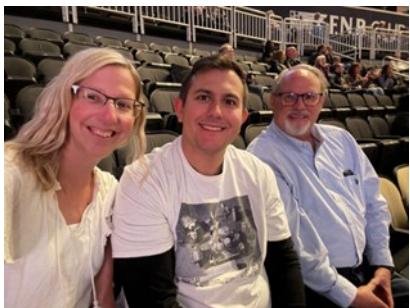
Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus embodied a love unlike anything the world had known. He drew near to those others avoided. He healed the sick and restored the broken. He offered grace and forgiveness freely, even to those who misunderstood or rejected him. And in one of the most profound moments in Scripture, while nailed to the cross, Jesus prayed, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”* (Luke 23:34). This is the love that rescues, restores, and saves. The beautiful thing about this love is that it is ongoing and available to us today.

In this sense, McCartney and The Beatles were on to something. Love truly can save the world. As Christians, however, we celebrate not an abstract idea of love, but the very real, self-giving love of Jesus Christ. We celebrate a love that conquered sin and death and opened the way to new life.

This Lent, I invite us as a church to reflect on what it might look like to live out the kind of radical love Jesus proclaimed and practiced. Specifically, I ask: *How can Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, embody this love in our worship, our service, and in our daily lives?*

This Lent, we are reminded that love finds its truest and fullest expression in Christ. May this season draw us back to Jesus, and to the love that truly saves the world.

(Photos from the concert. The first image shows me seated between my wife and father-in-law before the show; the second captures Paul McCartney at the piano.)



10:00 a.m.

FEBUARY LESSONS

- 2/1 The Christian Church (Mark 4:26-32; Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-18)
- 2/8 Baptism and The Lord's Supper (Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)
- 2/15 The Lord's Day (Exodus 20:8-11; Romans 14:4-6 ; Revelation 1:10)
- 2/22 Stewardship and Mission (Acts 1:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:3-9)

MARCH LESSONS

- 3/1 Recognizing Our Debt to Others (Mark 12:28-34; James 2:14-17)



Notes From The Bench



-by Badyn R. Woodford

01/05/26

As I continue settling into my new role as organist here at Trinity UPC, I want to begin with a word of genuine gratitude. Your kindness, encouragement, and patience have been a steady grace as I learn the rhythms of this congregation. It is a gift to serve a church that values worship so deeply and supports the musicians who help lead it.

We are just coming off the exhilarating intensity of Advent—a season that is anything but quiet.

Advent music watches and waits, but it also aches with expectation, echoing the cry of the prophets: “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down” (Isaiah 64:1).

No sooner do we arrive at Christmas, however, than the church calendar keeps pressing forward. For the music staff at Trinity, the train never stops moving, because the story never stops unfolding.

Part of my role as a sacred musician is to help attend carefully to these seasonal shifts and to translate them into sound. Sacred music does not simply decorate worship; it interprets it.

In Advent, we sing our longing and hope—music shaped by promise rather than fulfillment (Romans 8:24–25). At Christmas, that longing gives way to proclamation: “The Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). Carols like Joy to the World are not sentimental celebrations but bold theological statements, announcing that Christ’s reign reaches “far as the curse is found” (cf. Genesis 3; Romans 5:18).

As we move into Epiphany, the music widens our lens still further. This is the season of revelation, of light breaking outward. The church sings not only that Christ is born, but that Christ is revealed to the nations (Matthew 2:1–12). Hymns such as As with Gladness Men of Old give musical voice to the truth that the gospel is expansive and radiant: “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1).

This is work we undertake together as a church family. Trinity’s choirs, Instrumentalists, pulpit supply, and congregation all participate in shaping worship that is thoughtful, prayerful, and spiritually nourishing. Week after week, sacred music helps bind scripture, prayer, and proclamation into a single act of praise, forming us over time through beauty, repetition, and truth (Colossians 3:16).

On a more practical note, our winter organ and piano tunings have recently taken place, and we are grateful for our technicians -- Ray Colby and Dan Alberts -- who care for these instruments.

Looking ahead, I am also delighted to share that applications for a newly refreshed Summer

Organ Scholar program will be opening very soon. I am grateful to continue this program that my predecessor, Brett Vanderlaan, shepherded into fruition, and I look forward to supporting young musicians as they learn to serve the church through their gifts.

Thank you for singing, listening, and worshiping so faithfully. I am always glad to visit and answer questions during the coffee hour each week, and I look forward to continuing this journey of worship together.

Christmas Caroling



A huge thank you to everyone who participated in Christmas caroling in December. Your willingness to share the joy of Christ's birth brought warmth and encouragement to all that were visited.



Christmas Pointsettias

In Memory Of...

Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Beeson given by Pauline R. Semans

Mrs. Sarah Beeson Semans given by Pauline R. Semans

Henrietta B. Semans given by Pauline R. Semans

Mr. Lawrence S. Semans given by Pauline R. Semans

Our Parents given by Pam & John Barnhart

Richard W. Franks given by Franks Family

Dr. Rev. Robert Cahn & Kathy Cahn given by Bill & Meg Cahn

Loved Ones given by Cindy Jones

Dean & Betty Montgomery by John & Jean Nass

John & Eva Shull given by Shull Family

Sara B. Honsaker given by Bill & Linda King

Mid Selong given by Bill & Linda King

Antoinette Everett given by Bill & Linda King

Jim & Libby Fox given by Susan Fox

Loved Ones given by Dan & Vickie Leone

Charles & Ann Mickey given by Blair & Kathy McGill

Joseph, Naomi & William McGill given by Blair & Kathy McGill

In Honor Of...

Bill & Karen Dreucci given by John & Jean Nass

My Family given by Lourie Stewart

Dr. John K. Sharp given by Sharp Family

Clara Link given by Bill & Linda King

Mary Ellen Robinson given by Bill & Linda King

Music Ministry given by Badyn R. Woodford & Alyssa Garfinkle

Bill Dreucci, Helen Krichbaum, Lourie Stewart, Jame Vlosich, Jeff Martinec, Alex Tate, Pete Vlosich, Bill Thompson, Barb Slavin, & Carol Ashton - Anonymous

To the Glory of God given by Visitor

Badyn Woodford given by Bryan & Carla Woodford, Bud & Bonnie Woodford and Ray & Darlene Zeakes

Music Ministry given by Bryan & Carla Woodford, Bud & Bonnie Woodford and Ray & Darlene Zeakes





ESSENTIAL STRIDES

Supporting *Essential Strides*: A Mission of Mobility and Hope

In November, the Mission Interpretation Committee set a goal of raising \$2,000 to support *Essential Strides*, helping fund a life changing surgery for an individual in Peru. For this person, this procedure will restore their mobility and bring renewed hope.

We are pleased to report that, in less than two months, this goal has been fully met. This achievement is a testament to the generosity and faithfulness of our congregation.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed and supported this effort. Your gifts have made a meaningful difference, and your generosity will have a lasting impact on the life of someone in need.

Please be on the lookout for a follow-up article sharing more about the individual who will receive this surgery through your support.

With gratitude,

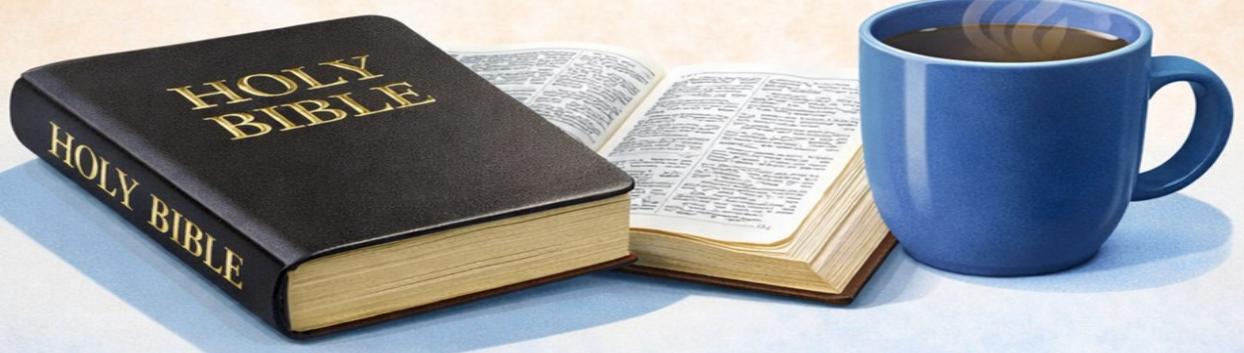
The Mission Interpretation Committee

Small Group

Tuesdays

5:00 p.m.

Trinity Basement



February - March Study:
The Gospel According
to Matthew

Youth Group Fill the Van Toy Drive

Thursdays 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Trinity Youth Group: Bringing Joy and Growing in Faith

The Trinity Youth Group was especially active and engaged throughout this Advent season, embodying the spirit of joy, service, and faith. This year, our youth focused on sharing Christ's love in tangible ways, most notably by working together to fill the church van with toys for those in need and by participating in Christmas caroling within our community. Through these efforts, they served as a visible light, offering hope and during a meaningful season of the church year.

Equally important is the faith formation that is taking place. This same group of students gathers each week faithfully for Youth Group, where they study Scripture, ask thoughtful questions, and engage in open conversations about their faith. It has been a privilege to witness their spiritual growth and deepening commitment to Christ.

One clear example of their maturity can be seen in January's discussion topic: The Holy Trinity. This is a doctrine that many adult Christians find challenging to articulate, yet our students have shown curiosity and thoughtful engagement. Their willingness to explore such a foundational and complex aspect of Christian belief is a testament to their developing faith.

Over the coming month, the youth will continue this exploration by learning what the Trinity is and what it is not, while also reflecting on God's omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience, and how God operates with one will and purpose through the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Because of the faith, service, and dedication of these teenagers, it is truly a special time to be part of the Youth Group at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

James Vlosich



Youth Group Fill the Van Toy Drive

The Fill the Van Toy Drive was a huge success this year. Below are pictures of the toys that were collected and delivered to Fresh Fire Church on December 18, 2025 by our very own Trinity Santa Helpers, James Vlosich and Mark Fike.

James would like to thank everyone for their generosity of toy donations, in making a child in Fayette County receiving a toy for Christmas.



FRESH FIRE CHURCH

A very special THANK YOU to James Vlosich, of Trinity United Presbyterian Church and their congregation for the large donation of toys: We were able to bless all of the families with children, who attended Norma's Closet Clothing Bank with toys for Christmas! We appreciate your generosity and spirit of giving. Churches working together to help and change lives!

HELP!

We need meals
made for

Youth Group
on Thursdays.



Interested?

If so, contact James Vlosich



Faith Discussions

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.
8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. At Mark C's Diner





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.

The next luncheon is Wednesday, **February 11th @ 11:30 am.**

Nae-Nae's Restaurant (across from post office)

For more information call Carol @ 724-438-0709



Book Journey

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at Rooster's Roost
"The Nightingale" by Krisan Hannah**

PLEASE NOTE: If the weather is bad, the meeting may be cancelled, but an email will be sent to members.

All are welcome!

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

OR

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



Interfaith Caregivers

**Loaves N Fishes Ministries – St Vincent – 30 lunches –
A Few Feeding Many – Every Tuesday @ 10:00 am.**

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

The Bird House is filled on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

Interfaith Office Hours: Mon – Thurs. 9:00 am -2:00 pm.

If interested in volunteering at the Interfaith Office.

Call Carol at 724-438-0709

Supplies Needed: Small Water Bottles (8-10 oz)

Valentine's Kids Party

Friday, February 6 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.



Trinity Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Valentine's Kids Party on Friday, February 6. This will be an evening designed to offer both children and parents a time of joy and refreshment.

While parents enjoy a night out together, children will be welcomed to a Valentine themed evening filled with games, crafts, and fun activities. A meal will be provided for all children in attendance.

If your child plans to attend, or if you have any questions, please contact James Vlosich, Caitlin Vlosich, or Vickie Leone.

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

Proudly presents our

Annual Style Show

Sunday March 15, 2026

Uniontown Country Club

Featuring all the latest styles, our famous basket auction, local art work, the envelope game, 50/50 and all the fun you and your friends have been waiting for!

Doors open at 11:30am

Brunch buffet – 12:30pm

Style show – 1:30pm

Come join the fun. We can't wait to see you again!

\$40.00 per person. For more information or to make a reservation call 724-438-0709

Payment in advance, please.

Cash bar available

Please RSVP by 3/9/2026 Detach and mail to: Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

79 W.Fayette Street Uniontown, PA 15401

Name(s)

Amount enclosed (\$40 per person)

Telephone number



Something to do while staying indoors to keep warm



WORD LIST

BOOTS
CHILLY
COAT
COLD
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FLURRIES
FREEZE
FROST
FROSTBITE
HIBERNATE
HOLIDAY
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE SKATING
ICICLE
IGLOO
JACKET
MITTENS
NEW YEAR
PENGUIN
SCARF
SKIING
SLEIGH
SNOW
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
SOLSTICE
WINTER

WINTER WORD SEARCH



Q	X	G	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	F	E	F
R	D	I	W	I	N	T	E	R	E	C	C	R
A	S	T	O	O	B	U	Q	O	T	I	T	E
E	D	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	A	R	H	E
Y	E	J	A	C	K	E	T	N	L	V	W	Z
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A	N	U	S	T	U	O	F	X	C	I	Z	X
W	I	D	I	I	S	L	L	M	I	S	P	B
N	H	C	W	T	A	M	Z	K	T	S	B	D
D	E	X	B	K	C	I	S	E	O	N	S	E
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I	I	U	I	K	I	B	A	I	F	V	M	F
C	L	A	F	G	N	J	E	M	E	Y	Z	K
L	L	R	Q	I	G	L	O	O	Z	L	H	O
E	Y	Y	D	L	O	C	P	L	H	A	S	B



<https://everydaychaosandcalm.com>

James Vlosich, Discipleship Coordinator

Bill Dreucci, Director of Music

Badyn R. Woodford, Organist

Barb, Slavin, Office Manager

Pete Vlosich, Assistant Custodian



Check your email for updates.

Email the church office if you need to be put
on the church email list.