



A publication of Trinity United Presbyterian



TOUCHSTONE

January 2025

Vol. 42 No. 01

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



“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV



Weekly Services @ Trinity Youth Group



Last month the Trinity Youth Group held a toy drive to “Stuff the Van” with toys that would be given to children throughout Fayette County. The day of the toy drive was windy and cold, but our kids made it out to make sure the van got stuffed! By the end of the evening, the church van was jam-packed with toys. The toys donated will be distributed throughout Fayette County by the *Fayette County Community Action Agency*. I would like to thank everybody who helped make this toy drive successful.

Youth Group Thursdays @ 5:30 p.m.



Young Adult Small Group

Tuesdays @ From Scratch
@ 5:00 p.m.

Faith Discussions

Mark C's Diner

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.



Join us Every Sunday for Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

January's Lessons

1/5 *The Lord is King* (PSLAM 10:12-18)

1/12 *The Lord is Majestic* (PSALM 93)

1/19 *The Lord is Active* (PSALM 103:1-14)

1/26 *The Lord is Praised* (PSALM 145:1, 10-21)



Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.

With James V.



Notes From The Bench



-by Brett Vanderlaan

January 2025

Hymns as Devotions

As we begin a new year, many of us may start “something” new or different. Specifically, we might start a book of daily devotionals that correspond to each day of the year. Such books are focused on reading the entire Bible in a year, the Psalms, prayers, hope and the like -- and are designed for teens, grandparents, women, men, families, those who are grieving, those in recovery, and those seeking inspiration, for instance. These books can help guide our personal spiritual time and reflection as a daily practice along our faith journeys.

I would like to use this column to offer an additional option for such a daily devotional resource - **hymns**. There are, of course, actual books with this thematic approach. I own two of these which I recommend highly. The One Year Book of Hymns (by Robert Brown and Mark Norton; published by Tyndale) includes a hymn text, a story or reflection about the hymn, and a scripture for each day of the year. Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions (by Kenneth W. Osbeck; published by Kregel) follows a similar format plus additional scriptural references and a short segment of the tune for each hymn. However, all that is really needed is a **hymnal** in order to utilize hymns as a source for spiritual study and reflection.

One specific way to use hymns as devotions is through **guided meditation**. I describe the following technique that is based on a practice called “Canticum Divinum” by Christopher Cook (“Canticum Divinum,” *The American Organist*, July 2019). The essential framework involves selecting a hymn and proceeding through the text using the following pattern:

- Begin by slowly **reading** the first verse (aloud, if desired and possible)
- Pause in **silence** to contemplate the text (focus on the words and what they mean to you)
- Read** the next verse
- Engage in **silent** contemplation
- Repeat** for the remaining verses
- [if desired, you can **sing** (or play) the hymn at the conclusion]

Feel free to make variations of your own. For example, you could read and consider just *one verse* each day, or repeat the entire process with the same hymn *multiple days* in a row. The approach could be used *in church* during the gathering music, prelude or hymn introductions. The power of music will help keep the words – and hopefully the sentiment – with you throughout the day and beyond. I encourage you to give this practice a try. Let me know if you would like to borrow a hymnal or if you would appreciate printed hymn text pages. Here’s to a fulfilling 2025!

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)



Bright Beginnings Center For Learning

Bright Beginnings thanks you for your support and prayers. If anyone wants to donate to the preschool, we are always accepting supplies such as, white cardstock, printer paper, baby diaper wipes, 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. Our EIN # is 92-1516471

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.



Happy Birthday!



Harvey King	01/05	Jane Walsh	01/16
John Barnhart	01/06	Tanya Shaffer	01/17
Doug Yauger	01/06	Nathan Maxwell	01/18
Sally Franks	01/07	LeeAnn Spellman	01/19
Macy Shaffer	01/12	Jacob Cahn	01/25
Wade McMahon	01/14	Melissa Duley	01/25
John Caton	01/15	Jeff Martinec	01/27
Brandi Shanaberger	01/15	Pam Porterfield	01/29





Darts & Devotions



Meet on Thursdays to read a devotion and throw darts.

Thursday's @ 10:00 a.m.

Devotions by Doug Yauger

Style Show



Sunday, February 16, 2025

Style Show "Bitz of Glitz"

From: 12:00 -3:00 p.m.

\$40.00 per ticket.

Uniontown Country Club—Brunch

"Bitz of Glitz"

50/50, Basket Auction

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Fayette Inc.

Information call Carol @ 724-438-0709

More details to come.



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, January , 08 @ MarkC's Diner @ 11:30 a.m.

For more information call Carol @ 724-438-0709



Book Journey



Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Location to be announced

"The Diamond Eye" by Kate Quinn

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 for more information.

Interfaith Missions

1. Loaves & Fishes Ministries

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

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

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

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

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

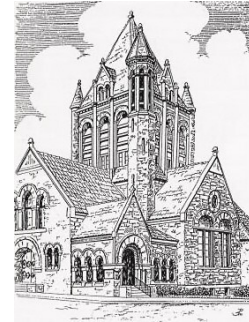


Children's Church

Available during worship.



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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