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September Trinity Tower

A beautiful Fall to all, by Nancy MacMeekin

Volume 45 Number 9



The beautiful image of a colorful tree rooted near living water is a perfect logo for the challenging times in which we find ourselves. As diverse members of the United Church of Christ, our many roots entwine to give us resilience and strength. Together, we spread our branches of love, offering shades of faith and hope to a weary world. I believe this scripture and image will resonate deeply with the people of Christ as we strive to build a new creation of righteousness through a just world for all.

Rev. Penny Lowes

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.

Psalm 1:3a

Rooted in Love was the theme of the UCC's 33rd General Synod. It culminates our denomination's foundation of covenant, as 5 branches of the church came together in 1957 to create the United Church of Christ. At its basic level, a covenant is a promise. As the UCC, we acknowledge our diversity as stated above, but also covenant to remain in relationship with each other. In Article 3 of the UCC's Constitution it confirms:

Within the United Church of Christ, the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. Each expression of the Church has responsibilities and rights in relation to the others, to the end that the whole Church will seek God's will and be faithful to God's mission. Each expression of the Church listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others. In this covenant, the various expressions of the United Church of Christ seek to walk together in all God's ways.

During a specially called Congregational Meeting in November of 2019, Trinity members voted to accept Consistory's recommendation to change the definition of membership within our constitution. By doing this, Trinity reinforced our UCC Statement of Faith when we say together, "Binding in covenant; faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races." We made a covenant with each other that membership will not regard a person's race, age, national origin, sex, socioeconomic status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, Immigration status, or family/parental status. We promised to be 'Rooted in Love!'

It can be challenging to consider a body of individuals working together, creating an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual respect. Teamwork, where everyone's participation involves listening, hearing, and considering another's concerns, creativity and ideals. Yet, this is exactly what being in covenant means. Such sacred promises, bind us together giving our individual voices and beliefs a stronger platform; connections, which help, secure our collective beliefs of inclusion, equality, justice, and love for everyone.

Such covenants have existed in our churches for generations. Within our celebrations of weddings, baptisms, confirmations, reception of new members and installations and departures of pastors, we make promises to uphold and support each other in all aspects of life, within and outside of the church. Within the service of baptism, the congregation is asked:

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciple of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

Congregational Response: We promise our love, support and care.

We may not always agree, but covenant to remain in relationship. Such collaboration helps build a sacred trust strong enough to fulfill our hope for a just world for all! If you have any questions about how we have been in covenant and will continue to be in covenant in the future with each other here at Trinity UCC, please feel free to contact me.

Many Blessings! Pastor Fred

THANK YOU!

The Open and Affirming Process Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who completed the recent survey and returned it to the church! We did not expect a response from so many! These will definitely be helpful in guiding us to provide education and discussion so that when it comes time to vote, we all know exactly what we are voting for or against.

During the time that we were waiting for your surveys, the Open and Affirming Process Committee worked to compile a sample covenant from the covenants of other UCC churches that are available to us. Most contain similar language of inclusion, which we've placed in the <u>sample</u> below:

Trinity United Church of Christ of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania values and welcomes a diverse congregation. We believe that each of us is created in God's image and that all are loved and blessed equally by God. Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

In keeping with Jesus' commandment, we commit ourselves to being an Open and Affirming (ONA) church.

We invite and welcome into our faith community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure.

In our community of faith which has grown and evolved since 1790, all people are encouraged to participate and share their talents and energy in worship and sacraments, leadership positions, ordained ministry, lay ministry, learning, service, mission and fellowship.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Trinity United Church of Christ.

Looking at the United Church of Christ's explanation about covenants, it says,

The UCC's tradition of covenant includes a time of prayer, discernment and education that leads to a commitment to live out the Gospel in new ways. The UCC's covenant programs are a unique opportunity to grow in spirit and vitality for the transformation of the world.

https://www.ucc.org/just world covenants/

We hope that all of you will participate in upcoming discussions and educational opportunities as we seek to live out the Gospel and to broaden our understanding of what it means to be a welcoming congregation.

Sandy Busche, Jane Eiker, Lucy Greene, George Steckert, Roberta Weiant TUCC Open and Affirming Process Committee

As a reminder:

The Worship Committee set aside certain Sunday's for Trinity to have a one-service worship. These are special times in the life of our church and our hope is that we can all celebrate together.

The next one-service Sunday is October 1st for World Communion. Please mark your calendars to join us at 10:30am.

The Lutheran Camping Corp Of Central Pennsylvania

Saturday, September 30th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm Party with a Purpose @ Camp Kirchenwald Sunday, October 1st from 3:00pm - 5:30pm Capture the Flag Spectacular @ Camp Kirchenwald

Check out

<u>LutheranCamping.org</u> for latest updates on events and other news. Also see the colorful flyers in the Gathering Area for events through October

Confirmation Journey Session 3 Why should I pray and worship?

Teenager Alexx claims: "Praying is about opening yourself up to God. If we can see and practice prayer everywhere in our lives, we can be constantly in touch with God and always feel God's love." (Bass and Richter 275). When do you feel most alive and open to God? Maybe it is when you are in Sunday School or sitting in the pew with your family during worship. Guess what, being open to God does not have to be contained in a church building! Have you ever taken a walk through the woods on a fall day and were amazed at the beauty and the smells around you? What about the feeling you get when you are with your friends or playing your favorite sport? Next time you engage in an activity you enjoy, ask God to come along. When you are aware of God's presence in what you are doing, any activity can become prayer and worship! Worship can happen anywhere, anytime, in a group of any size. Our worship and prayer practices link us with our past, connect us in the present, and point us toward the future as a family of Christ's followers. All worship should be designed to help bring our everyday lives together with our prayers, songs, and scripture with the benefit of giving you renewed spiritual energy to help you complete your daily tasks throughout the week. Invite God the next time you step out on the soccer or football field, or the stage. Say a prayer and center yourself right before that big test or impossible homework or term paper. See what a difference Jesus can make in your life outside of church!

Activities and Sharing

- What is prayer? Discussion on different types of prayer.
- Describe how you have experienced worship at your church? What do you do in worship, besides sleep?
- · Praying outside of church
- Create a group Call to Worship
- Create an Intercessory Prayer (praying for others).
 Sample of actual confirmation curiculumn

Journaling your Journey

- What did you learn about worship and prayer from our discussion?
- Why is it important to worship as a family of God?

God, we feel good when we offer you our heartfelt praises. Help us to see your presence and the richness of your glory in all aspects of life. Give us the willingness to do everything in worshipful prayer.

Confirmation at Trinity will begin in October for those young teens in grades 7th-10th who desire to learn more about their faith and their church! The sample is a typical confirmation gathering of teens and their adult mentor. We will gather once a month on a Sunday following worship for two hours. Each session will include lunch and fellowship around the table. This will be a one-year commitment.

Please contact Pastor Fred or the church office for more information or to sign-up.

From this

On August 29th Trinity's Messy Church (21 members) traveled to Waynesboro's Apostle UCC



We learned about Monarch butterflies and how to raise them or provide natural habitat in your yard.



Some of us were adventurous and took home nurseries to hopefully become Monarch "parents"!!



September 11th - 25th

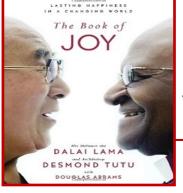
The Book of Joy by The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Monday's from 1:00pm - 2:00pm (Gathering Area)

Two Spiritual Giants. Five Days. One Timeless Question. We get to listen as both of these spiritual leaders explore the nature of true joy and confront each of the obstacles to joy.

Join us as we read and discuss this book in September. Books are available if needed.

Sign up in the Gathering Area!



Capital Campaign for Building Projects

Members and Friends of Trinity received a letter in June to alert to the urgent need for \$137,000 in donations to the capital campaign for critical projects to protect our church properties. The campaign for donations runs through December to hopefully receive all the funds needed. Thanks to a number of members, the campaign has raised about 40% of the needed funds. Some of the building projects are moving forward as funds come in, but the largest project can't move forward until we have sufficient funds to start.

If you have not yet donated, we respectfully request that you consider making a donation soon. Donations can be made directly to TUCC church office with "Capital Campaign-Building Projects" in the memo line or in the "Capital Campaign" envelope you have been receiving in the mail. You may also donate through the E-Giving under the "Capital Campaign" donation box. Lastly, you may designate a donation you commit to making on a monthly/periodic basis using the attachment to the June letter.

Capital Campaign Committee

2024 TUCC Budget Requests Due September 29th

The Finance Committee has started to draft TUCC's 2024 budget and needs initial budget requests to be submitted to George Steckert by September 29, 2024. Committee, staff, and consistory members responsible for managing part of the church's funds (e.g., Personnel, Worship, Education, Property, etc.) should evaluate their budget needs in support of TUCC's missions and facilities as they prepare/submit their requests. Please contact George or Terry Krietz if you have questions.

Finance Committee

Property Committee Update September, 2023

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Capital Campaign! The funds raised so far will enable us to replace the parsonage windows, replace the worn out UUG front door and repair the round window at the UUG church. When additional funds are raised, we will repair masonry joints (adjacent to the Memorial Garden) and seal those bricks. That project total is approximately \$62,000.

Bruce has repaired the doors leading from the gathering area into the sanctuary so that they no longer need to be propped open with a wooden block. He has also repainted the wrought iron railing outside Trinity and the parsonage.

The carpeting in the sanctuary, gathering area, chapel and administrative areas will be cleaned on August 31. We are working to get on a regular schedule of cleaning carpeting. Carpets will be cleaned annually, and upholstery will be cleaned every other year.

The best news is that the parsonage bathroom renovation is well underway! The harvest gold tub sized for a Hobbit has been removed and is now replaced with a human-sized tub! The plastering is complete and the entire project should be completed by the end of September! Hurray!!

Through donations of members, the Memorial Garden has been professionally landscaped, and the railing on the parsonage deck has been replaced. Our planters and flourishing and help Trinity look alive and well! Thanks to everyone!

YTD FINANCIAL STATUS August 2023

Envelope offering needed: \$125,545.00 Offering rec'd to date: \$114,044.00

Property Fund needed: \$14,140.00 Property Fund rec'd to date: \$13,385.00

TUCC donation code

Scan your phone across one of the OR codes to make a

Ways to continue to support the work of Trinity!

- E-Giving: Find instructions under either the Members tab
- Missions in Giving tab on our website (more info available in office)
- Use the automatic bill paying service your bank provides you
- Mail your offering envelope to the church by U.S. mail: Trinity United Church



Gettysburg Heritage Festival

Gettysburg Rec Park September 17th, from 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Sharing cultures of Adams County through music, food, and art... a celebration of unity in our community

Our booth at the festival is taking shape.
Our theme is Trinity's Heritage of Service.
The booth will feature our community service of the past
(Civil War and WWI) and today.
If you have items of the Civil War or World War I that you are willing
To loan for display, we would be grateful!
You can contact Jane Malone or Carl Barrick if you have a contribution.

We need volunteers to plan now.

Please call the church office if you can help plan.



TUCC FALL BAZAAR

Friday, November 17th from 9am - 6:00pm Saturday, November 18th from 9am - 3:00pm

Please consider helping and/or attending. It's fun and for a good cause!!

Remember the roast beef dinner Friday evening and lots of other great, homemade food!!

We will need help in all areas as the Committee members are getting older and do not want to be working both days for all the hours of the bazaar. If everyone gives a bit of time, we could have a very successful bazaar.



Knitted/Crocheted
Baby Blankets for Sale
\$20.00 each
Many colors available.
Contact Suzy Miller
to purchase



Trinity's Girl Scout Troup is relocating to the Rec Park.

Due to some changes in leadership and within the troup it was decided in the best interest of the troup to move to another location to keep the troup together.

Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering to be a lay reader, greeter, acolyte, usher or teacher.

Please contact Deb in the office for more information or to sign-up to help out. Thanks! Deb

DON'T FORGET TRINITY'S MUCH NEEDED ON-GOING MINISTRIES:

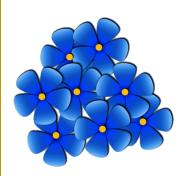
The Blessing Box;

Diapers for TenderCare (Sizes needed 5, 6, 7);

Incontinence Supplies for Office for Aging;

Cancelled stamps for the Brethren Home:

Soda can tabs for Hershey Medical Center



SPONSORS NEEEDED 2024

Altar Flowers \$35,00

Newspaper Ad: \$75 (one month) OR \$37.50 to share

Newsletter: \$50 per month

Call, stop by or email Deb to sign-up



Polish Pottery Bingo fundraiser

Saturday, September 23rd Doors open at 5:00pm. Games begin at 6:00pm.

Beautiful pieces have been selected. Members Becky and Tim Woodward are so graciously donating the pottery and will provide their expertise at the Bingo.

Deb has tickets for sale in the office for \$20.00 each.

Proceeds will be donated between Tender Care diapers and the church.

Our shoppers were hard at work choosing pieces for Bingo.

Light Fare and Desserts available for purchase.

Desserts donations are needed and can be dropped off Friday between 8:30am-2:00pm or Saturday when doors open.

Kitchen help is needed, please contact Mary Jane Hilbert 717-608-4166 or Deb in the office.





Mary Brown September 29

George Christopher September 27

> Martha Dehoff September 16

> Richard Dodds
> September 8

Bonnie Filsinger September 27

Suzanne Miller September 3

Pat Ziegler September 28



The Dehoff's Martha & Burnell September 9

The Mummert's Sara & Ken September 22

BLESSING BOX: A big "thank you" to Barbara Muller for her Time -Talent -Treasures effort in maintaining the Blessing Box. Now that Barbara has moved away, all parishioners are asked to increase their support of the box. Please bring nonperishable items, no cans, to put in the box or in the plastic containers under the coat racks in the narthex. And, if you see the box empty when you visit the church, please take the time to stock it from these plastic containers into the blessing box.



In our thoughts and prayers:

Ashur Bowley, Brayden Beamer, Dr. Douglas Eyer, Alice Fritz, Joyce Golden, Harry Hilbert, John Harrison Hoffman, Evelyn Kretz, MacKenzie Kretz, Josh Langley, Jim Lohuis, John Lucas, Nancye Marinos, Jen Mickelson, Bob Miller, Jeff Miller, Kathy Murphy, Lenore O'Rourke, Lisa Reinoehl, Brea Thomas, Bill Swisher, Mary Timmins, Elizabeth &

Sandy Topper, Mckenna Voss, and Teeyara Jo Weiant.

(Please notify the office to be removed).



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$237.00 to **YWCA Hanover Safe Programs.** We are thrilled to have your support and thank you for joining the fight to help end domestic violence and human trafficking.

The money received from you will go along way in our local community. Donations and endowments allow our program to provide services that our federal and state grants are unable to fund.

Respectfully Yours,

Janise Bankard, Director of Development

Dear Rev. Dr. Young and members,

For more than a century, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance has been expressing a heartfelt thank to retired and active pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need, with direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with costs of medical insurance, provide a thank you gift at Christmas, and meet emergency needs.

Your gift of \$20 to the **Christmas Fund** always go to help people in need, when they need it. And thanks to you, no request goes unfulfilled. So many lives are impacted, and so much spiritual support is conveyed through the gifts you make each year.

Thank you for again for your generosity.

With heartfelt appreciation, Rev. Dr. Paul Leon Ramsey Philanthropy Office

Ministries and Missions recently delivered 1,445 diapers and 112 wipes to Tender Care. We would like to thank the congregation for their support of the diaper campaign!! The management of Tender Care were very grateful for the delivery as they were about to run out of diapers. They could really use diaper sizes 5, 6, & 7. Tender Care also noted how appreciative they are for of all the support Trinity has given to them over the years. This is a valuable mission activity that helps our local community, and we appreciate your ongoing generosity. Thank you!!



Coffee w/Friends
Friday, September 1st
@ 10:00am
Ragged Edge,
Chambersburg Street



Misty Mountain Knitters
Tuesday, September 12th
from 3:30pm to 5:30pm
in Gathering Area.
Anyone is welcome!



Lunch w/Friends
Friday,
September 15th
@ 11:30am
Federal Point Grille
(Old Dunlap's)



By now you probably have an over abundance garden goodies! Bring in your extra's for anyone to purchase for a donation. Special envelopes are located in the pews, Gathering Area and on the produce table in the Narthex. The recipient of our gardening efforts will be Adams County Children's Advocacy Center. The Advocacy Center focuses on children achieving brighter tomorrows with programming designated to support those facing the trauma of abuse. More information about the center is available in the flyers on the table. Kathy Murphy is project leader and a few volunteers are needed to monitor the table during the week for freshness. Please contact Kathy if you can spare time to help.

Thank you!

Aero Energy House of Worship Program: We recently received a check from Aero Energy for \$347.68. Thank you to those who are participating in the program! If you get your fuel from Aero Energy, you can help Trinity. Members can enroll in Our House of Worship Program and Aero will donate \$0.04 cents for every gallon you purchase. They have also expanded their program to include HVAC and plumbing services! Customers enrolled in the House of Worship Program will receive a 10% (up to \$250.00/year) donation to their church for HVAC/Plumbing systems sales and service. Flyers available in Gathering Area for more information or how to sign-up.





We wanted to formally invite your congregation to participate in the Aero Energy House of Worship Program.

We've included a stack of informative pamphlets for your consideration.

How it Works:

We will donate \$0.04/Gallon of propane and heating oil used annually to your church by any of your members that are Aero Energy customers (this also includes gallons used annually by your church). Churches with members enrolled in the program will also receive



a 10% (up to \$250 /year) donation to their church for HVAC/plumbing system sales and service. Last year we were able to donate almost \$20,000 to local churches and this year we want to make sure that your church is one of the beneficiaries. Remember, you are eligible for an annual donation if even a single Aero Energy customer is a member of your church. Churches do not need to be Aero Energy customers to benefit from the program. Interested in learning more? Please feel encouraged to give us a call or visit our website for more program details!

Sincerely,

- -The Aero Energy Team
- L 888-827-1695
- www.AeroEnergy.com/HOW

Additional terms and conditions as well as location restrictions may apply.



Sundays at Trinity

8:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship (Gathering Area) Choir Practice 10:30am Worship

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					I 9:30a Flutes I 0a Coffee	2
3 Communion	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
Grace Winakor, Student Intern is doing worship	CLOSED		6p C. E. 7p Choir begins	Consistory Reports Due 7p M/M Meet	9:30a Flutes	
10	П	12	13	14	15	16
Deb/Bruce Out	Deb/Bruce Out	Deb/Bruce	Deb/Bruce	Deb/Bruce	?Deb/Bruce	
Grace's last day	Ip-2p Book Study	Out	Out	Out	Out 9:30a Flutes	
12:30p-4:30p MDANA	2:30pm Bazaar	2:30p-4p Personnel 3:30p-5:30p			11:30a Lunch w/Friends	
	7p-9p G.C.S.	Knitting Grp	7p Choir			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Fall begins
10 4	Ip-2p Book Study	6p Spiritual Council		Deb out 9:30a-10:30a	9:30a Flutes	
l 2p-4p Heritage Fest	6p Property			Newsletter	10:30a	5p Polish Pottery
Tierreage i esc	7p-9p G.C.S.	6p Consistory	7p Choir	Articles Due	GCS Board	Bingo
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Ip-2p Book Study		, M : 6: #		9:30a Flutes	9a Gburg Assoc.
	7p-9p G.C.S.		6p Music Staff 7p Choir		2024 BUDGET Requests Due	Fall Meet (Details to follow)

DAIL	ALTAR CARE	GREETERS	LAY READERS	USHEKS	ACOLYTES
September 3	Nancy MacMeekin Lucy Greene Audrey (E) Roberta (E)	10:30am Mary Jane & Harry Hilbert	8am <i>Elder</i> 10:30am <i>Elder</i>	8am <i>Roberta Weiant</i> 10:30am <i>Janet & Steve</i> <i>Sheely</i>	10:30am Buck Harvey
September 10	Same as above	10:30am Sandy Busche Suhua Dong	8am Cindy Blevins 10:30am Cathy Hammons	8am Jen Mickelson 10:30am Jane Alleman and Carl Barrick	10:30am Bonnie Smith
September 17	Same as above	10:30am Ruth & Terry Krietz	8am Jen Mickelson 10:30am Lenore O'Rourke	8am <i>Nina Redding</i> 10:30am <i>Janet & Steve</i> <i>Sheely</i>	10:30am <i>Bonnie</i> Smith
September 24	Same above	10:30am Janet & Steve Sheely	8:00am <i>Dave Churchill</i> 10:30am <i>Scott Wehler</i>	8:00am Cindy Blevins 10:30am Terry Krietz and George Steckert	10:30am Janet Sheely

Staff

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young, Pastor

Deb Guiher, Admin. Assistant **Karen Lentz,** Account/Payroll Mgr.

John McKay, Director Senior Choir Jane Eiker, Organist Sara Shank, Assistant Organist

Deb & Bruce Guiher, Housekeeping **Bruce Guiher**, Bldg & Grounds Keeper

Nina Redding, Consistory Chair Ruby Warren, Consistory Vice Chair



September 2023

8:00am Worship 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship Time Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Awakening
joyful
service
guided by
our still
speaking
God!

September 3 Communion

Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

Exodus 12:1-4 and Psalm 149

OR

Ezekial 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:21-35

September 17

Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm:(1-7), 8-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

OR

Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

REMAINING

Sunday Mornings - One Service 2023 - 10:30a

October 1 - World Communion November 5 - All Saints Day December 10 - Annual Congregation Meeting December 24 - Christmas Eve Morning December 31 - New Year's Eve Morning

To access our on-line worship feed, please go to our website:

www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org

or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ GettysburgTrinityUCC