



The Christian Flame

August -September 2026

Allegheny Valley Charge
Bairdford, Janes, Trinity

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The mission of the United Methodist Church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Friends of Trinity,

Summer is flying by. I hope you are finding creative ways to stay cool in this oppressive heat. Summer is a season of exuberance, and it has been such a joy to have encountered just that as I observed our congregation re-engage the ministry of our reinvented community meal last month. I am beyond excited to see how the Spirit might use a somewhat forgotten yet familiar rhythm of our Monthly \$1 Community Pasta Dinner for our present and future season of life together in community.

As Trinity’s \$1 Community Dinner returns, we get the opportunity to see it as a renewed practice of hospitality, friendship, and shared life.

In years past, the dinner offered a simple place for parishioners, neighbors, and friends to gather, enjoy a comforting meal, and spend time together. Yet, like so much in life, it came to an end during the pandemic. It is with great joy and possibility that it returns to give us an opportunity not only to revive a familiar tradition, but, I hope, also to reflect more deeply on why shared table matters.

Around here, we believe hospitality is more than providing food or offering a service: It is the very practice of making room for one another. It begins when someone is greeted warmly, when names are learned, where stories are received with care and lives are given the time and space to know one another beyond first impressions.

A meal does not need to lead somewhere else in order to be meaningful. Friendship is not a strategy. Belonging is not a reward for participation. When neighbors gather, stories are shared, burdens are made lighter, laughter is exchanged, and people discover that they have something to offer one another, something holy is already happening.

As a church, we believe that God is already at work throughout our community. God’s grace is present in the lives, experiences, gifts, and wisdom of our neighbors long before anyone walks through our doors. The Community Dinner offers *us* an opportunity to become more attentive to that grace: not only by welcoming others, but by allowing ourselves to be welcomed into the stories and lives of those around us.

Our hope is to create a table where the usual lines between host and guest become less important. I am praying for us that those serving may discover how much we have to receive. We dream that those arriving may find that their presence, story, identity, humor, and wisdom are gifts to us. We gather as unique and embodied gifts

and longing for greater connection with God, each other, and those whose names are not yet known. Ultimately, we are staking this profound yet basic theological claim that each person who shows up into the room is an image of who God must be and deserves to be loved as such!

In a time when statistics indicate almost all of us feel isolated, overlooked, or divided from one another, sharing a meal just might be a small but meaningful act of love where the Spirit of God can work. We hope this renewed Community Dinner will become a place where friendships can grow, neighbors can feel more connected, and all of us can gain a deeper sense of belonging within the community we share.

Sometimes the most faithful thing a church can do is set another place at the table and watch God work.

Pastor Zack





Submitted by Amanda Bartel

Children's Sunday School - is taking a hiatus for the summer but will start back up in September the date is still TBD. Even though we are not meeting during the summer the Education Team is preparing for fall and cleaning house so to speak keeping all areas we utilize in the church red up.

~Summer Church Camp~



As you know Three Trinity kids made it to church camp this year. They all went to Camp Allegheny and had a blast.

Ava, 15 yrs. old says that she loved riding horses, and they made it so easy for her to understand the Bible teachings helping her really grow in her knowledge of the Bible. Ava says, "Thank You for helping me go to church camp so I can grow memories, learn about God, and make friends, and definitely ride horses."

Weston, 8 yrs. old says that he did so many fun things and loved all the activities and games. He love, love, loved the Christian music and shared it with his whole family when he got home. Weston says "Thank you for helping me go to camp, I wouldn't have been able to go without your help"

Lily, 8 yrs. old, says that the foam pit and mud pit were her favorite activities to do at camp, but she really liked the Bible study because they read about Ruth and Naomi. Lily also loved making new friends and had a few words to say to Trinity: "You are so kind for helping me go to church camp"

Submitted by Amanda Bartel



All teachers and students are encouraged to bring your backpack to our worship service Sunday morning, **August 23**.

We will also be awarding the first **Charles and Joan Vosskamp Scholarship**.



At the Church Conference held on **July 7**, and led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Ackley-Killian, the resolution to sell the parsonage was approved unanimously. The conference also authorized the Trustees to oversee and carry out the sale process.

The Trustees met on **July 20** and selected **Realty One** to list the property. They also organized a cleanup day on **Saturday, July 24**, to prepare the house for sale.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and effort throughout this process. Your willingness to serve is helping us move forward as faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to our congregation.

Thank you

To my wonderful caring church family,

I'm finally home! I thank my son, Brian, and his family, as well as my sister in Christ, Nancy Fannie, for all the wonderful care they gave me.

I can finally see well enough to be by myself again. I still have a long way to go, but all your cards, notes, calls, and especially your prayers have helped me through the worst part of my vision problems.

Even the doctors tell me things are looking good now. I have a few more eye surgeries to go, but it seems to be all uphill from here!

Thank you all so much for being the thoughtful, caring, prayerful people that you are.

I am truly blessed to have so much love, support, and prayer from my Trinity family and friends.

Love you all,

Fran Alter



I want to personally thank all who helped cooking and participated in Trinity's first dollar dinner since covid. We served 116 dinners.

The community dinner is held on the **first Thursday of every month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** We welcome volunteers to help with the dinner. While your assistance is greatly appreciated, there is no obligation to volunteer every month.

If you would like to support the meal, donations of **thin spaghetti** and **spaghetti sauce** are always appreciated. Monetary donations are also welcome and help us continue providing these community dinners.

Thank you for your generosity and support! God Bless, Craig Jerome.





Submitted by Betsy Buco

The Mission Ministry thanks everyone who donated money and gift cards to the Mother's Day and Father's Day outreaches. As a result of your generosity, \$500 was sent to the Hope Center and \$625 to the Mission Barn. Both these organizations were blessed by your gifts.

Four meals were prepared and delivered to Family Promise House in July. Meals for August will be prepared on August 5 at 2PM and August 11 at 6PM. The September meals will be prepared on Sept. 2 at 2PM and Sept. 8 at 6PM. We are always welcoming new volunteers to serve in this Ministry.

The Item of the Season for September and October will be graham crackers, cheese/peanut butter crackers, and other items that would be suitable for school lunches. The Giving Tree will be our outreach for November and December. This project was very successful last year and provided many Christmas gifts to those in need. Watch for more information about The Giving Tree in the coming months. Thank you for all your support of this mission of the church.



Heavenly Hands Crafters The crafters have been busy since February creating items for our annual Holiday Country Store. It will be held the first Saturday in November which is the 7th this year. Last year we held a presale of items of previous years at discount prices. This year's presale will be held on Sunday, October 4 and Sunday, October 11 in the Social Hall following the morning service. Come browse/shop for some early holiday decorations and gifts at half price! The proceeds earned will help offset some of the costs of preparing for the Big Event in November. Thank You.

VISITATION MINISTRY

Submitted by Nancy Fannie

There is a basket in the narthex for donations to support the Visitation Committee. Needed items include white socks for both men and women, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and mints. Additional small items that an elderly shut-in might appreciate are also welcome.

SAVE THE DATE! Come out and praise God alongside your siblings in Christ at the **Southwestern District Conference**, to be held on **August 29th, 10am, at Garden City UMC.**





Submitted by Evey Callender

Marianna's Hoagie and pizza sale will begin **July 27 through August 9**. All orders need to be turned in by **August 9**. Hoagies will arrive here at the church at **noon on August 19**, orders may be picked up between **1:00 to 3:00**. If you need a different pickup time, please see Evelyn to arrange.

In September, we will be taking orders for stuffed peppers or stuffed cabbages. Please let Evelyn know what your preference is. Our final menu will depend on the quality and availability of the peppers and cabbage at that time. We will make one or the other on the **third Thursday of September**, when our team resumes service. A sign-up sheet for September orders will be available on the table in the narthex, Marianna's brochures may be picked up starting **July 26**. Thank you.

Welcoming Our New Committee Members

Over the past few months, we have had some resignation due to health and other reasons. We are grateful for those who have answered God's call to serve our church. Each person brings unique gifts, talents, and experiences that will strengthen our ministry and help us fulfill our mission together. As Scripture reminds us:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

Please join us in welcoming our new committee members and keeping them in your prayers as they begin this important ministry. May God grant them wisdom, joy, and strength as they serve our congregation.

Church Council Chairperson	Dale Cepull
Church Council Secretary	Fran Alter
Church lay Leader	Fran Alter
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Evelyn Callender
Chairperson of PPR	LouAnn Homa
Chairperson of Education	Amanda Bartel
Chairperson of Finance	Chris Steele
Chairperson of Missions	Betsy Buco
Chairperson of Trustees	Buff Nolen
Chairperson of Worship	Karen Fazio
Church Treasurer	Colleen Rudolph
Church Finance Secretary	Dale Cepull
Church Membership Secretary	Colleen Rudolph
Chairperson of Fundraising	Evelyn Callender
Chairperson of Endowment	Lisa Distilo
Visitation Committee	Nancy Fannie
Members at Large	Tom Fannie, Bill Ruediger

COMMITTEE MEMBERS New Members in Bold, * Chairperson

Education: Fran Alter, Evelyn Callendar, Kathy Flis, Amanda Bartel*, Kathy Russell

Endowment: Suellen Faustin, Cookie Cousert, **Lisa Distilo***, Chris Steele, Fran Alter, Pastor Zack

Finance: Dale Cepull, Nancy Fannie, Fran Alter, **LouAnn Homa, Buff Nolen**, Colleen Rudolph, Evelyn Callender, Suellen Faustin, Harry Cryter, Dara Nolen, **Kathy Flis, Lisa Distilo**, Chris Steele*, Pastor Zack

Missions: Lisa Distilo, Linda Hughan, Fran Alter, Karen Fazio, John and Susan Lutman, Chris Steele, Jan Valasek, Betsy Buco*

Nominations: Evelyn Callender, Colleen Rudolph, Fran Alter, Nancy Fannie, Pastor Zack*

Pastor/Parish Relations: Lisa Distilo, Bill Ruediger, LouAnn Homa*, Tom Fannie, Pastor Zack, Fran Alter, Evelyn Callender

Trustees: Buff Nolen*, Jim Gezo (Asst. Chair), Fran Alter, Bill Ruediger, Susan Lutman, Nancy Fannie,

Assistants to Trustees: Mike Huston, Kevin Bartel, Kolton Bartel, Jim Dlubak, Bruce Mahan, John Lutman

Worship: Jan Valasek, Nancy Fannie, Karen Fazio*, Fran Alter

Visitation: Fran Alter, Rev. Howard Russell, Betsy Buco, Nancy Fannie*

In Honor and Memory

The following donations to the Gifts & Memorials have been received:

In Memory of **Eileen Reckhart**
by Beth Sarver

Editor: Chris Steele

Proofreaders: Betty Ruediger, Colleen Rudolph

Assemblers: Jeane DeAngelis, Colleen Rudolph, Beth Sarver



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2	Gayle Mosley	17	Ariella Ruediger	27	Cynthia Fisher
4	Tom Fannie	19	Matthew Beale	28	Cameron Callender
8	Maryella Acre	19	Terry Cousins	28	Joshua Denham
10	Karen Humes	19	Bonnie Fisher	28	Natalie Homa
14	Robert Gibson	20	Charlie Steele	28	Susan Lutman
15	Kayla Beale	21	James Collins	29	Linda Hughan
16	Michele Vertosick	24	Susan Denham	29	Bill Ruediger
17	Craig Jerome	24	Janet Valasek		

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Becca Bowser	17	Robert Swiklinski	25	Sarah Witucki
1	Bethanne Henry	19	Lisa Uhric	26	Barbara Johnson
6	Cindy Hooks	20	Kelly Gezo	26	Jackson Spencer
			Lisa Distilo		
9	Dennis Aftanas	20	Rocco Przybylek	27	Cynthia Slike
9	Jerry Johns	23	John Fetchko	28	Kolten Bartel
10	Jon Logan	24	Audrey Rogacki	28	Brian Schmitt
13	Lillian Bohinski	24	Linda Rummel	29	Lisa Cook-Proco
14	Melissa Beale	24	James Stewart	30	Marlena Ruediger
15	Bethany Boberg	24	Michael Huston	30	Joselyn Schrag

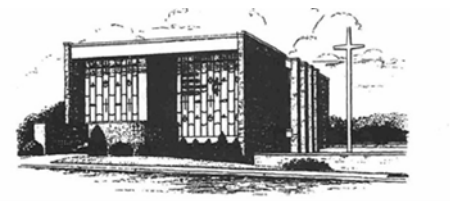
If we missed your birthday, please contact Colleen Rudolph at trinitybrackenridge@gmail.com

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Zack office hours Tuesdays 9:15 - 3:00						
2 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship	3 6PM Martial Arts	4 9AM Heavenly Crafters	5 2PM Promise House Meal Prep 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	6 4PM Community Dinner	7	8 10AM NA
9 8:45 M Fellowship 9AM Worship HOAGIE ORDERS DUE	10 6PM Disciple I 6PM Martial Arts	11 9AM Heavenly Crafters 6PM Promise House Meal Prep	12 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	13 6:30PM Finance 7:30PM Admin. Council	14	15 10AM NA
16 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship	17 6PM Martial Arts 6:30PM Trustees	18 9AM Heavenly Crafters	19 1PM-3PM HOAGIE PICKUP 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	20	21	22 10AM NA
23 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship	24 6PM Martial Arts	25 9AM Heavenly Crafters	26 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	27 6:30PM Missions	28	29 10AM NA
	30 9AM Worship	31 6PM Martial Arts				

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Kitchen Certification Classes All-Day 2PM Promise House Meal 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	3 4PM Community Dinner	4	5 10AM NA
6 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship	7 6PM Martial Arts	8 9AM Heavenly Crafters 6PM Promise House Meal	9 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	10 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Admin Council	11 10AM AVAC Board 6PM Girl Scouts	12 10AM NA
13 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship	14 6PM Martial Arts 6:30PM Trustees	15 9AM Heavenly Crafters	16 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	17 Fundraiser Comm. Cooking 6:30PM Admin. Council	18	19 10AM NA
20 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	21 6PM Martial Arts	22 9AM Heavenly Crafters	23 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	24 6:30 PM Missions	25 6PM Girl Scouts	26 10AM NA
27 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	28 6PM Martial Arts	29 9AM Heavenly Crafters	30 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	Pastor Zack office hours Tuesdays 9:15 - 3:00		



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail to:

Come out and praise God alongside your siblings in Christ at the **Southwestern District Conference**, to be held on **August 29th, 10am**, at **Garden City UMC**.

This will be a joyous occasion as we begin to discern how the churches of the district will work together, elect district leadership, and imagine together what the Southwestern District can be. Join us and be an active part of what God is doing in Western PA.

Peace, Ross Pryor Conference Superintendent



Save the Date