



# The Christian Flame

July - August 2023

Trinity United Methodist Church  
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724-224-7300

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Pastor: Diane Randolph (revdrandolph@gmail.com) 412-716-8392

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

***<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11 KJV***

Siblings in Christ,

All of the sentiment of blessing for the Greater Pittsburgh neighborhoods to which I have been a part of these past two years, I still hold dear to my heart, as well now I hold dear Brackenridge in prayer. I hold the word of our Lord high and believe in all divine manifold blessings for Freeport, Grace Natrona Heights and Trinity Brackenridge UMCs.

Truly this is a unique time in world history within the United Methodist Church. The disaffiliation of many well-known and well-loved congregations have been a devastating change for our church. We are reeling, not only from the split in our church, but also yet we reel over the economic crisis in these post-pandemic times and the cultural and racial divide that these times have brought to light. As they continue to challenge us, they as well have created within us rewards of new insight and ingenuity by the grace of our Creator God through Jesus Christ and to His glory. The character and power of our God turn all crises into opportunities for blessing as we seek divine will. I believe it is divine will for all of God's people as we live on earth to be blessed with a reasonable measure of prosperity and health and that we seek and receive the blessing of unity as much as possible to exist as one people of God to the praise and honor of God's glory by divine grace. Jesus prayed that we be one as he and the Father are one.

My dearest sisters and brothers, thus far, as I am getting to know each of you well day by day, I am happy and blessed to be appointed to so great a set of hospitable and warmhearted people of God. Each community, Freeport, Natrona Heights and Brackenridge have a heritage of high moral standards for church relationship in community as well as high family values in membership to our Christian Church. Freeport, Grace and Trinity Churches all possess a rich godly legacy which you may rest assured I will gladly and diligently work to magnify. As I begin my service here with you and with our Savior, I am excited to get to know what God will accomplish in and through us together as one church-charge under one unique name as we may chose together.

In short, I am yet hopeful, I am yet thrilled, and I am yet most certainly honored to be your pastor. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control always be with us and among us.

Within Christian Love, Pastor Diane



# Storytime in the Park

*Submitted by Amanda Bartel*

Storytime in the Park has gotten off to a great start. There were twelve children in attendance the first week. Storytime continues 11am-12pm every Wednesday through July 26. All are WELCOME

Thank you to our readers, craft leaders and helpers: Fran Alter, Amanda Bartel, Betsy Buco, Mary Chapman, Evey Callender, Dale Cepull, Nancy Fannie, Karen Fazio, Deb Gephardt and Chris Steele.

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| June 28 story: <u>Muncha Muncha Muncha</u> ,              | Pizza        |
| July 5 story: <u>Angie Goes West</u>                      | Bagged lunch |
| July 12 story: <u>I Love You Like No Other</u>            | Pizza        |
| July 19 story: <u>John 1:13, The Gift That I Can Give</u> | Bagged lunch |
| July 26 story: <u>Different and Alike, The Foot Book</u>  | McDonalds    |

## HOSPITALITY It is our pleasure!

Caring is what we do and  
YOU are why we do it!

## MINISTRY

Thank you to Lisa and Cori Distillo for setting up the weekly hospitality table. Thanks also to the rest of the hospitality team; Nancy Fannie and Susan Lutman. It is nice to be welcomed on Sunday morning with sweet treats, juice, coffee and tea. Please consider signing up to provide doughnuts, muffins, sweet breads or rolls.

### CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

*Submitted by Pastor Diane*

All church leadership teams are invited to attend a **Simplified Accountable Structure** workshop led by Kay Kotan, co-author of *Mission Possible*, on **Saturday, August 19, 9 am - 3 pm at Dutilh UMC**. See Pastor Diane for details.

Registration is now open for the **Racial Ethnic Summit and Retreat**, scheduled for **September 22-24, 2023** at the **Seven Springs Mountain Resort**. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi jointly have invited the clergy, the SPRC chair, Administrative Board/Church Council chair, and Lay Leader from each racial-ethnic congregation or church served by a racial-ethnic pastor.

This is a gathering to make connections, build relationships and gain practical insights to create or improve congregational vitality. Contact Pastor Diane for more information.

Reverend Diane Curry Randolph

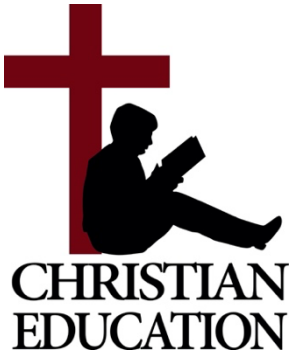
**Meet  
&  
Greet**

Trinity United Methodist  
Church

Saturday, July 8, 2023

2:00 -4:00





*Submitted by Amanda Bartel*

How many Bible verses do you know by heart? Ariel Rhine memorized 124 verses for Sunday School this year. She was awarded a prize for memorizing the most verses.

Shout out to Cori Distillo for winning the Bible verse memorization challenge. She was awarded

a Visa gift card.

The girls also made PowerPoint Presentations on Saints and people from the Bible.

Sunday School is closed for the summer and will begin again in the fall.

Thanks to all who helped our children grow in Christian knowledge.



Church summer camp is a fun, friendly, faith-building sleep-a-way opportunity. This summer we are sending 3 kids to camp. Ava and her cousin Jaysa will attend Whitehall Camp in Emlenton. Kolten will be going to Jumonville.

We look forward to hearing about their experiences. Thank you to Fran Alter, Evey Callender, Craig Jerome, the Lutmans and the Steeles for your donations to help cover the cost of camp.

*Submitted by Amanda Bartel*



Congratulations to Amanda and the Education Team. The Grants Committee and the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Foundation, "are pleased to inform you that after careful review and deliberation by the United Methodist Foundation's Grants Committee and Board of Directors, Trinity UMC Brackenridge was selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$921 to be used toward the Storytime in the Park program."



Two florists offer special pricing for TUMC altar flowers.

**Lehman Flower Shop.** The price for a single vase is \$25.00. The price for two end vases is \$50.00. Flowers include mini and large carnations and daisies in your choice of colors along with baby's breath and greens.

**Bailies Flower Shop** price for a single vase is \$35 and \$60 for two end vases. Flowers include carnations, daisies, and mums in your choice of colors along with greens.

Karen Fazio is available to help with any questions. She can be reached at 412-266-5626.

Sign up for flowers on the chart in the Narthex or call Karen. When signing up, please include the florist, name, phone number, name of person you are honoring or remembering, whether you want a single center or two end arrangements and choice of flower colors. Payment must be made by the Sunday of display. Checks made to TUMC can be placed in the offering plate with your name, date of display and Flower Fund on the envelope.

You may also purchase flowers directly by calling Kathy Bailie 724-224-9557 or Joyce Lehman 724-224-3770 to order any other type of arrangement. For donation credit please submit a copy of the paid invoice. *Submitted by Karen Fazio*



*Submitted by Evey Callender*

The fund-raising committee is taking a break for the month of July. The committee has been working dicing, shredding, chopping, and cooking soup for months.

The committee will be back at work taking orders for hoagies in the month of August. Ham Potato Cabbage soup is on the menu for September.

Hoagie order forms can be picked up on Sunday, July 23. Orders need to be turned in by Sunday, August 6. Hoagies will be delivered to the church and can be picked up on Thursday, August 17.

Orders can be called into Evelyn @724-353-9042. Leave your name, telephone number and how many hoagies or quarts of soup you want.

Soup will be made the second week of the month and available for pick up the third Sunday of September.

Thank You to all our soup makers; Cookie Cousert and friend Karen Vandenheavel, Jan Valasek and friend Kathy McPherson, Linda Rummel, Dara and Buff Nolen, Mary Carol Stitt, Arlene Hill, Ruth Ikenberg, Susan Lutman, Karen Fazio, Irene Witucki, Betsy Buco and Evelyn Callender.



The season after Pentecost begins with Trinity Sunday (June 4, 2023) and concludes with Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday (Nov 26, 2023). The purpose of this season is to support our common work of using the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.



In his book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, Robert Schnase defines the practice of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures as *Extravagant Generosity*. Thank you is extended to **Bill Barnett, Alan Fisher, Craig Jerome, and Bill Ruediger** for the extravagant generosity of their time and talents.

When a Pastor family moves out of the parsonage cleaning and repairs must be done before the new Pastor moves into the house. These four men painted the living room, study, and the walls in the addition. The utility room floor, entrance porch and steps also were painted; some requiring two coats of paint. All carpets were scrubbed clean. Bathroom walls were scrubbed, and all bathroom floors were regouted. A new kitchen faucet was installed. All the kitchen cabinets were checked and refastened where necessary.

A tripping hazard in the doorway between the dining room and kitchen was repaired. The gas line to the study fireplace was replaced.

All entrance doors were caulked and sealed to make sure they were weatherproof, saving heating and air-conditioning costs. A garage door was repaired. Finally weed eating and grass cutting was completed.

If you ever hired a painter, plumber, or repair person, you can appreciate how much money this has saved our congregation.

Thank you, Bill, Alan, Craig and Bil

# FINANCE MATTERS

Submitted by Chris Steele

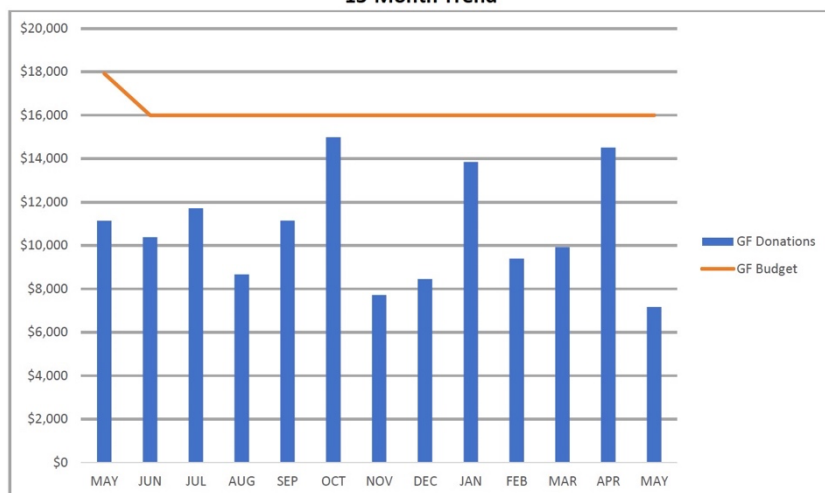
If you were in church on Sunday, June 18, 2023, you saw Rev. Larry’s demonstration of what happens when only one or even a few shoulder all the burden. Rev. Larry piled hymnals on Cori Distillo’s open arms until the weight was more than she could hold. In this newsletter, the names of those who have borne a disproportionate burden of giving their time to Trinity appear in several articles. If Trinity UM is to thrive or remain viable, everyone needs to pitch in and help. You may not be able to paint a wall or chop vegetables for soup but maybe you can buy a gallon of paint or make phone calls to shut ins. When you joined the United Methodist Church, you promised to support the church’s ministries with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service. Let’s all chip in to help Trinity realize our mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

In addition to sharing our time, God asks us to share our financial blessings. And God has blessed each of us. Psalm 116:12 asks, “What shall I render to the Lord, For all His benefits toward me?” What blessings are you giving back to God at Trinity?

General Fund donations over the last 13 months averaged \$10,696 - short of the needed \$16,000 per month.

Our new *reduced* 6-month budget is fully funded when \$11,217 is received monthly. Christian Education, Missions, Office supplies and other areas are only surviving because of in-kind donations in lieu of monetary contributions.

General Fund Donations  
13-Month Trend



The chart above does not reflect any fund-raising profits, grants, settlements, or endowment distributions which may be used to pay General Expenses

## JULY - DEC 2023 BUDGET

PASTOR SALARY	\$10,261
PASTOR EXPENSE REIMB.	\$1,500
PASTOR HEALTH/PENSION	\$5,317
SUBSTITUE PASTOR	\$500
HEALTH/PENSION LOAN	\$1,620
	<b>\$19,198</b>
<b>STAFF SALARIES</b>	
ORGANIST	\$6,000
CUSTODIAN	\$4,312
TREASURER	\$1,339
	<b>\$11,651</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE	\$923
QUARTERLY EIT TAX	\$300
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$293
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$250
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$720
POSTAGE	\$250
PAYCHEX	\$895
EMS SUPPORT	\$100
	<b>\$4,585</b>
<b>MISSION SHARE 10%</b>	
APPORTIONED	\$4,713
	<b>\$4,713</b>
<b>PROGRAM</b>	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$0
MISSIONS & OUTREACH	\$0
AVAC	\$600
WORSHIP/MUSIC	\$500
FINANCE	\$68
	<b>\$1,168</b>
<b>BUILDING</b>	
MAINTENANCE/REPAIR	\$1,000
CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	\$25
CHURCH UTILITIES	\$12,292
GROUNDS	\$1,250
PARSONAGE UTILITIES	\$1,682
PARSONAGE MAIN/REPAIR	\$250
PARSONAGE INSURANCE	\$1,000
PARSONAGE TAXES	\$2,250
PARSONAGE LAWN CARE	\$480
	<b>\$21,939</b>
<b>Line of Credit</b>	\$4,050
<b>Roof Loan</b>	\$9,000
	<b>\$13,050</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,303</b>



# Around the Charge

## THE AGAPE THRIFT STORE

*Submitted by Kathy Russell*

**Grace United Methodist Church** has had the thrift shop, Agape, for over 40 years. It started in the early 1980's by Lois Gaskell and Mary Ann Rummell. Clothes, bedding, dishes and other items were collected for the shop and is still donated today. A bag of clothes was \$2.00.

The Thrift shop is in partnership with AVAC. If people are signed up for the food bank, they get a free bag of clothes every week as long as they are on the food bank list. They are given a voucher each week.

The Agape Thrift shop has done some very good things in the last few years. Donated clothing, shoes, towels, bedding, etc. to 3 different fires where the people lost everything. Also, gave clothes and other items to grandmothers who are now raising their grandchildren. They have helped the schools with clothes for some students, too.

Carol Peterson now heads the Thrift Shop which has really grown. She is always working at the shop and has done a fantastic job. Linda Prager and Mary Ann Selfridge help Carol every week.

The Thrift shop is open Wednesdays from 1pm to 4 pm. Come and visit The Agape Thrift Shop, Oregon Ave.



A fun time is being planned by GRACE for the three-church charge. Watch for the date and time.

## GRACE'S BELL CHOIR

*Submitted by Kathy Russell*

Grace United Methodist has a bell choir that plays for Thanksgiving Christmas and Easter. Come join us and make beautiful music together. Linda Schaefer is our director. Call Linda or Pastor Diane to join.



**COME and JOIN  
us at  
HARRISON HILLS  
PARK**

**For Donuts and Discipleship  
Third Thursday of the month  
July 20 at 10 a.m.**

**Rev. Sally Jo Snyder is the leader  
(a member of Freeport Church)**

## ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

**You are invited** to join Grace and Freeport churches on July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am in their annual tradition of ecumenical worship at the Freeport Gazebo by the River. The United Methodists churches join with the Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Catholic churches. Other pastors and churches are also invited. All are welcome. The Lutheran church will be providing the July sermon.

Look for the SUGGESTION BOX in the Narthex. The Trustees are soliciting a new mission statement and a name for the three church charge. Place your suggestions in the box. A vote will be taken to choose the winning name.





## JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Joan Logan	10	Beverly Frantz	19	Alan Fisher
3	Ruth Ikenberg	10	Buff Nolen	19	Maureen Marianna
4	Homer Logan	10	Eric Schmitt	23	Fran Alter
5	John Bucu	11	Bill Barnett	27	Cynthia Cieslinski
6	Zoey Collins	12	Janet Mack	27	James Lesky
8	Candice Rae	14	Samuel Alter	28	Jennifer Pungratz
9	Jeffrey Barnett	14	Roger Gibson	29	Patricia Trettel
9	Michael Cornuet	15	Tim Cornuet	30	Brittany Cieslinski
10	Bradley Cieslinski	18	Amanda Bartel		

## AUGUST BIRTHDAY

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

If we missed your birthday, please contact Colleen Rudolph at [trinitybrackenridge@gmail.com](mailto:trinitybrackenridge@gmail.com)

## In Honor and Memory

The following donations to the General Fund have been received

In Memory of:

Don Ikenberg by Beth and Howard Sarver

Harold Meanor and Howard Sarver by Beth and Howard Sarver

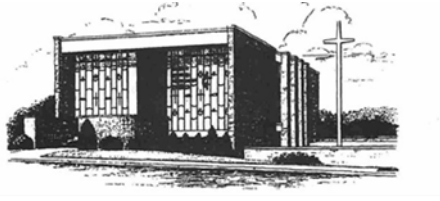
Our Grandpaws by Beth and Howard Sarver



Editor: Chris Steele  
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Beth Sarver







TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
847 Tenth Ave, Brackenridge PA 15014



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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Mail to:**

**JULY 3 FIREWORKS WATCH PARTY**

Watch the Tarentum Fireworks from the  
Trinity United Methodist Parking Lot  
Enjoy Popcorn and Water

