



The Christian Flame

January- February 2024

Freeport, Grace Natrona Heights
Trinity Brackenridge

fumc2476@gmail.com, graceumchurch@hotmail.com,
trinitybrackenridge@gmail.com
www.trinitybrack.org

Pastor: Diane Randolph

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

Wesley Covenant

Copies available at each church

I invite you, this New Year, to join me in confirming your covenant friendship with God.

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart. *God requires that you should put away all your idols.*

I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you. *Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.*

Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life. *God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.*

Jesus, I do here on bended knees except Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take your will as my law. *Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.*

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you. *God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.*

I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty. *The almighty God searches and knows your heart.*

O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.

O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen

Signature *Diane Curry Randolph* Date 12/31/2023

FINANCE MATTERS

Submitted by the Finance Committee

Trinity's Administrative Council, working with the Finance Committee passed a working budget of \$141,304 for the 2024 operating account. This is a reduction of \$48,800 from the 2023 budget and breaks down to \$2,717 per week. To help fund this budget a grant has been received from the conference to help pay Pastor Diane's salary. There are also several designated funds that provide additional support for some church expenses not included in these totals.

\$7,331 is budgeted for Administration. This covers our office supplies and equipment, postage for mailings other than the newsletter, the cost of making copies for services, education, reports, etc. This amount also handles social security, Medicare and workers compensation for our employees, payroll service costs, website fees, workers' compensation, and donations to EMS.

We estimate \$32,603 will be needed to pay utility bills for the church and our share for the parsonage. This includes electricity, gas, water, sewage, cable, and Internet. \$2,167 of the operating budget is allocated for maintenance and repairs of the church and parsonage. Grace and Freeport will continue to contribute to the cost of the parsonage utilities and normal maintenance and repairs. An additional \$10,300 will be needed for property insurances and taxes. Grounds, lawn care, snow removal and custodial supplies require \$2,883.

Pastor Diane's salary is set at the conference minimum for a Provisional Member at \$41,991. Although she receives Medicare, we are required to pay the conference health insurance and pension contributions that are set at \$21,065. Pastor also receives reimbursement of her expenses up to \$6,800. All these expenses are split equally between Freeport, Grace, and Trinity.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has recommended a salary freeze for the organist, treasurer, and custodian. Those salaries are set at \$8,624 custodian, \$12,000 music director/organist and \$2,678 treasurer.

We also pay "apportionments" to the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 2023, we were unable to pay 100% of our share of the apportionments. We pray that we will be able to improve our share in 2024, paying a larger percentage of the amount that the conference requests. Our support of the conference enables us to participate in the broad ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church. But the conference also provides local support. In 2023, the conference loaned Trinity over \$18,000 for the cost of Pastor Greg's health care and pension when we were unable to pay. We have a commitment to repay this interest free over 4 years.

The budget for church programs is set at \$2,635. This covers diverse areas within the church such as education, support of AVAC, licenses required to project words on the screen, perform music, and stream our service online, and other worship materials.

We have 3 outstanding loans: The conference loan, the roof loan, and a loan that was previously used to pay bill. The yearly payments on these loans for 2024 total \$27,200.

The Finance Committee is thankful for every donation, large or small, and continues to look for ways to save money and make the most of all donations received.



When The Weather Outside is Frightful

If church services need to be canceled due to inclement weather it will be announced

on WPXI and on our FACEBOOK page.

Additionally, if you supplied your email address to be added to the group email, you will be notified by email. If you haven't shared your email address yet, now may be a good time to do so. A group email chain has been established to notify members of closings and other important church news. The emails will be sent using BCC so your email address will not be visible to others in the group. If you would like to be included in this group, we need your email address. Please submit your email to trinitybrackenridge@gmail.com using **email notification** in the subject line. Your email address will not be shared with anyone outside of the church.



A big "thank you" to the congregation of Trinity for the generous Love gift we received for Christmas. It was greatly appreciated by all of us.

Pastor Diane, Bob Swiklinski, Evelyn Callendar, and Colleen Rudolph.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

Submitted by Karen Fazio

With the holiday season over and the beginning of a new year, the Worship Committee is asking all members who are able, to help take down the Christmas decorations on January 7th after the church service.

If you can sit in a pew and wrap tissue paper around ornaments to be stored for next year you are able. If you can climb on a ladder and take down wreaths, you are able. All abilities and ages are needed.



We are pleased to announce that the Ira and Frances Wood Charitable Trust has awarded Trinity a grant for \$5,000 to install a Boiler Early Warning Alarm System. This system will help to prevent property damage in the event of a Boiler System failure. We are thankful for the Trust Foundation for their continued support of our church and ministry.

We appreciate the work put in by Bill Barnett, Dale Cepull and Alan Fisher to complete the grant application.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Submitted by Karen Fazio

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.

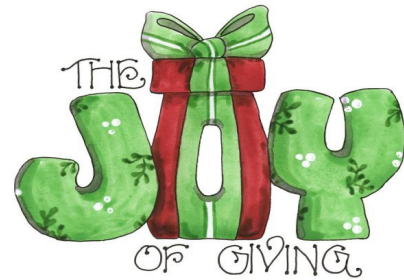
Sign up for flowers on the chart in the Narthex or call Karen. When signing up, please include the florist, name, phone number, name of person you are honoring or remembering, whether you want a single center or two end arrangements and choice of flower colors. Payment must be made by the Sunday of display. 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 Evey Callender

We will be taking orders for vegetable soup starting the first two Sundays in January. Order forms can be picked up or called into Evelyn @724-353-9042 and leaving your name, telephone number and how many quarts that you want. Soup will be made the second week and picked up at the end of that week. Specific date and time for pickup will be on the order form. Wedding soup will be for sale in February. \$8.00 per quart.



Trinity is working in the community. We were able to purchase coats, outfits, and books for 3 little girls. We also helped a single parent family with 2 young boys have a merrier Christmas because someone donated to the Good Samaritan Fund.



Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church for Christmas, and to those who provided the flowers and beautiful altar arrangements we enjoyed all through the Advent, Christmas Season.

**IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY
CALL 9-1-1**

If you ever need to call 911 to get emergency help to the church it is important that you provide the following information: **Church name**, Trinity United Methodist, **Address** (847 Tenth Avenue, Brackenridge), **Entrance** (Front Door or Lower Side Door). Also mention the church is across the street from Prospect Cemetery. 911 dispatch is located near the Pittsburgh airport. Simply saying help is needed at Trinity Church is not enough.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

*Serving the church
with a smile*



Thank you to Lisa and Cori Distillo, Nancy Fannie and Susan Lutman for making coffee, preparing water for tea and all the other duties that go into setting up the hospitality table each Sunday. We appreciate you.

We also appreciate all those who have donated donuts, sweet rolls, cookies, and other treats. If you are enjoying these goodies, please consider signing up to donate if you are able. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE

For Households Earning Up To \$65,000 Per Year
Filing Joint or \$45,000 Filing Individual

Avoid Hidden Fees and Get 100% Of Your Refund

IN-PERSON TAX HELP WHILE YOU WAIT OR DROP OFF
AND PICK UP

Call Beth at AVAC 724-226-0606 to schedule an appointment at Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Office, Monday & Thursday 10AM-2PM; Central Presbyterian Church Tuesday 10AM-2PM; or Center Church Tuesday & Thursday 5PM-8PM Saturday 10AM-2PM

VIRTUAL TAX HELP

Get started today at GetYourRefund.org/FreeTaxPrep. Securely send photos of your documents. Volunteers will work with you over the phone to complete your return.

FILE ON YOUR OWN

You can file your own federal and state taxes for free online at MyFreeTaxes.com

Submitted By Chris Steele

VISITATION MINISTRY

A Visitation Ministry has been established at Trinity UMC. The team visits shut-ins, hospitalized individuals, and care facility residents. The team has received positive feedback from those that have been visited.

**"I was
sick and
you visited
me..."**
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV

If you would like to send a card to a shut-in or join the Trinity visitation team, please contact Pastor Diane or Dale Cepull for more information.

TAX SAVINGS GIVING FOR SENIORS

Are you 70 ½ or older?

Did you know you can donate directly from your IRA or 401K to TUMC? The gift can count as your required minimum distribution and is not taxable if you follow the rules for qualified charitable distribution. Direct contributions keep the distribution out of your taxable income so it's a benefit to those who don't itemize. It can also save money for itemizers because an IRA/401K payout that doesn't show up on the tax return can't increase your adjusted gross income. Your adjusted gross income controls how much of your Social Security benefits are taxed and whether you're subject to the high-income surcharge on Medicare premiums.

Ask your IRA or 401K administrator for details on this tax saving strategy.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Debra Beale	12	Addison Bernstein	25	James, Michael
3	Deborah Bartrug	12	Joshua Bonnett	25	Matthew Matarrese
3	Christopher DeAngleis	12	Benjamin Spencer	25	Cortney Striebig
4	Delano Hemphill	14	Karen Vanderhoff	26	Todd Pungratz
4	Evelyn Ingle	15	Mary Lou Koontz	26	Charlotte Ward
4	Joseph Painter	17	Gabriella Pater	27	Macey Cornuet, Jr.
5	Jessica Eshenbaugh	20	Seneca Maskas	27	Jeremy Vanderhoff
5	Brady Rametta	20	Charles Tindall	28	Thomas Brown
6	Anthony Jump	21	Ryan Scisciani	28	Ashley Dudzik
9	Audrey Faltot	21	Donald Stover	29	Carol Derikart
9	Samantha Witucki	22	George Mack	29	Martha Truver
10	Ginni Howells	24	Paul Gemperlein	30	Lori Eshenbaugh
11	Nicole Finley	24	Barbara Hemphill	30	Kathryn Homa
11	Paul Gemperlein	24	Irene Witucki		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Lou Ann Homa	16	Ashley Harford	21	Ward, Ashley
2	Jan Miller	17	Jody Przybylek	22	Thimons, Brooke
2	Madison Shuss	17	Thomas Baker	22	Gezo, Michael
2	Doris Snyder	17	Clifford Beattie	22	Milisits, Jennifer
3	Trevor Reilly	17	Matthew Callender	24	Robinson, Bonita
5	Michael Wagoner	17	Lynn Sontum	25	Marshall, Mark
8	Viola Bibza	17	Linda Staub	26	Russell, Meghan
10	Glenn Baker	19	TheodoreTomson	26	Przybylek, Kristopher
10	Donovan Carson	19	Harry Crytzer	27	Shuss, Isabel
10	Kylee Mack	19	Emma Sarver	27	Miller, Daniel
10	RJ Rae	20	Catherine Schmaus	27	Resick, Michelle
11	Sharon Brown	20	Frank Budz, IV	27	White, Mindy
11	Jaycey Rankin	20	Gephardt, Anthony	28	Mackowski, Dianne
14	Kimberly Fetchko	20	Lang, Trinity	28	Mahan, Bruce
15	Janie Collins	20	McLafferty, Emma	28	Ringer, Kimberly
		20	Rubendall, Molly	28	Spencer, Greg

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

In Honor and Memory



The following donations to Gifts & Memorials have been received:

In Memory of:

Mother Lori Bernesser from Karen Fazio

Janet Mack by Ron & Betsy Buco, Linda Gibson, Herk & Joan Logan, Steve & Amy Meanor, Buff & Dara Nolen, Bonnie Robinson, Colleen Rudolph, Howard & Beth Sarver and Lu Ann Bonnett

Lois Scholl by Ron & Betsy Buco, Linda Hughan, Colleen Rudolph, Arlene Hill, Buff & Dara Nolen, Daniel Raszkowski, and Howard & Beth Sarver

Husband **Lynn Alter** and son **Jeff Alter** by Fran Alter

Patricia Trettel by Jim Dlubak family, Doak & Barb Hemphill, Herk & Joan Logan, Colleen Rudolph, Lorri Wildi & Jerry Johns, Ron & Betsy Buco, and Bill & Lenora Hancock

Joe Witucki, Dave Pungratz, & Marty DeAngelis by Irene Witucki

Honey & Sunny Smith by Shawn Smith

Ron Reckhart, Pat Trettel, Janet Mack, & Lois Scholl by Susan Denham

Maxine Carnathan by Beverly Carnathan

The following donations to the Noah Fund have been received:

In Memory of:

Lois Scholl by Bonnie Robinson

Jerry Robinson by Bonnie Robinson

David Pungratz by Sue, Todd, Allison, Jen, Grady, & Margot Pungratz

Marty DeAngelis & Emanuelson Family by Jeane DeAngelis

Harold & Vivian Meanor by Howard & Beth Sarver

Mildred Meanor by Howard & Beth Sarver

Howard & Ernestine Sarver by Howard & Beth Sarver

Elaine & Jerry Sarver by Howard & Beth Sarver

David Graham by Howard & Beth Sarver

Ronald Reckhart by Eileen Reckhart

Melvin, Catherine, & Harry Rudolph by Colleen Rudolph

Jim & Margaret Torrence AND Syl & Mary Ann Cieslinski by Greg & Cindy Cieslinski

Parents **Betty & Claude Hoffman AND Julia & John Buco** by Ron & Betsy Buco

Grandparents **Irene & Philip Fair AND Margaret & John Buco** by Ron & Betsy Buco

Richard & Betty Lou Patz and Gary Patz Sr. by Penny Ritter

In Honor of:

Bill & Gale Rudolph by Colleen Rudolph



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Trinity United Methodist Church

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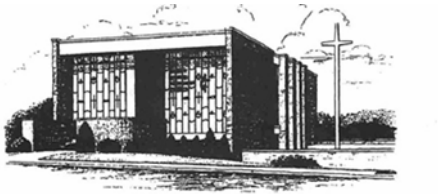
Assemblers: Linda Hughan, Betty Ruediger, Colleen Rudolph, Beth Sarver

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6PM Disciple I 6PM Martial Arts	2	3 2PM Disciple III 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	4 6 PM Education Meeting	5 6PM Girl Scouts	6 10AM NA
7 8:45 AM Hospitality 9AM Worship TAKING DOWN THE GREENS 10AM Sunday School	8 6PM Disciple I 6PM Martial Arts	9	10 2PM Disciple III 6:30PM SPR Meeting 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	11 6:30PM Finance 7:30 Admin. Council	12	13 10AM NA
14 8:45 AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	15 6PM Disciple I 6PM Martial Arts 6:30PM Trustees	16	17 2PM Disciple III 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	18	19 6PM Girl Scouts	20 10AM NA
21 8:45 AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	22 6PM Disciple I 6PM Martial Arts	23 7PM Cross Cultural Training	24 2PM Disciple III 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	25	26	27 10AM NA
28 8:45 AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Visitation Meeting	29 6PM Disciple I 6PM Martial Arts	30	31 2PM Disciple III 8PM A.A./AI-Anon			

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6PM Education Meeting	2 6PM Girl Scouts	3 10AM NA
4 8:45AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	5 6PM Discipline I 6PM Martial Arts Class	6	7 2PM Disciple III 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	8 6:30PM Finance Meeting 7:30 Admin. Council	9	10 10AM NA
11 8:45AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	12 6PM Discipline I 6PM Martial Arts Class	13	14ASH WEDNESDAY 2PM Disciple III 6:30 PM SPR Meeting 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	15	16 6PM Girl Scouts	17 10AM NA
18 8:45AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	19 6PM Discipline I 6PM Martial Arts Class 6:30 Trustees Meeting	20	21 2PM Disciple III 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	22	23	24 10AM NA
25 8:45AM Hospitality 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 10:15 Visitation Meeting	26 6PM Discipline I 6PM Martial Arts Class	27	28 2PM Disciple III 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	29		



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
847 Tenth Ave, Brackenridge PA 15014

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail to:

Newsletter sponsored by an anonymous member.

Rev. Debra Mason, Coordinator of Diversity Development and Inclusion, assists the Western PA Conference in raising awareness of implicit bias as she works with local churches to highlight the importance of diversity in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. Rev. Mason will be joined by District Superintendent Deborah Ackley-Killian.
All parishioners of the charge at encouraged to attend in support of Pastor Diane.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge, PA

Join us on January 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM

FREEPORT, GRACE, & TRINITY CHARGE CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING