



# The Christian Flame

April-May 2026

Allegheny Valley Charge  
Bairdford, Janes, Trinity Brackenridge

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[www.trinitybrack.org](http://www.trinitybrack.org)

Pastor: Zack Bohinski

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



## Easter Sunday Worship Invitation

*“Tell Me Something Good”*

*“The Good News Is... Alive in the World”*

Easter does not arrive quietly. In Matthew’s account of the resurrection, the earth trembles, the stone is rolled away, and the angel proclaims a message that still echoes today: **“Do not be afraid.”** The resurrection is not only a moment in the past, but a reality that continues to unfold. Resurrection power is alive, unbound, and at work in the world around us!

We hope you will join us at Brackenridge: Trinity United Methodist Church for Easter Sunday worship, April 5 at 9 AM, as we celebrate the good news that cannot be contained or silenced. In Christ’s resurrection, we are reminded that life overcomes death, hope rises from despair, and God’s presence remains with us still. This is good Good News for our present days.

Whether you come with joy, questions, or a quiet longing for hope, you are welcome. Together, we will listen again for the Good News and be reminded that it is not only proclaimed at the empty tomb, but it is alive in the world, and *in* us.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful and joyful celebration of Easter.

In the Peace of our Christ,  
Pastor Zack Bohinski and the People of Trinity



## WPAUMC 2026 DISTRICT RESTRUCTURING

The District Structure Task Force was convened to assist the Annual Conference in discerning how best to realign district boundaries and leadership structures in response to changing missional realities, clergy deployment needs, and the faithful stewardship of people and resources. Guided by the Bishop's vision and in consultation with the Cabinet and Conference leadership, the task force has focused on recommending a reduction from ten districts to four supervisory areas; developing district leadership models that emphasize mission, flexibility, and strong lay involvement; and identifying ways to promote greater consistency in required processes across districts, particularly those related to clergy formation and support.

This work remains in progress. The task force continues to listen carefully to feedback from clergy and laity across the Conference and to evaluate the proposed plans as they are refined. For more information and a map of the new districts, please see the conference webpage directly related to the district restructuring: [wpaumc/2026-district-restructuring](https://wpaumc.org/2026-district-restructuring).

Throughout this process, the task force has prioritized transparency, equity, and clear communication, with the goal of strengthening connectional ministry and positioning the Conference for faithful and effective leadership in the years ahead.

Beginning July 1, Trinity UMC will become part of the Southwestern Area. The Superintendent appointed by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball for our area will be **Rev. Ross Pryor**. We look forward to working with Rev. Pryor as he serves our district.

## MAY 7, 2026



On April 17, 1952 a bill initiated by Mr. Conrad Hilton of Hilton Hotels and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas was passed (Public Law 82-324, Sec. 119) that:

*The President shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.*

In 2026, the **National Day of Prayer** Task Force will commemorate two historic milestones: 250 years of prayer in America and 75 years of prayer for America. As we observe the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, alongside the 75th annual National Day of Prayer, we recognize this as a significant and sacred moment in our history. We believe God is stirring the hearts of believers across our nation to increase their prayers for America in this pivotal year. For more information and a prayer guide visit [nationaldayofprayer.org](https://nationaldayofprayer.org).



Submitted by Betsy Buco

**Item of the Month:** We have adopted a new format for Item of the Month. It will now be known as Items of the Season. This Spring (March, April, May) we will be collecting **PEANUT BUTTER** and **JELLY** for the AVAC Food Bank. Please place donated items in the baskets in the Narthex. Each season, new items will be collected. Thank you for sharing!



Once again, we will be having our annual **SHOE DRIVE**. New or gently used shoes, all sizes, for men, women, and children are being collected in the BIG SHOE BOX in the Narthex. The donated shoes will be taken to Annual Conference and distributed where they are needed. All shoes must be in the BOX by **Sunday, June 7**. Remember that someone else will be happy to walk in your shoes.

**Family Promise House Committee:** This past year, the present Committee has prepared and delivered two meals a month to the FPH homeless shelter in Brackenridge. We would like to expand this outreach after receiving a grant from the Ira and Frances Wood Foundation to aid in the costs of preparing the meals. These added meals could be prepared at a time more convenient for volunteers who are not available during the daytime hours. The meals are prepared in the Church Kitchen. Everything needed is provided. We spend about two hours from start to finish. The meal(s) could be refrigerated and delivered the next day. If you are looking for a way to serve others, this is your opportunity. If you have questions, contact Betsy Buco at 724-224-1062. Come join the team!

**Mother's Day Outreach** will be the Hope Center which is located in Tarentum and provides care for women and their children who are victims of abuse. The Hope Center is in need of gift cards for gasoline and groceries. Monetary gifts are welcome, too. All donations must be received by **Sunday, May 3**. Please place your form and donation in the offering plate. Thank you.

In celebration of **Mother's Day**, you are invited to donate to the **Hope Center** in honor or memory of a special mother or woman in your life. Your donation will help provide supportive services for victims of domestic violence.

This gift is given:

- In Honor of                       In Memory of

Name of Mother/Mothers Being Honored or Remembered:

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this form with your gift card or monetary donation in the offering plate.



## Amanda's Must-Reads

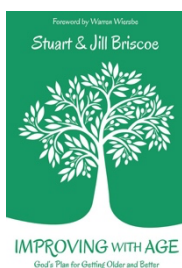
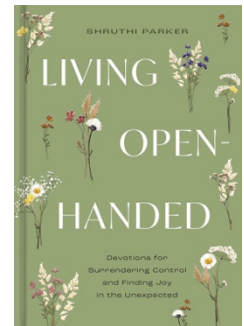
**What if retirement isn't God's signal to slow down—but His invitation to step into your most meaningful season yet?**



“**Aging With Purpose** shows readers how their later years can become a time of renewed calling, deeper faith, and lasting influence. With biblical insight and practical wisdom, Hal Habecker reframes aging not as decline, but as a powerful opportunity to grow, invest in others, and finish life's race well. This is an inspiring, hope-filled guide for anyone who believes their best contribution may still lie ahead.

**Aging With Purpose: Seven Essentials for Finishing Well** challenges one of the most common—and damaging—assumptions of modern life: that our most meaningful years are behind us. Drawing deeply from Scripture, decades of pastoral wisdom, and real-life experience, Hal Habecker invites readers to rediscover God's powerful calling for their later years.” *From Amazon.com*

“Life is full of ups and downs. We have an idea of what's good for us—but it doesn't always match God's plans for us. How do we learn to trust God's timing, provision, plans, and perspective when we're dealing with the unexpected? **Living Open-Handed** invites readers to surrender control to God's all-sustaining power and His very good will as they discover how to appreciate the ins and outs and ups and downs that life brings. Through selected verses, devotions, prayers, and reflection prompts, this 90-day devotional will leave readers with a growing sense of faith—and maybe even an unexplainable joy—in the curveballs life throws at them.” *From Amazon.com*



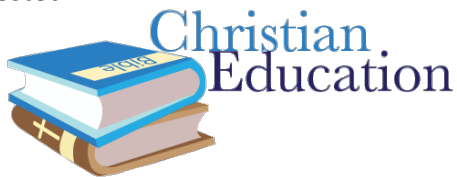
“**Improving with Age** by Stuart & Jill Briscoe addresses the triumphs and challenges of aging Christians and examines the uniqueness of skills and resources they bring to their church communities. Through Scripture and story, the Briscoes assert that aging is not only normal, but it is a joyful and productive life season.” *From Amazon.com*

## **CLEARANCES**

The education team encourages anyone who would like to help with children to apply for the Police Criminal and Child Abuse clearances. Applications can be done by getting a form from Amanda Bartel or online at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/default.aspx>. Kathy Flis is collecting completed clearance. Make sure she receives a copy of yours.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Currently there are openings on the Education team, Liturgist Group, Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, and Community Dinner Group. See Pastor Zack if interested.



## Adult Sunday Bible Study

*Submitted by Craig Jerome*

Our adult class meets every Sunday after our church service for 45 minutes. Right now, we are studying Paul's letters found in the New Testament. Anyone can come on any Sunday they want too. Come and see. This is a casual study that is fun and educational.



## Cluck-Cluck Give A Buck

Throughout the season of Lent, Trinity's Sunday school does a fundraiser to raise funds for a need. This year, the Sunday school children have chosen to offer support to the Yencha family. Their father and husband, Darren, has been in ICU since Christmas battling a severe infection. Simply place your donation in a one of the plastic eggs found in the narthex. Thank you for helping!



## BOOK OF REVELATIONS STUDY

*Submitted by Craig Jerome*

Trinity United Methodist Church in Brackenridge is going to study in 3 lessons, the Revelations of Jesus Christ, the last book of the Bible. Starting **Friday, April 17** at 6pm in the parlor room and continuing for the next 2 Fridays. Anyone is welcome to come to any of the 3 classes.

Please join us to learn what is really happening in our present world today foretold years ago to John the Apostle by God.



## Church Camp

**Church camp** for kids is vital to help children grow in their faith. For some children church camp is the only chance they get to hear the Word of

God. Enrollment for camp is still open Please contact Amanda Bartel, Education Coordinator, for assistance in finding the best fit for camp for your child, niece, nephew, or grandchild. Jumonville, Camp Allegheny, and many others are available. There are scholarships available to help with tuition.

**DON'T FORGET** to turn in your **Lenten Coin Collections**. Monies raise through this initiative will go to providing camp scholarships. If you didn't collect coins but would like to help send a child to camp, donations can be placed in the offering plate marked Camp Scholarship.



Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Janes UM Church

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:00 PM AVAC Good Friday Service at Trinity UM Church

6:00 PM Charge Good Friday Service at Bairdford

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Service at Trinity UM Church

## In Honor and Memory



**The following donations to the Noah Fund have been received:**

**In Memory of:**

**Gerald & Bonnie Robinson** by Robin Robinson, **Our Parents** by the Fisher Family

**Edith Grossman** - Mother by Mary Ann Krysik, **Helen Boyer** by Howard & Beth Sarver

**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, My Parents, **Carl & Norma Emanuelson** by Jeane DeAngelis, My Husband, **Marty** by Jeane DeAngelis

**In Honor of:**

**Our Children** by the Fisher Family, **My Husband** by Bonnie Fisher, **My Family** by Jeane DeAngelis

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

**In Memory of:**

**Donald Rummel** by Gerald Rummel, Heavenly Hands Crafters **Howard Stewart** by Buff & Dara Nolen, Eileen Reckhart, Beth Sarver, **Renee** by Joe Radvan,

**In Honor of:**

"My Boys" by Joe Radvan

**The following donations to General Fund to be used by the Visitation Ministry have been received:**

**In Memory of:**

**Howard Stewart** by Nadine and Linda Namett, Bob & Linda Gibson, Tom & Nancy Fannie, Life Group at Butler Community Alliance Church, and for visitation communion by Beth Sarver



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3	William Kovel	9	Jaci Bowser	24	Casey Collins
4	Jamee Bonnett	12	Elizabeth Bucu	25	James Morris
4	Erica Mell	12	Dylan Eberle	25	Kris Stover
4	Rosemary Tritschler	14	Marion Mortimer	25	Trevor Uhric
5	Christopher Freehling	16	Lisa Gemperlein	26	David Graham
5	Derek Ruediger	16	Casey Hemphill	26	Morgan McGough
6	Jonathan Alter	18	Sara Fisher	28	Ray Miller
6	Letitia Kus	18	Thomas Fisher	28	Oliveah Rae
7	Aleczaider Alter	18	April Moore	29	Allie Elizabeth Bucu
7	Dustin Gentile	19	Theodore Tomson	30	Joseph Tritschler
7	Jeffrey Vanderhoff	22	Jodi Bowser	30	Carol Wolfe
8	Joshua Mell	22	Jeane DeAngelis		

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Susan Barnett	8	Vicki Dlubak	19	Ann Rummel
1	Kristin Beal	8	John Fetchko	21	Matthew Homa
4	Dara Nolen	11	Marissa Acre	25	Ava Bartel
4	Lauren Gezo	17	Marlene Campbell	28	Nolen Fetchko
6	Nina Przybelik	17	Kamryn Cornuet	30	Allen Graham
7	Ray Schmaus				



Cheesy Broccoli Soup will be available for purchase in April for \$10 a quart. PICKUP April 16 or Sunday April 19. Tomato Basil Soup will be available in May for \$10 a quart. PICKUP May 14 or Sunday May 17. Place your order for quarts of soup on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Editor: Chris Steele

Proofreaders: Betty Ruediger, Colleen Rudolph

Assemblers: Charlie Steele, Colleen Rudolph, Beth Sarver

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2PM Promise House Meal Prep 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	2 9:30 AVAC Tax Prep 6PM Brownies & Daisies 7PM Maundy Thursday Service	3 GOOD FRIDAY 12 AVAC Service 6PM Service @ Bairdford	4 10AM NA
5 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School EASTER SUNDAY	6 6PM Marital Arts	7 9AM Heavenly Crafters	8 6:30 PM SPR Meeting 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	9 9:30 AVAC Tax Prep 6:30PM Finance 7:30 PM Admin Council	10 6PM Cadets 10AM AVAC Board	11 10AM NA
12 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 2:30PM Discipleship Class	13 9:30 AVAC Tax Prep 6PM Marital Arts 6PM Education	14 9AM Heavenly Crafters	15 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	16 6PM Brownies & Daisies	17 6PM Revelations Bible Study	18 10AM NA
19 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 2:30PM Discipleship Class	20 6PM Marital Arts 6:30PM Trustees	21 9AM Heavenly Crafters	22 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	23 2PM Mission Meeting	24 AVAC lunch 6PM Cadets 6PM Revelations Bible Study	25 10AM NA
26 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 10:15 Visitation Meeting 2:30PM Discipleship Class	27 6PM Marital Arts	28 9AM Heavenly Crafters	29 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	30		

# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6PM Cadets 6PM Revelations Bible Study	2 10AM NA
3 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 2:30PM Discipleship Class	4 6PM Martial Arts	5 9AM Heavenly Crafters	6 2PM Promise House Meal Prep 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	7 6:00 PM Brownies & Daisies	8	9 10AM NA
10 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 2:30PM Discipleship Class	11 6PM Martial Arts 6PM Education	12 9AM Heavenly Crafters	13 6:30PM SPR Meeting 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	14 6:30PM Finance 7:30 PM Admin Council	15 6PM Cadets	16 10AM NA
17 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 2:30PM Discipleship Class	18 6PM Martial Arts 6:30PM Trustees	19 9AM Heavenly Crafters	20 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	21 2PM Mission Meeting 6PM Brownies & Daisies	22	23 10AM NA
24 & 31 8:45AM Fellowship 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 2:30PM Discipleship Class 31 Only 10:15AM Visitation Meeting	25 6PM Martial Arts	26 9AM Heavenly Crafters	27 8PM A.A./AI-Anon	28	29 6PM Cadets	



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The United Methodist Church forms disciples  
of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
**love boldly, serve joyfully,**  
& **lead courageously**  
in local communities and worldwide connections.

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