

Worship With Us

- * In Church Worship - as COVID permits
- * E-Worship - on Facebook and www.trinitybrack.org



847 Tenth Avenue, Brackenridge, PA 15014 / Web: www.trinitybrack.org / Office: 724-224-7300

Coming Up

December 24th

Christmas Eve services
(if circumstances allow)

2 pm - for "early birds"

7 pm - Family

10 pm - Classical Music (trio of professional musicians perform)



As the UMC Book of Worship tells us, Christmas is a season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, which begins with Christmas Eve (December 24 after sundown) or Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany. The name Christmas comes from the season's first service, the Christ Mass. Epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphania*, which means "manifestation." New Year's Eve or Day is often celebrated in the United Methodist tradition with a Covenant Renewal Service. Signs of the season include a Chrismon tree, a nativity scene (include the magi on the Day of Epiphany), a Christmas star, angels, poinsettias, and roses. Gold, frankincense, myrrh, and three crowns are appropriate on the Day of Epiphany (January 6 or the Sunday nearest).

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

FROM THE PASTOR

Gregory L. Spencer has served as pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church since June of 2016 and has lead the church through a series of trials and tribulations, including but not limited to major roof repairs, HVAC installations, boiler replacement, water leaks and asbestos removal and now - through the COVID pandemic.

Indeed, in the current circumstances, we are faced with doing "Ministry in the Midst of Trying Times."

The mission and purpose of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. (see Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus commands we reach, teach, grow and multiply followers of Jesus with all people, everywhere, in and through all time and circumstance. We, as representative and means of ministry are called to carry out the purposes of God in every possible way (physical, emotional and spiritual), with love, warmth, and compassion, "on earth, as it is in heaven." Together, we have been blessed, called, and entrusted with the mission, power, character, and ministry of Jesus Christ.

These days, as all seems confused, contradictory, threatened and lost, with so much and so many suffering with danger and fear, disease and death, the world needs God, and the people of God (the church) to shine brightly. Now is the time we are most needed. We are the ones who can help heal, restore hope, comfort and build strength to go on.

At Trinity – Brackenridge, in service to Christ and community we will continue to minister in, through, and if necessary, in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or adversity. We will not give up our mission, purpose, call, or ministry, especially not for anxiety or disease or death! We will plan and carry out our ministry, adapting as necessary, all the way. Here is how:

Worship: We need God, so we will continue to offer worship, online and in-person (as possible)

Social: We need each other, so we will continue to offer events to refresh, uplift, and enable fellowship.


Missions: WE need to survive; we will continue to identify needs and respond to those needs as best we can, trusting in the Lord to help and provide.

Example: We need to learn; we will continue to share and teach the faith and quality of life, enabling people to live better and to get along with each other.

This is our time; stakes are high, we are the people, the world is in need and we have the light, love, the spirit and message of God, and everything we need. In a time of adversity let us rise up, and when looking back see this as a time where, when needed most, we were at our best!

P.S.

I ask that you will remember the lay staff with a Christmas "love gift." The total amount contributed will be "divided" equally among the four.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Dear Friends and Family of Trinity Church,

As of Thursday, November 19, Allegheny County is under a "Stay at Home" advisory, from the County Board of Health. Our primary concern, purpose, and mission as a faith community for Jesus Christ is to care for people. In the midst of the current health crisis, we must restrict public activity for the sake of containing the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus.

Meetings, Studies, Activities

Any person attending the church for any event or activity is expected to hand sanitize, register attendance, check temperature, and maintain social distance.

We recommend meetings, studies, and activities, be conducted virtually as much as possible. Let us care for each other and our community with purpose, compassion, responsibility, faith, and love.

Worship Services

Live, In-Person Worship is temporarily canceled. If and when the advisory is lifted, we will resume live worship as quickly as possible.

Online Worship will continue to be provided **Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM on our website and related Facebook pages.**

PLANS for CHRISTMAS EVE:

We are planning for live Christmas Eve services, but we do so with the clear awareness that we may have to cancel if the health crisis does not improve.

We are planning to provide a **complete ONLINE Christmas Eve Service**, available 9:00 AM Thursday, December 24, on website and Facebook pages.

We will use the church-wide call system to alert the congregation of any changes to status and plans, as quickly as possible.

If we are able to provide live services, we plan to offer:

2:00 PM	Afternoon Worship
7:00 PM	Traditional Family Worship
10:00 PM	Classical Music Christmas Concert
11:00 PM	Candlelight Christmas Worship

NOTE: Due to complications of Coronavirus we will not be distributing bulletins or candles.

God Bless and be with us, especially those providing health care, and working to provide vaccine.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Honor and Memorial Gifts

We have received questions about honor/memorial gifts for flowers at Christmas.

Due to the state Stay at Home Advisory, WE DO NOT PLAN TO PURCHASE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS.

Honor and Memorial Gifts may be made to the church.

We recommend that gifts be made to the General Fund to help sustain the church and ministry through this difficult time.

Make checks payable to Trinity UMC and please note on check or envelope: "Christmas Honor/Memorial Gift" and the names of persons to be recognized.

We will record the names of donors and persons we remember and honor. Acknowledgments will be made in the next issue of the church newsletter.

Please Help Provide This Year's Christmas Music




The church program leaders have agreed that we highly value the classical Christmas music offered before the 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service. We are proud to bring and offer such high-quality musicians and their music to the Allegheny Valley.

We ask any who are willing to help us provide the classical music Christmas Eve. The cost is anticipated to be \$600.00 - \$800.00. (This is to be donations separate and beyond the regular tithes and offerings of support. We cannot afford to transfer our giving from one purpose to another. These are to be "special offerings" that are over and above our regular support. Make checks payable to TUMC. Write "Christmas Music" on check, envelope, and/or online through Givelify.)

Thank you to all who participate in making this music happen here.

Condolences

The church expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families of Betty Lou Patz and William C. Barnett.



CARING FOR AND ABOUT OTHERS

Contending with Covid-19 - Update

Thanks to the members of the church and the groups who are being so faithful in following our protocols for mitigating the coronavirus. With the rise in cases and anxiety, we are adding steps to keep people safe and still minister with and to one another.

We believe the ministry of Jesus Christ is essential and will continue to plan and serve as best we can throughout the current health crisis and beyond. HOWEVER: please be aware, in the midst of changing circumstances, we may need to change plans and activities. Fortunately, we have the congregation call system to enable us to notify the church swiftly. **Please make sure we have your name and phone number in the church office** to ensure you receive our notifications. The church telephone number is **724-224-7300**

The following are the current steps we are taking and asking all groups to support:

- Everyone who attends any activity at the church needs to **wear protective face masks**
- For contact tracing, everyone must **register attendance** upon entrance to the church.
- Everyone must have **temperature taken** upon entry. (99 degrees or higher, are not to enter)
- Everyone needs to **hand sanitize upon entrance**. (recommend sanitizing again on exit)
- All hard surfaces need to be **wiped down with disinfectant** after every event.
- **Social distance (minimum 6 – 12 feet)** must be maintained as much as possible
- We request any who come to display symptoms, **please contact any location or group** where you have been during the previous 10 – 14 days.


Every positive step we take may protect persons, even save lives.

We respect any who choose to stay home, stay safe, and avoid gathering in groups. Let us keep in contact through social media, email, and telephone. We care for each other.

Prayer

Please remember in prayer the families of Betty Lou Patz and William C. Barnett.

At this special time of the year, let us all try to be particularly mindful of those in our midst and around us who are in need of our prayers and our loving care.



TIDBITS

Refresh Events



Trinity UMC has made it part of its mission to reach out to members of the local area and beyond in order to share the good news of the gospel. In order to bring people together, TUMC has hosted a series of concerts that have been free to the public and are known as “Refresh Events.”

From the contemporary Christian music of Risen to Save to the fun and unpredictability of the Open Mic events to the acoustic variety of The Lost Boys, Trinity helped offset the tedium imposed by the CDC restrictions by offering outside events that were open to everyone in the community.

Trinity was heartened by the fact that, in spite of the enforced wearing of masks and six-feet social distancing, the events were well attended.

Please Help Trinity

This “time of COVID-19” is difficult for many individuals and businesses and, certainly, the church has been profoundly affected. In order to have a church to come back to when coronavirus restrictions are lifted, everyone must support TUMC financially!

The people of this church have been faithful givers and that has been a blessing to people inside and outside Trinity’s walls. When church cannot be held “live” (at the church), it’s harder to feel connected and involved but these are exactly the circumstances that require and should inspire everyone to make a special effort.

You may mail your contribution to 847 10th Ave., Brackenridge, PA 15014 or you may put your donation in the white drop box to the left of the lower doors off the lower parking lot or you may give online via Givelify (see <https://www.givelify.com/givers>).

TIDBITS

Holiday Country Store 2020

The Holiday Country Store, this challenging year of 2020, was a huge success. Those who attended were amazed at all the Crafters had accomplished in a short amount of time. With CDC guidelines in place, everything ran smoothly. It was a blessing for our community and us. We would like to thank our Trinity Family for its prayers, donations, and service. We had a phenomenal day and raised over \$4100 which has been designated for the General Fund. Thank you. Have a blessed holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!

God bless you,
The Heavenly Hands Crafters

Winter Soup Sale

Once again the Crafters are having a Winter Soup Sale. The soup will be made on the third Friday of the month. All orders must be in the Sunday before. The soup is \$7 a quart and there is a two quart limit. Soup may be picked-up that Friday from 4-5pm or that Sunday after church. The following soups will be available:


Jan. 15	Beef Vegetable Soup	Orders due by Jan. 10	Pick-up Jan. 15 or 17
Feb. 19	Wedding Soup	Orders due by Feb. 14	Pick-up Feb. 19 or 21
Mar. 19	Cheese Broccoli Soup	Orders due Mar. 14	Pick-up Mar. 19 or 21
Apr. 16	Stuffed Pepper Soup	Orders due Apr. 11	Pick-up Apr. 16 or 18

Orders may be placed on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or by calling the Office at 724-224-7300. Profits from this fund-raiser will be used to support the General Fund. Lift the winter blues by enjoying some delicious homemade soup. Thank you.

Christmas Giving

As the Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Let us be the people God asks us to be, both during this special season . . . and always.

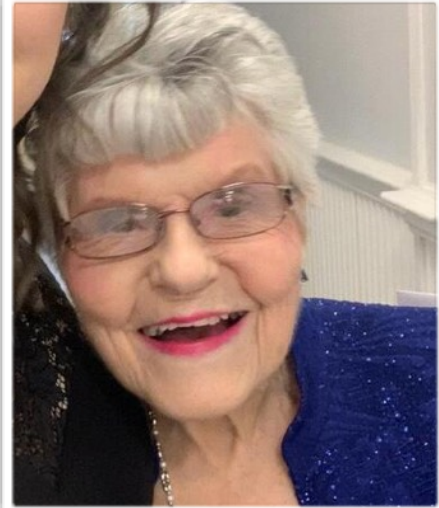


THINKING ABOUT OTHERS

God Bless You, Betty Lou!

One of the pillars and saints of Trinity Church has gone home. With confidence, determination, peace and, ultimately, joy, Betty Lou Patz has died and now abides in the arms of her Lord and ours - Jesus Christ. Her funeral/memorial was Friday, November 20th in the sanctuary.

We are grateful for Betty Lou. We admire her faith, perseverance, her certainty and conviction, her hope, and her service, her good cheer and love. She did not succumb to suffering but was victorious, even unto death and resurrection. God bless her, and may her example continue to strengthen our faith and witness. We stand on the shoulders of the saints and the lost need their light to shine through us, too. God bless you, Betty Lou, and God bless us, our faith, church and ministry, too.



December Birthdays

1 - Alan Acre, John Graham, Benita Horger; 3 - Ethan Eberle; 4 - Matt Hepler, Hunter Lang; 6 - Tim Cornuet, Jr., Joseph Seybert; 7 - Merilee Maskas; 8 - Kate Lydick; 9 - Josh Barnett; 10 - Carol Jones, Ellen LaFrankie, Matt Roberts; 11 - Jim Gezo, Nancy Lang, Emily Swartz, Tim Koontz; 12 - Matthew Fannie, Elsie Karan, Dianne Schmitt; 13 - Brian Alter, Matt Snebold; 14 - Elizabeth Hall, Pam Metzler, Christine Negley, McKenzie Sutton. 15 - Eileen Reckhart; 17 - Zachary Adamik, Terry Maglisco, Paul Tocco, Lorri Wildi; 18 - Evelyn Callender, Adriane Homa, Logan Moore; 19 - Bruce Bartrug; 20 - Keven Nelson, Sharon Richards, Carol Wildi, Deondre Lucas; 21 - Molly Gohn, Dominic Ruediger, Beth Sarver; 22 - Pegi Woodman, Cadence Schrag; 25 - Mary Carol Stitt; 26 - Margie Freehling; 30 - Pastor Alyce Weaver Dunn; 31 - Peyton Freehling, Ayla Null

January Birthdays

2 - Debra Beale; 3 - Deborah Bartrug, Chris DeAngelis; 4 - Delano Hemphill, Evelyn Ingle, Joseph Painter; 5 - Jessica Eshenbaugh, Brady Rametta; 6 - Anthony Jump, Riley Newell; 9 - Nancy Parobeck, Samantha Witucki; 10 - Ginny Howells; 11 - Nicole Finley; 12 - Addison Bernstein, Josh Bonnett; 14 - Karen Vanderhoff; 16 - Gretchen Provost; 18 - Barb Schmidt; 20 - Senaca Maskas; 21 - Ryan Scisciani, Donald Stove; 24 - Barb Hemphill, Irene Witucki; 26 - Margaret Petrak, Todd Pungratz, Charlotte Ward; 27 - Macey Cornuet, Jeremy Vanderhoff; 28 - Rev. Tom Brown, Ashley Dudzik, Fran Sekeras; 29 - Sue Derikart, Martha Truver; 30 - Lori Eshenbaugh, Kathryn Homa

TIDBITS



Thank You!

From The Ruedigers:

"A huge thank you to our Trinity family who were with me through my brother's illness and death. We appreciate the prayers, the phone calls, and the cards. It is very hard to lose a sibling but you made it a little easier. Thank you!"

From Fran Alter:

"I would like to (once again!) thank my wonderful, caring, church family, and our pastor for the visits, calls, carols, and most of all, the prayers.

I am blessed to belong to Trinity Church.

Love you all!"

From Sam and Alec Alter:

"Thank you so much, Amanda and the Education team, for the visit and games and books."

From the lay staff:

"We shout out a big 'thank you' to all of you for being so extraordinarily kind, thoughtful, cooperative, helpful and friendly. You make it a pleasure and blessing to work at Trinity United Methodist Church."

From us all:

Although most of the material for this newsletter came from Pastor Greg and we thank him first and foremost, we thank everyone for contributing information, news and "tidbits."

In Memory Of

Since November 1st, donations to the church have been:

Given by:

Joan Logan

Fran Alter

Barbie, Margie,
& Bill Tucci

Mary Jane Jack

Dawn and Bob
Conroy

IMO:

her parents, Mr. & Mrs.
Charles G Yates

B. Alter, J. Alter, J. Witucki,
M. Anderson, E. Klanica,
B. Jack

their aunt, Gladys Sorenson

Betty Lou Patz

Betty Lou Patz

In January of this year, a donation was made that was not noted (apologies for the oversight!):

Given by:

Lorri Wildi

IMO:

Joe Witucki

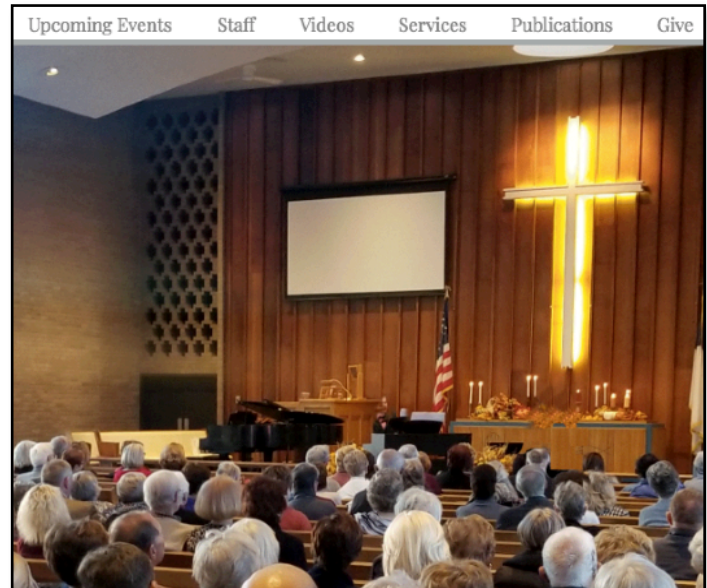
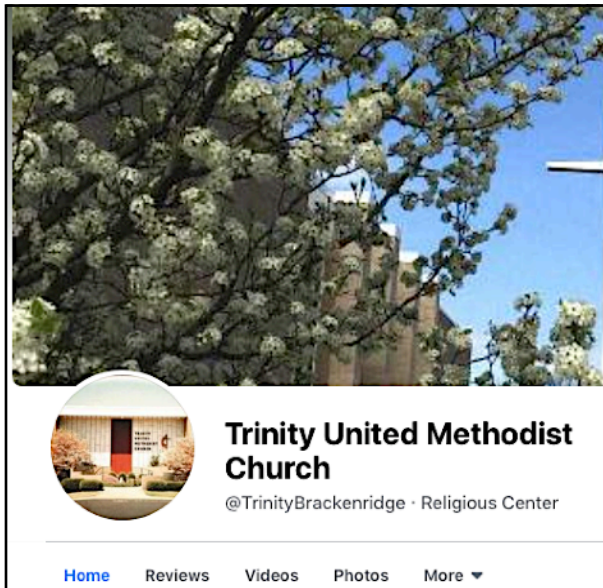
Thanks for Your Faithfulness!

Thanks to everyone at Trinity who has shown such faithfulness and support!

Your love of our church and Lord is inspiring, makes our ministry to the community possible, and enables us to believe a brighter future is ahead.

TIDBITS

Communicating

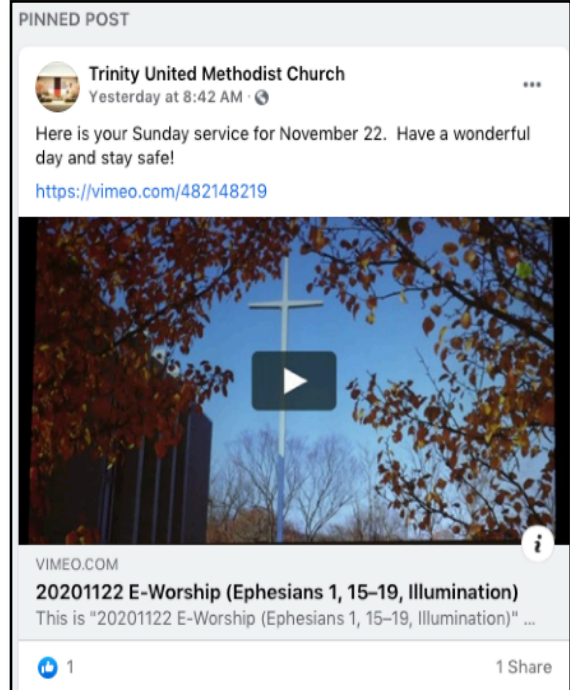


Two ways the church communicates with people both within and without the church is via its online presence.

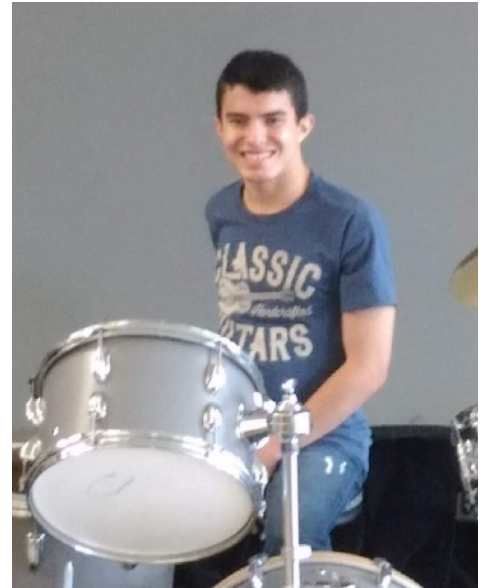
Colleen Rudolph maintains and updates the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TrinityBrackenridge and Sherry Jenks handles the website at www.trinitybrack.org.

Just as Trinity encourages people to share information by contributing to "The Christian Flame," the church also hopes people will pass along their relevant TUMC news and announcements and - *of course!* - their photographs.

Quite simply, all you need to do is email your submissions to Colleen (colrudo@comcast.net) or Sherry (trinitybrackinfo@gmail.com) or hand deliver your submission to Sherry at the church office. If Sherry is not in the office, you may put your paper or pictures in the smoke "pocket" on the office door.



“Open Mic” Over the Years



THE CHURCH IN ACTION

