Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday, October 4, 2026 – 10:00am

Defying Gravity
A Stewardship Journey
Faithfully Living. Generously Giving.
Trinity UMC

Gathering Music *"You Are Redemption"* Celebration Praise Band

Welcome Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos

* **Call to Worship**

Leader: We live in a world that constantly tells us we need more.

People: More things. More money. More success. More of what the world says will make us happy.

Leader: But Jesus invites us to stop and ask a different question: What do we really need?

People: We need God. We need one another. We need the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Leader: Today we come to worship and to recognize the things that have a hold on our hearts.

People: May we discover what pulls us away from God and make room for what truly gives life.

All: Let us worship the God who frees us from the culture of more and calls us into a life of generosity.

* **Opening Hymn** *"Bread of the World"* 624

Children's Time

Holy Communion

Scripture Reading *Matthew 19:16, 20-22*

Hymn of Preparation *"Take My Life and Let It Be"* 399

The Message *"Defying Gravity: Discovering Gravity"* Rev. Erica Munoz

Pastoral Prayer

Generosity Moment

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Ministry of Music Anthem *"Treasure Each Moment"* Chancel Choir

Doxology

Offering Prayer

God, everything we have is ultimately a gift from you. As we receive today's offering, help us remember that our lives are not measured by what we possess, but by how we use what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts become ministries of love, service, and hope. Free us from the pull of "more" so that we might have more freedom to give. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ministry Opportunities

* **Passing of the Peace**

* **Praise Singing** *"Jesus Is My Lord"*
"Grace Flows Down/Amazing Grace"

Benediction

Choral Benediction *"A Choral Benediction"*

Closing Music *"You Are Redemption"*

*Please stand if you are able

Our acolyte this morning is Grayson Lubkiewicz

Join us next weekend as we continue our sermon series Defying Gravity with the sermon titled Breaking Free using the scripture reading Luke 15:11-24.

Prayer Concerns

Nicole, Phyllis Prestopine, Laura Spann, Kathy Rihenhouse, Nate, Diane Malanga, Westfield Family, Rosemary Page, Lisa Gnatz, Jillienne Rose Moyer, Andy Martin, Neil DeCostanza, Henessey Dekmar, Kayla Moyer, Michael & Elijah Sepulveda, Nevaeh, Jemma, Steve & Sharon Roff, Robby Littlewood, Nancy Blazier, John Flood, Bob Thorton, Joy Snyder, Tara, Andy Barber, Lisa Dittman, Sanna, Jamie, Lori Murray, Bennett Onderko, Hope Dingley, Mary Lou Dunn, Hana Hund, Norm & Edna Barrier, Evan Duryea, Becky Neidhart, Joe Carr, George Hackett, George Weiser, Annette Parker, Jennifer Bush, Diana Karns, Skylar Lynn, Laurie O'Mally, Russell Blazier, Stanley Jacobowski, George Fisher, Doris Fisher, Edna Burton, Dolly Miranda, Gean, Julius Somogyi, Claude Buchman, Evan Fondiller, Candace, David Izatt, Arthur & Jean Koenig, Jack Bozzuffi, Candice, Sarah Hergert, Jerry, Colleen, Stewart, Kathy, Mary, Brian, Linda, Erica H., Nathan, Matthew Lott, Ted Ziegert, Terry & Donald Perrine, Anthony Pami, Meghan MacDonald, Matthew McKinnon, Linda Blazier, Bradley, Meghan W., Danny

Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:16, 20-22 (NIV)

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Pastoral Team
Rev. Erica Munoz – Lead Pastor
Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos – Associate Pastor, Spiritual Formation & Discipleship
Rev. Donald Gebhard – Associate Pastor
213 Main Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 I 908-852-3020 I kanzel@catchthespirit.org I catchthespirit.org

Bread of the World 624

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1827 (Jn. 6:35-58)
MUSIC: John S. B. Hodges, 1868

EUCHARISTIC HYMN
98.98

Alt. tune: RENDEZ À DIEU

399 Take My Life, and Let It Be

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1873 (Rom. 12:1)
MUSIC: Louis J. F. Hérold, 1839; arr. by George Kingsley, 1839

MESSIAH
77.77 D

Jesus Is My Lord

CCLI Song No. 4462237 © 1994 Van Ness Press, Inc.
Crystal Davis Clay CCLI License No. 1176975

Jesus is my Lord my Master and Savior
Jesus is my Lord my Master and Savior
Jesus is my Lord my Master and Savior
Now and forevermore
Hallelujah now and forevermore

Praise You Jesus Son of God
And the blood of the Lamb
King of kings and Lord of lords
God of Abraham hallelujah
God of Abraham

Jesus is the One who delivers me daily
Jesus is the One who delivers me daily
Jesus is the One who delivers me daily
From all my sin and shame
Hallelujah from all my sin and shame

Praise You Jesus Son of God
And the blood of the Lamb
King of kings and Lord of lords
God of Abraham hallelujah
God of Abraham

Grace Flows Down

by David bell, Louie Giglio, Rod Padgett
Copyright 2000 by worshiptogether.com
Songs/Six Steps Music (ASCAP)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
Amazing love, now flowing down,
From hands and feet, that were nailed to the tree.
As grace flows down and covers me.

It covers me . . .
It covers me . . .
It covers me . . .
Grace covers me.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
Amazing love, now flowing down,
From hands and feet, that were nailed to the tree.
As grace flows down and covers me.

Amazing Grace

CCLI Song Number: 22025 Copyright: Public Domain
Authors: Edwin Othello Excell , John Newton, John P. Rees

The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
Amazing love, now flowing down,
From hands and feet, that were nailed to the tree.
As grace flows down and covers me.

It covers me . . .
It covers me . . .
It covers me . . .
Grace covers me.

Announcements

Worship Attendance

Sept 26/27	In Person	Facebook Peak Views
5:00	36	4
10:00	158	35

Please note that online numbers represent devices.

-Take 5 Meet & Greet: Every week after worship we invite newcomers to spend just 5 minutes with a few of our church members at the rear of the worship space. It's a time to say "hello" and put names with faces. Join us for 5 minutes and you'll also receive a small welcome gift!

-Special Communion Offering – We will take a special offering as we celebrate World Communion. On World Communion Sunday, we unite to celebrate our shared faith and oneness in Christ. Offerings on this day support students of color in pursuing education and transforming communities. Half of the funds provide World Communion scholarships for students in the U.S. and around the world, while the rest supports leadership development that fosters global inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Our generosity extends Christ's table to everyone. United, we make a greater impact.

-L.I.F.T. – Tonight, October 4th, the first Sunday of the month, we will gather in Starr Hall from 4:30 – 6:30pm for LIFT (Living in Faith Together) which is designed to foster intergenerational community by bringing generations together around tables for activities: sharing food, enjoying fellowship, worshipping, and studying the Bible. All ages are welcome. Bring a dish to share, drinks and desserts will be provided.

-Trinity Friendship Circle Oktoberfest is coming to Heath Village on Monday, October 5th at 1:00pm! Uncle Claude, in his lederhosen, will play German polkas and waltzes and share stories. We will share pretzels and dip, hot and mulled cider, donuts, cookies and coffee. Friendship will be in full swing. So come in a good mood or we will surely put you in one. Come to sing, laugh, eat and have fun enjoying the theme of the day and each other. Auf Wiedersehen mina shatz! Until we meet again!

-New Leader Needed -The Bread of Life Mission is looking for a new leader to run the program. It involves serving three times a year in Newton, New Jersey, and a month prior just putting together a Sign Up Genius and getting info to the office to promote. The previous leader for over 12 years, Laura Iacampo, can help you to learn the ropes and has put together notes to assist you. Please let us know if you are able to lead even for just November to get someone started right away. You can let us know using Just Say Yes #3 or text Laura directly at 201-787-6842. Thank you so much for considering leading this local mission!

-ASP Corn Hole Tournament Fundraiser – Toss for a cause: enjoy an afternoon of games, prizes, and supporting the ASP mission on **Saturday, October 17th** at 12:00pm. There is a $40 team entry fee. There will be prizes, a backyard BBQ and family fun. Contact Jordan Haytaian to register at jhaytaian34@outlook.com or 908-798-3155.

-Help Support our Neighbors Detained in Delaney Hall - The Voices for Justice Ministry Team is going to Delaney Hall, an ICE detention facility in Newark, on **Saturday, October 10th.** Donations of Shoprite and Walmart gift cards and snack food items are being collected at "The Barn" on Wednesdays from 9:00 – 11:00am. Ask for Chet at the donation door. We invite you to come with us to Delaney Hall. Use Just Say Yes #14 or see Chet Penza for more information. Please be assured this is a safe environment with many volunteers and visitors supporting our neighbors.

-Looking for Vendors – On **Saturday, December 5th**, the United Women in Faith will sponsor a Community Craft Fair in Starr Hall from 10:00am – 3:00pm. The proceeds will benefit projects organized and sponsored by the United Women in Faith. Vender registration closes **November 21st**. For more information use Just Say Yes #5.

-UMM Breakfast– Our **Saturday, October 10th** breakfast will feature Rev. Tim Nicinski who will speak on the topic "Muddy Mission Work: How Christ invites us to share the good news." We continue to collect new underwear and socks, and gently used shirts, pants, and jackets for Midnight Run. Breakfast begins at 8:00am with coffee at 7:45am for early arrivals and ends at 9:30. Everyone is invited to UMM breakfasts. Use Just Say Yes #7 to let us know you will attend.

-Senior Social – Come join us for a fun afternoon with our guest, Jo, who will show us how to create our own floral designs in a mug! Please bring a mug, little pitcher, or a cup, and we will take care of the rest. (We will have a limited number of mugs available. Feel free to bring your friends along. Come and share delicious snacks too! We will meet in Trinity House on **Thursday, October 15th** from 1:00 - 2:30pm.

-Golden Gathering Boo Bash - All Seniors welcome. Join us on **Tuesday, October 27th** at 1:00 pm in the Connection Café in Trinity House for spooky treats & fun fellowship. Please let us know you will join by using Just Say Yes #12.

-Trunk or Treat! - Join us on **Saturday, October 31st** from 1:00 – 3:00pm, in the back parking lot. Bring the kids for an afternoon full of fun — free candy, delicious food for sale (by the UMM) & Cold Stone Ice Cream! Pastor Don will be our DJ to keep the energy going, and don't miss the activities tent in the center with face painting and games for kids. **Want to get in on the fun?** Decorate your trunk and hand out candy! Use Just Say Yes #4 by October 23rd to reserve your spot. Remember, all vehicles must be parked by 12:30pm. Don't miss this family-friendly celebration. We are also accepting donations of candy.

-Trinity Ski Club – It's time to think about having some winter fun with your church friends. Join Trinity Ski Club at Camelback for the 2026/2027 ski season. If you are interested in joining or would like more information please call John Forestiere at 908-328-9020 or email johnny580@comcast.net. Reasonable season passes are available through the club. All are welcome. The deadline for sign-ups is **October 30th**.

-Fear of Falling? - Healthy Aging and Balance: Because Falling Is Not Normal- Jessica Lane from Physical Therapy at St. Luke's will provide education, prevention strategies and free screenings on November 4th 1:30 - 2:30 pm in the Trinity Resource Center. Please use Just Say Yes #8? To let us know you would like to attend.

-Hot Soup~Warm Souls -At the Craft Fair on **December 5th** the United Women in Faith will be having another Hot Soup~Warm Souls sale! If you would like to donate your signature soup to this event, please let us know. We supply quart soup containers and labels. Please use Just Say Yes #6 to let us know what type of soup you would like to make and how many quarts you would like to provide. Any questions, please contact Pat Riegler at patdriegler@gmail.com or 908-303-2067.

-LocalShare Free Pop-Up Produce Market – LocalShare connects farm fresh produce from local NJ farms with community members throughout the northwest parts of NJ. A free pop-up produce market will be held in the parking lot on **Tuesday, October 20th** from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm. It is open to the public and free of charge. Shoppers are asked to bring their own bags.

-Laundry Ministry Volunteers Needed -Come spend a little time with us at the laundromat — you may be surprised by how much fun ministry can be! Our Laundry Ministry continues to grow, providing local families with the opportunity to wash and dry their clothes at no cost while creating a welcoming space for conversation, laughter and connection. Volunteers help families get settled, visit with our guests, lend a hand with children and, most importantly, help make everyone feel welcome. Last month included cookies, conversation, lots of laughter and even a little ball playing with one of our youngest guests! Volunteers are needed on:

October 15 • October 29 • November 5 • November 19

Come for an afternoon, meet some wonderful people and help us continue Spreading the Joy — one load at a time! Interested in volunteering? Sign-up using Just Say Yes #15.

-Help Make the Drop-In Center a Great Place to Be! Our Middle School Drop-In Center is back in session, and there are two easy ways you can help support our students!

- **Snacks Needed!** Middle schoolers are always hungry! We are seeking donations of individually packaged snacks, such as popcorn, pretzels, chips, crackers, and similar grab-and-go items. Donations may be dropped off at the church and will help us keep our students fueled for an afternoon of activities and fun.
- **Come Hang Out With Our Kids!** You don't have to be an expert—or even plan an activity—to make a difference! Our activities and challenges are already planned, and for most electives, volunteers will be assisting another leader. The Center is open 3:00–5:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Come every week or help occasionally—whatever works with your schedule. Even one afternoon can make a difference. Please indicate interest by completing Just Say Yes #17.

-Employment Opportunity – The job description and application for **Financial Secretary** are available from the church office. This position requires 6 hours per week; and 8 hours per week during the monthly and yearly close periods.

-Pastoral Care – If you or a family member are in the hospital, please contact the church office 908-852-3020. The hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted, nor do they keep a list of patients by denomination. The only way the pastors will know if you or a loved one are in the hospital is if you contact us. We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you.

This Week at Trinity October 5 - 11

Monday	1:00 pm	Heath Village	Trinity Friendship Circle
	3:00 pm	Starr Hall/Lower Level	Middle School Drop In
Tuesday	3:00 pm	Starr Hall/Lower Level	Middle School Drop In
	10:00 am	Room 104	Sister Share
	6:00 pm	Room 104	ESL Beginner
	7:00 pm	Room 104	ESL Intermediate
	7:00 pm	Room 103	Trinity Banned Book Club
	7:00 pm	Zoom	Tuesday Evening Bible Study
Wednesday	10:30 am	Connection Café	Wiseman's Journey
	6:00 pm	Music Room	Agape Ringers
	6:30 pm	Starr Hall	Youth Group
	7:30 pm	Music Room	Chancel Choir
Thursday	9:00 am	Kitchen	Faithful Food Share
	3:00 pm	Starr Hall/Lower Level	Middle School Drop In
	6:00 pm	Room 104	ESL Beginner
	7:00 pm	Room 104	ESL Intermediate
	7:00 pm	Room 105	Unpacking the UM Social Principles
Friday	3:00 pm	Starr Hall/Lower Level	Middle School Drop In
Saturday	7:00 am	Room 103	Men's Bible Study
	8:00 am	Starr Hall	UMM Breakfast
Sunday	8:45 am	Blue Room	The Gleaners Bible Study
	11:30 am	Room 104	Sunday Morning Bible Study
	4:30 pm	Starr Hall	LOL (5th & 6th Grade Fellowship)
	6:00 pm	Starr Hall	Pickleball

Just Say Yes - Opportunities To Serve

1. **Altar Flowers** – We are looking for flowers for November 8th & 15th.

   _____Yes, I would like to donate flowers for the altar on November 8th.
   _____Yes, I would like to donate flowers for the altar on November 15th.

2. **Ushers and Greeters** – We are in need of ushers and greeters for our 10:00 am Sunday worship service.

   _____Yes, I would like to occasionally usher on Sundays at the 10:00 worship service.
   _____Yes, I would like to occasionally be a greeter on Sundays at 10:00.

3. **New Leader Needed** -The Bread of Life Mission is looking for a new leader to run the program. It involves serving three times a year in Newton, New Jersey, and a month prior just putting together a Sign Up Genius and getting info to the office to promote. The previous leader for over 12 years, Laura Iacampo, can help you to learn the ropes and has put together notes to assist you. Please let us know if you are able to lead even for just November to get someone started right away.

   _____Yes, I am interested in more information about leading the Bread of Life Mission.

4. **Trunk or Treat-** On Saturday, October 31st from 1:00-3:00pm in the Trinty parking lot. Choose a theme and decorate your trunk/tailgate and purchase some treats to give out. Decorated cars arrive by 12:30pm. We are also accepting donations of candy. These can be dropped off at the church office by October 26th.

   _____Yes, I would like to decorate my trunk and hand out candy on October 31st.
   _____Yes, I will donate candy to be handed out during Trunk or Treat.

5. **Looking for Venders** - On Saturday, December 5th, the United Women in Faith will sponsor a Community Craft Fair in Starr Hall from 10:00am – 3:00pm. The proceeds will benefit projects organized and sponsored by the United Women in Faith. Vender registration closes November 21st.

   _____Yes, I'd like more details regarding being a vendor at the Community Craft Market on December 5th.

6. **Hot Soup~Warm Souls** - At the Craft Fair on December 6th the United Women in Faith will be having another Hot Soup~Warm Souls sale! If you would like to donate your signature soup to this event, please let us know. We supply the quart soup containers and labels.

   _____ Yes, I will make _____quarts of _____soup.

7. **UMM Breakfast** - Our **Saturday, October 10th** breakfast will feature Rev. Tim Nicinski who will speak on the topic "Muddy Mission Work: How Christ invites us to share the good news." .0 We continue to collect new underwear and socks, and gently used shirts, pants, and jackets for Midnight Run. Breakfast begins at 8:00am with coffee at 7:45am for early arrivals and ends at 9:30. Everyone is invited to UMM breakfasts.

   _____Yes, I would like to attend the UMM breakfast on Saturday, October 10th.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email**_____

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES ➡

Just Say Yes – Opportunities To Serve

8. **Fear of Falling?** - Healthy Aging and Balance: Because Falling Is Not Normal- Jessica Lane from Physical Therapy at St. Luke's will provide education, prevention strategies and free screenings on November 4th 1:30 - 2:30 pm in the Trinity Resource Center.

   _____Yes, I would like to attend the Fear of Falling presentation on November 4th.

9. **The Untethered Soul Small Group-** Join us over 5 monthly meetings to read, discuss and experience this journey. This book offers a simple, profoundly intuitive treatise on finding inner peace and freedom from limitations. The author bridges Eastern and Western traditions in discussing the path of spiritual consciousness. Pat Riegler will facilitate this group on the third Wednesday of the month beginning **October 21st** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in room 105.

   _____Yes, I would like to join the Untethered Soul Small Group.

10. **Explore: God's Word & God's Creation - Sunday, October 18th**, 11:30 am: Merrill Creek Reservoir, approximately 3 miles of the black/perimeter trail, and this time with lots of beautiful autumn color! This out and back hike will be easy, mostly flat surfaces. Trail highlights: views of Merrill Creek Reservoir, views from the dam, maybe a bear or two!

    _____Yes, I would like to attend the hike on Sunday, October 18th.

11. **Explore: God's Word & God's Creation - Saturday, October 24th**, 8:00 am: Blue Mountain Lake/Hemlock Lake/Crater Lake/Appalachian Trail, an approximately 7 mile loop on several trails, including 2 miles on the Appalachian Trail. This is a challenging hike due to the length, elevation, and one rock scramble (which we will be descending). Trail highlights: THREE lakes, Appalachian Trail.

    _____Yes, I would like to attend the hike on Saturday, October 24th.

12. **Golden Gathering Boo Bash** - All Seniors welcome. Join us on Tuesday, October 27th at 1:00 p.m. in the Connection Café in Trinity House for spooky treats & fun fellowship.

    _____Yes, I would like to attend the Golen Gathering on October 27th.

13. **Dismantling Racism Movie and Discussion – The Color Purple** - An epic tale spanning forty years in the life of Celie. After her abusive father marries her off to the debasing "Mister" Albert Johnson, things go from bad to worse, leaving Celie to find companionship anywhere she can. She perseveres, holding on to her dream of one day being reunited with her sister in Africa. Based on the novel by Alice Walker. Rated PG13. The movie will be shown on **Sunday, October 18th** at 12:30 in the Rotunda. Feel free to bring your lunch.

    _____Yes, I would like to attend The Color Purple on Sunday, October 18th.

14. **Help Support our Neighbors Detained in Delaney Hall** - The Voices for Justice Ministry Team is going to Delaney Hall, an ICE detention facility in Newark, on Saturday, October 10th. Donations of Shoprite and Walmart gift cards and snack food items are being collected at "The Barn" on Wednesdays from 9:00 – 11:00am. Ask for Chet at the donation door. We invite you to come with us to Delaney Hall. Please be assured this is a safe environment with many volunteers and visitors supporting our neighbors.

    _____Yes, I would like more information about going to Delaney Hall on October 10th.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email**_____

Just Say Yes – Opportunities To Serve

15. **Laundry Ministry Volunteers Needed** -Come spend a little time with us at the laundromat — you may be surprised by how much fun ministry can be! Our Laundry Ministry continues to grow, providing local families with the opportunity to wash and dry their clothes at no cost while creating a welcoming space for conversation, laughter and connection. Volunteers help families get settled, visit with our guests, lend a hand with children and, most importantly, help make everyone feel welcome. Last month included cookies, conversation, lots of laughter and even a little ball playing with one of our youngest guests! Come for an afternoon, meet some wonderful people and help us continue Spreading the Joy — one load at a time!

    _____Yes, I can help with the Laundry Ministry on the following dates:

    _____ October 15th _____ October 29th

    _____ November 5th _____ November 19th

16. **Help Keep the Lord's Pantry Stocked with Bread!** The Lord's Pantry relies on generous donations of bread and baked goods that we receive each Friday, Saturday, and Monday to help keep our shelves stocked for the families we serve. We are currently looking for volunteers who can pick up donations from Panera in Mansfield every Friday and Saturday evening, just before they close at 9:00 p.m. We are also seeking substitute drivers for all three pickup days who can help occasionally when our regular volunteers are unavailable. This is a simple, behind-the-scenes way to be part of the Lord's Pantry food ministry—and one that makes a real difference!

    _____Yes, I would like more information regarding the Panera pick up.

17. **Help Make the Drop-In Center a Great Place to Be!** Our Middle School Drop-In Center is back in session, and there are two easy ways you can help support our students! Come Hang Out With Our Kids! You don't have to be an expert—or even plan an activity—to make a difference! Our activities and challenges are already planned, and for most electives, volunteers will be assisting another leader. The Center is open 3:00–5:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Come every week or help occasionally—whatever works with your schedule.

    We are currently looking for:

    - **Art Assistants** — Monday, Tuesday & Friday
    - **Basketball Leader** — Monday, Tuesday & Thursday; assistant needed Friday
    - **Lego Leaders & Helpers** — Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. All Lego challenges are provided—you simply help the kids build, create, and have fun!
    - **Jewelry-Making Assistants** — Monday & Thursday
    - **Scrap & Sketch Assistant** — Friday

    Even one afternoon can make a difference. Whether you enjoy art, basketball, Legos, crafting—or simply spending time encouraging young people—we would love to have you join us!

    _____ Yes, I am interested in helping with the Drop -In Center. Please contact me.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email** _____