



FEBRUARY 2023

TRINITY CONNECTION



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY UMC



WELCOME TO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

If you are are a newcomer to the congregation please make yourself known to one of the clergy or to one of our ushers before worship.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Erica Munoz - Lead Pastor
Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos - Associate Pastor
Rev. Jisun Nam - Associate Pastor
Rev. Donald Gebhard -Pastor of Outreach and Worship
GinnyThorp - Congregational Care Lay Minister

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm - Trinity House
Sunday 8:15 - Chapel (1st Sunday of the month)
9:15 am & 10:45 am - Sanctuary and Livestreamed

From the Pastor

February 14th is the day we celebrate Valentine's Day. Valentine was actually a popular name in the third century and the Catholic Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine.

One legend states that Valentine was a priest who served in Rome. At this time, Emperor Claudius II decided single men made better soldiers and he outlawed marriage for young men. He really did not think that through, did he? Anyway, Valentine recognized the injustice of this decree and he performed marriages for young couples in secret. That cost him his life.

Another story tells that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape Roman prisons, where they were beaten and tortured. The story goes on to say that Valentine sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after falling in love with a young girl, thought to be the jailor's daughter - who visited him when he was imprisoned. Tradition tells us he signed the letter "From your Valentine," an expression we still use today.

While the stories are all kind of muddy and nobody knows for sure, Valentine is still considered a heroic, sympathetic, and of course romantic figure. Over the centuries there have been many different traditions regarding matchmaking, marriage, and the like done on Valentine's day.

I would like us to take the opportunity to use Valentine's day and the month of February to focus on love. We are created in the image of God and God is love so each of us has a tremendous capacity for love built-in. Think of ways to express more love to your family, your friends, and co-workers. How can you more intentionally love your church? How can you love your neighbor, the stranger? How can you better love the earth? How can you better love yourself? Take this month to figure it out and then go out to LOVE, LOVE, LOVE!

With all my LOVE,
Pastor Deb



Good News!

Bread of Life

By Laura Iacampo

We had a wonderful experience serving over 60 people at Bread of Life on Saturday, January 7th. It was our busiest one for those in need in a long time!

We served tacos, rice and beans, corn, soup, brownies and cookies, hot and cold drinks. We had two tables full of clothes and two tables full of non-perishable foods, toiletries, and paper products.

"Thank You!" to Student Ministry for making the brownies and to Chris Bosch and his students at Mount Olive High School for putting the toiletry bags together for us. A huge "Thank You!" to everyone who donated food and supplies. The people were so happy with all we had!

A heartfelt "Thanks!" to the people who came to help: Mark Whittle, Basil Iacampo, Dave and Bette Sprandel, Laura and Jen Dahmer, Kelly Baker and the students from the International Exchange Program: Gabriel, Claudia, Rieke, and Jessica.

We go to Bread of Life again in May. Please consider joining us then to serve and to love!



Small Group Ministry Lenten Activities

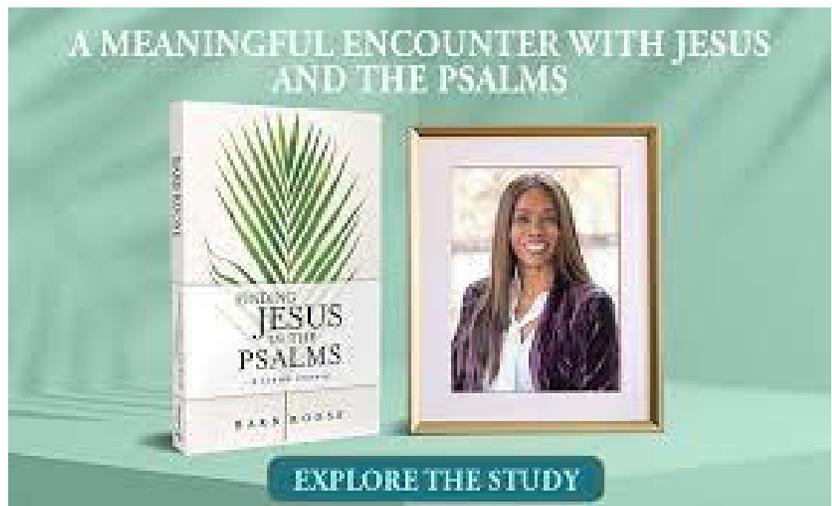
By Pat Riegler

The Small Group Ministry has some exciting plans coming up. For our Lenten season, we'll be studying together as a church Finding Jesus in the Psalms by Barb Roose. There will be small groups available on multiple days and at different times. We're hoping one of them will fit your schedule. Please invite a friend! Signups begin February 5.

Also, during Lent, our Lenten Day Apart will be held on March 18th at the Drakestown UMC from 10:30-2:30. Our Lenten Day of Service is March 11th. Keep an eye out for more details on that event.

Walking through Holy Week will be in person this year. We are planning an interesting, interactive, and fun experience for all to help your Holy Week prayer and reflection experience.

The team is excited to offer these activities for all.



Family Ministry Happenings

We look forward to seeing you during Family Worship Service on February 5th!

For more info follow the links below!

- Parent's Night Out click [here](#)
- Secret Angel click [here](#)
- Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper [click here](#)
- KidVenture (Nursery - 5th Grade) click [here](#)
- 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship click [here](#)
- Middle School Ministry click [here](#)
- High School Ministry click [here](#)
- Family Ministry Calendar click [here](#)

Family Ministry February Events

- February 1 - ASP Presentation (High School)
- February 3 – Parents' Night Out
- February 15 - A (Valentine's Day) Celebration of Love (High School)
- February 21 - Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper - Please RSVP [here](#)

Youth Mid Winter Retreat

Our Youth had the opportunity to participate in a Mid-Winter Retreat. Pastor Erica was the Key Note Speaker and over 150 youth from several churches were there for spiritual formation and fun!



Mission Opportunities

Breakfast Run

After nearly 3 years, we are heading back into NYC for the Midnight Run Mission!

Our first trip will be a Breakfast Run on February 25th, which is a Saturday. If you would like to participate, please contact Tedi Granke at Tedi.Granke@christmastreeshops.com.

Participants are asked to be at the church at 6:00 AM to help prepare the food. We are usually back from the trip and at the church by 12:00 noon.

Safe Harbor

On February 25th we are scheduled to prepare and deliver a meal for 40-50 people at Safe Harbor in Easton, PA.

You can do this as a family, or get together with neighbors and friends to prepare the meal and deliver to Safe Harbor.

For more information please contact the church office at 908-852-3020.

ASP Talent Show

February 24th is the ASP Talent Show. We are looking for folks who would like to share their talents. It's not a competition, just lots of fun.

Admission is free. There will be food for sale and a free-will offering.

If you'd like to be a part of this fun evening, contact Tony Albanese at rhinoboys@icloud.com or call the church office at 908-852-3020



Staying Connected

Thrift Shop Update

By Maureen Storey

The Thrift Shop has been cleaned, painted, buffed, and shined! It's warm and wonderful. A huge thank you to all who lent their time and energy to this vast undertaking. Be sure to stop in and take it all in. The Thrift Shops and Donation Barn are back on their regular schedules.

In February the Christmas Closet turns into the Gallery! Full of pictures, frames, mirrors and lighting. Be looking for that space to bloom into the Garden Room in March.

The Main Street Top Shop will be moving toward lighter and brighter in the hopes that Spring will soon be on its way. Why do you thrift? Here are a few reasons:

REASONS TO THRIFT:

IT TAKES 700 GALLONS OF WATER TO MAKE A SINGLE COTTON SHIRT.

WHICH IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE PERSON STAYING HYDRATED FOR 900 DAYS.

THE AMOUNT OF WATER NEEDED TO MAKE ONE PAIR OF JEANS IS THE EQUIVALENT TO HOSING DOWN YOUR LAWN FOR 9 HOURS STRAIGHT.

RESOURCE: PLANETAID.ORG



©AJTHEILLUSTRATOR

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." ~Matthew 25:40

Staying Connected

What's Going on in The United Methodist Church?

By Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos

Maybe you are on the Greater NJ Annual Conference (GNJ) email distribution, maybe you receive the GNJ newspaper, The Relay, or maybe you've seen bits and pieces on the news or even Facebook.

Maybe you have heard things like "disaffiliation" or "a new denomination".

Join us on February 12th at 12:30 in Starr Hall for a Question and Answer session that will hopefully clarify what's going on in our denomination.



Q&A
You have Questions We have Answers

United Methodist Men

By Bill Blaskopf

On January 14th Mr. Josh Haddod and Mr. Bruce Kleindienst of Thrivent Financial spoke on the topic: "Your Legacy: Family, Church & Charity." Their presentation was preceded by Mike Heembrock who spoke on the progress that Trinity is making in raising money for the Frank Fowler Missions Fund. 28 people attended the breakfast. Our 16th annual Hoagie Sale will run through Sunday February 5th., so there is still time to place an order. We will make the hoagies on the morning of February 11th and pickup should begin about 11am that day. Please watch for more details.

There will be NO UMM breakfast in February as we will use that morning to make the hoagies.

Our March 11th breakfast will feature NJ author Linda Barth. Her topic will be "Celebrating New Jersey: A Tour of the Best of Our State".

Remember breakfast always starts at 7:45 with coffee for the early arrivals and ends at 9:30.

Please continue to RSVP for our breakfasts by either contacting Bill Blaskopf or using the church "Just say yes" form as we always want to have enough food and do not want to waste any food.

Always remember, UMM is not just for men. Among our goals is to provide: a sense of community, a meaningful presentation, and a fantastic breakfast.



United Women in Faith

By Pat Riegler

Ladies, please mark your calendars for April 23rd. Trinity will be hosting the Skylands District United Women in Faith Celebration starting at 3pm in the sanctuary.

A gathering for the Trinity United Women in Faith is being planned for late February/early March. We will gather to share food, fellowship, and ideas. There will be a speaker from an active UWF group to share with us what their group has done. We'll also brainstorm within our group to determine the direction for us - the Trinity women. More information will be shared once the plans are finalized.

The Mission of United Women in Faith - We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

The Vision of United Women in Faith - We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children, and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.



Baptism

On January 15th we celebrated the Baptism of James Snook and Harper Kim Snook, daughter of James Snook and Alyssa Smith.

Our Sympathy to

Laura and Beth Galley on the death of their grandmother (Mike Galley's mother), Ethel Galley.
Centenary University President, Bruce Murphy on the death of his wife, Jeanne Murphy
Kim Koch and family on the death of her mother, Marie Parsons.

Welcome to Our New Members

On January 22nd we welcomed to the Trinity UMC family:

Matt Munoz who lives in Hackettstown and works for Alloy Welding Co. Inc. Matt and Erica have two children, Madelyn (10) and Braelon (7). He is joining by Letter of Transfer.

Chet and Irene Penza are retired and live in Long Valley. They are joining by Letter of Transfer.

Rebecca & Earl Schick live in Newton. They have a daughter Zoey (1). Earl works for WW Grainger and Rebecca works for Atlantic Health System. They enjoy camping, traveling, and family. Rebecca is joining by Letter of Transfer while Earl is joining by Profession of Faith.

Coming Events

- **Parents Night Out** - February 3 from 5:30-9:30 pm
- **Last Day to order Hoagies!** - February 5th
- **Lenten Small Group Sign ups** - Begin February 6th
- **UMM Hoagie Pick up** (No UMM Meeting) - February 11th - starting at 11:00 am in Starr Hall
- **What's Up in the UMC?** - February 12th at 12:30 in Starr Hall
- **UWF Soup Sale** - February 12th from 9:30-12:30 am in Starr Hall
- **Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**, February 21st from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at Starr Hall
- **Ash Wednesday Service** - February 22nd, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary and Livestreamed
- **ASP Talent Show** - February 24th at Doors open at 6:00 pm In Trinity House