

SO  
MUST THE  
SON OF  
MAN  
BE  
LIFTED  
UP

JOHN 3:14

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Dr. Robert Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

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**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**7:45 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: Those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relation to God, and for hope when we are dying.

**Welcome all visitors!** We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

**Welcome to the Eucharist!** All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

*Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

**Prayer As You Enter:** *O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Why no alleluias or hymn of praise during Lent?** You may have noticed that the act of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'" ([http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No\\_Alleluia.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm)).

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This is the season of Lent, a season to remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

**A season to remember that to follow Christ is to take up our crosses and to be servants of all.**

A season to give sacrificially to others through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

**A season to watch and wait with Christ, that we may have courage in the hour of testing.**

Let us dare to imagine what God will do through our gifts to others.

**We gather to worship God!**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come and taste the goodness of God!

# CONFESSION OF SINS

## CALL TO CONFESSION

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.

Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let the hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

### KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Let us pray the collect together.

May your word reassure us, O God. When we are afraid to face detractors and enemies, when we are so isolated that even you seem far away, when judgment comes and we are reluctant to face all that your light reveals. In your rich mercy lead us to times of singing and rejoicing, in spite of oppression, shadow, and separation. In the name of Jesus, who fully embodied your intent for humankind. Amen.

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

# THE WORD OF GOD

## **THE FIRST LESSON**

Numbers 21:4-9

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## **THE PSALTER**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Some were sick through their sinful ways and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

**They loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.**

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

**He sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from destruction.**

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

Ephesians 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

St. John 3:14-21

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

SERMON

“God’s Promise Brings Forth Renewal!” Pastor Rankin

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PEOPLE’S OFFERING

### OFFERING DEDICATION

Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of light and with a heart full of gratitude for what we’ve been given. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. Let us not hide our light under a bucket but shine it for all to see. Bless the gifts, just as you have blessed us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ’s name, Amen.



## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Holy One, almighty and eternal God, always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you before all time, by whom you made the world and all things. We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people. Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us in our sin, but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. In the fullness of time you came to us and received our nature in the person of Jesus, who, in obedience, by suffering on the cross, and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death. We praise you that Jesus now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory and ever lives to pray for us. We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us in one holy church. Therefore, with your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise your holy name: **Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

### **THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

### **BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP**

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.**

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of all creation, and a world in need.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**



Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understanding of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Bless the men, women, youth, and children who will be the gifts we share this day through our mission offering. May these gifts bring your love and grace to those in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*SILENT PRAYER*

Let us pray together.

**Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to free the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

**CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

**BENEDICTION**



**CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY**



**TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:**

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

**Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:**

--*Share God's love with our community*

--*Serve God's children*

--*Bring healing and wholeness to those in need*

--*Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by **Joan Cash** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Fountain.

**The Worship Aids** are given in honor of Carl Spangler's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday this Thursday!

## Ministering Today

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
<b>Lector/Assistant</b>	Rev. Sandy Morris
<b>Money Counters</b>	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller, Denise Pfeiffer
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders
<b>Building Trustee</b>	John Shelsky
<b>Koinonia</b>	Karen Olley, Diane Rice
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Card</b> Adult Sunday School Class <b>Called to Care</b> Anne Rankin <b>Visitation</b> Dottie Schadt

## **Happy Birthday**

Monday – Ellie Latsha, Michael Lichtenwalner  
Tuesday – Brendan Garrett, Maxwell Schuessler  
Wednesday – MacKensie Harley  
Thursday – Noah Kauffman, Carl Spangler  
Saturday – Joann Garvin, Robert Siever, Jane Starr

<b>Attendance for Sun., March 3</b>	7:45–16	10:30–78	<b>TOTAL – 94</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>26</b>		
<b>Lenten Service</b>	<b>17</b>		

## **This Week at Trinity Church**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

Monday	1:30 PM - Evangelism 7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM Bells
Tuesday	7:00 PM – Property Committee—Isenberg Hall 7:00 PM – Pastor Parish-Choir Room
Wednesday	7:00 PM – Lenten Service
Thursday	10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group 1:30 PM – Pinochle 6:00 PM – Pizza 7:00 PM – Looking at Stars
Saturday	7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM – Worship

## PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

### MEMBERS

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman	Donna Geisler	George & Ellie Latsha
Hillary Bossert-Davis	Denise Huggins	Hedwig Hunsicker
Don & Pat Miller	Nancy Patton	Dr. Janet Harriger
The Lehman family	Joann Peck	Harry Himelwright
Donna Wolf & Family	Mary Lou Shaab	Scott & Jane Owens
Stan & Pat Seachrist	Donna Zirkel	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley	Sam Minder III	Lainie Christensen
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Hank Fox	Pastor Harry Royer
Betty Tyndall and family	Mary Witmer	Bob & Marlyn Wible
Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Erika Otthofer	Kathleen Sensenig Adams
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman	Ron Becker	Danielle Huggins Holbein
Joann & Dawn Garvin	The Fischer Family	Dr. Blaine Connor
Shelly Family	Michael McDonough	Rev. Ken Trauger

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Marshawn Howse (grandson of Dave & Noreen Trostle)  
Elizabeth Trostle (mother of Dave Trostle)  
Norma Mallard (friend of Gail Kogut)  
Tom Chapman (brother of Rev. Jere Chapman)  
Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)  
Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)  
Brian & Liz Culp (son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)  
Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)  
Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)  
Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)  
Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)  
Deb Olley Heagy (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley)  
The Haverstick Family (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)  
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)  
Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)  
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)  
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)  
Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)  
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)  
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)  
James Malone & family  
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)  
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)  
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)  
Don Pfeiffer (husband of Denise Pfeiffer)  
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)  
The Martin family  
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)  
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)  
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)  
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)  
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

### **HOLY LAMENT: MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross---the place to which the season of Lent leads us---is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Join us each Wednesday during Lent at 7 p.m. as some of our clergy members or religious teachers in our midst preach. Below is the list of our themes and preachers:

March 13: Individual Lament—Rev. Bob Bistline preaching

March 20: Communal Lament—Rev. Ken Trauger preaching

*Information about Holy Week & Easter services will be in the March Parish Post.*

**SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of ushers and greeters for our Wednesday Lenten services. We also need ushers/greeters for the Maundy Thursday services and our 8:00 a.m. Easter service. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.



March 27: Holy Wednesday Worship with Order of Healing at 7 p.m.—Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer preaching.

March 28: Maundy Thursday Services at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.—Pastor Rankin preaching

**KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP:** We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

**2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **March 24 & April 7.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **March 17, & 24.** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

**PRAYER SHAWL:** The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, March 19 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

**CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY:** The Evangelism Committee is in need of more volunteers to provide meals for our members! If you are interested, speak with Pastor Chris!

**NEW DIRECTORY:** Look for a draft of a church directory across from the church office and make any necessary changes by the end of the month!

**LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES:** This year our Lenten Denial Offering is being donated to the international disaster relief charity call ShelterBox. ShelterBox was established in 2000, and partners with Rotary International, providing emergency shelter and other aid items to families around the world who have lost their homes to disaster and conflict. ShelterBox is funded by public donations. A ShelterBox provides more than just a tent but also includes a kitchen set, blankets, ground mats, hats, gloves, scarves, mosquito net, water filtration system, water carriers, solar light box, children’s school kit, hygiene supplies and wash basin. It also has a tool kit with a hammer, saw, wire cutters, and rope. The box weighs approximately 110 lbs. and is approximately 2’3” x1.4” x 11” in size. The price of a ShelterBox is \$1000. As of April 2021, ShelterBox has provided support to two million people since its start in 2000.

**MYSTERY READERS :** Trinity Preschool is looking for Spring Mystery Readers for March and April. Please contact the Preschool through the church office or Email: [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org) to schedule a time to read a book to a preschool class. It’s a fun way for Trinity members to support and be part of our preschool.

**\$8 per Sub Coupon**  
**Sign-up sheet on table across from the office**

**THANK YOU  
 FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



**TRINITY PRESCHOOL  
 SUB SALE**

We would like to thank you for supporting our fund raiser. When you redeem your coupon at S. Clyde Weaver you get to choose from at least seven sub varieties:

**Sweet Bologna · Ham · Italian · Turkey  
 Roast Beef · Chicken Salad · Tuna Salad**

- BREAD OPTIONS:**  
 white sub roll • bread • tortilla wrap
- CHOICE OF YOUR CONDIMENTS:**  
 mayonnaise • mustard • creamy horseradish • olive oil • vinegar
- CHEESE OF YOUR CHOICE:**  
 American • Provolone • Swiss
- YOUR CHOICES OF VEGETABLES:**  
 lettuce • tomatoes • onions • marinated onions • sweet peppers  
 banana peppers • hot peppers • black olives • pickles  
 salt • pepper • herb mix • Parmesan

Please make checks payable to: **TRINITY PRESCHOOL**

**Sign-up sheet on table across  
 from the office!**

# EXPLORING THE SKY ABOVE TRINITY U.C.C. WITH SUE BOWMAN

(Sue is a member of Trinity and a retired Astronomy teacher)

Calling all stargazers and those interested in enjoying a celestial evening out! Bring your telescopes and binoculars and join in the fun as the Trinity Preschool families and the members of Trinity explore **The Sky Above Trinity U.C.C.** This observation session will train the telescope at Jupiter and its moons, Earth's moon as well as deep sky clusters and nebulae. The Trinity Youth will be assisting with the setup and use of the equipment and may be found to be quite conversant on matters astronomical! Great chance to use the star chart provided or look ahead with one of these apps: *Star Chart*, *NASA app*, *Night Sky*, *Sky View Free*, *Star Walk2*, *Sky Safari*. You may wish to bring along lawn chairs. Until then, keep looking up!



*Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office*

**March 14th**

**6-7 pm Pizza**

**7 pm Brief Intro to the observation session**

**7:15 pm Observation begins**

## **Good Friday Breakfast at YMCA of the Roses**

Join us for community gathering that brings people of faith together to mark this important holy day with an inspirational message and ecumenical worship service in keeping with the Christian traditions of the YMCA.

**When:** Friday, March 29, 2024 @ 7:30 am (Doors open at 7 am)

**Where:** Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

**Details:** The speaker will be Rev. Jennifer Mattson from Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Lancaster, PA, along with live music and a buffet-style breakfast. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Call the church office to reserve your ticket.



## Our Gifts to Others 2024 from the Board of Deacons

Each year Trinity UCC considers donations titled “*Our Gifts to Others.*” These annual gifts serve to support various outreaches that are important to our friends who are in need throughout the area.

We have a number of outreach options from which we may choose. Here is a brief summary of those seeking your consideration and support.

- **Milagro House** is committed to providing education, counseling and housing for women and children experiencing homelessness here in Lancaster County.
- **Bethany Children’s Home** started its *Helping Hands* program to provide unaccompanied children and youth the opportunity to be reunited with their families in the U.S. Youths stay an average of 10-12 days and receive basic medical care, food clothing shelter more development and basic education while their families are located.
- **Hoffman Homes Inc.** is a nonprofit that provides comprehensive psychiatric care, treatment, support, and education to youth and young adults and their families from across Pennsylvania. We inspire hope and brighter futures.
- **Love, Inc.** is a national agency that seeks to provide a conduit through which people in need can seek out much needed support efforts by local churches. This agency is geared for those among us in chronic need and seeks to transform lives in the community.
- **Lancaster Theological Seminary** – educates men & women for here for a variety of ministry settings. Donations to LTS help to support students in need with tuition, housing, etc.
- **Phoebe Devitt** – operates nursing home facilities here in central Pennsylvania. The ministries seek donations to help cover the cost of residents stay, regardless of their ability to pay. **There will be a representative from Phoebe Home at both services and the adult Christian Education Class on March 17 to share more about this ministry!**
- **UCC Homes**– provides benevolent care, and uncompensated care for needful seniors. This organization seeks our help to meet this need. There are homes in Ephrata, Annville, Carlisle, and Harrisburg.
- **Hunger Ministries**– You can designate to support the Hempfield Power Packs, the Lancaster Food Hub, or the Trinity Community Meal ministry.

In 2023, we received **\$26,335** for the Our Gifts to Others fund.

Please consider these worthy agencies as you think about your possible financial offerings for **March 10, 2024**. In addition you can donate online, designate as "Our Gift to Others", and specify which one(s) you are donating towards.

**CHURCH MULCHING:** The Property Committee is looking for volunteers on **Saturday, April 6 @ 8:30 am** to mulch the church property. We will be doing this in conjunction with the Trinity Preschool families and the Scout troop. Look for the sign-up sheet in the hallway across from the church office!

### **SUMMER CHURCH CAMP**

Even though it is still winter, the warmer days of the Summer Camp season are right around the corner! Camp registration is open and ready for you to start planning your summer around weeks at **Kirchenwald & Nawakwa!** There are a wide range of camps this summer for all ages — kindergarteners through high schoolers, families, adults, and older folks. **There is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hartman Center Homecoming Camp (July 28-August 3).** Look for more information in the Parish Post or on the table across from the church office. Contact Anne Rankin for more information!

As you know, Penn Central Conference pays 50% of camp registration fees. You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with “Camp Scholarship”.

**Save the Dates:** Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars.



**Lancaster Stormers Game (formerly Barnstormers)**

**May 31, 2024**

The cost is \$35 (ticket, suite rental, endless buffet for 90 minutes, gratuity). Children from ages 4-18 will be covered by our Youth Ministry account and those under 4 are free. You can sign-up by contacting Carol in the church office. We will need a \$15 deposit when you sign-up! Playing Charleston Dirty Birds.

**Friendship Fest----July 14, 2024 – 4-7 PM**

Food Trucks, Games, Fun Activities, Auscultation Brass Concert (5-6PM)

Proceeds from the Friendship Fest will support the Trinity Preschool!

# Save The Dates



## VBS 2024

**Trinity UCC, 2340 State St., East Petersburg**

**[www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org)**

**717-569-1632**

**July 15 - 18 6:30-8:30 PM**

**July 19 6:30 PM Closing Program**

Caretaker And Me Class - Under Five With Caretaker  
Children's Classes - Five Through Finished Sixth Grade  
Youth Volunteers - Contact Mrs. Slechta

Through stories, crafts, games, and music, ***“Reach For The Stars”*** reminds us that things that seem impossible to us, are possible with God.

Rev. Esbenshade will facilitate the teen/adult class. Studying the book, ***“Tradition In Crisis”*** by Peter Schmiechen, the class will examine how “Now is the time to reclaim the church based on the grace and community of Christ.”

Mission Project - Habitat For Humanity

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Dear Trinity Members,

**“Reach For The Stars”** is the theme for this summer’s Vacation Bible School. It will be held **Monday, July 15 to Thursday July 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**, with the **closing program on Friday, July 19**. We will need your help to welcome and teach the children of Trinity and the wider community. The ideal VBS program would touch and/or be touched by each member of the congregation. Please check the activities in which you would be willing to share during the week. **Please return this form to the VBS Director’s mail slot in the church office by April 14**. If you have any questions please contact us. Thank you.

Dina Slechta and Diane Rice

\_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader—travels with group through stations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Group Leader - travels with the group through stations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Caretaker And Me Class Facilitators - one person who can be available in the nursery for any caretaker and child who need to take a quiet time/play by themselves break in the nursery, and one group leader/facilitator to lead this class.

\_\_\_\_\_ Crafts Leader only for the Caretaker and Me Class - this could be the same person as the person who leads this group.

\_\_\_\_\_ Caretaker and Me Class Helper

\_\_\_\_\_ Games Leader—leads 10 to 15 minute games reinforcing the night’s concept and story

\_\_\_\_\_ Games Helper

\_\_\_\_\_ Woodworking Helpers

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 Actors - Needed to role play parts for Habitat Affiliate Game - same role twice, about 3 mins. each, 2 actors per night

\_\_\_\_\_ Story Station Teacher - teach the lesson 3 times per night to the 3 different age groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Snack Leader/Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_ Snack Helper

\_\_\_\_\_ Floaters - we need some potential teachers and assistants who will be at VBS, ready to jump in as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration—needs to be there 6:15 to 6:45 the first two evenings to register children

\_\_\_\_\_ Help anywhere needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Helper (7<sup>th</sup> grade on up) Transportation Needed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Days you would be available \_\_\_\_\_

# You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

*"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine..."*

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five.

Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to OGHS.

Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously.

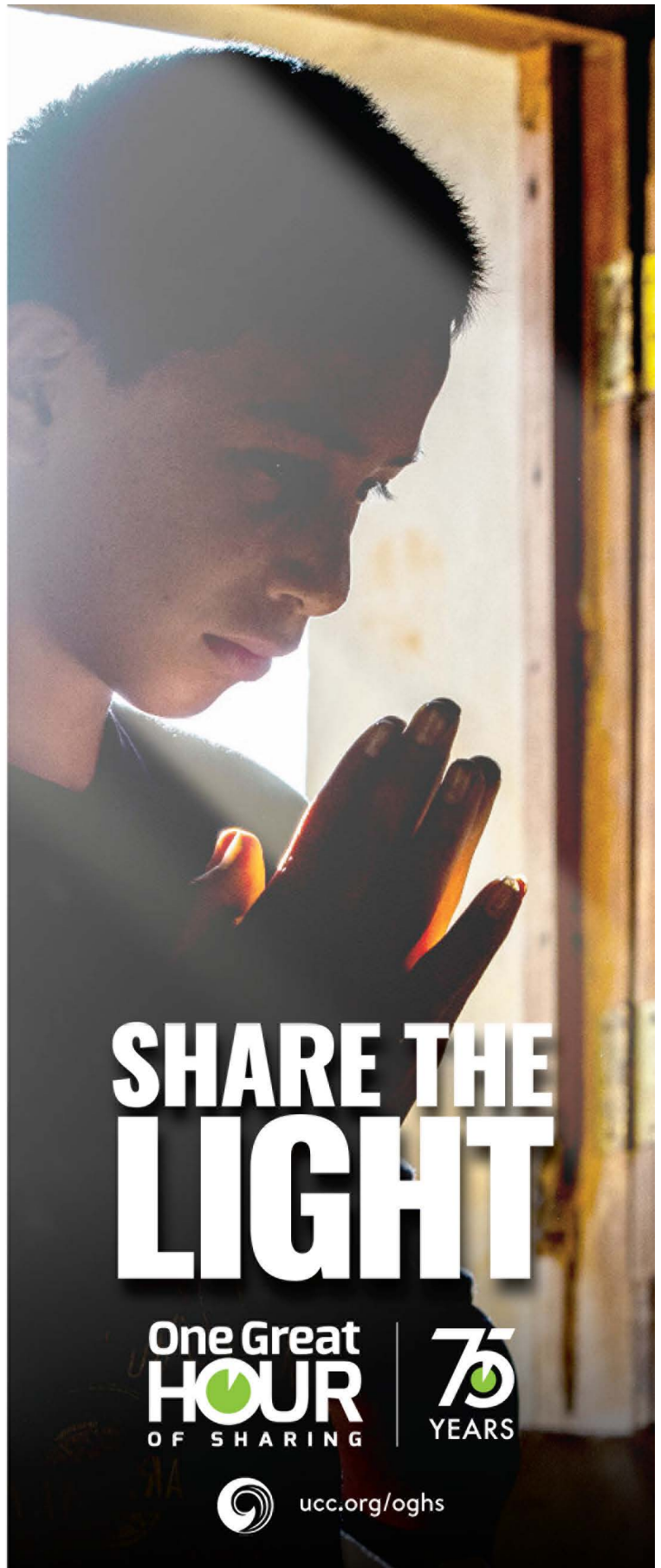
**Share the light.**



[ucc.org/oghs](http://ucc.org/oghs)

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Photo: @disciplephoto







**Don Pedro Antonio Maldonado lives in the countryside of Honduras where he works on his crops and coffee plantations.** In 2019, when the pandemic lockdown happened, it was difficult for Don Pedro and his family to access food and supplies needed to maintain their harvests. His wife even suggested she leave for the U.S. to find employment and help make ends meet. Despite their challenges, Don Pedro and his wife decided they would hold on to their deep faith and stay together in Honduras. Following this decision, they received the blessing they had been hoping for when Church World Service (CWS) and local partner CASM with funding assistance from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) invited them to participate in a food security program. Pedro received chickens, a piglet, sheep, and a cow. He was given intense training in caring for these animals. He also learned how to start a vegetable garden.

Today Don Pedro invites his neighbors to his home to share what he is doing. He says, “I teach them by doing the job, not just giving them theory. They see that if I can do it, our community, which faces limitations, can do it too.” He added that since joining the program, his family has made a good income that will allow them to maintain a happy life together in their country. Don Pedro credits all of his success to God. His gratitude and desire to share these blessings makes him a blessing to the rest of his community. His family can stay planted where they are and share the light in their community.

***Your contributions to OGHS make Don Pedro’s good work possible. He shares the light of Christ—revealing God-colors in the world.***

**FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22****SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through

our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**GOSPEL: John 3:14-21**

[Jesus said:] “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

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