

the BRIEF

Homecoming: Rethinking heaven and the church's mission

There are lots of misconceptions about what heaven is and is not like. Many of us have heard stories about the "7 minutes in heaven" experiences or near-death experiences that come upon a person whose heart stops beating for a few moments.

What do we make of all of this? More importantly, what does our Christian faith believe about the end times and the afterlife?

Through this "homecoming" series, we'll look deeply at scripture and use "Surprised by Hope", by

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Second floor update nearing finish line

The floor has been replaced, the walls painted, and Kids Ministries Director Sarah Ordille is hard at work adding fun new details to complete the updated look! We can't wait for everyone to see our updated Kids Ministries area on Sept. 14 when Sunday School begins!

Long-term small groups welcoming new people this fall

Looking to deepen your faith while also getting to know some Trinity disciples? Small groups offer the perfect opportunity to do both, and fall is a great time to jump in!

Trinity is blessed with a number of long-term small groups. Below is a summary of groups welcoming new participants this fall. If you find a group from the list below that interests

you, contact the person indicated for more information.

If you'd like some help reaching out, we've got you covered! Contact Kay Baxter, Discipleship director, at kbaxter@tumchtown.org and she'll gladly help you connect to a group.

Early Risers is a year-round Bible and book study for adult men and

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Prayer Shawl group members hard at work during a spring meeting.

From Pastor Rob: A Trinity Homecoming

Where you live is not a happenstance. Your address is not really a cosmic coincidence. Where you live—a house, apartment, even (gasp) a dorm—is not a matter of your budget or stage of life or even your commute.

Where you live is a matter of where God has placed you, even if it's for a season. The grand scheme of your decisions, your circumstances led you to where you are today. That means your "home" is a preponderance of all the details that have happened up to now.

I had a friend, a Presbyterian pastor, who joked about United Methodist clergy that we are the homeless episcopate in the church world. By that he meant that we UMC pastors are itinerant or not supposed to (in theory) have a home.

Jesus had a "hometown;" Nazareth was a place where he formed his childhood identity and great sub-

stantially as a person. Later in his ministry his home seemed to be where God called him for a time.

I wonder if that's how God works in our lives. God not only knit you together from birth but maybe gently guided us to the places we would call home. In this way, it's less of an accident and more of a grander plan where God can use you to salt the earth of your community. You do not have a home by accident. Your home is an invitation from God to seek God, and a commission to spread the Gospel in many ways.

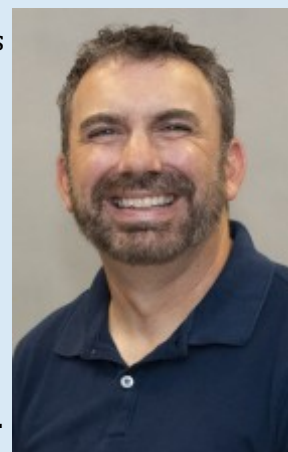
On the upcoming first and second Sundays of September, we'll celebrate the place we call our home at Trinity. Not only what it's been but what we hope to make it in the future. This homecoming of sorts is a chance to remember and reflect on what makes Trinity a home where the spirit meets us vividly, but also a place where we know we can be the people God calls

and desires us to be in the future as we live out the mission of Trinity and the commission of Jesus.

I really hope to see you all this **Sunday, Sept. 7**, for our one worship service at 10 AM

to celebrate our home that is and home that will be. Then again I hope to see you on **Sunday, Sept. 14**, from 6-8 PM for a celebratory homecoming "bash" to join in fellowship and give thanks that God calls us to this home at Trinity.

*See you Sunday,
+Rob*



Pastor Rob
rkazinski@tumchtown.org

Collecting for urgent needs at Mission Central

Mission Central recently stopped producing activity kits due to a lack of donations. Kits are given to students starting school in financial need.

To help meet this need, throughout September Trinity will collect spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, and two-pocket, 3-prong folders. Donations may be placed in the marked box by the Info Desk anytime this month.

Thank you for your support.



*Above, Trinity disciples serve at Mission Central. The team will travel to the warehouse missions hub again on **Friday, Oct. 10**. All are welcome.*

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N.T. Wright, as a guide to remind us that our Christian hope is proclaimed by Jesus. In it we discover that what has been proclaimed by popular books is a new phenomenon and not necessarily biblical. Join us as we consider what will be our eternal home.

Sunday, Sept. 7—Homecoming
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-10

Sunday, Sept. 14—Left Behind
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:36, 42-44

Sunday, Sept. 21—The Resurrection of the Body
Isaiah 26:16-19

Sept. 28—Our Eternal Home
Revelation 21:1-6

Hospitality Team: Register for training

ALL disciples serving with the Hospitality Team and anyone interested in joining should attend this post-worship training in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, Sept. 21**, starting at noon. A light lunch will be provided. The training will address creating a welcoming Sunday morning environment. Students are invited to serve with their parents as greeters. Please RSVP for a headcount by **Wednesday, Sept. 17**. Anyone new looking to join, please also notify Kathy Kelly, coordinator, at hospitality@tumchtown.org. Scan the QR code or sign up in worship.



Join a small group this fall

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meets every Friday, 6:15-7:45 AM in room 307. Contact Tod Shutt at TShutt@szelesre.com or Joe Popp at jpoppCL9@gmail.com.

Women of Faith meets Mondays from 7-8:30 PM in room 301. Their first fall meeting will be **Sept. 8** when they begin the book study, *Don't Look Back* by Christine Cane. The group's goal is to "meet women where they are, just as Jesus meets each of us, and to support one another." Women of any age are welcome. Contact Jean Cummings at ilive4jc@comcast.net

Grief Share Group is for anyone who has experienced a loss of any kind (loved one, pet, relationship, job, etc.) or is "losing" a loved one to dementia-related disease or extended terminal illness. The group meets on the second and fourth Mondays every month from 10-11:30 AM in room 307. Contact Karen Hoerner at wag430@aol.com.

Moms Group (formerly known as Holy Laughter) is for family and career-aged women looking for a place of connection, laughter, play, and spiritual deepening. The group's goal is to be open and authentic to build real friendships with one another. The first meeting will be **Monday, Oct. 6**, from 6:30-7:30 PM in room 307. Childcare is provided. The group meets the first Monday of each month. Contact Karyn Kazinski at kkaz8@yahoo.com or Pastor Melissa Madara at mmadara@susumc.org.

Burning Embers is a local gathering of the Wild at Heart national movement for men which mostly meets the third Wednesday of each month at Scoutland, starting at 6 PM. Visit the Wild at Heart site (wildatheart.org/events/fires) for details or email Joe Popp at jpoppCL9@gmail.com or Tod Shutt at TShutt@szelesre.com.

Creative Christian Crafters (C3) is for anyone who likes doing handcrafts. The group makes projects for themselves, for Trinity's homebound, and for gifts in addition to helping with Trinity's outreaches. Children are welcome, with an adult. The first meeting will be **Tuesday, Sept. 9**, from 5:30-7:30 PM in room 413. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Sarah Ordille at sordille@tumc.htown.org or Kay Baxter at kbaxter@tumc.htown.org.

Prayer Shawls is for any who like to knit or crochet or who would like to learn. Participants make shawls, lap blankets, and pocket prayer squares that Trinity disciples can distribute to those who are homebound, in the hospital, grieving, or just need a "pick-me-up." They meet the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning **Sept. 23**, from 6-8 PM in room 413. Contact Michelle Proitte at mproitte@icloud.com or Lisa Engle at lajbear1748@gmail.com.

Comfort Sewists originally began as a part of a national group, Binky Patrol. They make blankets for children of all ages; sweaters, caps, and bibs for babies; and adult-size hats and scarves. These items are then donated to various places such as Morningstar Pregnancy Center and Mission Central. Their first meeting will be **Sept. 23** from 10 AM to 12:30 PM in room 411. Contact Sue Waters at bluzeynut@verizon.net.

Mission Focus: Love INC

Love INC of Greater Hershey serves as a beacon of hope and practical support for individuals and families facing hardship in our community. Through a network of local churches, including Trinity, Love INC acts as a bridge, connecting those in need with essential resources and compassionate assistance.

Going beyond simple referrals, Love INC cultivates genuine relationships, offering personalized support that addresses the root causes of challenges. From providing basic necessities like toiletries and household cleaning supplies to tackling complex issues such as housing and financial instability, Love INC's approach empowers individuals toward lasting self-sufficiency.

We are so thankful for your continued support of our ministries. Love INC significantly impacted our community in 2024, serving over 500 families and providing \$566K worth of services on a \$279K budget, with the support of 6,350 volunteer hours.

We're also grateful that Trinity hosts our annual Lace Up with Love INC Sneaker Drive and Distribution Event each year.



Students with their shoes at the 2025 event.

This year, 293 students were fitted with sneakers in August through the sneaker closet housed in Trinity's Boy Scout Room!

We're also thankful for the many volunteers from Trinity who serve in various capacities. Trinity members can be found helping at one of our two parsonages, packing bags in the Personal Care Closet, providing support to families in our Homes of Hope Program, volunteering for our annual 5K Race, and donating auction items, personal care items, and sneakers throughout the year.

Love INC currently has several urgent needs:

- The Connection Center (office) seeks to add two individuals with compassionate listening skills, who are comfortable using a computer to serve weekly in reception and/or intake roles.
- Donations for our annual Community Auction, which serves as our largest fundraiser of the year. Donations of homemade pies or sweet treats, along with other gift certificates, gift baskets, or artisan items are great sellers! To donate items or services, please check out our website! (loveincgreaterhershey.org/community-auction)

Thank you for continuing to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need!

What's happening at



TRINITY HUMMELSTOWN

Trinity's return to fall includes a return to our Kids & Youth Ministries programming. To help jumpstart the year, Sarah Ordille, Kids Ministries director, put together a brunch for parents and students at the end of August. In addition to full bellies, the brunch provided attendees a chance to register for fall programs and hear updates on curriculum as well as policy changes to keep Trinity Safe Sanctuaries compliant. If you missed the meeting and have questions, please contact Sarah at sordille@tumchtown.org.



At left, students all took home a fun new Trinity flyer collapsible frisbee. At right, students tall and small were invited to pick out a small stone backpack cross to keep in their school backpacks. These crosses were to remind students Jesus is always with them—even at school.



In addition to breakfast, students received a backpack devotional to do with their parents at home. We went through A LOT of whipped cream! Many thanks to kitchen helpers Jayne Grundon and Kaye Miller for keeping the pancakes (and all the toppings) stocked and ready!



Children/Youth Music Ministries set to begin Sept. 14

Children and youth music programs are gearing up for another season of making music. Students in pre-K and up are invited to join the vocal choir which rehearses Sunday mornings from 8:50-9:30 AM.

The Intergenerational Bell Choir welcomes all ages from 8 through 100, to join the choir Sundays from 10:30 – 11 AM to learn the art of handbell ringing. All are welcome, no music experience necessary.

Both groups rehearse in room 205. Students must

register through Kids & Youth Ministries to participate.



To register online, scan the QR code and complete the form or contact Kids Ministries Director Sarah Ordille for assistance at 717-566-0252.

For more information on either musical group, contact Director Kaye Miller at kmiller@tumchtown.org.



Members of the Intergenerational Bell Choir share their talents during a worship service last year.