

the BRIEF

Bethel Series to focus on New Testament

Ready to tend the Growing plot of your Discipleship Garden? The Sojourners Sunday School Class will host the Bethel Bible Series study of the New Testament beginning **Sunday, Nov. 9**, and anyone may join them for this study!

The Bethel Series is part of the Growing Plot of Trinity's Discipleship Garden and will help you to GROW your faith through study. The class will meet Sundays from 9:30-10:30 AM in room 301.

The study is 20 weeks long, but the class will take time off during Advent and Lent for special seasonal

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Good News! Children & Youth Choir is back

As Trinity's adult music ministries resumed rehearsals, so have our music offerings for students. The Children & Youth Choir made its seasonal debut on Sept. 21, sharing a favorite hit from M.A.D. Camp titled, "Good News." The choir rehearses each Sunday at 8:50 AM in room 205 and any pre-K to high school student is welcome. Join anytime!

Learning Series: A Potter Story, draws lessons from literature



Just in time for our sixth session of PotterCamp, our October learning series

takes a magical twist! The wizarding world of Harry Potter may seem an unusu-

al sermon series topic for church. The fictitious character and the stories around him seem to have little to do with "real" life and Christian concerns.

However, peel back the child-like veneer and you'll find complex themes with very real Christian parallels. This month we'll look at some biblical stories and reference moments from the stories in Harry Potter.

No, you do *not* have to know anything about the Harry Potter books! Even if you're not at all into Harry Potter, you'll still learn important biblical teachings from these messages and maybe gain appreciation for symbolic storytelling.

Oct. 5—What's in a Name?
Matthew 16:13-20

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From Pastor Rob: Seasons of Faith

I recently participated in an exercise with some fellow clergy where we imagined our faith life as if it were seasons. It was very enlightening and helpful for me to look deeply at my faith life.

As we move into fall, we can tangibly see changes in the trees and flowers as the fruits of summer begin giving way to the next season in which dying happens to make way for an eventual new life. Throughout this exercise I was struck by how our spiritual lives follow similar patterns of change and growth.

In my own journey, I've experienced what I might call "spring faith"; those times when everything feels new and exciting. Maybe you've felt this too—when a scripture suddenly speaks to you in a fresh way, or when you feel God's presence with remarkable clarity. These moments energize us.

But we also experience "summer faith" or seasons when our connection with God feels fruitful. Our prayers flow easily, our service feels

meaningful, and we move through our spiritual practices with a nice rhythm.

Then autumn arrives. Just as trees shed their leaves, our faith sometimes enters seasons of doubt, questioning, and letting go. Perhaps a prayer goes unanswered or suffering touches us or someone we love. During these times, we may find ourselves sorting through beliefs, separating what's essential rather than just comforting.

Though challenging, these autumn seasons often produce the richest growth. And yes, there are winter seasons too—times when God seems distant or silent. It may even feel dark, and our faith goes dormant for a time. The psalmist knew these moments well: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1).

No season lasts forever. The same God who designed the natural world to continually renew itself is at work in our spiritual lives too. As Isaiah reminds us, "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

Here are some thoughts for navi-

gating whatever season you're in:

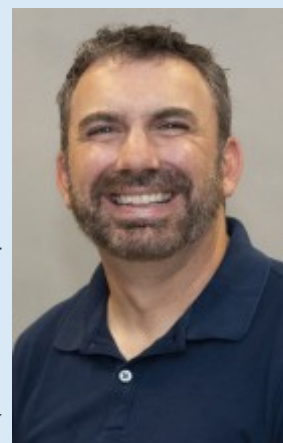
- Recognize your current season without judgment—it does have a purpose.
- Find companions for the journey by joining a small group. We have many at Trinity.

- Maintain simple spiritual practices that anchor you such as a daily devotional or Bible reading.
- Remember that God is present.

As we continue our journey together, may we learn to embrace each season for what it teaches us, trusting in the God who works through all seasons to shape us into the people we're called to be.

See you Sunday,

+Rob



Pastor Rob
rkazinski@tumchtown.org

Learning Series: A Potter Story, draws lessons from books

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Oct. 12—The Importance of Friends

1 Samuel 18:1-4

Oct. 19—The Shadows We Carry

Romans 7:14-20

Oct. 26—Making of a Hero

John 15:13-17

Office closed for holiday

The church will be closed **Monday, Oct. 13**, for Columbus Day. Regular hours resume **Tuesday, Oct. 14**.

Disciples encouraged to join Trinity Serves

Our local service ministry, Trinity Serves, has a chance for disciples ages 15 and up to make a difference in our community.

Our next project is helping to paint the Schaffner (Boro) Park stage/bandshell. We'll begin with prayer, some refreshments, and then use our gifts of energy and strength to love our community. We'll enjoy pizza together in the pavilion after the work is completed.

To get involved, scan the QR code or sign up on the Connect Card in worship to participate.



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studies. (Bethel students are invited to those studies as well.)

Please register by **Sunday, Nov. 2**, so materials can be ordered. You may sign up on the Connect Card, use the QR code, or contact Kay Baxter, Discipleship director, at kbaxter@tumchtown.org. Current members of the Sojourners class do not need to sign up.



With thanks

For support of The Shepherd's Closet

A special thanks to Trinity for donating funds or new packages of underwear to Shepherd's Closet as we partnered with the Love Inc. sneaker drive in August. Thanks to you, 257 students were recipients of underwear and many new families were introduced to Shepherd's Closet.

To date this year, including the Sneaker Drive, Trinity has given 608 pairs of new underwear and 249 pairs of new socks. We are thankful and grateful for your outpouring of love.

A special thanks to the Covenant class for their generous contribution. Thank you!

For cards and well wishes

To everyone at Trinity,

I wish to thank everyone for all of the birthday cards you sent me for my 100th birthday. Your cards made my birthday more special.
Betty Detweiler

Last Sunday for Mission Central donations, next service date set

This Sunday is the last week to donate spiral notebooks, composition books, and folders with two pockets and three prongs for Mission Central's activity kits. Place donations in the marked box in the lobby.

Disciples may join the next outing to the ministry warehouse on Friday, Oct. 10. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:25 AM to carpool. All are welcome!

Mission Focus: Independent Church In India

Independent Church In India's mission is to bring the Gospel to the unreached in India, Pakistan, and other nations. We fulfill this mission through raising, training, equipping, and supporting indigenous missionaries to preach the word of God and to show the love of Christ to the hurting and needy. But there are many challenges in this mostly Hindu nation filled with idol worship and deeply ingrained superstitions and beliefs.

Some parts of India are plagued by abhorrent and shocking practices. But even these deep-rooted traditions can be changed through the power of the Gospel. ICII's Living Hope TV channel in India brings the Word of God into even the darkest villages, bringing repentance and transformation. By God's grace, Living Hope TV reaching over a 100-kilometer radius to some 200,000 homes.

Here is one testimony: ICII missionary Pastor Vijmon has been answering phone calls brought in by the TV broadcasts. When people express interest in reading the Bible, he meets with them and provides them with a Bible. One day,

he visited a village to deliver a Bible to a woman named Rani. Rani shared that she was feeling guilty for euthanizing female infants in her village.

In the middle of the night, she woke up with unbearable guilt and shame for killing the unwanted baby girls for money. She had decided to commit suicide that night. But then, her daughter came home from work late and turned on Living Hope TV's Bible program. Rani decided to sit and watch the Bible videos with her daughter.

Through the videos, she heard the Gospel and learned that Jesus will forgive sin if we repent and turn to Him. That night, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Right away, she felt free, and that horrible burden was lifted. She called Living Hope TV in the middle of the night for prayer, and the Lord touched her life.

When Pastor Vijmon went to meet her, she had gathered



Children attending a VBS session.

over 25 people in her village to hear the Gospel. Now, Pastor Vijmon runs a Bible study in that village, and many new people are attending.

ICII's VBS program this year involved well over 15,000 children. More than 4,000 came to VBS and heard the Gospel for the first time as a result of Living Hope TV opening doors in new villages during the past year.

Independent Church In India thanks Trinity UMC for partnering to support its TV channels. You are helping ICII to bring God's Word into many villages and to change countless lives for eternity!

To learn more about Independent Church In India, please visit their site: indchurch.org.

Help keep the lights OFF and facilities secure



As Trinity's small groups and studies resume regular meetings, just a reminder that if you are part of a group meeting at Trinity in the evening, please help us make sure all lights are off and the building is secure.

If meeting in a classroom space, the door should already be locked, you need only turn off the lights and close the classroom door behind you when you leave. Your help with cutting electric costs and securing our building is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

What's happening at



TRINITY HUMMELSTOWN

From Promised Land to TUMY youth group, music ministries to small groups, Trinity's calendar is back and running full steam into fall! Check out what's going on!



More than 40 members of our Hospitality Team attending a September training to learn how to better serve our regular weekly and first-time guests.



Above, TUMY students gathered in the Youth Room for their first Thursday night back. The crew heard new plans for this year, including a no-phone policy for the lesson portion of the evening. The students took the news really well. (No, they really did!)



Above, Pastor Rob welcomes the team to the training. At right, team members listen as each member had a chance to share how they found their home at Trinity.



Our Promised Land after-school program is also back up and running with 17 students participating so far. Above the kiddos enjoyed a game of Heads-up, 7-up as well as burning off some energy outside on a gorgeous day (below) at their first meeting.



Trinity's new security system is installed and operational. Last week the Cove Security System was put in place and this week Pastor Rob trained staff on how to use it. The motion-sensor driven system will be activated nightly from 10 PM to 5:30 AM to help keep our facilities secured.

