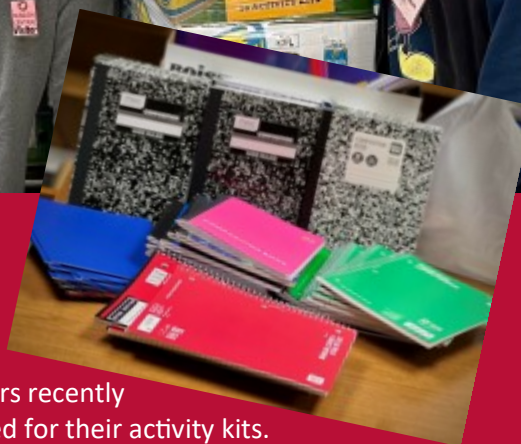


the BRIEF



Going beyond our walls

Trinity is blessed to be a connectional church with ties to Mission Central, our local UMC warehouse that serves local, national, and international missions. A team of Trinity volunteers recently delivered the 127 school supply items we collected for their activity kits. Kits are created by volunteers and given to students in need. A great start to ministry season.



November's Learning Series: #Blessed

November is typically the month where we, as a country, take a moment to give thanks. We give thanks to those who serve (or have served) our country on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. We give thanks for our freedom to select our leaders and hold them accountable through our electoral systems on Election Day.

And, most famously, we give thanks for the daily provisions that have been given to us by God as we partake of a larger than normal meal...after which we give thanks for Pepto Bismol. Thanksgiving is a

Continued on page 2

A special invite for our Trinity family: Free Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving dinner is better when it's shared. Maybe your family's far away. Maybe this year's been hard. Maybe you just need a place to belong. Whatever your situation, you're invited to enjoy a warm meal amid the friendly faces of your Trinity family at a free Thanksgiving Dinner.

Held in Fellowship Hall on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday,**

clude turkey with all the trimmings and dessert.



Nov. 27, dinner service will begin at 1 PM and will in-

Come enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Jayne Grundon and family that's sure to be filled with laughter, conversation, and a sense of belonging.

You don't need to bring anything — just yourself — but registration is required for a headcount for food and

place settings. Free will donations gratefully accepted to help defray costs but are not necessary to attend.

This Thanksgiving, let's be family. To RSVP, scan the QR code or sign up on the Connect Card in worship by **Thursday, Nov. 20.**



From Pastor Melissa: The Holy Zoo

A couple weeks ago we celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi—the saint who preached to birds, befriended wolves, and reminded us that creation itself is part of God's great choir. It's a day when we (and by "we," I mean Pastor Rob, who is allergic to most furry things) take our Claritin and bless dogs and cats and whatever show else shows up. But what I particularly love about this fun tradition is that



Pastor Rob blessed Pickle and Toby at this year's Animal Blessing event.

it also reminds us that the Church itself is a kind of holy zoo.

Look around any congregation and you'll find all manners of creatures. There are the lions who lead boldly, the owls who quietly see the big picture, the squirrels who dart from task to task making sure every detail is handled, and the tortoises who

move slowly but steadily, grounding the rest of us.

Some of us are zebras—rare, a bit misunderstood, marked by stripes we didn't choose but that make us beautiful, nonetheless. Some are platypuses, that strange mix of traits defying

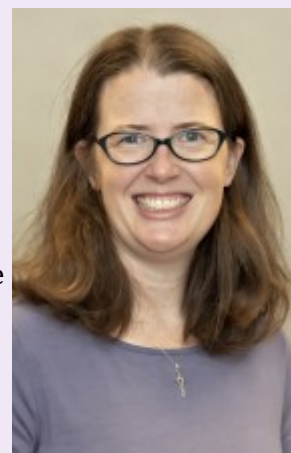
neat categories and confounding experts. Together, we make up the wild and wondrous Body of Christ.

Paul wrote that the body has many members—hands, feet, eyes, ears—each needed and none is replaceable. But maybe we can hear his metaphor again through Francis' lens: the body has many creatures—each with its own instincts, strengths, and habitats. The challenge is not to tame one another into sameness, but to learn how our differences actually bless the whole ecosystem.

Church life can feel like the jungle sometimes: noisy, unpredictable, full of competing calls. But if we listen closely, there's a harmony underneath it all; a rhythm of grace that holds lions and lambs, sparrows and snakes, platypuses and people together. The Spirit is the keeper of this holy menagerie, reminding us that every creature, including the one looking back in the mirror, is fearfully and wonderfully made.

So, this month, perhaps we can take St. Francis' cue. Feed the birds. Bless your dog. But also look around your pews, classrooms, and communities. Notice the marvelous diversity of the creatures God has gathered. In this wild, holy zoo we call the Church, there is room for us all.

*Blessings everybody,
Pastor Melissa*



Pastor Melissa
mmadara@tunchtown.org

Save the date: Trinity's Charge Conference set

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Trinity's annual charge conference on **Saturday, Nov. 15.**

As is tradition, our conference will be combined with another local congregation and this year will be hosted by Grace UMC, Hummelstown, starting at 10 AM.

Grace UMC is located at 433 E. Main St., Hummelstown. Hope you can make it!



November Learning Series: #Blessed

Continued from page 1

response to realization that, when all is said and done, you are fortunate. The religious word for this is blessed.

Throughout November, we'll look at some different things that truly make us fortunate and our response as people of faith knowing that we are indeed #Blessed.

Sunday, Nov. 2—#Blessed by Our Saints (All Saints Sunday)
Colossians 1:9-12

Sunday, Nov. 9—#Blessed by Diversity
Galatians 3:26-29



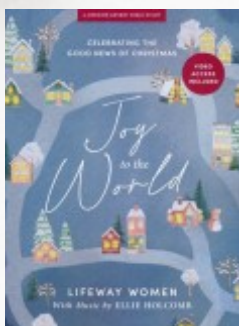
Sunday, Nov. 16—#Blessed by a Life of Meaning
John 13:12-17

Sunday, Nov. 23—#Blessed by Generosity
1 Chronicles 29:14-17

Christmas is coming! Prepare your heart with Advent studies

Joy to the World

Our weekly small group, the Heart Sisters, cordially invites women to the study *Joy to the Word – Celebrating the Good News of Christmas*. This group



meets Thursdays, 10:30 AM till noon in room 413. The Advent study will take place **Nov. 20**, and **Dec. 4, 11**, and **18**. This short-term study is part of the Growing Plot of the Discipleship Garden.

The opening line of the classic Christmas carol captures the delight and awe that surrounded Jesus' birth. Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins and sorrow and to bring the Kingdom of God. Jesus will one day return to finish the work and ultimately set everything right.

This four-week Advent Bible study helps participants delight in Jesus' birth and joyfully anticipate His return. This study, with music by Ellie Holcomb, also includes five days of

personal study between the four small group sessions.

To register, please scan the QR code, sign up on the Connect Card in worship, or contact Kay Baxter, director of Discipleship, at 717-612-8346. Sign up by **Sunday, Nov. 2**, and the book will be ordered for you. Deadline to sign up is **Wednesday, Nov. 12**.



An Advent Journey

Trinity's organist, Faith Matthews, invites you to join her on "An Advent Journey", traveling with the Prophet Isaiah and composer George Frideric Handel.

Handel's "Messiah" is one of the most well-known and beloved musical works. The texts are deeply rooted in scripture, and we hear the Messiah's Christmas choruses sung throughout the season.

This study is not a music history class but is about connecting scripture to music and helping prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth.



The devotional book, *The Gifts of Christmas* by Sheila Walsh will be used during the four weeks. Just as there is more to Advent than the choruses from the Messiah, this book will provide other treasured traditions. Handouts including scripture readings and Messiah information will be shared.

Short-term studies are part of the Growing Plot of Trinity's Discipleship Garden. This opportunity to Grow Your Faith will be held on four consecutive

Monday evenings from 6-7:30 PM in room 209 beginning **Nov. 24**.

Childcare can be provided. Class size is limited. Sign up on the Connect Card, use the QR code, or text Kay Baxter, Discipleship

director, at 717-612-8346. Sign up by **Wednesday, Nov. 5**, and the book will be ordered for you. Deadline to sign up is **Monday, Nov. 17**.



From our Mission Focus partners

Dream House hosting Comedy Night fundraiser

The Dream House welcomes back comedian Kenn Kington for the sixth annual Dream House Comedy Fundraiser on **Friday, Nov. 21**.

The show runs 5:30-8:30 PM, includes baked goods from The Pennsylvania Bakery, and will be held at Christ Community Church, 1201 Slate Hill Road Camp Hill. Kenn has six comedy specials, appeared on Comedy Central, Netflix, and is currently one of the most played comics on XM Radio.

All proceeds benefit The Dream House Ministry which provides housing and other supportive ser-

vices to young adults in Harrisburg. For ticket info, visit tinyurl.com/DreamHouseShow

Love INC sets annual auction

Registration is now open for the annual Love INC Community Auction! Signing up is free and gives you a sneak peek at the wonderful items up for auction, from delicious pies and gift cards to unique trips and family adventures. Your bids directly support Love INC's ministries, providing essential help and stability for our neighbors here in the greater Hershey area. Register, view items, and get ready to bid by visiting tinyurl.com/loveincauction

Thank you from GMRF

We are privileged to receive your incredible gift of \$4,454 and deeply honored to have been selected as a ministry supported by your church.

It means so much that your congregation took time to engage with our mission. Your commitment to helping those most in need embodies a spirit of service, and we're grateful for your partnership in bringing care to children who have suffered the loss of limbs from war, accidents, or natural disasters. With heartfelt appreciation, Elissa Montanti
Founder & Executive Director
Global Medical Relief Fund

What's happening at



Kids & Youth Ministries Edition!

With our many ministries back up and running, it's perhaps the Kids & Youth Ministries that bring the most energy to the building! Here's what our crews have been up to since coming back.



Our TUMY Jrs. crew enjoyed a biblical take on the cooking show, "Nailed It" by decorating cakes based on a scripture. Students had to work in teams to try to create a design depicting the scripture. From a marshmallow burning bush to a pretzel rod ark, these students were super creative with their assignments! And, of course, everyone got to take home cake!



While TUMY Jrs. were busy in Fellowship Hall, our TUMY teens headed out of the church for their first Fun Night of the year! The crew hit Palmyra Bowling alley for a fun (and competitive) time together! Students in grades 7-12 may join TUMY and students in grade 4-6 may join TUMY Jrs. at any time. Contact Dan Ebright at debright@tumchtown.org for more info.