

the BRIEF



Thankful Hearts

Our Trinity community came together for a very special Thanksgiving feast, prepared by disciple Jayne Grundon (at right) and her family. Fellowship Hall was bustling as 45 hungry people gathered to share a delicious holiday meal. See page 4 for more on the event.



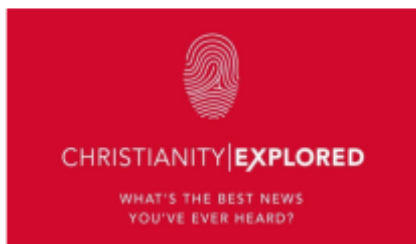
Start 2026 with Christianity Explored

Jesus. Who? Why?
So what? Come and
meet the man who
changed history!

Christianity Explored
is a seven-session
study designed for

people new to the Christian faith and
those returning to faith following an
absence. It's part of the Preparing Plot
of Trinity's Discipleship Garden.

Participants will discover the identity,
mission, and call of Jesus: who He is,
what He achieved, and how He calls us
to respond. Facilitated by Kay Baxter,



Discipleship director,
sessions meet Tuesdays
beginning **Jan. 20**
through **March 3**, from
6-7:30 PM.

Sign up on the Con-
nect Card or scan the

QR code by **Jan. 4** and the book will be
ordered for you.

Deadline to sign up
is **Jan. 13**. Childcare is
available. Contact Kay
with any questions
at kbaxter@tumc.htown.org.



Shepherd's Closet serving more than ever, needs remain

As the weather grows colder, our Shepherd's Closet ministry seeks to meet the needs of our neighbors by providing gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories for all ages. It's a need that continues to grow with 4,909 individuals served since January and 2,077 volunteer hours logged.

"Right now we are most in need of children's clothing and shoes," said Team Lead Sheila Kieffer. "We also need men's clothing—especially size 2X and up and packs of new socks for women and children."

The ministry was recently aided by the Hummelstown Parks & Rec crew who ran a drive gathering gloves, socks, and underwear. In all, 92 new items were donated. A big help!

Donations are preferred during business hours (Wednesdays, 6-8 PM and Thursdays 12-3 PM), but our Trinity family may also place donations in the bin by the parking lot entrance doors.



Shepherd's Closet Team Lead Sheila Kieffer (left) and volunteers accept donations from Borough Councilwoman/Disciple Kelly Williamson (second from left) following the donation drive.

From Pastor Rob: Honoring the imperfect vessels

Thanks in no small part to Netflix, Amazon Prime, and, of course, The Hallmark Channel, there are hundreds of Christmas shows and movies out there. Besides "A Charlie Brown Christmas", I find it interesting how these cultural Christmas stories try their hardest to avoid the religious connotations of Christmas while suggesting that there's something special that happens during this season.

A lot of these Christmas stories like to focus on "Christmas magic" and "Christmas miracles" or "Christmas spirit" which, of course, has no relation to the Holy Spirit. As a follower of Jesus, I do believe there can be Christmas miracles, but not all miracles come easy.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Slaughter, in his book, "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday" writes, "Miracles do not appear out of thin air, like magic. You cannot receive God's miracle unless

you are willing to pay the cost.

"Meaning is not found in personal comfort and material luxuries. So, it should be no surprise that a meaningful Christmas is not found in mindless spending, eating, and stress. Rather we find meaning when we give sacrificially to those in need, because doing so, we are giving to Jesus himself. It's his birthday after all!"

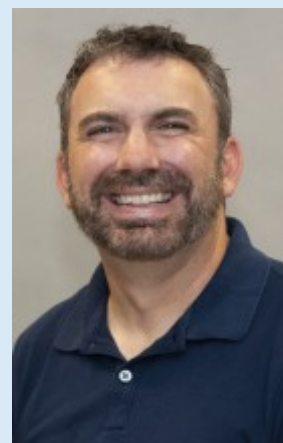
Advent is the season where we gear up to receive this message of the miracle that occurred two thousand years ago, and we make small sacrifices to do it. We pray a bit more, we stop and light candles, we come to worship, and we are especially mindful of the needy. All of these are ways we prepare to receive the miracle of Christmas.

The miracle is that God chose to become one with us, God's creation, in a world God sought to redeem. It's not that we do these things in Advent to receive the miracle of Christmas.

It's so we can appreciate it that much more.

We are in a season meant to celebrate the greatest miracle of all time. May we celebrate the miracle of a child being born who was to become the wonderful counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace by seeking, witnessing, and being miracle workers in people's lives. Wishing you all a peaceful Advent Season.

See you Sunday,
+Rob



Pastor Rob
rkazinski@tumchtown.org

GOT RHYTHM? DRUMMER WANTED

Volunteer musician(s) are needed to share time at the drum set during our 9:30 AM Celebration Worship.

Contact Worship Leader
Matt Dickinson at
mdickinson@
tumchtown.org for info.



Altar Flower and Radio Sponsors Needed

A special thank you to all our 2025 sponsors. You can now reserve your Sunday to remember or honor someone in 2026. Contact Rachel Irvin at 717-545-3438 to reserve an altar flower date.

The cost of flower sponsorship is \$55 for altar flowers and \$45 for a centerpiece. Altar flowers are delivered to homebound persons unless the sponsor requests one or both vases. Centerpieces should be picked up by the sponsor after the 11 AM service. To reserve same dates for 2026, contact Rachel to confirm.

To reserve your radio broadcast date, sign up on the display in the church lobby or contact the church office at 717-566-0252. The cost is \$40.

2026



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!



December Mission Focus: Samaritan & Undesignated Funds

Each year, Trinity highlights our Samaritan and Undesignated funds as our December Mission Focus. It's a reminder at the end of the year to take stock of how fortunate each of us is and to remember those who have come to our door seeking assistance.

So what are these funds and how are they used? Drawn from the biblical parable of "The Good Samaritan," the Samaritan Fund is what you'd imagine: A helping hand to those in need. We've all been there...falling on hard times, it can feel like you're sinking. An unexpected medical bill, followed by a car repair, compounded by rising costs of food, rent, and utilities can easily have a hard-working family scrambling to make ends meet. That's where the Samaritan Fund comes in.

Used at the prayerful discretion of the pastor (with God's help), the Samaritan Fund can mean the difference between housing and homelessness, health and sickness, and even life and death. It's used for everyday emergencies that may involve members of our congregation or our neighbors in the community. The Samaritan fund of-

fers those in need the opportunity to be treated with honor and respect as children of God.

It's an opportunity for Trinity to make a difference for people when they need it most. Whether it's a voucher to pick up medication or a bill payment to heat a home, assistance is provided along with support, prayer, and info on other local resources. Since January, we've provided local families and individuals with more than \$2,500 in support.

The Undesignated Fund helps meet the needs of ministries not supported by our monthly mission giving. Past giving recipients include the Central PA Food Bank for the purchase of food for their warehouse, Lower Dauphin's Communities That Care for program support, The Shepherd's Closet to purchase socks and underwear, and more!

Donations ensure God's work continues through our staff and volunteers when a quick response is needed. Mission Focus contributions during December help local families facing and ministries facing urgent needs.



—Important Christmas Reminders—

Christmas is a busy time within the church! Here's a recap of Trinity's upcoming Christmas activities and important date reminders.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

There will be **ONE SERVICE at 10 AM** on this date! Please be sure to join us in the sanctuary as we worship together. Wear your favorite holiday attire!

After worship, we'll head to Fellowship Hall for our **JINGLE JAM POTLUCK DINNER**. RSVP by **Sunday, Dec. 7**. Bring your favorite side or dessert to share.

If you took a tag from a **JESSE TREE** to supply a gift for a child, all presents

(wrapped and with gift tags attached) are due back to the church by Dec. 14.

This Sunday is also the regular monthly collection of paper products for Love Inc. Drop donations of tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, and hand soap may be left in the lobby.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Except for some, it isn't. **THE LONGEST NIGHT** service is for all who grieve; all who are weary and overwhelmed; all who feel numb or spent or burdened on this, the longest night of the year. All are welcome. Simply come.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

We begin our Christmas Eve worship with our **4 PM**

CELEBRATION WORSHIP led by our Praise Band. There will be special music, carols, and candlelight.

We'll enjoy a **WARM REPAST from 5:15-7:15 PM** with a meal of soup and bread. Everyone is welcome to drop by Fellowship Hall. Bring a

dozen cookies to share if you like. Beverages provided. Sign up on the Connect Card or scan the QR code to join the meal!

Our traditional **TRINITY RINGERS BELL RECITAL** begins at **7:30 PM** in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

At **8 PM** our **TRADITIONS SERVICE** with carols, organ and choir music, and candlelight begins! We hope you'll

plan to spend your holidays at Trinity and invite others to experience Christmas Eve here as well.

Both our 4 and 8 PM services will livestream on our website, app, and YouTube channel as well as the bell recital. Our 4 PM worship will broadcast on the radio at 6 PM at 91.1 WMSS FM.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28

We'll close out our holiday plans with our annual Lessons & Carols service, featuring favorite scriptures and carols. There will be **ONE SERVICE at 10 AM** on this day! Please be sure to mark your calendar.



TRINITY HUMMELSTOWN *Happenings*

It's been a very busy time around Trinity! From our Promised Land Thanksgiving meal to our own Trinity family meal, there has been much to be grateful for and even more to appreciate in this busy season!



At our Promised Land Thanksgiving, 64 students and their families enjoyed a cardio drumming song from students (top) then sat down to a delicious dinner (left, above) complete with pies baked by Kaye Miller and topped with homemade ice cream compliments of Russ Walborn! Thank you to all who contributed to making this meal happen!



Scenes from a Thanksgiving Day Dinner! Top left, guests enjoy filling their plates with delicious foods. Above and at left, our Trinity family enjoy spending time together.

With many thanks...

On Thanksgiving Day, members of our Trinity family came together to enjoy a very special meal in Fellowship Hall. The dinner was open to anyone who might not have family close by and didn't want to travel for the holiday or even just anyone who didn't want to cook a big meal!

We were blessed to receive both monetary and food donations as well as some very delicious desserts to the meal. A total of 45 people came together to enjoy a very nice time that helped make the holiday a little brighter for all.

Many thanks to everyone who donated to support the meal and helped in the kitchen and with clean up. It was a wonderful time.

Jayne Grundon