

the BRIEF

Exterior repairs to protect stone work planned for this year

If you worship onsite, you've probably noticed a few, unsightly chipping marks on our ceiling. To the average person it may seem like paint chipping and an indication of where not to sit on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, the issue is much more than mere chipping paint. The trustees discovered last August a significant amount of water breaching the roof, getting into the building, and making its way to the paint in the ceiling.

Trinity is over 180 years old, and the sanctuary is the oldest part of our building. As things age, they deteriorate; especially the exterior stonework and joints that are exposed to the harsh weather. The Trustees have interviewed several companies to explore the problems on the exterior and each have come to the same conclusion: The mortar, stone, capstones, and flashing are wicking water into the building or have deteriorated to such an extent that a significant amount of water is entering the building. This careful evaluation took the better part of four months.

The Trustees, in consultation with the Administrative Council, have decided to pursue the repairs to the building which will involve mortar repair, flashing removal and replacement, capstone repair, bell tower repair, and stone sealing to ameliorate the water problem. Thankfully, the trustees noticed the problem before too much damage was



A snowy Trinity during January's storm.

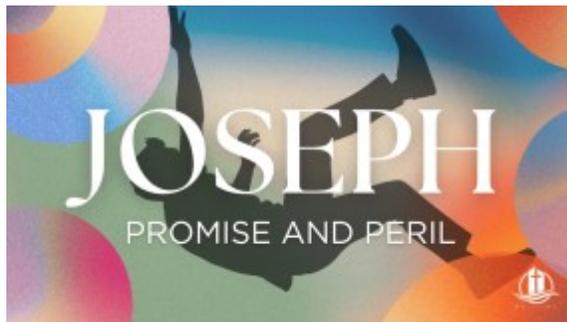
done. The repairs will take time and will not be inexpensive, but the repairs are necessary to help preserve and protect the church and its ministries for years to come.

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Learning Series: Joseph—Promise and Peril

Many of us have learned the story in Sunday School. Even more people have seen the Broadway show with the colorful name.

The story of Joseph (Jacob's son) in Genesis is noteworthy not only for the transformation of the central character, but of an entire family that formed the foundation of the nation of Israel.



Throughout the remainder of Epiphany, we'll recall the important story of Joseph from Genesis and notice his growth in faith and as a person in God.

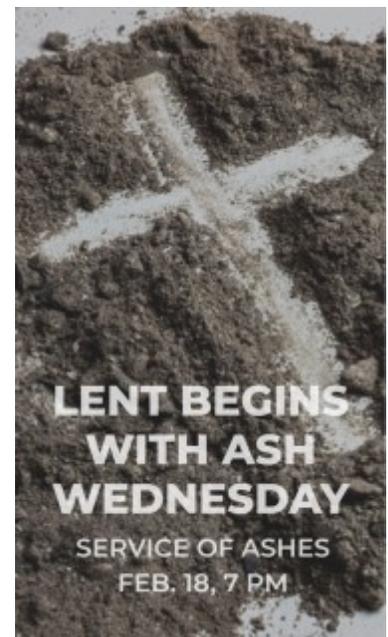
Sunday, Feb. 8—The Promise and Perils of Gifts

Genesis 39:1-15, 19-20

Sunday, Feb. 15—The Promise and Peril of Forgiveness

Genesis 45:1-8

We hope you'll join us for the remainder of this series as we gear up for the start of Lent and our journey toward Holy Week and Easter.



From Pastor Rob: Finding our true north in Epiphany

If you've given any attention to religious news, you've probably heard a recent update about the state of the church in America. In short, the headlines are not very good. Three such news headlines were, "America is Becoming Less Religious" (Washington Post), "Fewer Than Half of Americans Belong to a Church" (Christianity Today), and "In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace" (Pew Research).

The latest report from Gallup is even more stark. For the first time since the late 1930s, fewer than half of Americans say they belong to a church, synagogue, or mosque in America. In the mid-90s, 70 percent of Americans said they belonged to a house of worship. That is a precipitous decline and in the last five years (or since the pandemic), that number has decreased to 47 percent. On average, over 40 churches close each day in America.

With all those numbers being put out, I thought I'd offer a few more about our church at the close of 2025 because numbers do tell a story. Like **9 percent**: The increased giving our church received in 2025. Or **17**: The number of new disciples we brought into membership in the same year. **Three**: The number of adults who decided to follow Christ

and be baptized for the first time in their lives. **Five**: The number of babies born and baptized in the church. **38**: The number of youth, young adults, and adults who dedicated time to mission work in Kentucky.

Or how about **24**: The average number of teens attending youth. **263**: Our average weekly attendance (up from 242 in 2024). **84**: The average number of households worshipping online each Sunday. **322**: Average number of people served in Shepherds Closet every month. **\$4,122**—Average contribution we make to missions every month.

I share these numbers to offer some perspective about the wonderful things God is doing in our church. To me, it's a signal that no matter what the media reports, the Church of Jesus Christ is NOT on the brink of extinction nor in danger of fading away into irrelevance. Trinity is evidence of that.

Over the last 2,000+ years, the Body of Christ has experienced many ups and downs, many of those downs being way worse than facing a decreasing interest on the part of the populace. No, God's Word makes it very clear that the Church—Christ's chosen vessel to be revealed at this time—will only come to its conclusion when Jesus returns and ushers in the full Kingdom of God on earth. Un-

til that happens, the Church is here to stay in one way or another, and by God's grace, Trinity will be, too.

Of course, that's not to say we can sit on cruise control and continue the same upward trajectory. On the contrary, there's still much to be accomplished. Simply doing what we've been doing for the past couple of years is a tempting idea, certainly if you feel apathetic or burned out. But such feelings did not get us to here nor are they what has made this church great.

So, this year, 2026, I want us to be especially aware of how we can find new and exciting ways to connect the love of God with even more people in the community. With God's help, 2026 can be an even greater year for us where we buck the trend of those negative demographic studies, and show the world what God can do through us at Trinity. *See you Sunday,*
+Rob



Pastor Rob
rkazinski@tumchtown.org

hello, yum!

**TUMY POT
PIE DINNER**

SUNDAY, FEB. 22

CARRY OUT AND DINE IN
AVAILABLE STARTING AT 11 AM

ADULTS \$8 | AGES 5-12 \$5
ONE-SIZE TAKEOUT ORDERS \$10

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS OR
SIGN UP ON THE CONNECT CARD.

Exterior repairs to protect stone work planned

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The trustees have decided to work with Witmer Group out of Mount Joy, which specializes in the type of work that's needed and are very conscious about preserving the historical nature of structures. We expect to share more information as the project timeline is confirmed but please pray for the Trustees, Ad Council, and all those who have diligently pursued the preservation of our building while being faithful stewards of our financial resources.

Mission Focus: Peyton Walker Foundation

The Peyton Walker Foundation was founded in 2013, shortly after the devastating loss of Peyton Walker, an outgoing 19 year-old, whose life was cut short by a sudden cardiac arrest.

Peyton was a graduate of Trinity High School in Camp Hill and a student at Kings College when she passed. On the day she died, Peyton wore a shirt that said “What we do for ourselves dies with us...What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”— Albert Pines

This quote called Peyton’s family to action after her passing. They made it their mission to prevent other young people from dying of sudden cardiac arrest, so no other family would feel the pain they did that day.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for student athletes, and often occurs in people who, otherwise, seem healthy. Most children do not receive routine heart screenings (EKGs) as part of routine check-ups or sports physicals.

One of the goals of the Peyton Walker Foundation is to provide those screenings



Scenes from a foundation screening event.

for free, because finding undiagnosed heart conditions is key to saving lives.

That’s where my connection to the Foundation began. In October of 2023, I attended a free heart screening. I was expecting it to be quick and easy; I never expected to learn information that would change my life. On that day, I found out I have Wolfe-Parkinson-White (WPW) syndrome, which means I have an extra electric node that causes an abnormal heartbeat. It can lead to serious problems, and I had no idea I had it.

Following the screening, I began a month-long journey to correct this condition.

With the help of the doctors, many follow ups, and corrective surgery, I was back to living life just as I had before the day of the screening. With the Peyton Walker Foundation’s help, I was able to catch this condition before it resulted in a potentially fatal outcome.

Free screenings are not all the foundation provides. It also offers CPR and AED certification training classes; lends CPR and AED equipment to schools, organizations, and community groups; educates the public at every turn, and was responsible for passing Peyton’s Law, which requires information about sudden cardiac arrest and options for screening be shared with all student athletes in Pennsylvania.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, during the Mission Moment, I will speak to the congregation about my journey with the Peyton Walker Foundation.

I hope you will consider supporting this organization during the month of February as they continue the quest of saving young lives. Sincerely,
Bella Roeting
Lower Dauphin student

Conference invites local disciples to justice event

United Methodists “are committed to ensuring all students have access to a vibrant educational experience, protected from pushout” and unjust treatment. For people of color (especially young women who are black or indigenous) an epidemic of harsh punishment in our schools, schools which function as a pipeline to prison, and unjust treatment in our juvenile court system is all too common.

Anyone interested in learning more about the school-to-prison pipeline is invited to the Juvenile Justice Reform Training & Advocacy Conference offered by the Susquehanna Conference UMC Peace with Justice & Advocacy Team and United Women in Faith Event.

The two-day event will be held **Tuesday and Wednesday, March 3-4**, at Paxton United Methodist Church, 3550 N. Progress Ave, Harrisburg. Attendees will explore this issue while learning advocacy & grassroots skills that will help them in working for justice on this and other social justice issues.

Cost is \$20 per person and includes worship, lunch and refreshments, keynote speaker, and various workshops.

For more info and to register, visit tinyurl.com/susqconference.

SERVICE DATE AND COLLECTION FOR



MISSION CENTRAL
Connecting God's Resources with Human Need
Disaster Response, Mission Outreach, And Mission Education.

Now collecting
children's scissors and
composition books!
Donate to bin in lobby
by Thursday, Feb. 12.

Meet in Trinity's parking lot
at 8:25 AM or at Mission
Central at 9 AM.
Serve 9-11:30 AM. Next date:
FRIDAY, FEB. 13

A GIGANTIC thank you for the meaningful anniversary cards, beautiful Christmas greetings, and sharing of altar flowers. We miss being in attendance more than we can tell you, Trinity is HOME. Thank you so much. Harry and Betty Weber

January at



It takes a lot for Trinity to change our worship schedule, but on Jan. 25, that's what we did. As a forecasted storm hit early Sunday morning, Pastors Rob and Melissa as well as members of our Sanctuary Choir and Media Team had already recorded worship on Saturday to share on Sunday. The snow also delayed our "Love Your Enemies" potluck. Enjoy this look back at our snowy end to January!



Above, Pastor Rob and the choir chat about the odd sensation of playing to an empty sanctuary. At right, Media Team members Laura and Tim made online worship possible! When the snow did hit, we asked you to share your snowy day pix with us. From frolicking pups to reserved cats and even some wild turkeys, we delighted in the beauty of the snow.



Though postponed a week, our "Love Your Enemies" potluck Lunch & Learn still drew 35 disciples (at right) to a time of learning and discussion on Feb. 1. Pastor Rob led attendees through an exercise (at left) to show how we may have different opinions but still share common ground. Like, who has the best local pizza! (Ask someone who attended!)



"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:43-44

3 THINGS THAT DIVIDE US

Attendees agreed the top three things dividing people today include:

1. Social media/TV media
2. Elected officials
3. A lack or respect for one another

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

