

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Official Newsletter of Trinity United Church of Christ

Good Words for Great Souls

WRITTEN BY REV. CARRIE CALL

When we celebrate July 4th this year, we will likely hear about what we are free from. It is true that 200+ years ago we declared ourselves free from tyranny, from control by a foreign nation, from the various taxes and costs of remaining a colony. However, we didn't spend as much time talking about what we were free for. Those Americans who were white and male were free to vote, own property, establish homes and businesses and begin building a future. The same was not the case for those who were not yet free at all (slaves), for indentured servants (many of whom started the German Reformed communities in PA), for women, or for Native Americans. Still, we hold up July 4th as a promise to the nation, and our hard work continues to fulfil that promise for all who call America home.

As Christians, we also have a sense of independence. Through new life in Christ, we are free from the weight of death and sin. And we are free for lives dedicated to following Christ, as difficult as discipleship may be. We are free for living into forgiveness, mercy, hope, generosity, gratitude, joy, and peace-making. We are free for loving our neighbors as ourselves and loving God with our whole hearts, minds, and strength.

Disciples also need to reflect on what are we free for now, in the 21st century. What is the church community free for? Do we embrace our freedom for mission and expansion of love? Or do we neglect to think about this question, instead considering what we have done over previous years as sufficient? As Americans we have some remarkable freedoms. As Christians, we do as well. How do they complement each other? The freedom of a Christian supersedes the freedom of being American. I remember my father saying this when I was young. He'd say, "I am a Christian first, then an American. and then a Republican." I learned early on that what we do as Americans, or as members of political parties, should be informed and shaped by our overarching identity – being a Christian. The Freedom of a Christian and the Freedom of an American can conflict. We would be wise to talk and think through when and how this happens.

For now, celebrate the freedoms that we do know – as Christians and as Americans. While there is always work to be done, there is also a need to stop and give thanks to God, for all of it.

Announcements, Events, & Updates

July

- 3, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service and Sacrament of Holy Communion led by Rev. Brian Percy.
- 10, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service led by Carol Clark-Baney
- 17, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service led by Carol Clark-Baney
- 23, Diaper Depot distribution
- 24, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service led by Rev. Brian Percy
- 24, First night of VBS at the Centre Hall Lions Club
- 28, Last night of VBS at the Centre Hall Lions Club
- 31, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service led by Rev. Ann Graves

August

- 7, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service and Sacrament of Holy Communion led by Rev. Brian Percy
- 14, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service led by Carol Clark-Baney
- 21, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service led by Rev. Ann Graves
- 27, Diaper Depot distribution
- 28, Adult Sunday School
Worship Service led by Rev. Brian Percy
- 30, Penns Valley first day of school



Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 24 through Thursday, July 28, 6:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

We welcome any child age 3 through 5th grade to join the Centre Hall Council of Churches for a week long Food Truck Party. We will learn about how God provides for us as we sing, dance, play games, make crafts and have a great time! A free dinner for all attendees will be held at 5:30pm each night proceeding VBS. For more information and to sign up to attend or volunteer, visit <https://centre-hall-council-of-churches.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Penns Valley Diaper Depot

Trinity United Church of Christ Parsonage, 108 N. Pennsylvania Ave Centre Hall, PA the fourth Saturday of the month.

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Financial donations, unscented baby wipes, and Sizes 3, 4, and 5 diapers are always appreciated!



Centre Hall/Potter Township Food and Fuel Pantry

The needs are: cake mixes, cereal, canned milk, saltine crackers, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, and dish detergent. Distributions are the third Tuesday of every month.



July Birthdays

- 1 Carol Frazier
- 4 Russell Schleiden
- 5 Robert Rumbaugh
- 6 Terry Coulter, Martha Weidensaul
- 7 Renee Cronin
- 8 Valerie Barner, Marley Fultz, Sarah Hall
- 9 John Martz
- 10 Alyssa Limbaugh
- 13 Tricia Limbaugh Meyers
- 15 Kurt Breon, Gertrude Furner, Joanne Heck
- Haley Miller, Madelyn Miller, John Shope, Kirk Stover
- 16 Jonathan Downer, M. Joanna Murphy
- Morgan Neese
- 17 Mila Baney
- 19 Charlie Romig, Lynn Smith
- 20 Benjamin Battaglia, Andrew Hankinson
- 21 Jacqueline Stover
- 25 Benjamin Floray, Nicholas Limbaugh
- 26 Patricia Battaglia, Colby Sweitzer
- 28 Braelee Nace-Bogan, H. Bruce Meyer
- 31 Nevin Wilt

August Birthdays

- 1 Darbie Evans
- 3 Tara Besecker
- 4 Jane Boozer
- 7 Lynnette Breon
- 8 Scott Floray
- 9 Seth Hall, Leena Wolfgang
- 10 Rylee Arney, Nancy Vogt
- 12 David Dunklebarger, Karen Keller
- 14 Angela Auman, Wyatt Lowry
- 15 Lorren Brown, Avery Fultz, Steven Riegel
- 16 Wanda Decker, Randy Heverly, Allen Pifer
- Shirley Reed, Reba Rogers
- 17 Rick Arnold, Raymond Hankinson, Jack Riegel, Jr.
- 18 Nicholas Jimenez
- 19 Carol Clark-Baney, Shelby Yearick Bonawitz
- Owen Miller
- 21 Samuel Delaney, Charles Guyer, Joni Hubler
- 23 Brooks Battaglia
- 24 Cassandra Fultz
- 26 Dawn Nicholas
- 27 Julia Downer, David King, Thomas Witherite
- 28 Collin Smith
- 29 Richard Auman
- 31 Leah Eckley

July Anniversaries

- 1 John and Lois Martz
Miguel and Erin Rubio
- 5 H. Bruce and Eleanor Meyer
- 8 Larry and Dorothy Strickler
- 9 Michael and Sara Hanson
- Robert and Rhonda Rumbaugh
- 10 Bradley and Yulia Floray
- 13 Kevin and Sarah Coulter
- 14 Lorren and Carol Brown
Mark and Erin Eckley
- 21 Megan Homan and Allen Miller
- 24 Ben and Sylvia Malone
- 27 Ryan and Laura Sweitzer
- 28 Dan and Lori Walter
- 30 John and Marieta Smith

August Anniversaries

- 6 David and Dawn Nicholas
- 7 Barry and Jerelene Reish
- 14 Kurt and Lynnette Breon
- Richard and Victoria Sweitzer
- 17 Daniel and Carol Readinger
- 22 Douglas and Teresa Harter
- Ennis and Nancy Wagner
- 28 Christopher and Laurie Balsley
- 31 Nathan and Shannon Arney