

the BRIEF

SUMMER BRINGS SMILES, SERVICE



June is a very busy month for Trinity disciples! Not only do a large number come together to aid Kids Ministries with Ignite Soccer (above), but our Youth Ministries also



kick off their summer by serving others on their Mission Trip. This year's team worked in Columbus, SC, aiding persons with furniture needs. See pages 3-4 for more on both ministries.



SAVE THIS DATE!

**THE CHURCH
HAS LEFT
THE BUILDING**



A MORNING OF SERVICE TO OUR
COMMUNITY & WORLD FOR ALL!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

VARIED ON- AND OFF-SITE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITY LEVELS.

*Save the date & watch
for details to come!*



Looking to fall: Underwear Drive to support Shepherd's Closet clients

When families get into back-to-school mode, one of the staples they might buy is a new pack of underwear. But with prices on the rise, this purchase may be a luxury few families can afford. Enter our Trinity congregation.

Through The Shepherd's Closet, Trinity can help provide this incredibly needed gift to the many families that visit our free clothing ministry. Since January, the closet has served more than 2,300 adults and children and given out over 600 pairs of underwear.



"It's something everybody wears and needs but not everybody can afford," said Ministry Lead Sheila Kieffer. "We only give out one pair per family member at a time because we have to ration it, but when they receive just that one pair, they're always thankful."

Underwear for children and adults in all sizes and styles is needed. Throughout July, Trinity will collect new packs of underwear. Donations may be placed in the marked box in the lobby or dropped in the church office.

From Pastor Rob: Dads' faith matters, too

As I reflect on the 250th anniversary of our country I find myself ruminating on the word united, as in United States of America. It's a word that signals a kind of solidarity and cohesiveness. Our church, of course, is a United Methodist church which is a denomination that is global, with many different cultures, languages, and worship expressions represented. Yet, we are united.

There's a psalm in the Bible which states, "How good and pleasant it is when families live together in unity." (Psalm 133:1) I think we'd all agree that where a group of people is united, they're likely to experience a lot less friction. But there can be a problem when we confuse what it means to be united. That confusion can easily lead us to judge those who we deem as not holding up their end of the "uniting" spirit.

To be clear: Unity is not uniformity; it's not thinking the same thing.

Being united does not necessarily mean everyone is going to agree with each other about everything, the key-word being **everything**.

For a lot of people, that's what they believe when it comes to words like unity, unite, or even united. We tend to think that in order to live in unity, we have to agree with one another across the board. That, though, is not unity, it's conformity. And conformity tends to only happen in places where freedom is restricted like cults or dictatorships.

Like any place where freedoms are appreciated, the church and our country uphold the uniqueness of everyone. Christians, as well as Americans, come in all shapes and sizes, ages and races, incomes and lifestyles. We differ from one another in our political leanings as well as our convictions around social issues though we are still united under one Lord and Savior (in the United Meth-

odist Church) and one flag, one constitution, one foundation that we respect freedom because *all have inalienable rights given to us by our creator*.

Perhaps what unites us all is a common mission and the core tenants of who God calls us to be. It's belief in this, and the spirit of the country and our church, that enables us to effectively work together in accomplishing a common purpose. That is what being United looks like.
*See you Sunday,
+Rob*



Pastor Rob
rkazinski@tumchtown.org

Closing Youth Ministries chapter with memories of service, fun

Solo cups. Mouse traps. Hula hoops. Ping pong balls. Plastic spoons. Pizza. Soda. Candy. Ice cream. Mind Teasers. Lollipops (aka spoons). Laser Tag. Lock-ins. Fire alarms. Kickball. Music. Fundraisers (Pot Piel!). 15-passenger vans. Teens. Retreats. Mission Trips. Laughter. Tears. Love. And Jesus.

These things bring up core memories and make the perfect ingredients for a youth group like TUMY. Youth is a place where teens come to enjoy fellowship and learn to love like Jesus. Youth has been important to me since I was in high school and attended Zion Lutheran Church next door. Done right, Youth is a place where friends are more like family and where a teen's faith journey truly begins.

When I started attending Trinity, I knew I wanted to get involved with youth. I met then Youth Ministries Director Christel Buck and started serving alongside her. After a couple years of volunteering, the opportunity came for

me to take over TUMY in 2018. I've been blessed to have led our teens for the past eight years, making this current year my eighth. As was announced in January, after much prayer and conversation, I am stepping down from my role as Director of Youth Ministries.

This decision didn't come easily, because this ministry has never been "just a job" to me, but a calling, a family, and one of the greatest privileges of my life. I've seen this group grow not just in numbers, but as the youth have grown in Christ as well. I've seen God do amazing things through TUMY that I never would have thought possible. I'm so proud to be part of its story.

As this chapter ends, I'm excited to see what God has in store for this group in the next part of its story. I passed leadership of this ministry to Kyler Sturgill, who was a TUMY high school student when I started volunteering. He knows how important and special this group is to our community.

I know God will work through Kyler to continue growing this group and the faith of these teens.

I want to thank Trinity for the years of support. Without the congregation, this group could not run as it does. Your love for our youth is amazing, and I am blessed to call Trinity home.

Reflecting on the past eight years, I'm filled with gratitude for the ways God has moved through our youth ministry. I've been truly blessed to serve alongside these students and witness their growth, compassion, and willingness to step out in faith. These are the memories I will carry with me for a lifetime.
Dan Ebright, Trinity disciple





June is an incredibly busy month for Trinity's Kids & Youth Ministries programs as disciples come together to assist with Ignite Soccer and our teen students head to their annual mission trip. Enjoy these pix from both events.



With many thanks

Our 2026 Ignite Soccer is in the books—and what a week we had! We learned about the Armor of God, a little bit about Minecraft, and a little soccer, but most of all, we had lots of FUN! We did move back to the church for one night due to weather, but overall, we were blessed with a great week.

Ephesians 6:10–11 says, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” This verse was the focus of the week. Our daily Bible points were: “God wants me to read the Bible—Sword of the Spirit,” “God wants me to pray—Shield of Faith,” “God wants me to worship—Breastplate of Righteousness,” and “God wants me to tell my friends and go to church—Helmet of Salvation and Boots of Peace.”

These points helped explain the Armor of God in a way the kids could understand. By using Minecraft characters and the armor they wear in the game, we taught what God wants us to do every day. Hopefully, this made a lasting impression on our Ignite players.

A huge thank-you to every disciple who helped in any way—whether you served as a coach, worship leader, music leader, photographer, snack leader, nurse, improv actor, listener, helper, prayer warrior, or someone ready to jump in wherever needed, I appreciate you. Without the support of so many people, this event would not be the success that it is. It's truly a blessing to work alongside each of you.

Thank you again,
Sarah Ordille, Director of Kids Ministries



TUMY serving with purpose

Our youth group recently returned from a meaningful mission trip to Columbia, South Carolina, where they served families in need, grew their faith, and partnered with Scooter Scott Ministries in hands-on service.

Throughout the week, TUMY worked to build sturdy bed frames, collect donated furniture from families, and delivering items to individuals and households in need. Each project was more than a task—it was a chance to show Christ's love in a practical and personal way.

One of the most memorable moments came when our group delivered a bed to a child who had been sleeping on pillows. The joy and excitement on his face was overwhelming. That moment was a simple but powerful reminder that even small acts of service can make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Sleeping in a bed is something many of us can easily take for granted, yet many do not have that comfort.

In addition to the service projects, the team spent time in worship and reflection through "The Heart of the Father," a series by Francis Chan. Together, they were challenged to consider what it means to center their lives on God's heart and live for His purpose rather than their own desires.

We were also blessed to have three seniors—Nolan, Julia, and Catharine—take part in the trip, marking their sixth and final youth mission trip together. Their dedication, leadership, and servant hearts were a blessing to the entire group and a wonderful example for our younger students. The week ended with a relaxing visit to the zoo and an evening of karaoke, giving the group time to celebrate, laugh, and reflect on the memories and lessons they shared together.

We are deeply grateful for the congregation's prayers, encouragement, and generosity. Your continued support makes these mission trips possible year after year, and we give thanks for the ways God continues to work through our youth and through this ministry.

Dan Ebright, Director of Youth Ministries



Mission Focus: The Dream House

HOME. It's a word we probably take for granted; a word that, for most, brings images of safety, warmth, and love. For some, however, having a place to call "home" is just a dream. In Pennsylvania, there are, on average, between 13,000 and 15,000 children in the foster care system in a given year. For teens "aging out" of the system, approximately half have no permanent place to call home. Sadly, the outcome for many of these young adults is dire.

With few financial resources, limited education, and little or no support from family or friends, many experience homelessness, unemployment, struggles with addiction, depression, and anxiety. Nearly one in four will be incarcerated. That's where The Dream House comes in.

In 2018, founders Anthony and Shannon Shelly purchased a duplex in Harrisburg on State Street. While living in one side, they set out to prepare the other to house and support young ladies making the leap from foster care or homelessness to independence, and in March of 2020 they opened their doors. Trinity has supported The Dream House since 2024.

This year, the biggest update to share is that the Dream House is planning an expansion and has set its sights on purchasing a new property! It will be called Dream House Playhouse! This property will serve as a hub for the ministry, particularly the support program participants and their children.

Offerings at the site will include services like weekly family-style meals, laundry facilities, free access to household essentials, life coaching, family mentoring, and meaningful social connection. By easing daily stressors and increasing access to resources, Dream House Playhouse will help stabilize families, empower individuals, and build stronger support networks across our community.

At the center of this work is the de-



Celebrating a recent birthday at The Dream House.

sire to create a designated space within the new facility for parents and children to play, learn, and connect in a safe, welcoming, joyful environment. These activities will strengthen relationships, build confidence, and support early childhood learning and development— all of which are critical to long-term resilience and healthy outcomes.

Learn more about The Dream House during our Mission Moment on Sunday, July 12, or visit padreamhouse.org for more information.

Celebrating service

While many groups and ministries break for the summer, our Shepherd's Closet remains open year-round fueled by the support of faithful volunteers. The group recently took a well-deserved break from serving to enjoy a lunch together at Arooga's. Since January, Shepherd's Closet volunteers have logged more than 1,300 hours over 300 shifts. Thank you to all who serve!



Group leaders gather for sharing and fellowship

Getting people connected and engaged—that's the mission of Trinity's long-term small groups. Recently Director of Discipleship, Kay Baxter, held a gathering for facilitators of each long-term small group at The Greenhouse in Hummelstown with nine of the 12 groups represented by the lead facilitator or another member.

The purpose of the gathering was to not only learn about each of the groups but to begin to build a community of support and encouragement among the leaders.

Attendees enjoyed some light refreshments, were lead in a devotion by Pastor Melissa Madara, laughed together with an ice-breaker activity (who has a stuffed animal on their bed, who likes to dance, who's received two or more traffic tickets?), and learned about the impact groups have on the lives of Trinity disciples and beyond. What an impact that is!

These groups are an integral part of the Planting and Growing plots of Trinity's Discipleship Garden. Three groups target people using their gifts of crafting, knitting, crocheting, and/or sewing to enrich the lives of others beyond our walls. One group is a ministry to people experiencing grief. The rest are study groups using varied media and topics to encourage participants' growth as a disciple of Jesus. Finally, the leaders were given an informative guide and list of some tips on how to deal with a "conversation hog".

"I am so grateful for the work these groups do," said Kay. "My hope is that this gathering can be a yearly event where support,



Pictured at The Greenhouse are (seated, from left) Sue Waters, Kay Good, Melissa Madara, and Karyn Kazinski. Back row (from left) are Michelle Proitte, Karen Hoerner, Tina Wallish, Sue Banks, and Lisa Engle. Missing from photo is Mim Moyer, who also attended.

encouragement, and networking can continue to grow among our wonderful volunteer facilitators!"

We would love to see more leaders come forward to help build our small group connections. If you have an idea for a new small group, Kay is ready to help make it a reality. Reach out to her at kbaxter@tumchtown.org or call 717-566-0252 to connect.

Twisted Truth: Summer learning series on heresies continues

A lot of personal beliefs espoused by Christian people today sometimes make it difficult to figure out when an idea is no longer Christian. Traditionally, such beliefs inconsistent with the Christian faith are called heresies, which are ideas about the faith that seem good and true but actually take us away from God's truth.

While we may feel a lot of these heresies have gone away, the truth is they resurface all the time. Our Summer Learning Series will examine how small twists in the truth can have major ramifications for our faith and belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

July 5—Faith and Flags, One combined worship service, Acts 10:34-36

July 12—Seeing to Believe, Exodus 20:4-5



July 19—Biblical Worship, Jonah 2:8-9

July 28—Perfectly Saved, Ephesians 2:1, 8-9

Mission Central service date change

Due to a staffing change at Mission Central, Trinity is not expected to serve at the mission hub again until **Friday, Aug. 14**. Please meet in the parking lot at 8:25 AM to carpool. Contact Team Lead Nancy Shertzer at shertzna@gmail.com for more info.

Can you help care for Trinity's planters?

The outdoor gardeners need help with watering this summer. If you're interested and want more info about helping water plants this summer, please contact Mack Ruffin at mur373@psu.edu or call 734-476-7806.



Monthly collection for Love INC—Sunday, July 12

Donations of paper products to benefit our neighbors in need can be left in the marked box in the lobby on Sunday, July 12. Needed items to help stock Love INC's personal care closet include: toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, and hand soaps. Many thanks to all who contribute to this ministry.