TRINITY HUMMELSTOWN

NOV. 7, 2026

# the BRIEF

## Serving our community with joy and a touch of magic

Dobby the House Elf was among the many magical friends to pop into our 2026 PotterCamp, and in the words of Dobby, "What a beautiful place to be with friends." And a beautiful place it was!

Each October our church transforms into Hummelstown Hogwarts—home to the area's only Harry Potter-themed camp that shares the love of Jesus wrapped inside Potter-themed fun experiences and lessons. This year, Trinity welcomed a whopping 79 young wizards to our halls! That's not even including the wizards who have "graduated" from the program and now assist with the younger students.

"It's really great to see these big 'kids' who enjoyed PotterCamp so much as students that they want to come back and serve as prefects or class helpers for the event," said Headmistress (and Director of Kids Ministries) Sarah Ordille. "It's a true testament to the impact this outreach has to see students who don't regularly attend our church return in a service role."

While at PotterCamp, students enjoyed lessons in wand choreography, magical creatures, and substance transmutation (crafts!) as well as playing quidditch! For more from our two-day event, see pages 3-4.




## Jesse Tree returns this month to aid local students

Imagine Christmas morning coming, but for your child there's no money for a toy. There's no money to replace that outgrown coat or to buy them a new sweatshirt. It's a reality many of our neighbors in the Lower Dauphin School District must face.

But then there's you. And there's Trinity. And our commitment to KNOW Jesus, to GROW our faith, and to GO serve those in need.

Sponsored by the Covenant Sunday School Class, the tradition of the Jesse Tree has our congregation buying presents for students identified by the school district as in need. Each student receives a hobby or toy item as well as a clothing gift.

Jesse Trees will be located in the lobby beginning **Sunday, Nov. 21**, and decorated with paper ornaments containing gift requests from students from ALL FIVE elementary schools. When taking a student's tag, please be sure to log it on the appropriate list available on the tables near the trees.

Gift-wrapped presents must have that paper ornament attached to the

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# From Pastor Rob: Remembering to say thank you



*Pastor Rob*
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On Halloween night, my wife, Karyn, was sitting outside dutifully handing out candy to children doing their Halloween finest as they appealed for sugary sweets. Every once in a while, I'd go out to check in and hand her another cup of tea.

While doing so, I noticed some kids said the obligatory words, "Trick or Treat", then grabbed some candy and walked to their new destination. The transaction was complete. The saying "Trick or Treat" yielded candy.

At the end of the night, Karyn told me about a boy about age 2 and dressed as a Marvel character repeating the words, "Thank you," until he reached the candy. Of course, afterward the boy and his older brother made sure to say thank you afterward for the candy.

The rehearsing of the words struck my wife funny. Clearly the parents who were with their children wanted to assure this was stated. The words "thank you" were more important than Trick or Treat. So, he rehearsed it all the way so as not to forget.

Every November we're told to be grateful and say thanks. Many of us do, but I would guess even more don't. Our culture trains us to notice what is missing: the next upgrade, the unpaid bill, the thing someone else has. Scripture, however, asks us something different. It does not ask us to feel thankful once a year; it asks us to be thankful people, which may require some rehearsal before we understand it.

In Luke 17, 10 men with leprosy call out to Jesus from a distance. He tells them to go and show themselves to the priests, and on the way, all 10 are healed. Only one, however, turns around and praises God at the top of his lungs, falls at Jesus' feet, and gives thanks. Luke says that man was a Samaritan, which is code for him being a foreigner.

I do not think the other nine were bad people. They were probably hurrying home to families they had not held in years or wanted to share their good fortune. The transaction was complete. They met Jesus, expressed the desire to be healed, and they were. But in their rush toward the gift, they forgot to even show gratitude to the giver. The tenth man understood something they missed.

That's the quiet invitation of this season. Not simply to receive God's goodness, but to turn around and say so.

The central act of Christian worship is, quite literally, a thanksgiving. The word *Eucharist* comes from the Greek for "thanksgiving." In other words, the church does not treat gratitude as a nice feeling to add to faith. It is the shape of faith itself. We are people who live by grace, and the only fitting response to a gift received is thanks.

If gratitude is something we should repeat, like that young boy on Halloween, then we can practice it. Here are a few simple ways:

- Each night before bed, name three things for which you give thanks.
- Pray before every meal, even in public.
- Give something away. Generosity and gratitude always grow together.

*See you Sunday,*
*+Rob*

# November Learning

Throughout November, we'll enjoy learning about some unrelated "one-off" messages that will lead us into the season of Advent.

**Sunday, Nov. 8—The Wrong Kind of Right**
Luke 9:51-56, 10:25-37

How can we be so absolutely right and so positively wrong at the same time? When Jesus' disciples want to destroy a Samaritan village, and Jesus later makes a Samaritan the hero of a parable, we're invited to consider the difference between defending our convictions and actually living them.

**Sunday, Nov. 15—Amazing Grace**
John 4:1-14

Grace is a word we don't consider enough as Christians. The amazing, gratuitous, life-changing love of God revealed in Christ is almost taken for granted as Christians because we really don't think about what it means for us individually. We'll explore why it matters to who we are as Jesus followers.

**Sunday, Nov. 22—Grateful**
Psalm 65

This time of year we give thanks; thanks to God for all the blessings that we have in life. We'll remember how blessed we are to be a people of God and remind ourselves why we need to be grateful for every passing moment of each day.

# Jesse Tree returns this month

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gift, and gifts must be placed under the trees in the lobby or in the church office by **Sunday, Dec. 13**.

Whether you worship online or in the sanctuary, we invite you to be part of this meaningful outreach by selecting a child's tag and supplying their Christmas gift. Let's remind them how very much they are loved at Christmas and always.

Any questions, please contact Lynn Schankweiler at 717-329-8159 or lschankweiler@comcast.net.

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# PotterCamp is still a hit with kids!

Launched by Pastor Rob after his arrival at Trinity in 2018, PotterCamp is a Harry Potter-themed two-day event that invites children in grades 1-6 from the community into our church, re-decorated and renamed, "Hummelstown Hogwarts." Like the magical castle in the books, our facility has its own cast of creative characters both leading and lurking at the camp! From Olivander's Wand Shop to lunching in our Grand Hall, PotterCamp serves up memorable experiences for our young wizards year after year. Enjoy these highlights from our EIGHTH session of this amazing outreach!



*Above, students gathered in the forbidden forest (also known as the lobby!) until all young wizards had confirmed their attendance. Then it was in to the sanctuary...um, Sorting Room, for the sorting ceremony.*



*At left, Game Masters Professor Mark (left) and Professor Kyler stand at the ready for the sorting ceremony to begin. Each child sits in the big chair beneath the sorting hat, waiting for it to decide in which house the wizard belongs. This can bring a number of reactions, like the one at right!*







*Every student's first stop at PotterCamp is to Olivander's Wand Shop! Above, left, in the dimly-lit space, Olivander (disciple Richard Hammaker) assists Ravenclaw wizards with using their selections to cast their first spells beneath floating candles. Above, right, each house played in the Quidditch Tournament on Saturday.*







*Once students had their wands, they learned how to use them! Mastering wand choreography at a game session before playing the Dobby Sock toss! Upstairs, in Substance Transmutation, students made adorable little owl friends that they could take home.*





*Above, a favorite part of PotterCamp this year was a visit from Sam Richardson from Camp Penn and his friendly reptiles. Students (and adults!) enjoyed meeting Sadie the Skink (left) and some of Sam's snakey friends. The students and PotterCamp staff were very brave in petting and holding the friends as Gryffindor Head of House Valerie Wood (at right) shows.*









*We couldn't do ANY of this without the wonderful help of our volunteer staff! From teens who have aged out but continue to want to attend and assist to adults willing to jump in and serve in leadership roles, PotterCamp truly takes so many hands to make it happen.*

*A special thank you to our Creative Christian Crafters (C3) group that assisted with creating unique wands for each student, prepping craft supplies, painting and creating decorations, and more. Your assistance is invaluable!*

*And finally, to our Headmistress Ms. Sarah, we truly love and appreciate you! Thank you for keeping the magic going through all of these sessions of PotterCamp! We are blessed by your leadership and love for Trinity's children!*

# Mission Focus: Love INC of Greater Hershey

Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) of Greater Hershey is thankful for the support of the Trinity UMC family. We especially thank the many volunteers who serve with us and the church for the use of its space during our annual Lace Up with Love INC Sneaker Drive and Distribution this past August.



**What Love INC Does**

Love INC mobilizes local churches and Christians to serve people in need in our community. We serve those who live in Hershey, Hummelstown, and the Dauphin County portion of Elizabethtown. Additionally, we assist people living outside these areas who are part of one of our twenty-one partnering churches.

**How Love INC Works**

When someone needs help, they contact our Connection Center. Our trained volunteers listen and get to know the person, helping to understand their needs. People in crisis often only ask for help with their most immediate hardship and may overlook other needs. For example, someone might ask for help with overdue rent but not mention they also need basic personal care items.

Depending on the situation, the person may be referred back to their church, connected to a local food bank or clothing closet, directed to an agency in our network, or connected directly to one of our ministries.

**Love INC's Ministries**

- **Personal Care Closet:** Providing hygiene, household, and baby items not covered by food stamp benefits to certified clients of local food banks. These items come from church-hosted drives, the community, and financial gifts.
- **The Parsonages at Spring Creek and Union Deposit:** We offer free lodging to loved ones of adult inpatients at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center who live more than 50 miles from Hershey. These homes provide a peaceful retreat and are maintained by volunteers.
- **Homes of Hope:** This 18-month program provides transitional housing and case management to families experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Participants are given the resources to get a fresh start and become financially independent.
- **Transportation Services:** Our volunteers provide rides for essential errands and appointments to those who lack transportation and cannot afford services.
- **Car Repair Ministry:** This cost-sharing ministry assists individuals with repairs specifically related to a vehicle's safety and reliability. Love INC supplements the money that a participant can contribute towards the repairs.
- **Lace Up with Love INC Sneaker Drive:** Each summer, we collect new, name-brand sneakers to distribute to over 300 students in the Lower Dauphin and Derry Township school districts. Sneakers are stored in the Scout Room and the fitting event is held at Trinity each August.

To learn more, visit loveincgreaterhershey.org.

# Congrats, PLACE grads!

*"The more I understand myself and who I am, the better I can understand how God and I work together and thus my understanding of God improves."* This quote is a theme of the PLACE Workshop offered at Trinity twice each year.



PLACE is part of the Preparing and Planting Plots of Trinity's Discipleship Garden, which is designed help all ages and stages of disciples to Grow Your Faith. Tabitha Verdelli (left), and Floyd and Carolyn Wise recently completed the five-session workshop where they discovered how their personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions, and life experiences blend together to make each of them a unique child of God.

The next PLACE Workshop will be offered in the spring of 2027. If you have questions about PLACE or getting connected to a small group, contact Kay Baxter, director of Discipleship, at kbaxter@tumchtown.org or call the church office at 717-566-0252 to get connected.

# Well done, Kay: Honoring decades of nursery ministry

Trinity recently celebrated the retirement of Kay Daly, our long-time nursery care provider. Kay joined Trinity UMC in 1979 and found her true calling in life working with babies and children.

"I feel it was a gift and a blessing not only for myself but also for the parents," she wrote in a letter. "I have enjoyed every moment of the time helping babies during their first experiences with church."

Kay said Trinity's nursery is where so many children first learn about God and Jesus, respect for their friends, and, of course, sharing. Kay's seen the babies she cared for grow into adults and then bring their babies back to the same nursery; seeing three and four generations of families stay committed to worshiping at Trinity.

"I'm thankful to all the grandparents, parents, and grandchildren for their utmost trust in leaving their children under my care," she wrote. "I definitely found my purpose that God had planned for me."

Kay will miss not being a part of the nursery but said she will always cherish the memories of all the families she's met over the years. "I want to thank Trinity UMC for the opportunity I had to be a servant of God."



*Kay, center, in the nursery with some of her last "babies."*

On behalf of the countless families you have served, Kay, we thank you. Your love and support have impacted generations of Trinity disciples, and we are incredibly grateful and wish you all the best in your retirement.

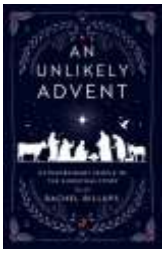
***BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS**—If you haven't visited Trinity in a while, you should! Even if you're here every week, it's worth taking a little walk around to see what's new and what's coming! Our church is definitely in a "glow up" season. The stone repair work is completed; the new carpet is in place in the lobby, hallway, and conference room; and the third floor also has new flooring! It's been a busy few months with more to come. The prayer room (at right) is nearing completion; we're waiting for the contractor to complete the roof repair; and new furniture will soon occupy the third floor loft, creating a welcoming space. We praise God for all these upgrades and opportunities to use our buildings in new and exciting ways! Stay tuned for more to come!*



## Office & building closure dates

The church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on **Wednesday, Thursday**, and **Monday, Nov. 25-26** and **30**. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Please check with your group leader if you're scheduled to meet. The church will be closed for all activities on **Thursday, Nov. 26.**

## An Unlikely Advent study meets Thursdays




A four-week study entitled An Unlikely Advent, by Rachel Billups, focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity.

The Advent themes of hope, love, joy, and peace are explored by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

This morning study will be facilitated by Kathy Kelly on Thursdays from 10:30-11:45 AM in room 413, and will meet on **Nov. 19**, and **Dec. 3**, **10** and **17.** The evening session has reached capacity.

Sign up on the Connect Card in worship or text Kay Baxter, director of Discipleship, at 717-612-8346. Space is limited. Deadline to register is **Monday, Nov. 16.**