



Wednesday 7pm Please Join us. It's free!

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SOCK



HOP

Sunday July 28th 2pm - 7pm

June/July 2024

Tidings Deadline
May 15, 2024

Editor: Susan Celedonia
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Remember to collect those toiletries for our
purse ministry while your traveling



New Life Worship Service
9:00 a.m.

Celebration Worship
10:30 a.m.



MAY 27



@trinitytowerchurch



Trinity Tower Church UMC
www.trinitytowerchurch.org

From the Pastor's Desk



"Make new friends, but keep the old.

One is silver and the other gold"

Do you remember this song so many of us learned in church when we were kids? Back then, people loved to gather together, play together, eat together, worship together, have dances, parties, celebrate holidays, even vacation together. We were so happy in those days!

In this century the social world is somewhat different. Our focus upon the pleasure of the individual has seemingly isolated us from one another. Prioritizing our own tastes likes and dislikes, it seems as though we have isolated ourselves, and divided ourselves apart from one another, and it feels like we are not so happy as we once were. Why is that?

I suggest that in the good times, on the whole we took things for granted. We became comfortable. We lost our zeal, passion, and concern for good, and for getting along with one another, particularly those who are different from us (by any measure one would choose). Perhaps no institution has experienced the consequence of loss more keenly than the "Christian Church". For over 50 years, a steady decline in membership, attendance, activity and outreach has threatened both the message and existence that defines us. In recent years, we have seen churches divide, churches close, ministries end, and people losing interest. In the social world we have seen the decline in basic civility and respect that used to be common values all across the communities and society as a whole. Now, people who disagree become passionate about their differences; become angry, hot, and vocal against one another. Worse, we may think we are noble in being so. This is not the way of Jesus. And is it not the way our world can be restored in harmony, peace, hope and wellbeing. Let me ask you: *"Do you think, believe, hope, that we can turn around this terrible decline?"*

I believe absolutely that we can. Why? Because what we are experiencing today is not dissimilar from the days of the first Disciples. If God, through them could rescue, save, and turn the world around with the message and spirit of Jesus Christ, then God, through us, can do so again! If this is true, what do we have to do?

Here are two ideas:

1. We have to follow Jesus first commandment: "Love one another as we love ourselves." It is not about our opinions or disagreements. More important is our finding ways to love one another in spite of our differences. We must love the Lord and love each other, and love the stranger with the same passion, zeal and excitement as the first disciples, who felt it an honor to serve the Lord; and who cared for their suffering neighbors who did not know the message or love of God.

2. We have reduced our prioritizing of comfort or convenience. It is not about what we "like" as much as it is about what "they" need. We need to use our time, talents, and spirit to provide and to invite. For the sake of God, and Church, and our future, we need to reach out and care for our community, by making friends, increasing fellowship, and sharing love, joy and friendship, with the people who live in our neighborhoods.

People do not think the church is relevant, or helpful, friendly or fun. If we can change their perceptions through genuine experience, we can trust the Lord to help, and multiply us, because in all times, people like "the real thing". When Christ is real to and through us, they will meet him, and join us. And maybe, just maybe, we will find ourselves singing and playing together again, and all will know the words and the tunes.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Evenings 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Each week in advance of the meeting, Pastor Greg will send to participants a page of background information, stimulation questions, and invitation to the "ZOOM" meeting.

To join the group, please give your name and email address to Pastor Greg.

Monday evenings

Mondays in our church feature a group of people dedicated to praying for our church. We would love to have you consider joining us, even if it would be just occasionally.

We gather at 7:00pm on Mondays, discuss prayer issues, then those who desire, speak vocal prayer beginning around 7:30pm.

If you would like to join the Monday Prayer Group, please email Pastor Greg at glsncr@gmail.com.

Let There Be Light!

Note: For space reasons, I've taken the liberty to shorten and change some of the language in this article from Elizabeth Gilbert, author.

Sometimes it is extra difficult to be a human being. You witness horrible events unfolding in the news, and you become fearful and withdrawn. There are times when everything seems cloaked in darkness. You struggle and fail. You pray, but God isn't answering your prayers.

When this happens, you long for the light but don't know where to find it. But what if you are the light? What if you are the very agent of illumination that a dark situation begs for? **What if YOU are the light?**

Our author tells us that some years ago she was stuck on a crosstown bus in New York City during rush hour. Traffic was barely moving, and the bus was filled with cold, tired people who were deeply irritated with life. Rage was in the air! But as the bus approached Seventh Avenue, the driver got on the intercom. "Folks," he said, "I know you have had a rough day and are frustrated. I can't do anything about the weather or traffic, but here is what I **can** do. As each one of you gets off the bus, I will reach out my hand to you. As you walk by, drop your troubles into the palm of my hand, okay? Don't take your problems home to your families tonight, just leave them with me. My route goes right by the Hudson River, and when I drive by there later, I will open the window and throw your troubles in the water."

It was as if a spell had lifted. Everyone burst out laughing. Faces gleamed with surprised delight. People who had been pretending for the past hour not to notice each other's existence were suddenly grinning at each other like, *is this guy serious?* Oh, he was serious!

At the next stop, just as promised, the driver reached out his hand, palm up, and waited. One by one, all the exiting commuters placed their hands just above his and mimed the gesture of dropping something into his palm. Some people laughed as they did this, some teared up, but everyone did it. The driver repeated the same lovely ritual at the next stop too. And the next. All the way to the river.

This bus driver taught her, with that kind gesture, that anyone can be the light at any moment. This guy wasn't some enormous power player. He wasn't a spiritual leader or some media-savvy influencer. He was a bus driver; but he possessed real power, and he used it beautifully for the benefit of his passengers that day.

When life feels especially grim, or when you feel particularly powerless in the face of the world's troubles, think of this man and ask yourself. *What can I do right now to be the light?* As Christians, we are called to not only walk in the light but to be the light for others. No matter who you are, or where you are, or how mundane or tough your situation may seem, you can illuminate your world. In fact, this is the only way the world will ever be illuminated, one bright act of grace at a time, all the way to the river. Let's all try to remember this and "Let There Be Light!"

~Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Love and prayers,

Cheryl,

Coordinator of the Shepherds and Caring Ministries



Our church is committed to helping people experience worship with us as a church family. As such, Live-stream worship is an important part of the ministry of our church now. We live-stream the 9:00 and 10:30 Sunday worship service. We hope people find the service either through our website or on our YouTube link.

Summer Worship at Trinity Tower Church

*From out of adversity and necessity
comes revival and renewal.*

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

On the **4th Sundays** through the next several months (weather permitting), we will provide one single worship service at **10:00 AM**. The service will respect both "Traditional" and "Contemporary worship styles, for all of us to find connection with God together.

JOIN US and INVITE NEIGHBORS and FRIENDS to SUMMER WORSHIP outside, at the **CROSS & PAVILION**.

You may remember the comfort, natural inspiration, relaxation and the friendship building nature of "worship alfresco". Attend in casual clothes, bring blankets or lawn chairs to enjoy worship together and shining the Lord's light on God's hilltop. (folding chairs will be available).

TIP: This may be the easiest/best opportunity to invite friends/neighbors to try worship with us.

The first – third (and the odd fifth) Sundays we will hold our two styled services at normal times.



Summer Special Events

During the next two months we will be planning events and activities at the church, for the purpose of fellowship and fun together, friendship building, inspiration, entertainment, and inviting and welcoming guests of all ages to our church.

Be watching the Website and Facebook pages, and worship bulletins for the dates, times, and nature of these special events.

Trinity Tower Birthdays, Anniversaries & Family News



May Anniversaries

Carol and George A	2nd
Laura and Jeff B	17th



Altar Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

May Altar Flowers

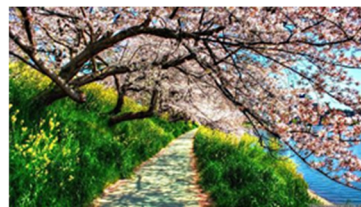
May 5:	Happy Birthday Carol K
May 12:	Happy 90th Birthday—Marge B!! Happy Mother's Day to all
May 19:	Happy Birthday Micah
May 26:	In memory of Geo Allison Jr, Joeller family

May Bulletins

May 5:	OPEN
May 12:	Howard and Lynn B
May 19:	OPEN
May 26:	OPEN

Please consider sponsoring flowers or bulletins. Flowers cost \$20 and bulletins are \$10. You may sponsor the bulletins in celebration, honor or memory of a special day or person. The sponsors help reduce the cost of the bulletins and altar flowers every Sunday service for our church.

Thank you.



May Liturgist 2nd service

May 5:	OPEN
May 12:	Ellen L
May 19:	Dennie K
May 26:	OPEN



May Birthdays

Kevin M	2
Marge B	10 (90th!)
Dennis H	10
Brianna A	10
Esther M	10
Carol K	10
Stephanie R	12
Eileen M	13
Buck B	14
Joe M	15
Howard B	16
Bob K	17
Alyssa M	17
Jake W	18
Ellowyn K	18
Liam K	18
Jesse T	21
Ben L	21
Daniel B	22
Ron P	23
Dave E	29
George R	30

May Nursery Volunteers

May 5:	OPEN
May 12:	OPEN
May 19:	OPEN
May 26:	OPEN



NARTHEX SPOTLIGHT - MAY

Purse & Tote Bag Ministry

The Mission & Outreach team at Trinity Tower collects gently used purses and cloth tote bags, then packs them with toiletries. We include items such as toothbrushes & toothpaste, shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer, and tissues. Once filled, we deliver them to the needy in the Pittsburgh area. We distribute purses and bags to women’s homeless shelters, Gwen’s Girls, St. Joseph House of Hospitality, and to veterans through Goodwill. Last year, we gave away over 200 purses & tote bags.

Purses, tote bags, and toiletries can be placed in the designated boxes in the Narthex.

Suggested List of Toiletries

- Tissues
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Emery boards
- Band-aids
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips
- Lip balm
- Shaving cream
- Hand sanitizer
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner



Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, People of Trinity Tower Church, Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness and care, compassion and prayer, for my healing through my knee replacement surgery and recovery. The first week was interesting as it was overflowing with pain and attempts at exercise. Many normal activities had to be re-learned and re-applied.

Through it all, your gift of a prayer basket, and personal expressions of concern and support through mailed cards, notes, texts, emails and phone calls you have surrounded me and our family with grace. Through you the love of the Lord abundantly flows. For myself, and for all to whom you share this kindness I praise the Lord. Thank you and God bless you!

Sincerely, Pastor Greg

P.S. *Thanks also to our guest preachers, our worship leaders, and all who attended worship during my absence and recovery. You all kept the ministry alive and the grace flowing. We all praise and thank the Lord for you and your great service.*

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COUNCIL REPORTS

From Knead Community Café

We celebrated our 7th anniversary this February, and we couldn't be more thankful for the continued support from our community. Whether it's through volunteering with us, sponsoring a meal, or simply stopping into the café to enjoy delicious food and fellowship, all are key to supporting our mission of creating a place where everyone is welcome to gather and share a meal. We are deeply moved by the support and blessings we receive every day – THANK YOU!

Through the incredible generosity of our sponsors, we have been able to provide an average of 280 community Grab N Go meals weekly (every Thursday) and nearly 51,500 dinners over the past 200 weeks. We also serve a Breaking Bread dinner every 3rd Thursday of the month in our banquet hall and we invite you to join us for a great meal, friendship and fellowship with all!

Thanks to all who donated items from the Knead Café wish list during Lent. When the items were delivered, the workers gave us multiple Thank You's!

If you have not been to the café yet, consider getting a few friends to join you for an outing to New Kensington for a delicious lunch. The Knead Café, 1011 Barnes Street, is open Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am- 2:00 pm, and Saturday 8:00 am – Noon.

From Open Hand Ministries in Pittsburgh

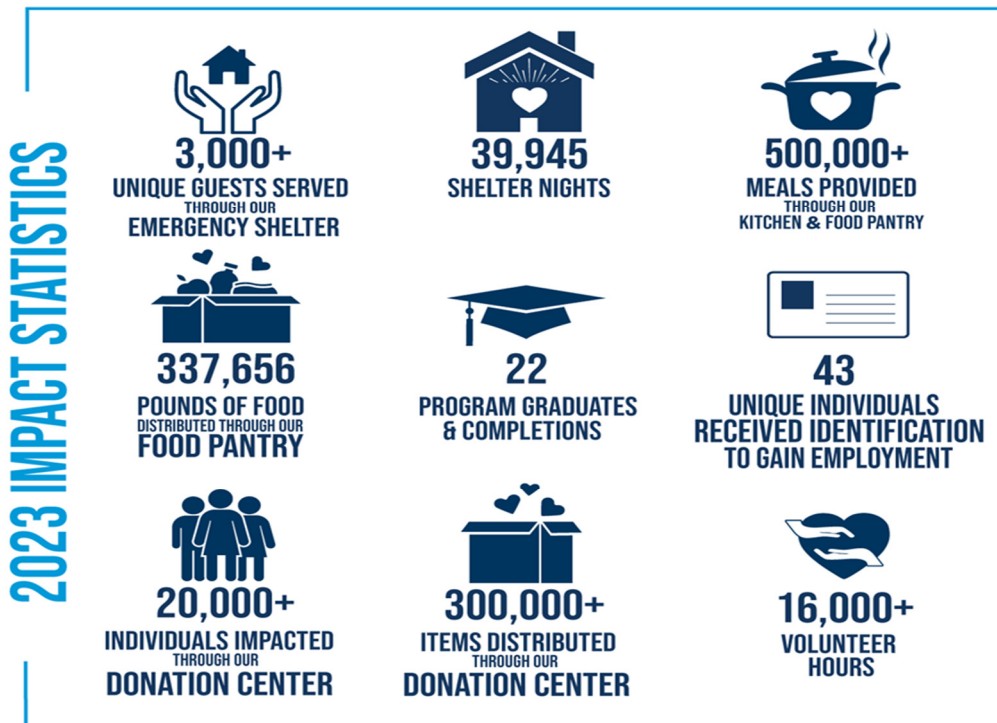
OHM has adopted the Marathon as a fundraiser because preparing for a race has so many similarities to preparing to be mortgage-qualified. They both take time, commitment and ability to adapt to unexpected circumstances! We are grateful for all the runners who are also amazing Fundraisers who ask their friends and family to support them. It's through their efforts and choosing Open Hand Ministries as their *Run for a Reason Charity* that \$20,000 was raised for OHM last year! We have the same goal this year!



Open Hand Ministries promotes justice in the East End of Pittsburgh by building a diverse community focused on financial wellness, equity creation, and home-ownership. Initially founded as a ministry of four churches, we respond to social injustice and inequality plaguing our city by providing opportunities for sustainable and affordable homeownership for families in fragile situations. We serve our community by creating community. We partner with like-hearted organizations and individuals, urban and suburban churches, community development corporations, lending agencies, expert trade skill professionals, funding organizations, and other local support agencies in order to equip our families and community for financial success and, if they choose, homeownership.

From Light of Life Ministries on the Northside of Pittsburgh:

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE



COMING SOON---SOCK HOP 2024: JULY 28TH 2 PM - 7 PM

Back by popular demand, the Outreach Council will be hosting its 17th Sock Hop and Car Cruise on Sunday, July 28th. It is the main source of our Missions and Outreach Budget for the coming year. We would not be able to support the many people, projects, and organizations in our community and around the world without the monies raised at this event.

We will once again be having an online gift basket and silent auction, which is always the highlight of the event and the source of most of our profit. In the next several weeks, please look for basket "theme" slips on the table in the Narthex. Choose a theme you would like to purchase items for and either make a basket, or bring any items to the church that you wish to donate, and we will put them into a basket for you. You may also choose a theme of your own. If you have any empty baskets we can use, they can be dropped off at the church.

Please be sure to sign the master sheet as to which theme you have chosen so we know who to contact if necessary. Completed baskets or individual items will need to be returned to the church by July 10th so we can have them available for bid online for two weeks prior to the event. Thank you in advance for your help and support in making this another successful auction. If making a basket isn't your area of expertise, look for more information on other ways you can help in the next Tidings!



FINALLY IT HAS ARRIVED!!!

The 2024 member directory is now available. They are in a different form this time. The new design will allow for making changes easier both by you and the church. The last directory design has been retired.

Please stop by the narthex and pick one up.



CALLING ALL KIDS!!

Every Tuesday Night 6:00 ~7:30pm

There is a Glow meeting for the children. They have activities and learn about Jesus. It's fun and learning with friends.

All children are welcome!

