



Trinity Tidings

Celebrate. Connect. Communicate.
Connecting God's Love Story with our Community

August 2024
ISSUE 8
VOL. 65



My dear Church Family,

I hope that you are doing reasonably well and staying strong in the Lord. I am updating this letter and proof-reading this issue of Tidings in Bangalore, India where we are being blessed with wonderful reconnections and rekindling treasured friendships.

Our theme for the month is, "God in the shadows?" I invite you to reflect upon the mystery and meaning of this question. How can we recognize God's presence and activity in a world that often seems dark and chaotic? We live in times when core values and truths that we believed in are being challenged blatantly. Politically, socially, economically, culturally, we face changes and crises that test our faith and our values. What we understood and believed, even half a century ago are being rewritten in the modern inks of relativism, individualism and atheism. Amid how life happens, crime happens, disparity and disunity happen, it can at times be hard to see God's big picture. This can especially be true when some of those things, "out there" become problems, "in here" – in our hearts, in our homes and in our circumstances. How can we stay strong when evil struts around as "normal", when inequality is camouflaged in the dress-suite of inclusivity, and the things of God are treated as the things of the past.

How do we respond to and in such seasons of our lives? The Psalmist articulated this angst in the question, "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3) For moments like that, the hymn writer James Russell Lowell, who wrote the hymn "Once to every man and nation", brings us an encouraging picture of God in the shadows in these words from the hymn:

*Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong:
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow
Keeping watch above His own.*

As we think about our lives, we can find encouragement in the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 73:16-17, "When I tried to understand all this, it was too much for me, until I entered the sanctuary of God...." (Psalm 73:16-17). Finding God's big picture does not depend upon our wisdom, our ability to troubleshoot, our ability to create insurance for anticipated troubles, but rather in laying our lives into the hands of God and resting in his sanctuary.

The sanctuary of God is not only a physical place, but also a symbol of a very special communion between God and his people. It is where we meet God in prayer, in worship, in fellowship, in His word. It is where we experience His grace, His peace, His power, His love. It is where we see Him at work in our lives and in the world. It is where we discover His purposes and plans for us and for His kingdom.

Friend, I pray you find your safe space as you enter the sanctuary of God every day. Seek Him, trust Him, praise Him, follow Him. He is not absent or indifferent. He is not silent or inactive. He is not distant or unreachable. He is Emmanuel, God with us. That's why we can believe that "even in darkness, light dawns for the righteous." Psalm 112:4

Thanks for reading. I've got to get back to packing and balancing bag weights. I hope this three-city Indian travel will land me with the "best packer in the family" crown; anything to hide that bald spot since I lost that "Prince of document work" crown.

Your pastor and friend – from across the Atlantic,
Arun

SERIES TITLE:
Remarkable!
AUGUST'S THEME:
God in the shadows?

August 4

It's not yet over when Jesus is there.

Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43

Holy Communion in both services

Rev. Kenneth Meyer

August 11

What's in a name?

John 1:35-42

Rev. Andrew Taylor

August 18

Tough recruitment. World's best job!

Mark 6: 6-13

Hymn/Song-Sing

August 25

Scandalous leaders and an unfair world.

Mark 6:14-29

PRAYER FOCUS FOR AUGUST

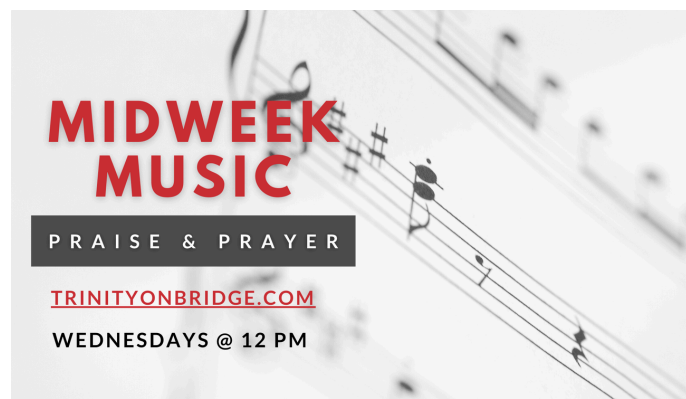
The Elections. Some are tired, others frustrated, others hopeful and others disinterested. I am aware that it worries many of us greatly. May I suggest that every time you come across a reminder of the elections on the radio, the TV, the internet, the print media or other publicity, you would not lose hope, but rather pray? We can achieve more by praying than by fretting. And certainly, much more by refraining from angry political rhetoric. The language of the believer cannot be the language of the streets. There is always room for civil conversations, genuine fact finding, truthful expressions – all done in the spirit of Jesus. This election time I ask the question: What would it have looked like if Jesus was the President of the United States? Well, if that's the standard, we have lots more praying and peaceful work to do.

We are not called to throw stones, but to stand on the Rock of Ages. God is still on the throne. Pastor Arun

TRINITY'S DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE STUDIES

October 2 - November 20

To know more, contact Bishop Pauline Peifer.



WORSHIP ITEMS by Beth Sider

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Back to Church Sunday is on September 15th, 2024. This year we will have a combined 10:00 AM service in the Trinity Sanctuary. Coffee Fellowship will be in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 to 9:45. The service will begin at 10 AM with Todd Davis, Director of Music Ministries, and Jamie Bream, Contemporary Worship Leader, working together to plan and present the music. Pastor Arun will bring the message. Invite friends and family members to Back to Church Sunday at Trinity!

According to the Back to Church website:

- * Only 5% of Americans have received a personal invitation to church.
- * 80% of Americans would be open to attending church if invited by a friend.
- * 90% of participating churches say Back to Church Sunday helped their church be more outwardly focused.
- * Participating churches saw a 25% increase in attendance on the day of the event.

LOOKING AHEAD

New Attendees Dinner - Sunday, September 15th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunnier Side of Sixty - Tuesday, September 17th. Lunch at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Service at 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Terry Renzetti speaking and music ministry by John Sharpe and Wilma Rockey.



GRANDPARENTS IN PRAYER

Grandparents in Prayer will begin meeting on Monday, September 9th, the day after Grandparents' Day. We meet from 10:45 to 12:00 noon in the St. John's Room on the second and fourth Monday of the month. For the 2024-25 season we will use the resource book, *The Power of a Praying Grandparent* by Stormie Omatrian. We support each other in praying for those who come behind us. This is a prayer group. See Beth Sider, phone or text at 717-802-2812 if you wish to have a book reserved for you. Grandmothers and Grandfathers are welcome! Do you desire to be challenged in your prayer life? Do you have a burden to pray for your grandchildren? Ask God if this is the group for you.

A TESTIMONY OF THANKS: THOUGHTS FROM PSALM 23

by Todd Davis

Psalm 23

Psalm 23 is one of the first psalms I learned. Throughout the course of my life, it has continued to guide and teach me. It is to Psalm 23 that I look to give thanks and praise to God.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Just before I was born, my parents moved to Reisterstown, Maryland. Their church affiliation at the time was at Catonsville United Methodist Church. It was here that I was baptized. After finding a church that was closer, my parents were faithful in taking me and my three older sisters to worship services at Reisterstown United Methodist Church (RUMC). Saved and called by God in the waters of Baptism at Catonsville United Methodist Church, it was at RUMC that my faith journey with the Lord’s shepherding hand continued. From an early age, I felt ‘at home’ in church, firmly believing the Lord was inviting me into His house and His presence. I vividly remember junior choir, VBS, and assisting in worship services. It was at RUMC that I took confirmation classes and was confirmed in the faith. It was also at RUMC that I accompanied my first worship service on the organ. In the back of my United Methodist Hymnal, I scribbled the date, May 12, 1989, and the music selections.

My parents and three older sisters were also involved in many church activities. My sisters were active in youth group events and helped in the nursery on a frequent basis. My oldest sister, Karen, and her husband, Tim, were married in RUMC 28 years ago. Our family formed friendships, personal and spiritual, with others who shared our faith. Although many years have passed since our time at RUMC, the church and community hold a very dear and special place in our family’s worship, memory, and walk with the Lord.

At home, my youthful interest in music was supported fully by my parents. Our house organ and my father’s love of playing the instrument encouraged me to explore. It was a ‘broomstick’ pedal organ, a smaller electronic organ with significant differences to a larger organ. When it was evident that I was more and more curious about the instrument in general, I began taking private lessons. I quickly moved into the area of church music and began studying with the musician at RUMC. My parents bought an electronic organ, with full pedalboard, like a larger scale pipe organ. To this day, my parents still have this organ, from ca. 1985, in their house. It has stood the test of time! It is a wonderful memory of learning and growing up.

My father and mother had a significant impact in forming my practice habits, locating teachers, taking me to and from church, to and from lessons, and strong encouragement along the way. I am forever grateful for the many opportunities afforded me, at a young age, to use my gifts and express my love of music. Slowly, in His time, He was providing the means necessary to make music to His glory and His name.

*“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”*

The Lord continued to lead me by providing very capable and knowledgeable organ teachers. To this day, their teachings remain a strong influence on my playing and daily music-making. Dr. Richard Wegner, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Md., and Dr. Thomas Spacht at Towson University, gave me a strong foundation as an organist and musician. In and out of the classroom, they provided me with many chances to learn.

I have been given opportunities to serve in many different places and capacities as a musician. This has provided the opportunity to see and be moved by the magnificence of Christian churches, cathedrals, and houses of worship. From my beginning studies at Immanuel Lutheran Church to this day at Trinity Church, God has led me to many special places, each where I felt and still feel his omnipotent presence. The profound connection between the aesthetics, the reverberant space and its music is never lost on the listener. I have been ‘spoiled’ many, many times in my ministry, especially during the daytime, because I have been in a silent sanctuary when the sun shines at its best. The colors that radiate from the windows truly recall the words of Psalm 84, “How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty.” Psalm 150 exhorts us to “Praise God in his sanctuary, praise him in the mighty heavens...” I thank God for these moments of stillness and restoration.

God has continued to bless my service in His name by providing significant opportunities to explore, to learn, and to better myself. Presently, I also serve as cantor at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, and I am the accompanist for the East Berlin Community Singers. I have acquired further certifications through the American Guild of Organists and the Royal Canadian College of Organists. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the study of guitar. Before the nursery and music area at Trinity Church were redesigned, Harry Rodriguez came upon a guitar that was in storage. It was new and had not been used. From that moment, I knew that I was going to study the instrument and use it to His praise and glory. Unequivocally, I believe that music is the path the Lord has led me to serve Him. Thank you, Lord, for leading me, and for the blessings you have showered upon me, especially that of my family, my greatest blessings, Cathe and Hayden.

***“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death:
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”***

Not every day, every month, or every year has been easy. Life happens and there are road bumps along the way. There have been many times when I’ve thought, “IS the Lord my shepherd?” “Are you beside me?” “This valley is too low to climb out of, Lord.” Yet, I look at where I have been and where I am today. Trials and tribulations will always remain; yet, it has been over 35 years since that day I scribbled in the back of my hymnal and nearly 46 ½ years since my Baptism. It is with utmost certainty I know, along the way, he has comforted me but also has taken his rod and staff and pulled me back. That which remains the same is the Word of God, his faithfulness, and the truth that Jesus Christ died for me and you for our sins. I know that when I pray the Lord’s Prayer, “Our Father,” he is truly calling me into a close, personal relationship with Him. God has brought me to this point in my life according to His plan. He Is with me today, continuing to comfort and to guide.

***“Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”***

Every week, entering church and taking part in the procession is a stark reminder that, again, I come into his presence and am saved by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Daily, I am reminded of this same truth. So, I look to the future with hope and eager eyes. As the hymn says, “Trust and obey.” Whatever time I have left to serve Him here, I will do just that, “Trust and obey.” “Time, like an ever-rolling stream” is pushing me along its path quickly; yet, as my parents were a strong force in my upbringing, and as others guided me along the way, I am confident that one day I will stand before my heavenly Father, the ultimate guide, and Jesus, the great shepherd.

Until that day, how can I thank Him and continue to share my testimony? As Psalm 27 says, “I will sing and make music to your name.” I will tell the “old, old story of Jesus and his love.” I can trust in His guidance. Music will continue to be my daily testimony to serve Him so that others may know Him.

Lord, you are my shepherd. I pray that others might be changed by your love and mercy so we can all say, “The Lord IS, unequivocally, my shepherd.”

LOVE AND LIGHT (PT. 1)

by Jamie Bream

During my time performing with the Liberty University Wind Symphony, I had the opportunity to play some of the most difficult and technical, as well as some of the most emotional and beautiful, music that has ever been written. Brian Balmages' Love and Light, which our ensemble performed in the spring of 2021, fits all four of these descriptions. The explanation of this selection on The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" YouTube channel reads as follows:

After losing a child at birth in November 2018, 1st Lt. Elizabeth Elliott turned to music to grieve and begin the healing process. In January 2019, she contacted composer Brian Balmages to write a piece of music to help her family, and others, find strength. Lt. Elliott describes her experience with the work, "I know that this piece will help so many families now and into the future. "Love and Light" is for my daughter Madison, but it is also for all the babies in heaven that we lost... Nothing can take away the pain of losing a child, but... time reveals, there is "Love and Light" on the other side"... [the] piece is organized in three sections, each answering a question posed by Balmages: What does unconditional love sound like? What does it sound like when unconditional love is shattered? What does it sound like when a child first sees the face of God?¹

Balmages, leaning on his Catholic faith, sought to answer these three "impossible questions" through his work.² As Christians, these questions are also applicable to us and, in my opinion, subtly reflect the Gospel story as they are answered in *Love and Light*.

1.) What does unconditional love sound like?

This question, which the composer categorizes as "not temporary love, but a full-on unconditional love" is answered in a two-fold way in *Love and Light*.³ Balmages combined thematic material from Ben Folds' *The Luckiest* (a special piece for the family - 1st Lt. Elliott played this song on the piano every day for Madison during her pregnancy), Pavel Tchesnokov's *Salvation Is Created*, and the hymn *All Creatures Of Our God and King* to create a loving, affectionate mood, and he also composed an original "lullaby" theme that is heard throughout the piece.⁴ This unconditional love that Balmages sought to encapsulate through his work is agape love (selfless love of one person for another), which we read of in Scripture passages such as John 15:13, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, and 1 John 4:8. In addition, it is the same kind of love expressed in the most well-known verse in the Bible: "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). As Balmages seeks to answer the second question, however, we find that unconditional love does not come without unbearable heartbreak.

Please look for Part 2 of this article in the September 2024 Tidings.

1-YouTube video, 14:17, February 28, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZpGVgfJx7U>

2- Wind Repertory Project. "Love and Light". Wind Repertory Project, https://www.windrep.org/Love_and_Light

3- Wind Repertory Project, "Love and Light"

4- Middleton, Ryan James. "A Guide To The Performance of Love and Light by Brian Balmages". Master's diss., Colorado State University, 2022, 21, 29.

UPCOMING REVIVE DATES

August 16 @ 5:00 pm - Revive BBQ

To close out the summer season, we will be holding our annual Revive BBQ at the New Cumberland Borough Park. This is a church-wide cookout where everyone brings a dish to share. We will also have a time of worship, devotions, and (of course) volleyball! Please make plans to attend - it's going to be a great time! Sign-up to bring food items for the BBQ evening. All are welcome.

September 22 - Eric and Anissa Haney at Revive

We will have the privilege of welcoming Jamie's friends, Eric and Anissa Haney. IMB missionaries who served abroad in Sweden for 11 years, Eric and Anissa share the Gospel through music with their band, Haney Love. They have released several albums together, the most recent of which, "Stories of Hope", tells biblical stories such as those of Zacchaeus, Jairus, and Peter through jazz "big band" settings.



**August 6 & 13
12:00 - 1:00 PM**

Needs:

August 6 - brownies

August 13 - pies

All baked goods must kindly be at the church by 11:00 a.m. each Tuesday.

Effective September 1 this ministry will be in the hands of Charlotte Wagoner. Please continue to support her as you have me for the past several years. Sign up sheets are on the table across from the mailboxes.

**August 11
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

Needs: umbrellas, ponchos, backpacks, gently used men's sneakers, men's/ladies shorts (SMALL sizes) - 34's and less, umbrellas, gently used bath towels, travel size shampoo/conditioner/lotion,

We served 83 folks at our July outreach with temps at 100+. We are very blessed by the folks at Trinity who continue to sponsor us monetarily and by donating items! Thank you. There is a bin in the hallway across from the restrooms for requested donations each month. If interested in volunteering, please talk to Carol Crossley.

STARFISH MINISTRIES



Contact Carol Crossley
for more information.



For the month of August there will be no Love Box Distribution. We will resume in September. We are still accepting food donations. You may bring into church and put on the Love Box table in the hallway. Food Needed: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Soups, Spaghetti Sauce, Tuna Fish etc.

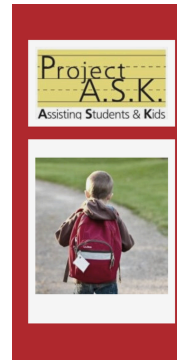
Thank you for all you do in helping with the Love Box Ministry. Thank you Love Box Team for your dedication. Contact person, Carol Evertts 717-774-3207

FREE TRINITY LOVE BOXES

NEXT SECRET SISTERS:

AUGUST 17 @ 10 AM

Unique gift exchange. Select an item from your home that is waiting to be released to the thrift shop. It must be an item you are willing to part with and must be in good condition. Jewelry, hats, purses, books, any collectibles are suggestions. Bring your item wrapped in plain paper or newspaper. The main event will be the exchange game and there will be a one of a kind door prize for one lucky lady. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by August 14th to Vicky, only by text or voicemail message at 717-623-6568.



ASK PROGRAM W.S.S.D I want to thank you for all the food and monetary donations given over the last year. The Social Worker at WSSD states how the students look forward to the food donations and how much it is appreciated. The upcoming year will be coming up soon!!!

Please see the list of preferred food items on the A.S.K. table in the hallway. We look forward to your continued support to this endeavor. Thanks, Cathy Baum

PRAY & GO
The Outreach Program for EVERYONE
Contact Sharon Sheffer for more information.

**AUGUST 19
@ 6:00 PM
(NOTE TIME CHANGE)**

If that date / time does not work for you and you want to walk with a partner(s) at another time, so as not to duplicate houses, please contact Sharon Sheffer 717-774-3137 (sesheffer@outlook.com) for where to Pray & Go. Once you walk, please e-mail Sharon with street and house numbers you covered. Any questions, please contact Sharon Sheffer, Coordinator of Pray & Go.



Celebrate from Heart & Spirit Bible Study

The Believer's Authority:
Luke 10:19

Contact Cindy Durborow
717-574-0445

Thursdays
10:30 AM - 12 PM
Lion and Lamb room

Trinity Church's PRAYER WALL

Need someone
to pray for you?

Pray for requests by logging onto
our website. Tell a friend about
our prayer wall.



You are encouraged to BYOB (Bring your own Bible)

Write in it, mark it, highlight it, date it –
give your faith journey a more personal touch
as you study God's word.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU, Trinity Church for the Bible, book, and key
chain. Thank you all for your support through my years at
Trinity. Austin Estep

NEW CUMBERLAND APPLE FESTIVAL SCARECROW STALL SEPTEMBER 28TH

A request from our youth

Trinity's youth need your donations of jeans, shirts, hats, belts, ties, and children's clothing of any size. The younger kids like making the smaller scarecrows, but they are also great for people with limited space. Drop off your donations on the last table near the mailboxes and bathrooms. Thank you for your support. The youth ministry uses the funds to help other ministries and youth activities. Please do feel free to contact me for more details. Jan Snyder, Coordinator, Youth Ministry



THANK YOU!

"I want to express my thanks to the congregation for all
your cards and notes sent during my wife Donna's
passing. My heart is forever grateful."
Tom Bowman



Trinity's VBS

2024



DUTIES FOR AUGUST 2024

	GREETERS	WORSHIP LEADERS	CHILDREN'S TALK	CLOSING
AUG 4	Irv/Brad Kiehl	Michelle Meckley	No Children's Talk	Gordon Taylor
AUG 11	Mary/Grover Herr	Barbara Dysard	Bishop Pauline Peifer	Rich Jones
AUG 18	Debra Sisk	Ken Gable	Barbara Hawk	Ken Gable
AUG 25	Pam Dunham	Scott Bankert	Elliot Stark-Blosser	Scott Bankert
	USHERS	9:15 NURSERY	11:00 NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
AUG 4	Daryl Potteiger Gordon Taylor	Jan Snyder Angel/Elliott Snyder	Jan Ocamb Kaylynn Snyder	Janice Snyder
AUG 11	Rex Hood Gordon Taylor	Jan Snyder Dianne Schofield	Jane Gable	
AUG 18	Jed Beshore Rex Hood	Jan Snyder Millie Walters	Sandy Williams Missi St. Cyr	
AUG 25	George Karnes Jed Beshore	Jan Snyder Allyn Litzelman	Charlotte Wagoner Tracey Williams	

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

REMINDER ABOUT GIFT CARDS

This is a reminder that you can purchase Giant, Weis and Karns gift cards from the church office to give as gifts or for your own use. We have them in \$100, \$50 and \$25 denominations. Trinity Church benefits by receiving 5% of the proceeds for each card you purchase. We would be happy to receive your order by phone, letter or email in the church office. We will mail them to you and you can pay for them by check through the mail if you are not able to come to the office during the week. Matt Ickler also sells cards at Coffee Fellowship on Sundays. We thank each of you for the many generous ways in which you support the Lord's ministry at Trinity.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:15 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 - Traditional Worship 10:30 - Coffee Fellowship 11:00 - Revive Worship and Children's Sunday School		1 10 AM So N' Sews	2	3 9 AM Communion Prep
	4 Communion	5	6 11:30 AM DDB 6 PM National Night Out	7 12 PM FB Live Music 6 PM Youth Group	8 10:30 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit (LL)	9
11 12 PM Starfish Ministry	12 2 PM Worship Committee Mtg	13 11:30 AM DDB 8 PM FB Live Prayer	14 12 PM FB Live Music 6 PM Youth Group	15 10 AM So N' Sews 10:30 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit (LL)	16 5 PM Revive Picnic - Borough Park	17 10 AM Secret Sisters
18	19 6 PM Pray & Go	20 8 PM FB Live Prayer	21 12 PM FB Live Music 6 PM Youth Group	22 10:30 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit (LL)	23	24
25	26 6 PM Leadership Team Mtg	27 7 PM Walk Through Prayer Time	28 12 PM FB Live Music 6 PM Youth Group	29 10:30 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit (LL)	30	31

FACEBOOK PRAYER TIMES

DATE	TIME	LEADER	TOPIC
August 13	8 PM	Beth Sider	Praying together. Sharing & caring.
August 20	8 PM	Rev. Arun Andrews	The good old days: Conversation with Bob Bennett

WALK THROUGH PRAYER TIMES

DATE	TIME	LEADER
August 27	7 PM	Rev. Arun Andrews

Dated Material

**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**



Trinity Church
415 Bridge Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-7146
www.trinityonbridge.com



Please submit articles for the
September 2024 Trinity Tidings by **August 14th.**



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
Tuesday, August 6
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

New Cumberland Night Out is to bring awareness of community safety and our protection by our police department. Right around the corner on Tuesday, August 6 from 6-8. Sign up sheets can be found across from the mailboxes. Volunteers are needed to set up and tear down, help at the milkshake stand, hot dog stand and with the kids games. Please contact Jan Snyder to help the youth with face painting.

It's all FREE!