



*Life-giving*  
**ACTS**

*May 11, 2025*

# WELCOME

Welcome to Trinity Reformed UCC, where all are welcome, especially those who are single, married, widowed, divorced, rich, middle-class, poor, LGBTQIA+ (or not), living nearby or far away. No matter where you were born, what language you speak, your skin color, ethnicity, culture, ability, or disability, we welcome you. We love crying newborns, active toddlers, kids, youths, adults, and seniors, and people who are thick, thin, short, tall, or in between. We welcome you whether you can sing high, sing low, sing only in the shower, try to sing, or if you cannot carry a tune in a bucket (our pastor can't either). You're welcome if you are a first-time visitor, have been here before, are a member, or if you do not really know why/what/who brought you here. We welcome you if you attend church weekly, sometimes, rarely, never, or if this is your first time ever. We welcome you if you are baptized, aren't baptized, don't know, or don't even know what that means. We extend a special welcome to you if you have been hurt by the Church and hope you will find nothing but love here. Please know that we welcome you with all your questions, doubts, beliefs, disbeliefs, and unbelief.

In short: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey: You are welcome here.  
**Period.**

## WEEKLY SERVICES



### ONSITE

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

### ONLINE

Live at [tinyurl.com/trinf](https://tinyurl.com/trinf)

For more info visit us on the web at

[www.Collegeville.church](http://www.Collegeville.church) or email

[hello@collegeville.church](mailto:hello@collegeville.church)

**PASTOR SUZANNE:**

[pastor@collegeville.church](mailto:pastor@collegeville.church)

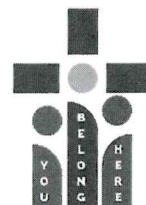
### Staff

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne E. Schwarz-Green

Voice & Bell Choirs: Robert Rudolph, MM, MDiv

Administrative Assistant: Fable Teaford

Organist: Alicia Hoffmann



**TRINITY**  
Reformed Church • United Church of Christ  
[www.collegeville.church](http://www.collegeville.church)

**Order of Worship**  
**May 11, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*(\*Congregation may stand; Bold indicates Congregational responses)*

**PRELUDE BELL CHOIR**

**TRUMPET VOLUNTARY**

**GRACE**

**OPENING WORDS/GREETINGS**

**PASTOR SUZANNE**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**NCH 407**

**HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION**

**Vs. 1,2,5**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

**C:** **We know his voice, and we follow where he leads.**

**L:** He makes us lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside still waters.

**C:** **His goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.**

**L:** No one can snatch us from the shepherd's hand.

**C:** **We belong to God's flock, gathered by grace, led by love.**

**All:** **Let us worship the Good Shepherd, who gives eternal life.**

**\*CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**L:** The Good Shepherd knows each of us by name - our faithfulness and our wandering. Like sheep, we sometimes stray from the Shepherd's care, following other voices rather than the one who truly knows and loves us. Let us confess the ways we have wandered from the Shepherd's voice.

**All:** **Loving Shepherd, we confess that we have not always recognized your voice. We have listened instead to voices of self-interest and indifference. We have followed paths that led away from your loving care. We have failed to extend your compassion to others in need. We have overlooked simple opportunities to serve our neighbors. Forgive us for our wandering ways. Open our ears to hear you calling our name. Open our hearts to trust your guidance. Open our hands to serve others as you have served us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*(Moment of silent contemplation, confession, and prayer.)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**L:** Hear these words of assurance from our Good Shepherd: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are sought, found, forgiven, and restored to the flock. We belong to God, now and forever.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**



\*HYMN OF FAITH

NCH478

I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Vs. 1,4

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

INTERLUDE

BELL CHOIR

BELL JOYANCE

LORENZ

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (LED BY READER)

All: Shepherd of our hearts, as your word is read and proclaimed, tune our ears to recognize your voice. Cut through the noise and distraction of our lives that we might hear you speaking words of life, guidance, and peace. As we listen, draw us closer to you and to one another. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms

Psalm 23

OT p 501 Pew Bible

Epistle Scripture

Acts 9:36-43

NT p 128 Pew Bible

Gospel Scripture

John 10:22-30

NT p 104 Pew Bible

SERMON

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

NCH 485

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

ALL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PRAYER RESPONSE

BLUE HYMNAL, UNDER PEW, 501

Sung Response:

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;

Hear our prayer, O Lord; And grant us Thy peace. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

In our Acts reading, Tabitha was known for making garments for the widows - simple acts of care that transformed lives. The Good Shepherd calls us to share what we have with others. Let us give generously, knowing that our gifts, like Tabitha's garments, may have far-reaching implications we cannot even imagine.



(PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE OFFERING PLATE. OR GIVE ONLINE USING THE QR CODE)

OFFERTORY

CHANCEL CHOIR

BECAUSE HE LIVES

GAITHER

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(IFWS 2044) MY GRATITUDE NOW ACCEPT, OH GOD

Vs. 2

2. From all your boun-ty I give to you; for all the  
 bless - ings you im - part. Re - ceive this of - fer -  
 ing I bring. Re - ceive my joy - ful heart. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

**All:** Good Shepherd, we offer these gifts, knowing that in your hands, even the smallest offering can change lives. Use them to extend your love to those in need. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

**\*CLOSING HYMN NCH 489 I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY Vs. 1,2,6**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**L:** May the Good Shepherd lead you beside still waters and restore your soul. May you recognize Christ's voice calling you by name and follow where he leads. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

**All:** Thanks be to God. Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**MAY YOU RUN AND NOT BE WEARY  
(SEE RIGHT)**



May you run and not be wea - ry. May your  
heart be filled with song. — And may the  
love of God con-tin - ue to give you hope and  
keep you strong. And may you run and not be wea -  
ry. May your life be filled with joy! — And may the  
road you trav - el al-ways lead you home. —

**POSTLUDE: ALICIA HOFFMANN**

## CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM: BECAUSE HE LIVES

God sent His son, they called him Jesus  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my  
Savior lives!

Refrain:

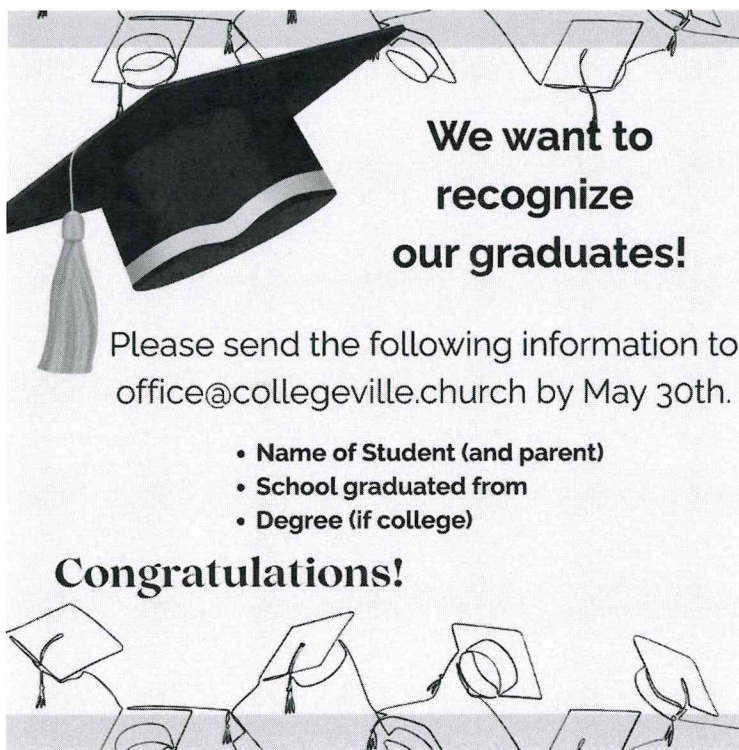
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because he lives, all fear is gone,  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he brings;  
But greater still the calm of assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days because  
He lives!

Refrain

And then one day, I'll cross a river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then, as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He  
lives!

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**We want to  
recognize  
our graduates!**

Please send the following information to  
[office@collegeville.church](mailto:office@collegeville.church) by May 30th.

- Name of Student (and parent)
- School graduated from
- Degree (if college)

**Congratulations!**



## How Firm a Foundation

*Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5**"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.*

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

*Isa. 66:12; 1 Pet. 1:8-9; 1 John 4:7-12**African-American spiritual*

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a  
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a  
 3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an  
 4 I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1  
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in my  
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my  
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in my  
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in my

2  
 soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.  
 soul. I've got foun-tain in my soul.  
 soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.  
 soul. I've got an - chor in my soul.



# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

485

George Matheson, 1882; alt.

Rom. 8:38-39; John 8:12

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,  
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,  
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in you;  
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;  
to you I can - not close my heart;  
from you I dare not seek to flee;

I give you back the life I owe, that  
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that  
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but

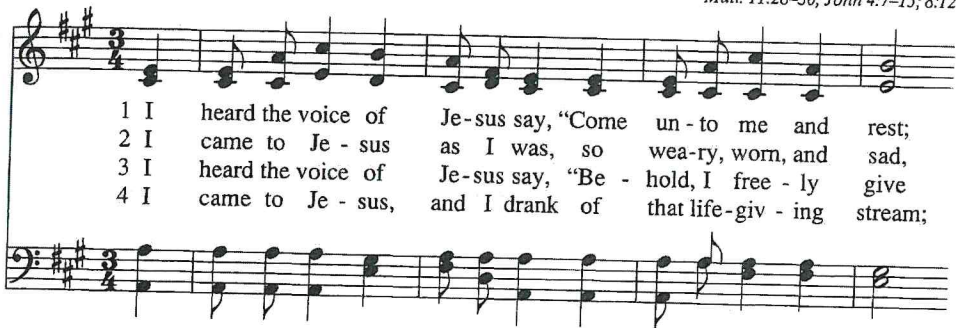
in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.  
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.  
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.  
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

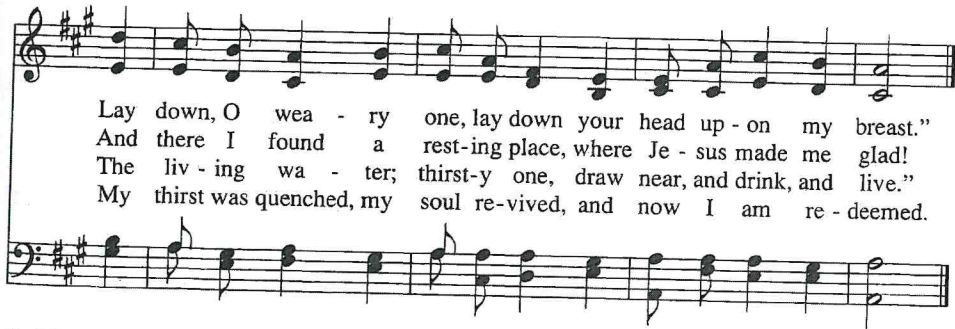
489

Horatius Bonar, 1846; alt.

Matt. 11:28-30; John 4:7-15; 8:12



1 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un-to me and rest;  
2 I came to Je-sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad,  
3 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give  
4 I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream;



Lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."  
And there I found a rest-ing place, where Je-sus made me glad!  
The liv-ing wa-ter; thirst-y one, draw near, and drink, and live."  
My thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I am re-deemed.

## NEW OR FIRST TIME HERE?

Thank you for choosing to worship here today. We are blessed by your presence. If you have questions, need assistance, or would like to be contacted, please let one of the ushers know and/or fill out one of the visitor cards located in the pews.

## YOUNG DISCIPLES

We love children! Our greeters have activity pads for kids. Please let us know if you need to use our nursery - we're happy to show you the way, and please also consider enrolling your child in our Sunday School, which meets September-June on the 2nd & 4th Sundays from 10:30-11:30AM. We look forward to seeing you and your family!

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

May 11 & 25, 2025  
Sunday School

May 13, 2025  
Dine and Donate  
Bella Rosy Pizzeria

May 18, 2025  
Coffee and conversation  
With Pastor Martha

May 22, 2025  
Pastor Martha's 90th Birthday  
(cards can be dropped off at the office)

## Thank You

**Flowers:** Trinity's dearly departed  
**Greeters:** Mark & Lorraine Citrone

**Ushers:** Mark & Lorraine Citrone  
**Reader:** Adam Golden

White is the primary color that celebrates Christ's resurrection. Gold is also associated with Easter and symbolizes the new day of the Son's rising on Easter Morning.

## PRAYER BOX For the week of May 11, 2025

Please include the following individuals/causes to your daily prayers this week and also let us know if prayers need added or removed:

Special Requests: Sue C. (friend of Bev A) • Ben and Jess. (Beth Z. godson and wife) • Jennifer M. (niece of Jim G.) • Josh (family of Deb S' friends) • Patrice P. • Bev A. • Dennis H. (brother of Earl H.) • Hunter W. (Sherry W. grandson) • Gary W. (Sherry W's nephew's father in law) • Dana D. (cousin of Peg) • Linda J. • Gregory D. and family (loss of his uncle Eric) • Lynda M. • Leslie H. • Irene B. (grandmother of Fable T.)

Ongoing Prayer Needs: Don & Joan R. • Hubie B. • Leslie H. • Ruth F. • Audrey S. • George D. • Jenni. (daughter of Lisa & Jim K.) • Father of Jim K. • Glenn D. • Cliff P. • Shannon C. • Jeanne B.



## Life-giving Acts

In this season of Easter — where we journey 50 days to Pentecost — we continue to see how the power of Jesus, our Risen Lord, is now in the hands of his followers as they teach, preach and heal in his holy name. Today we have one such healing.

Peter is in the city of Joppa, a prosperous port on the west coast of Israel, where he learns of the death of a faithful widow named Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek). Her great acts of charity and kindness are spoken of by the number of mourners who come to her home. Many are widows themselves wearing dresses made by Tabitha, who was a skilled seamstress.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, Peter revives the dead woman by calling out to her, extending his hand and commanding her to get up once again. And she does. There is celebration, and news of this incredible life-giving act spreads throughout the populous city, gaining a record number of Jesus believers.

Bringing someone back from the dead is the ultimate life-giving act. But as Jesus followers in 2025, we need to remember that that life-giving act is still possible through each one of us. We might not be reviving the actual dead from their slumber, but we can bring life back to those who are among the walking dead — spiritually or emotionally. An inspiring word of encouragement reaching the ears of someone who has been belittled all their life is a life-giving act. A strong hand extended to lift the one who has been kicked to the gutter is a life-giving act.

There was a recent social media post from a resident of a tiny rural community thanking an anonymous donor for paying her ailing cat's veterinary bill. Some selfless soul, hearing of the woman's financial situation, opened wide their wallet to ease the stress and burden. A life-giving act for a worried fur mom and her elderly cat.

Life-giving acts are still possible.

And perhaps the great act in our reading today is not Peter's raising Tabitha from the dead. Perhaps the acts of life that we should applaud are the many ways Tabitha served others, performing life-giving acts daily without ever drawing attention to herself — a new dress, a listening ear, an understanding heart. Tabitha shows us this day that faithfulness is better than greatness. Tabitha showed that serving others is how we serve God. Who are the Tabithas among you this day?

*God of new life, we praise you for the Tabithas who selflessly give to make this world better. We ask that you open wide our hearts and hands so that we may also perform life-giving acts to those in need who you place on our paths. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

