

December Trinity Tower

Volume 45
Number 12

From the Pastor

The Advent and Christmas Seasons are upon us and my hope for all of us is that we find time each day to take a break, breathe and spend some time with God! Stores have been decorated for a few months now, as the material world prepares to meet the miraculous. Trinity will be offering many opportunities for us to come together in our own anticipation for the coming Messiah.

We will have **Dinner Church** on Wednesday, December 6th at 5:30PM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. **Kara, our resident artist**, will be painting each week of Advent during both times of worship. *I will wait in anticipation to see the final painting which will be revealed on Christmas Eve!* **Messy Church** will celebrate the Christmas story on December 10th at 3PM. The Fellowship Committee will host **Christmas Dinner** following worship on Sunday, December 17th and later that evening, the **Flute Flock** will hold their first Holiday Concert at Trinity, at 7PM! The **Advent/Christmas Devotional, Glow**, brought to us by the UCC Still Speaking writer's group, is now available in the Gathering Area. Pick up a copy before they are gone.

On **Sunday, December 24th** we will begin the day celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent at 10:30AM. Our Christmas Eve worship celebrations with communion and candlelight will be held at 3PM (*Traditional*) and 8PM (*Lessons and Carols*). **Kara and I would like to invite you over to the Parsonage following the 8PM worship for light refreshments and hot beverage.**

As part of our Christmas festivities we celebrate **Jane Eiker**, our organist of over 30 years. Jane announced her retirement and her last Sunday on the bench will be December 24th. A celebration of her music ministry will be on January 21st following the 10:30am worship.

Within our community, the Gettysburg Ministerium will host a **Carol Walk**, December 3rd beginning at 4:30PM in front of the Library and Caroling to the location of the Nativity on York Street. *The Gettysburg Association* of the PCC will offer an **Epiphany Party** on Friday, January 5th from 5-9PM at St. Paul's Dubb's, UCC in Hanover. Let me know if you are interested. Reservations end on December 13th. Please join us as we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas!

Blessings!
Pastor Fred



Stain Glass Windows created by Pastor Fred will be auctioned off during our Christmas Dinner December 17th. All proceeds will benefit our Capital Campaign. These windows were discovered in the basement of Trinity by members of the Property Committee.



In This Issue

Page 1

From the Pastor
Stain Glass Windows

Page 2

Aero Energy Program
Annual Church Gift
Financial Stats
Property Update
UCC Christmas Fund
Used Ink Cartridges
Ways to donate to TUCC

Page 3

Confirmation Classes
December Faith Study
Messy Church
ONA News
Pastor's Christmas Gift

Page 4

Bazaar News
Blessing of Pets

Page 5

Anniversaries
Baby Blankets
Birthday's
Chrismon Tree
Coffee w/Friends
Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.
Lunch w/Friends
Ministries & Missions
Misty Mntn. Knitters
Sympathy
Thank You!
Thoughts & Prayers

Page 6

Annual Congregation
Meeting
Church Christmas Dinner

Page 7

Flute Flock Concert

Page 8

G.C.S. Christmas Concert

Page 9

December Calendar
December Sunday
Worship Volunteers

Page 10

Church Contact Info
Scripture Lessons
Worship Information

Property Notes

We continue to move along with our property goals. The window sills in Fellowship Hall have been repaired and covered. HARB approved the replacement of the front windows at the parsonage. Soon Kara and Pastor Fred will have air tight and functional windows. The crumbling front porch columns will be replaced with a synthetic column and base which will not deteriorate. Bruce is working on a solution to the damper situation in the parsonage fireplace to prevent that from leaking cold air. We continue to study our energy consumption to try to become more energy efficient.

Bill Jacobs has removed the window at the UUG church. He can repair it and will replace it when the temperatures are favorable for the epoxy work that needs to be done in order to make it durable for the next century! He is also working on building new front doors that meet safety requirements and fight much more tightly. That work will be completed in the spring.

Witmer Masonry has our masonry repair and brick sealing on the schedule which also depends on warmer temperatures. Exterior painting remains, but we need to wait for additional funding to complete that work. We will also need to replace the 30+ year old roof on the UUG church in the not-too-distant future.

As always, our committee expresses the deepest gratitude for the support of these projects that all of you have shown!

YTD FINANCIAL STATUS November 26, 2023

Envelope offering needed: **\$172,176.00**
Offering rec'd to date: **\$157,458.54**

Property Fund needed: **\$19,392.00**
Property Fund rec'd to date: **\$17,080.00**

Ways to continue to support the work of Trinity!

- **E-Giving:** Find instructions under either the Members tab
- **Missions in Giving tab** on our website (more info available in office)
- Use the automatic bill paying service your bank provides you
- Mail your offering envelope to the church by U.S. mail: Trinity United Church



Annual Christmas Gift to the Church:

Your Christmas Gift to the church is a statement of your faith in the work of the church and is greatly appreciated. Envelopes are included your December mailing packet and available in the Pews & Gathering Area.

"Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross"

Christmas is the time of year to remember our faithful retired clergy and families. The Pension Board of the UCC is able to monetarily assist those retired clergy families who often received little or no pension as they served in the ministry.

This year's theme is "Grace upon Grace, from John 1:16" **There are PURPLE envelopes in the Pews & Gathering Area** for you to respond to this need. These gifts will be forwarded to the UCC office. Thank you



I am still collecting your used ink cartridges.

Staples give us \$5.00 Rewards back for 20 ink cartridges. As a business we are allowed 20 cartridges a month. Any shape, size, or brand is OK. They also give us 5% Rewards back for every purchase at Staples. The last few months we received \$45 each month in Staples Rewards to spend. This helps a lot with copy paper purchases. Please bring your used cartridges in to the church. You can leave them on my desk.



Scan your phone across the QR code to make a donation to Trinity

Aero Energy House of Worship Program: We recently received another check from Aero Energy bringing the total up to \$411.72. **Thank you to those who are participating in the program!** If you get your fuel from Aero Energy, you can help Trinity. Members can enroll in *Our House of Worship Program* and Aero will donate \$0.04 cents for every gallon you purchase. **They have also expanded their program to include HVAC and plumbing services!** Customers enrolled in the *House of Worship Program* will receive a 10% (up to \$250.00/year) donation to their church for HVAC/Plumbing systems sales and service. Flyers available in Gathering Area for more information or how to sign-up.

Confirmation at Trinity will begin in sometime in 2024 for those young teens in grades 7th-10th who desire to learn more about their faith and their church!

A confirmation gathering of teens and their adult mentor will gather once a month on a Sunday following worship for two hours. Each session will include lunch and fellowship around the table.

This will be a one-year commitment.

Please contact Pastor Fred or the church office for more information or to sign-up.



Christian Education

Sunday, December 10th at 3:00pm

Messy Church will celebrate The Christmas Story



Mondays - December 4th - 18th from 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Advent/Christmas Hymns

Learn about the history of the season's hymns and carols and about the lives of those who composed and brought the pieces to life.

Facilitator: Jane Eiker

ONA: On October 29th, Trinity UCC welcomed Will and Anne Lane and Ron Couchman from St. James Lutheran Church of Gettysburg to talk about their experiences in becoming "Reconciling in Christ" (the Lutheran Church's designation that is similar to UCC "Open and Affirming"). They spoke about the process that St. James used to become "Reconciling in Christ." After a small group developed a Welcoming Statement (a copy of which is available in our gathering area), their Church Council decided to adopt it. Their Council felt that the statement described who they were as a church. In answer to a question from the audience, they said they were not aware of any church members leaving due to their new designation as "Reconciling in Christ." When asked how their church service has changed, they responded that it has not changed very much. Once a year, members of their church designate a particular service in January as "Reconciling in Christ" Sunday.

On November 5th, Dr. Julia O'Brien, Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary, spoke. Dr. O'Brien began by asking us to consider how do we really understand our mission and what Jesus is asking us to do? She said that people disagree about the mission of churches, and that the difference of opinion over ONA really reflects the underlying differences of church members about their mission. She stressed that it is good to have these conversations. She reviewed the ONA definition, and explained the terms that are mentioned in the UCC wording. She talked about the difference between being welcoming and affirming, and that 'affirming' goes beyond 'welcoming' by allowing people to feel safe in who they are and not hide. She clarified that ONA doesn't require that we fly a flag, but we are expected to be public about our ONA designation. She also discussed the trauma that LGBTQ people have experienced, sometimes in church settings, and that many LGBTQ people need the emotional support that churches can uniquely provide. In response to a question, Dr. O'Brien talked about homosexuality in the Bible and she clarified that homosexuality as a gender identity today differs from how they thought about it in the time of Leviticus. She said that the main issue is that, even if we disagree in our church about this issue, we should think about how we can talk to each other about it "in love."

It's a secret! Maybe . . . Maybe not! We try. Pastor Fred is greatly appreciated for his continuous hard work for Trinity. Contributions can be brought to the church office or dropped in the plate with a note about what it's for. Cash is preferred for bookkeeping purposes (a receipt can be provided if you provide your name) but checks can be made payable to TUCC — "Pastor Gift". The gift will be presented to Pastor Fred on Sunday, December 24th. Contributions must be in to the office by December 20th to be included. Thank you!

2023 Fall Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who helped so tirelessly in the Bazaar kitchen. All of you were valuable assets. Harry and I would not have been able to make it work without you. Thank you very, very much!

On that note, there is ham and bean soup in the freezer. It is available for sale. It is packaged in quart containers at a cost of \$8 per quart.

There are also quarts of chicken corn soup. It has been frozen for awhile and needs to be used soon. A donation would be appreciated.

You may help yourself and give your payment to Deb in the office or to Connie Howe, Bazaar Treasurer.

Again, thank you for your support of Trinity's Fall Festival/Bazaar.

Mary Jane Hilbert



**The
Blessing
of
Pets**





Jack Ziegler
December 29



In our thoughts and prayers:
Ashur Bowley, Brayden Beamer, Sonny Coble, Dr. Douglas Eyer, Alice Fritz, Joyce Golden, Lois Grim, Linda & Harold Heller (Sara Shank's parents), Harry Hilbert, John Harrison Hoffman, Evelyn Kretz, MacKenzie Kretz, Josh Langley, John Lucas, Nancye Marinos, Jen Mickelson, Bob Miller, Kathy Murphy, Lenore O'Rourke, Lisa Reinoehl, Marian Smith, Bill Swisher, Brea Thomas, Mary Timmins, Elizabeth & Sandy Topper, Mckenna Voss, and Teeyara Jo Weiant.
(Please notify the office to be removed).



The Lyons'
Marjorie & Francis
December 8



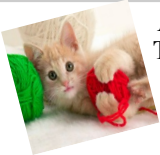
Our condolences to Ruth & Terry Krietz, Stacy Rushwald and family in the passing of Ruth's mother Ruth M. Hallman. Mrs. Hallman died Tuesday, November 14th. May God's loving embrace provide comfort and peace.



Coffee w/Friends
Friday, December 1st
@ 10:00am
Ragged Edge,
Chambersburg Street



Dear Trinity United Church of Christ,
We are very grateful for your donation of \$395.00 to the Adams Rescue Mission. We appreciate you! Your gift will help the ARM to feed, clothe and shelter the needy in our community.
Thank you and God bless you! ARM Staff



Misty Mountain Knitters
Tuesday, December 12th
3:30pm-5:30pm
Gathering Area.
Anyone is welcome!

Terry and I would like to thank our church family for their best wishes and condolences at the passing of our mother. Your cards and calls have been greatly appreciated. *Ruth & Terry Krietz.*



Lunch w/Friends
Friday,
December 15th
@ 11:30am
Friendly's,
Steinwehr Ave

I need your help! I am currently working on a booklet that will describe the symbols on our Chrismon Tree. I would like to do a collage of the trees over the years. If you have a picture(s) that you would like to share, please let me know. All photo's will be returned. I am also looking for photos of our flowering tree; poinsettias, Easter, etc. I appreciate any help you can provide.
Thank you! *Mary Jane Hilbert*



Knitted/Crocheted Baby Blankets for Sale \$20.00 each.
Perfect gift! Many colors available.
Contact Suzy Miller to purchase



Ministry & Missions: An easel is set up in the gathering area with proposed events Trinity may like to accomplish in 2024. Be sure to take a look and sign up for events you would like to participate in. Some events could still use a team leader. If you have other ideas for an event please see Carl Barrick. Those events which do not garner support will be dropped from our activities for next year.

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. Trinity has again agreed to help in providing for the homeless during the winter through CARES. **Our dates are December 25, 2023 through January 7, 2024.** Our help will be provided in a different way this year. **St. James Lutheran Church will provide the housing for the homeless with overnight "stay awake" staff. Volunteers are still needed from the churches:**

Help with preparing breakfast in the morning. Your volunteer time will be from 6 AM to 8 AM in their kitchen (no Sundays). The meals will be prepared at St. James Youth House, 121-123 York St., Gettysburg.

Also need two overnight volunteers for each night of the two weeks (these volunteers can sleep) and two people to launder the linens on Monday, January 8. Both of these have some additional training.

There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering area. All new volunteers are welcome but must go through an application process. You may also call Janet Sheely at 717-357-1789 with questions.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Sunday, December 10, 2023

**Following 10:30am worship service –
this is a “One-Service Sunday”**

There is no 8:00am Service

(Please note the Annual meeting is the Sunday BEFORE the Church Dinner)



***JOIN US FOR
Christmas Dinner***
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

after the 10:30am worship

**Punch/Appetizers
Lettuce with Dutch Dressing
Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Buttered Green Beans
Cookies/Ice Cream Bar**

Please feel free to bring a few cookies to share.

Entertainment by the Christophers & 1.

**Please sign-up so we can prepare.
Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area.**

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

Christmas with The Flute Flock

Sunday, December 17 at 7PM

Trinity United Church of Christ

60 East High Street, Gettysburg



Come hear your Christmas favorites performed by The Flute Flock- Gettysburg. Songs will be played on piccolo, flute, alto flute, bass flute, and our newest addition: contrabass flute. A free will offering will be taken.

***Share the magic of Christmas with The Flute Flock!
We will flute carol at the end of the concert. Please bring your flute and a music stand if you would like to join us.***

Joy to the World!

A CHORAL CELEBRATION

**JOHN MCKAY
DIRECTOR**



**DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

DECEMBER 1ST, 7PM

**CHURCH OF THE ABIDING PRESENCE
61 SEMINARY RIDGE
GETTYSBURG, PA 17325**

PEGGY HAAS HOWELL, GUEST ORGANIST

DECEMBER 9TH, 3PM

**BASILICA OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON
339 S. SETON AVENUE
EMMITSBURG, MD 21727**

JOSEPH O'BRIEN, GUEST ORGANIST



GETTYSBURGCHORALSOCIETY.ORG



Sundays at Trinity

8:00am Worship

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Fellowship (Gathering Area)

Choir Practice

10:30am Worship

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30am Flutes 10a Coffee w/Friends 7p G.C.S. Concert	2
3 Communion 12:30p-4:30p MDANA	4 Annual Committee Reports Due 2:30p Bazaar	5 7p Personnel	6 5:30p Dinner Church 7p Choir	7 9:30a-10:30a Deb Out	8 9:30am Flutes Consistory Committee	9 12p Private Event in F.H. 3pm G.C.S. Concert
10 One Service. Annual Meeting following 10:30a 3p Messy Church	11 6:30p Fellowship	12 3:30p-5:30p Knitting Group	13 6p Christian Ed 7p Choir	14	15 9:30am Flutes 11:30a Lunch w/ Friends	16 1p-3p Flute Practice. Dinner prep for Sunday.
17 Church Dinner following 10:30a 7p Flute Flock	18	19 6p Spiritual Council 6:30p Consistory	20 6p Music Staff 7p Choir	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22	23
24 Christmas Eve One Service 10:30am Worship 3:00pm & 8:00pm Communion and Candlelight (both)	25 Christmas Day CLOSED	26	27 No Choir	28	29	30
31 One Worship 10:30am Worship						

DATE	ALTAR CARE	GREETERS	LAY READERS	USHERS	ACOLYTES
December 3	<i>Cindy Blevins Roberta Weiant Jane Malone Karen Kendlehart Roberta & Audrey (E)</i>	10:30am <i>Ruby Warren Terry Krietz</i>	8:00am <i>Elder</i> 10:30am <i>Elder</i>	8:00am <i>Roberta Weiant</i> 10:30am <i>Janet & Steve Sheely</i>	10:30am <i>Buck Harvey</i>
December 10	<i>Same as above</i>	10:30am <i>Ann & Buck Harvey</i>	<i>No 8am service</i> 10:30am <i>Elmer Shelton</i>	<i>No 8am service</i> 10:30am <i>Nina & Russell. Redding</i>	10:30am <i>Bonnie Smith</i>
December 17	<i>Same as above</i>	10:30am <i>Mary Jane & Harry Hilbert</i>	8am <i>Jim Orner</i> 10:30am <i>Catherine Hammons</i>	8am <i>Jen Mickleson</i> 10:30am <i>Sandy Busche George Steckert</i>	10:30am <i>Bonnie Smith</i>
December 24	<i>Same as above</i>	10:30am <i>Suhua Dong Suzie Miller</i>	<i>No 8am service</i> 10:30am <i>Suhua Dong</i>	<i>No 8am service</i> 10:30am <i>Lucy Green Cathy Hammons</i>	10:30am <i>Janet Sheely</i>
December 31	<i>Same as above</i>	10:30am <i>Jane Malone Neil Hollabaugh</i>	<i>No 8am Service</i> 10:30am <i>Joan Peck</i>	<i>No 8am service</i> 10:30am <i>Ann & Buck Harvey</i>	10:30am

Staff

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young, Pastor

Deb Guiher, Admin. Assistant

Karen Lentz, Account/Payroll Mgr.

John McKay, Director Senior Choir

Jane Eiker, Organist

Sara Shank, Assistant Organist

Deb & Bruce Guiher, Housekeeping

Bruce Guiher, Bldg & Grounds Keeper

Nina Redding, Consistory Chair

Ruby Warren, Consistory Vice Chair



December 2023

8:00am Worship
9:00 Adult Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship Time
Choir Practice
10:30am Worship

**Awakening
joyful
service
guided by
our still
speaking
God!**

December 3
First Sunday of Advent
Communion

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

December 10
Second Sunday of Advent
ONE SERVICE 10:30am
Annual Congregation Meeting

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 17
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 OR Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
ONE SERVICE 10:30am

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 OR Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve Worship
3:00pm and 8:00pm both w/Communion & Candlelight

December 31
New Year's Eve
ONE SERVICE 10:30am

Isaiah 61:1-10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

REMAINING
Sunday Mornings - One Service 2023 - 10:30a

December 10 - Annual Congregation Meeting

December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

December 31 - New Year's Eve

**To access our on-line worship feed,
please go to our website:**

www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org

or our Facebook page:

**[www.facebook.com/
GettysburgTrinityUCC](https://www.facebook.com/GettysburgTrinityUCC)**