

Week of December 31, 2023

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 Reinhoehl, Marian Smith, Bill Swisher, Brea Thomas, Mary Timmins, Elizabeth & Sandy Topper, Mckenna Voss, and Teeyara Jo Weiant.
(Please notify the office to be removed).

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Karen, Neil, Victor Kendlehart and family in the death Galia who died December 27th. May God's loving embrace provide comfort and peace.

There will be NO Dinner Church this week. A new day will be determined once the Pastor's schedule is worked out between Trinity UCC and Grace UCC-Hanover. Stay tuned.....

Church Windows Silent Auction: A total of \$420 was received from the windows auction. Proceeds will go the Capitol Campaign fund. Thank you!!

5th Sunday Collections: **Again this year the congregation is asked to choose four (4) local organizations to support with a 5th Sunday Special Collections.** Please mark four, including your write-ins, on this ballot by February 26th and place in the collection plate, or the collection basket in the Gathering Area.

**** 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 2024.

Adams County Office for Aging: **Ministries & Missions would like to thank everyone that contributed INCONTINENT PRODUCTS over the past few months.** We recently delivered over 402 products to the Adams County Office for Aging.

Tender Care Pregnancy Center: **Ministries & Missions would like to thank everyone that contributed DIAPERS AND WIPES over the past few months.** We recently delivered over 547 diapers, 272 wipes along with some knitted hats, scarves, and blankets to Tender Care.

Both organizations were so thankful for these donations as they were much needed. The staff expressed their gratitude to Trinity for our continued support over the years. Your ongoing generosity is greatly appreciated by the Adams County Office for Aging, Tender Care Pregnancy Center and Ministries & Missions as these are an important mission we look forward to continuing. Many thanks! Ministries & Missions

December is a "fifth Sunday Special Collection" month: Special Collection envelopes are available in the pews and Gathering Area.

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 in 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!

Final Week of **Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.** for Trinity. **Our dates are through January 8, 2024.** St. James Lutheran Church has provided the housing for the homeless PLUS an overnight “stay awake” staff person.

Volunteers for the C.A.R.E.S. shelter are still needed from the churches:

Help with preparing breakfast in the morning. Your volunteer time will be from 6am to 8am 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. If you could not help during our scheduled time, maybe you could help another time. All new volunteers are welcome but must go through an application process. You may also call Janet Sheely at 717-357-1789 or St. James Lutheran Church with questions or more information. **Thank you Janet for your hard work in coordinating the volunteers for Trinity.**

Capital Campaign: Thank you for your many donations!! We are well on our way to reaching our goal. If you have not yet donated, we respectfully request that you consider making a donation soon. **The campaign is currently scheduled to run through December, 2023.** Donations can be made directly to TUCC church office with “Capital Campaign-Building Projects” in the memo line or in the “Capital Campaign” envelope you have been receiving in the mail. You may also donate through the E-Giving under the “Capital Campaign” donation box. Lastly, you may designate a donation you commit to making on a monthly/periodic basis using the attachment to the June campaign letter.

Capital Campaign Committee

Today: One Service 10:30am – NO 8:00am Worship

Monday: New Year’s Day – Church/Office closed

Tuesday: 7:00pm Personnel - Parlor

Wednesday: NO Dinner Church

7:00pm Choir - Sanctuary

Friday: Consistory Committee Reports Due

10:00am Coffee with Friends – Ragged Edge – Chambersburg Street

Next Sunday: Communion

12:30pm-4:30pm MDANA – Fellowship Hall

Attendance: 12/24/2023 10:30am 53; On-line 12; 3:00pm 35; 8:00pm 88; On-line 16; Total: 203

Financial Report: 12/24/2023

Envelope Offering Needed: \$186,524.00

Property Fund Needed: \$21,008.00

Envelope Offering Received: \$172,736.54

Property Fund Received: \$19,035.00

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 also 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 their 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*

**PURPLE envelopes are in the
Pews & Gathering Area
for you to respond to this need.**

These gifts will be forwarded
to the UCC office. Thank you

FIFTH SUNDAYS

SPECIAL COLLECTION BALLOT

Again this year the congregation is asked to choose four (4) local organizations to support with a 5th Sunday Special Collections.

Please mark four, including your write-ins, on this ballot by February 26th and place in the collection plate, or the collection basket in the gathering area.

FIFTH SUNDAYS SPECIAL COLLECTION BALLOT

ADAM'S COUNTY HEAD START

ADAMS COUNTY

CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

ADAMS COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING

ADAMS RESCUE MISSION

AGAPE HOUSE

GETTYSBURG SENIOR CENTER

HALAL MEAL FOR 2 REFUGEE FAMILIES

HEALTHY ADAMS COUNTY

HOFFMAN HOME

MISSION OF MERCY HEALTH CARE

RUTH'S HARVEST

Y.W.C.A

S.P.C.A.

Suggestions

VOTE FOR FOUR (4) ORGANIZATIONS

SUGGEST OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

VOTES TALLIED FEBRUARY 26TH

Refugee Resettlement Partnership December Update

By Rayna Cooper, Coordinator

The RRP has been making progress with both families. Today, I made a call to a trusted advisor at Church World Service in Harrisburg to ask for a resource. The trusted advisor said she was hoping I was calling to request another family! I told her we were still fully occupied with our first two families! She then graciously answered my question in the most complete and helpful way possible!

While reorganizing some of my computer files to find previous RRP updates, I came across this note made in February 2022, just 10 days after our first family arrived in Gettysburg. As we look toward the second anniversary of their arrival (2/12/24), I thought I would share my impressions from that day, after coming upon a quote that stoked these thoughts:

2/22/22 Quote from reading the book "Dear Edward"

"The air between us is not empty space.

I want to know what to do.

That's easy. The same thing we all must do. Take stock of who we are, and what we have, and then use it for good."

Impressions:

They wanted to go to Texas. They were not placed in Texas – too many in the family -hard to place large families because no big houses were available.

Nearly at the end of placements for those housed at Fort Dix, the family found a home had been prepared for them. Gettysburg had a nice 4-bedroom house available to rent at a very reasonable price.

On arrival, the warm and welcoming house was shown to the family; with children running up and down the stairs to see all the wonderful rooms and bathrooms. The littlest girl walked around pointing to the upstairs bath, while making the washing hands motion with excitement in her eyes. The father

was looking worried, seeing how the family was so excited. Finally, the elder son interpreted: his father was anxious and wondering if this was another temporary placement. He was told that no, this was their home for the foreseeable future. His worry lines disappeared, as a smile replaced them.

Another Day:

Can he walk outside by himself? He's 17, is it okay?

Do you mean is it safe?

Well, no, is it allowed? Can he walk around outside by himself? (the family asked as the 17 year old said he was taking a walk, leaving by way of the back door).

Everyone can walk outside in America.

Donations: things, environment, experience

- Who paid for this? (asked about many things)
- Larger pans, bowls, platters! (needed!)
- Small delicate glass teacups.(desired)
- Very warm house (so nice!)
- Garbage/recycling crisis. (coach/teacher needed!)
- Can opener – using a knife? (coach/teacher needed!)
- Bermudian Wrestling match to attend with RRP volunteer – 2 high school boys – see my hands shaking? – I'm so excited.. (so generous!)

December/January RRP Newsletter – it will soon be on its way to you all! We have some interviews and the List of books purchased by the library in honor of the RRP ICPJ Peacemaker of the Year Award, plus a few other shorts.

The RRP is grateful for all the resources and activities provided by our partner churches, our members, and other contributors. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the Extraordinary Caring and Sharing you have shown our two families in the last 2 years, as you have all taken stock of who you are, what you have, and then shared it for “Good”!

Rayna