

Week of December January 7, 2024

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, The Kendlehart Family, 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).*

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Karen, Neal, Victor Kendlehart and family in the death Galia who died December 27th. May God's loving embrace provide comfort and peace. (My apologies to Neal for misspelling his name in last weeks bulletin and the January newsletter. This is the correct spelling.)
A celebration of Life ceremony will be held Saturday, January 27th at 11:00am at Trinity. A light lunch will be served following the service.

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.

Sunday, January 14th – Trinity is hosting a neutral pulpit during the 10:30am worship. Rev. Preston Van Deursen, one of Trinity's newest members, will be preaching and leading worship. The Search Committee from St. Paul's, New Oxford will worship with us.

Sunday, January 21st Jane Eiker retired the end of December as Trinity's organist. She has been the organist here for at least 33 years! **Please join us January 21st following the 10:30am worship for a celebration in her honor.** Sara Shank, previously our Assistant Organist, has accepted the position as Trinity's full time organist.

Ruth's Harvest – February 7th - 4:00pm – 5pm @ Lincoln Elementary School – Playground side entrance. Please bring your non-perishable items into the church before February 6th. A list of items is included in the bulletins this month and are available in the Gathering Area. **Help is needed on the 7th to pack the backpacks.** Contact Sandy Busche if you can help. Thank You!

Our Christian Education committee continues to think about ways to engage our members both young and old. When we met in December, we decided to consider revising our planning for Messy Church to include activities that focus on both faith and fellowship. We began planning those activities for the first half of 2024 in hopes of attracting a wider response.

The following is a list of **Faith and Fellowship (F & F)** plans for January and February:

January 21 – 3:00 PM – visit to the Adams County Historical Society/Beyond the Battle Museum

February 18 – 3:00 PM – movie at Trinity – perhaps the award-winning movie "Inside Out"

From the Open and Affirming Committee (ONA):

We are pleased to announce that Connie and Ryan Howe, members of our church, will speak at 9:00 am on January 14th. Also, on January 14th, Pamela Rutledge is scheduled to be at Trinity UCC on Sunday at 11:30 am to tell us about the ONA journey of Dover UCC.

Then, on January 28th at 11:30, Dr. Julia O'Brien, Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary, will share with the second service attendees the presentation she previously made in November after the early service. We look forward to these presentations and hope the congregation will attend as many of these as they can.

VOLUNTEER? Sure, why not Lay Liturgist, Greeter, Acolyte, or Usher. It's really not hard.
Ask anyone who is or has been a volunteer. Please contact Deb in the office for more information or to sign-up to help out. Thanks!

SPONSORS NEEDED 2024. Call, stop by or email Deb if you for more information or to sign-up.
Altar Flowers & Centerpieces: \$35.00. The Flower Chart is located in the Gathering Area to sign-up.
Newsletter: \$50 per month. The sign-up sheet is located with the Flower Chart.

Today: Communion

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

Monday: 6:00pm Capital Campaign

Tuesday: 2:30pm Care Team

3:30pm-5:30pm Knitting Group

Wednesday: 7:00pm Choir – Sanctuary

Monday: Consistory Committee Reports Due

Next Sunday: 8:00am Installation of Deacons and Elders

9:00am Connie Howe and Ryan Howe, Guest Speakers

10:30am Neutral Pulpit: Rev. Preston Van Deursen - preaching/ leading worship

11:30am Pamela Rutledge, Guest Speaker

Attendance: 12/31/2023 10:30am 36; On-line 8; Total 44

Financial Report: 12/31/2023

Envelope Offering Needed: \$190,111.00

Envelope Offering Received: \$174,738.54

Property Fund Needed: \$21,412.00

Property Fund Received: \$19,145.00

RUTH'S HARVEST
Lincoln Elementary School
Playground side entrance

Trinity's packing day is
Wednesday, February 7th from 4pm – 5pm.

Volunteers needed.

Please contact Sandy Busche if you would like to help.

If you would like to donate food items, please bring items
to the church marked "Ruth's Harvest"
BEFORE Tuesday, February 6th.

Non-perishable, nutritional, individual servings,
easy to prepare items. No glass items please.

Ruth's Harvest provides week-end meals to elementary school age children who are served by the free lunch program during the week. Backpacks are packed and sent home on Friday's with the children. They bring the backpack back on Mondays to be filled again for the next week-end.

Tuna/Cracker Packs
Canned Chicken
Raisins or Dried Fruit
Canned Ham Chunks
Instant Soup Cups
Mac and Cheese Cups
Rice and Bean Cups
Real Fruit Snack Packs
Spaghetti/Meatballs
or other Pastas
Oatmeal Packets
Canned Vegetables (8 oz or less)
Peanut Butter To-Go Packs
Shelf Stable Liquid Low Fat Milk

Nuts/Trail Mix
100% Juice
Protein Breakfast
or Granola Bars
Goldfish
Shelf Stable Milk
Microwave Popcorn
Cold Cereal
Fruit Cups
Pretzels
 pudding Cups

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 | _____ |
| | |
| <i>VOTE FOR FOUR (4) ORGANIZATIONS</i> | |
| <i>SUGGEST OTHER ORGANIZATIONS</i> | |
| <i>VOTES TALLIED FEBRUARY 26TH</i> | |

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