

Dear Members & Friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church,



Christmas 2023 A.D.

On Christmas Day in the year of our Lord 1629, John Donne (1572-1631), who was an English poet and renown preacher in the Anglican Church, began is

sermon based on the Gospel of John 10:10 (*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*) with these words: *The whole life of Christ was a continual Passion; others die martyrs, but Christ was born a martyr. He found at Golgotha (where he was crucified), even in Bethlehem, where he was born. For, to his tenderness then, the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after; and the manger as uneasy at first, as his Cross at last. His birth and his death were but a continual act, and his Christmas-day and his Good Friday, are but the evening and the morning of one and the same day. And as even his birth, is his death, so every action and passage that manifests Christ to us, is his birth . . . Every manifestation of Christ to the world, to the Church, to a particular soul, is . . . a Christmas-day.*

It is Karin's and my prayer in this season of light that the Christ Child will reveal himself to you and your family in moments and ways that allow you to know that his birth into this world is a living reality that can enrich and renew your faith in all the days of your life. We pray that the gift of the Christ Child's presence in your daily living will foster a deep-seated devotion to our Lord that will empower you truly to believe that where the Christ Child is known as the source of all color, all beauty, all this is worth preserving - as the one whose imagination gave birth to each of us and given us to each other in the



GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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December 2023

wondrous communion of his family of faith – only there can life be found worth living and its awesome mystery remain rich and secure in this world.

And so, our prayer for you and your family this Christmas is that every believer will see that in spite of all the worldly evidence to the contrary, the gift of love that comes to us at Christmas, is with us every day! It is this reality that the Christ Child reveals to us most clearly that Karin and I hope and pray that all of our cherished friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church will embrace as we celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus.

In this Season of our Lord's Nativity, may his presence become manifest to all of us who call upon his Holy name.

Merry Christmas Everyone,
Pastor Murray & Karin

Women of Trinity - November report

**WOMEN OF TRINITY
SANDY PEOPLES,
MODERATOR**

Our November meeting was held at Lum's in Dallas and was well attended by more than a dozen women of Trinity.

Greeting Card Ministry – Betsy Fairchild continues to reach out to those in our congregation who look forward to and welcome cards being sent to their homes in times of need.

Second Sunday reception: The women will host their annual Christmas reception following the worship service on December 10 – “Come Home for Christmas.” All are welcome to remain after the worship service to visit with friends and family and to enjoy some holiday treats.

We continue to extend our thoughts and prayers to our members, our families, our country and our world.

Upcoming meeting: December 6th. - (Wednesday) at Allyson Lord's “Christmas house” at noon. Please place your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway if you wish to attend.

The women will not meet in January and February due to the cold weather, but we will resume our meeting schedule in March.



A helpful tax tip

Did you know that if you are 70.5 or older, you may be eligible to use your IRA to make a tax free qualified charitable distribution (QCD) gift to the church ahead of the December 31, 2023 deadline?

You may be able to satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) and reduce your overall taxable income if you have the holder of your IRA send your donation directly to the church. It must not pass through your hands. Your gift will benefit the church and the reduced tax will benefit you. It a win win!

Be sure to ask the holder of your IRA, your accountant, your financial advisor or your tax preparer about this tax code opportunity for older Americans.



Stewardship Committee Report - On November 19th, which was Stewardship Sunday, 44 of our members of Trinity committed to \$79,812.00 to support the work of our church in 2024. This is a great start, and we are most thankful for your kindness and generosity. This represents approximately 50% of our active membership. We anticipate

that we will hear favorably from the remaining members over the next few weeks, and we will be able to meet our financial obligations next year.

After the worship service, the Stewardship Committee was pleased to host a dinner in the Miracle Building to recognize and give thanks for the progress we have made. The afternoon was filled with great food, great fellowship and gratitude for the promising outlook for Trinity going into the future. We thank the Endowment Committee for sponsoring this moment for the church members to come together to celebrate this new beginning for the new year.

***Update: 11-26-23 - 48 members
have now committed to \$83,152,00.***

*Sandy Peoples, Stewardship Committee Chairperson and Committee members:
Pastor Murray, Art Peoples, Alice Kocher and Don Kocher.*

Trinity, Dallas Honors Their Veterans



At the Sunday morning worship service on November 12, six of the veterans in attendance at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas were recognized and honored for their military service to our country. Through the years, the church has conducted this annual event to express their gratitude and praise to the many brave men and women for a job well done to keep us safe and secure. A reception, hosted by the Deacons, followed the service.

From left: Art Peoples, Air Force; Clarence Givens, Navy; Windsor Davis, Air Force; Rev. Doctor Murray Thompson, Army; Wayne Williams, Navy; Dick Armbrust, Navy.



The Mission Outreach Committee would like to thank all of those who volunteered for our Rise Against Hunger event. It was a great success due to everyone's willingness to help feed hungry people.





Pastor Appreciation Sunday at Trinity On October 8, we celebrated Pastor Appreciation Sunday at Trinity to recognize and honor the service and dedication of Pastor Murray. Webster defines a pastor as a shepherd. We can all agree that he takes care of his flock. A reception in the Miracle Building followed the worship service.

Pictured from left: Nancy Thomas, representing the Deacons, Pastor Murray, and Art Peoples representing the Session.



December B-day

- 12/03 Lewis Baines
- 12/06 Sharon Davis
- 12/19 Jim Snyder
- 12/20 Erin Yurko



January B-Day

- 1/04 Eleanor Yurko
- 1/10 Marianne Williams
- 1/11 Thomas Pickett
- 1/13 Linda Burkhardt
- 1/13 Michele Steele
- 1/15 Philip Walter
- 1/18 Kimberly Perzia
- 1/23 Karen Perzia
- 1/23 Abbie Coy
- 1/31 Henry Yurko

December Anniversaries

- 12/28 Wayne & Marianne Williams
- 12/30 Larry Rittenhouse & Michele Steele



Meals on Wheels~ If you would like to volunteer for Meals on Wheels on any open dates, please call Meryl Davis @ (570) 310-1556.

December 14	Windsor & Meryl Davis
December 28	Windsor & Meryl Davis



Flower Chart There is a flower chart sign-up sheet in hallway or call church office for anyone wishing to honor a loved one. The cost is \$50 per week so please plan accordingly.

DEACONS NEWS



Board of Deacons: Beth Davis, President	
Chuck Borland	Deb Cooper
Josh Coy	Megan Davis
Megan Davis	Allyson Lord
Michele Steele	Kathy Stevens
Karin Thompson	Nancy Thomas, Treasurer

***To date the Deacons have delivered 178.5 lbs. of food to the food pantry.** We will continue the tradition of collecting food for the food pantry during the holiday season... now through December 10th. Please donate nonperishable food items that will be delivered to the Back Mountain food pantry. One delivery will be made the week before Thanksgiving and the second one will be right before Christmas. If you don't feel like shopping, monetary donations will be accepted. They will be added to the monetary donation the deacons will be making. Please keep in mind that the deacons do have a few activities through the year that include asking for money. We do not expect every person to participate in every activity. Please choose what activities work for your interests and budget. Thank you very much for helping us serve our community. The following food items are needed: peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, gravy, instant potatoes, canned or bottled juice, rice or rice mixes, cereal, sugar, salt, flour, cake mixes, icing, canned tuna or chicken, coffee, tea, pie filling, canned soup, pudding & Jell-O mixes, spaghetti or tomato sauce, pasta, powdered drink mixes.

LITURGISTS - The Session wishes to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve as Liturgists.

If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist, please check the poster on the bulletin board in the hallway and select a date. Rev. Murray is available to talk to anyone who has never been a liturgist but wants to give it a try.

December 3, 2023	Meryl Davis
December 10, 2023	
December 17, 2023	
December 24, 2023	Barbara Rinker

Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, will send you your material prior to the date you are scheduled to be the Liturgist.

Thank you, Art Peoples, Clerk of Session

**NOTICE OF UPCOMING AUDITS, REPORTS
AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Audit Committee has requested that the affected organizations provide their financial books and records to them by January 14, 2024. The books and records should be given to Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, who will ensure that the records are properly secured and delivered to the Audit Team. The records will be reviewed and returned on January 21, 2024.

The affected organizations are:

1. Trinity Presbyterian Church
2. Trinity Learning Center
3. Board of Deacons
4. Endowment Fund
5. Women of Trinity
6. Trinity Men's Club
7. The Memorial Wall and Garden Committee

On January 14, 2024 the Annual Reports are due from all committee and organization chairs of Trinity. The reports should be sent by e-mail to Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant. **Please submit your reports in Arial font, print size 12.**

On January 21, 2024, the Annual Congregational Reports for 2023 will be distributed after the morning worship service.

On January 28, 2024, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following the morning worship service.

Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to the Session

Trinity Presbyterian Church

105 Irem Road, Dallas, Pennsylvania

An Advent Invitation

Rev. Dr. Murray Joseph Thompson - Pastor

Advent is upon us with its invitation
to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ.

At Trinity Presbyterian Church, we cordially invite you to join
with us to help make this season an extra special time during
which we will discern God is calling us from darkness to light in
a sermon series highlighting: **The Word Becomes Flesh Again;**
Making a Home Among Us; Making Joy Complete; In Praise of Older
Siblings; Living Your Lives in Christ; My Christmas Wish Book.

**All Sunday morning services during Advent begin at 10 a.m.
featuring special music and anthems provided
by the Trinity choir and soloists.**

December 17 – 10:00 a.m.

A Trinity Family Program will be
offered during the morning worship service.

December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

A traditional Candlelight Communion
service will be celebrated on Christmas Eve.

The good news of Christ's birth is a highlight of the church year.
Join us in person or online as we journey from darkness to light
in our retelling of the wonderfully familiar story, sing much beloved
Christmas carols, and rejoice in our Savior's birth anew this year.

Everyone is welcome to attend Christmas Services at
Trinity Presbyterian Church whether you're a regular or
perhaps you've never visited the church before.

Please feel encouraged to attend.



***All are welcome.
Come as a visitor,
Leave as a friend!***



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