

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Official Newsletter of Trinity United Church of Christ



Good Words for Great Souls

BY REV. DAVID DOWNER

Out of sorts. That's a phrase I've come to appreciate over the past two years. I can remember my mother saying she felt "out of sorts" and wondering what it meant. I think I have a pretty good handle on it now. For me, it's an uneasy feeling that something is amiss or not quite right. You can't put your finger on it specifically, and you're not sure how to treat it, but you just sense something is not as it should be. I suppose this describes how I feel this Advent season. We as a worshipping community are trying our best to get things "back to normal," whatever that may mean these days, but we know in our hearts that mentally and emotionally we're not quite there yet. But maybe being "out of sorts" is precisely what we should be feeling this Advent season. Let me explain.

The scripture passage for the first Sunday in Advent is Luke 21:25-36. This passage has little to do with preparing for the Christ child. Instead, these verses describe what to look for and expect in the end times. They speak of signs in the heavens, the sun, moon, and stars, of distress among the nations, and the roaring of the sea and waves, people fainting from fear and foreboding about what is happening in the world. Jesus says that when these things happen, stand up and stay alert, because our redemption is drawing near! This is the part of Advent we don't talk about much—that our preparation and waiting is not just for the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ, but for anticipating the time when Christ will return.

I don't know when Christ will come again. Jesus tells us not to even try to figure it out, because no one knows the day and hour, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. But by being in community with one another, we can stay alert, encourage, and support each another, and take comfort knowing that we will be spiritually ready for whatever lies before us.



THIS MONTH'S SCRIPTURES

- DECEMBER 5: MALACHI 3:1-4
LUKE 3:1-6
- DECEMBER 12: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20
LUKE 3:7-18
- DECEMBER 19: MICAH 5:2-5A
LUKE 1:39-45
- DECEMBER 26: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-20
LUKE 2:41-52



NOVEMBER'S YOUTUBE WORSHIP SERVICE LINKS

- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/TMEO8JT6CTI](https://youtu.be/TMEO8JT6CTI)
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/6GVOOIIRUNA](https://youtu.be/6GVOOIIRUNA)
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/ZTMW7YY3UYQ](https://youtu.be/ZTMW7YY3UYQ)
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/B3FM0GTUSP4](https://youtu.be/B3FM0GTUSP4)



DECEMBER USHERS

- DECEMBER 5
NANCY WAGNER & BROOKS MEYERS
- DECEMBER 12
STEVE RIEGEL & LARRY CAMPBELL
- DECEMBER 19
JACKIE STOVER & STEVE RIEGEL
- DECEMBER 26
BROOKS MEYERS & ARDRANNA HENRY



*Where do
you see
God?*



Photo Submission by: Leena Wolfgang

JARED BOX BLESSING



Jared Boxes, put together by members of the Church. A Jared Box is a plastic box filled with small gifts, games, crayons and coloring books, and other fun activities. Boxes are given to children in the hospital to provide a special, fun diversion. The boxes calm nerves, lift spirits, and show the children that someone cares.

SOUP AND BAKE SALE

The SALT committee would like to thank everyone who donated to their soup and bake sale at the Lion's Club. They were able to raise \$523!



MOPS 'CIDER AND SIGNS'

The MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) gathered for fellowship, crafts, and great conversation! If you are the mother of a preschool aged child, or know someone who is, join them for their next meeting on January 17.





Announcements, Events, & Updates

- December 1-5, Ten Thousand Villages Rug Event
- December 3, St. Luke Lutheran Church Tree Lighting
- December 5, Second Sunday of Advent
- December 5, Congregational Meeting
- December 12, Third Sunday of Advent
- December 12, "Soup and Santa" Lunch and Christmas Program
- December 14, Consistory Meeting
- December 18, Diaper Depot Distribution
- December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 21, Food Panty Distribution
- December 24, Christmas Eve Service
- December 25, Christmas Day

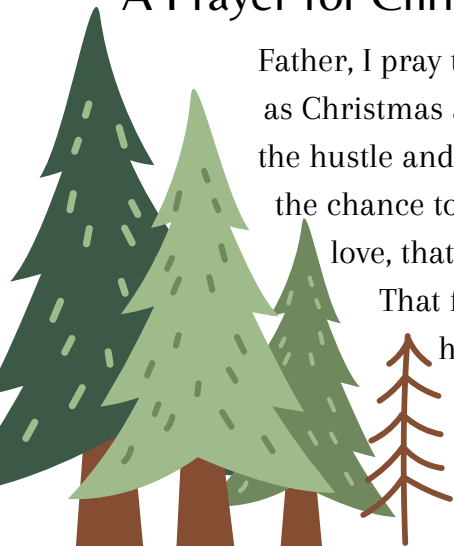

Penns Valley Diaper Depot

The next monthly distribution is planned for December 18. Contributions of diapers or checks will always be accepted! The November 27th distribution helped 10 local families, and gave away 406 diapers!

A Prayer for Christmas Hope, Peace, & Joy...

Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

December Birthdays

- 2 Kimberly Smith
- 3 Alexis Witherite
- 6 Linda Barner, Helen Delaney, Michael Statham
- 8 Kelly Aston
- 10 Jeffrey Baney, Adalyn King
- 11 Easton Dyke
- 12 Richard Sweitzer
- 13 Zachary Limbaugh, Gail Teti
- 16 Kylie Auman, Mae Wolfgang
- 18 Dennis Wiand
- 20 Kaiden Hanson
- 21 Jeanine Schleiden
- 22 Donald Matter
- 27 Malyn Baney, Rachel Houts
- 28 Elizabeth Romig, Jason Smith
- 30 Kilee Dyke-Vogt, Meredith Hall Edward Parker, Jr.
- 31 Terri Barner, Chad Bressler, Caleigh Grenoble, Jeanne Schleiden, Scott Vogt

December Anniversaries

- 16 Rick and Sally Arnold
- 19 Russell and Jeanne Schleiden
- 20 Scott and Dixie Vogt
- 27 Robert and Ruby Bair
- Richard and Josephine McNitt
- Evan and CarlyAnne Smith
- 28 J. Henry and Beverly Garbrick
- Donald and Cleo Matter

RECORDS AND REPORTS

SUMMARY OF 19 OCTOBER CONSISTORY MEETING

Treasurer's Report: The total general funds income for September was \$14,451.27.

The total general funds expense for September was \$9,846.13. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Dave spent time with the Coursen family, participated in conference meetings and also spoke with Curt at Interfaith Human Services.

Previous Business: The committee will continue to work on internet in the sanctuary, parts that are needed are on back order; Penns Valley Christmas of Hope will be using Old Greg Township School instead of our parsonage; A new board member is needed for Interfaith human Services.

New Business: Murphy's Outdoor Maintenance, snowplowing, will be renewed again this upcoming winter season; Ann Moellenbrock presented the proposed 2022

budget; OWL – Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Program – Pastor Dave attended a

diversity meeting at the PV High School. Pastor Dave was contacted by a member of

OWL to see if anyone would be interested in their training. Pastor Dave and Becky

Horn have expressed interest.

FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT:

Some of you may have noticed the changes to the Trinity rental property that have been taking place lately. The front porch has been rebuilt and includes a new roof, posts, railing and flooring. Thank you to all Trinity members for supporting this important project! I'd also like to take a moment to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! Celebrate hope, peace, love and joy this season!

Yours in Christ,
Toni Witherite

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lance Arney
Larry Corl
Erin, Austin, Conner Derr
Kelly Eicher
Bonnie Grove
Rod Ilgen
*Josephine McNitt
Paige Musser-Gray
Claire Porter

Zoey Bair
Buddy Cowher
Cathy and Roy Dunkle
Gracie Eisenhower
Charles O'Hara
Deb LosKamp
Diane Matter
Rycen Musser
Shirley Rogers

Lorren & Carol Brown
*Marie Crater
*Jean Dunklebarger
*Trudy Furner
*Mary Hardy
Robert Mayhew
Carol Musick- Meyer
Malcolm Obiri
*Marian Smith

Marieta Smith
Colin & Jaci Tucker
Debbie Walker
Jere Wiley
Ennis Wagner
Ann Williams
*Faye Winkelblech
Duane and Wilma Yarger

