



The Lamplighter

Trinity United Church of Christ

November, December 2020, January 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity United Church of Christ –



We are fast approaching the end of 2020, and I won't mince words – I'll be glad to see it go. I remember beginning this year with such enthusiasm and issued a challenge we could turn to for hope and inspiration. In my February 2020 newsletter I said: **"I'd like to challenge all of us to filter everything we see, feel or hear through the lens of God's love; to see others, and the world around us, with God's perfect 20/20 vision in the year 2020."** When I wrote this, I had no idea what the year would bring, not the least of which was a worldwide pandemic that shows no signs of slowing, and a bitterly divided country. In hindsight, after experiencing a year that has left so many of us feeling tired and beaten down, I can't help but wonder and worry about what 2021 might look like. So again, I return to the challenge of 2020 and the call to see all things through the lens of God's love. It is still relevant

and more necessary than ever.

The Apostle Paul wrote about our calling in Ephesians: *"I therefore...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."* I believe all professing Christians should take this message to heart. These virtues of humility, gentleness, patience, and love are not optional. Neither is the desire to be unified as one in the Spirit. These are the things that bind us as a community of believers serving a common purpose. They form the foundation of our faith and give evidence of our life in Jesus Christ. Every one of us need to find some way of reminding ourselves of this calling each and every day.

In light of the difficulties and suffering of this past year, we must not lose sight of the hope living within us. God never promised us a trouble-free life, but God **did** promise us salvation and life through Jesus Christ. To borrow a term from the late Father Henri Nouwen, we are *God's Beloved*. Throughout history, humankind has faced difficult times. Remaining focused on our calling can help us stay focused and grounded as individuals and communities. Despite what life in this world brings, we are and will remain God's Beloved children.

My prayer for all of us, our church, our community, and our nation, is that we will see and experience our lives as a passage to the greater life and freedom found in Jesus Christ. May God bless and keep all of us and our families safe. May we continually pray for and care for one another. And may the peace that surpasses all understanding be with us and within us as we (finally) conclude 2020 and look toward 2021.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Trinity United Church of Christ, 104 N. Pennsylvania Avenue,

PO Box 212, Centre Hall PA 16828

* Pastor David Downer *

* 814-364-2120 (church office) *

* 814-349-8214 (Pastor Dave's home telephone) *

* E-mail address: trinityuccentrehall@gmail.com *

* Website: www.trinitycentrehall.org *

Facebook: Trinity United Church of Christ

CHURCH NOTES

- Trinity UCC will remain closed for in-person worship services until further notice.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom platform. Information containing the Proposed 2021 Budget, the Nomination Slate of Committee Members for the various ministries, and the Zoom instructions will be mailed to members after the November Consistory meeting. Please be on the lookout for this important mailing.
- Weekly offering envelopes for 2021 will be placed in the Fellowship Hall after December 15. If you do not currently receive envelopes and want them, please contact the church office at 364-2120. If you would prefer to have your envelopes delivered to you, please call the church office and arrangements can be made.
- The 2020 financial books will close on Thursday, December 31, 2020.
- Annual reports for 2020 are due to the church secretary by January 18, 2021. The committee chairperson or secretary from each committee is required to submit a report of their committee's activities for 2020.
- An updated church directory will be available in February 2021. Please notify the church secretary at 814-364-2120 of any address or telephone number changes. Email and mobile phone numbers can also be included.
- If you or someone you know is in need of an oil furnace, please contact Bob Henry at 814-441-2680. The Thermo-Pride, 85,000 BTU, hot air furnace that was removed from the rental property is available at no cost. This furnace has been properly maintained during its lifetime (installed in 2010) and is still in good working condition.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

...to Ennis Wagner for mowing and trimming the lawn at the church and parsonage

...to Ardranna and Bob Henry for weeding and maintaining the church and parsonage properties

...to the families who provided video for "family check-in" during worship services – Carol Clark-Baney, the Rich and Angela Auman Family, Larry and Lisa Campbell, the Chris and Marnie Kocher Family, and Steve and Deb Riegel; these are enjoyed so very much!

...to Joyce and Rod Barner for the beautiful autumn wreaths placed on the front doors of the church

...to Tammy and Steve Besecker for the stunning chrysanthemum flowers on the altar

...to Ardranna Henry, Bob Henry, John Martz, Don Matter, and Ennis Wagner for mulching and pruning the church landscape

...to Pastor Dave, Terri Downer, Scott Frazier, and Carole Smith for their contributions to the virtual weekly worship services

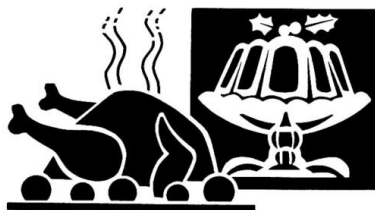
...to Bob Henry for purchasing and installing new LED lights in the church marquee

...to everyone who continues to send their offering to the church

...to Bob Henry for installing the light in the stairwell, coordinating the air-conditioning installation and the gas line installation, and installing the electrical line in the front lawn

and, very importantly –

...we offer a debt of gratitude to those who have worn the uniform of the United States throughout history and fought for the freedoms we enjoy; may God Bless and care for all our veterans and those still serving in our military



Happy Thanksgiving

TRINITY UCC "ANGEL" CHRISTMAS TREE

Would you like to help make Christmas a little brighter for some youth in Penns Valley? The SALT Committee is sponsoring a family and needs your help in purchasing gifts. An "Angel Tree" for you to purchase gifts has been created through *SignUpGenius*®. From your computer/phone, please log on to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094EA5AF29ABFE3-trinity> click the "sign up" buttons next to the slots you want to sign up for, click the "submit and sign up" button at the bottom of the page, complete a few form fields, click "sign up now" at the bottom of the page and then you will receive a thank you page. You do not need an account to participate. After you purchase your gift, please drop it off (unwrapped) in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity UCC no later than Sunday, November 29. This is very different from what we have done in the past, but you can help make this ministry a success. Please call Joyce Barner at 814-364-9734 or Terri Downer at 814-349-8214 for any questions or assistance. Alternately, if you wish to make a donation to SALT and have someone do the shopping for you, please mail a check (write SALT Angel Tree in the memo line) to Trinity UCC, PO Box 212, Centre Hall, PA, 16828.

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLER (MOPS) MINISTRY

Are you the mother of preschool or school aged children? Do you know someone who is? Do you ever find yourself wondering if you're the ONLY Mom to ever struggle with the daily ups and downs of parenting? Would you like to spend a few hours with other Moms who are going through the same stage of life? Or, even better....hear some encouraging words from Moms who have survived the stage you're in!

You are invited to be a part of a new ministry at Trinity UCC. **MOPS** (Mothers of Preschoolers) and **MOMsnext** (Mothers of school-aged children) provides an opportunity for mothers to support mothers in a welcoming, supportive, non-judgmental space. Our Kick-off meeting will be **Monday, November 16, from 6:30-8:00 pm**. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a light snack, some Thanksgiving themed activities, and a time to meet other Moms in our community (or just see again!). Please visit the church website: <https://www.trinitycentrehall.org/mops-and-momsnext.html> for more information, or to let us know you are interested!

(Please note that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will follow protocols for safe gathering. We ask everyone to wear a face covering, and practice social distancing within the meeting space. We will not be able to provide childcare at this time, but hope that in the future we'll be able to add that. As always, we ask that if you have symptoms of COVID, or know that you have been exposed, please refrain from attending.)

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Trinity UCC is seeking a Church Secretary to fill an upcoming vacancy. The Church Secretary provides administrative support to the Pastor. This position requires strong attention to detail, the capability to communicate well, the ability to exercise tact and confidentiality, and exceptional organizing skills. This position is multi-faceted – tasks range from preparing church printed materials, maintaining accurate records, and staying current with church activities and events. The Church Secretary also acts as a liaison between the church, its members, and the community.

Office hours will be spread over four days per week. Standard hours are 20/week although this will vary depending on the season and other needs. Most workdays will be spent in the church's office; some work may be possible from a remote site with internet access. Office hours will be coordinated with the Pastor and kept constant as much as possible.

A high school diploma is required; an Associate's or Bachelor's degree is recommended. Administrative office skills and experience is desired. This is an hourly position paying \$10 - \$12 per hour, depending on qualifications and experience.

If you wish to be considered for this position and/or would like additional information regarding duties and responsibilities, please contact Pastor Dave Downer at 814-349-8214 or Toni Witherite (Consistory President) at 814-777-0150.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Glenda Abrams	Lance Arney	Zoey Bair	Denny Beckenbaugh	Cim Besecker
Jane Boldin	Kaelynn Bressler	Hunter Bristow & Family	Carol Brown	Bobbi Chard
T. J. Coursen	Hank Cramer	*Marie Crater	Bonnie Davis	Erin, Austin, Conner Derr
Charles Dreibelbis	*Jean Dunklebarger	Kellie Eichler	Gracie Eisenhower	Jim & Tanya Evans
*Trudy Furner	Bonnie Graziose	*Mary Hardy	Myrtle Harpster	*John Hayes
Nancy Heaton	Megan Henry	Patricia Hess	Janet Houser	Josh Lawrence
Olivia Lewis	Gina Lucas	Diane Matter	Peter McDevitt	Joshua Miller
Paige Musser-Gray	Rycen Musser	Larry Myers	Malcolm Obiri	Karol Rae
Matthew Renno, Jr.	Jane Rimmey	Tom Runkle	Iain Scoular	Denise Simms
Marilyn Sproule	JR Stoner	Laurie Stover	Lori Stover	*Marian Smith
Jenn & Abbey Tice	Colin & Jaci Tucker	Rebecca Wagner	Jeff Weist	Jere Wiley
*Faye Winkelblech	Sandy Young	Duane and Wilma Yarger		

[*In personal care residence]

Twelve Days of Christmas

1	<p>F R E N C H H E N S W A N S V</p> <p>E S G K M G S R E M M U R D G</p> <p>S D O A H D N G P M G C Q M J</p> <p>E R L B N I D I Q P I P E R S</p> <p>E O D F P I P N Y I M X C B G</p> <p>G L E L R I K D W A D N H U N</p> <p>N D N T N M A I D S L N R E I</p> <p>G P R G M I L K I N G D I H M</p> <p>Y A I F U Z T W O M L O S M M</p> <p>P E N T Q G N I P A E L T E U</p> <p>J V G S W I M M I N G D M N R</p> <p>I L S D R I B G N I L L A C D</p> <p>U E T U R T L E D O V E S Y P</p> <p>U W B N O O S Q Y T X P C F S</p> <p>N T V O M U Y E E R T R A E P</p>	6
12		10
4		2
		3



11 CALLING BIRDS
CHRISTMAS
DAYS
DRUMMERS
DRUMMING
FRENCH HENS
GEESE

8 GOLDEN RINGS
LAYING
LEAPING
LORDS
MAIDS
MILKING
PARTRIDGE

PEAR TREE
PIPERS
PIPING
SWANS
SWIMMING
TURTLE DOVES
TWELVE

7

5

9

Trinity United Church of Christ
104 North Pennsylvania Avenue
PO Box 212
Centre Hall PA 16828
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2020, JANUARY 2021

November 1:	Joshua 3:7-17	Matthew 23:1-12
November 8:	Joshua 24:1-3a	Matthew 25:1-13
November 15:	Judges 4:1-7	Matthew 25:14-30
November 22:	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Matthew 25:31-46
November 29:	Isaiah 64:1-9	Mark 13:24-37
December 6:	Isaiah 40:1-11	Mark 1:1-8
December 13:	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 20:	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:26-38
December 27:	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Luke 2:22-40
January 3:	Jeremiah 31:7-14	John 1:10-18
January 10:	Genesis 1:1-5	Mark 1:4-11
January 17:	1 Samuel 3:1-10	John 1:43-51
January 24:	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Mark 1:14-20
January 31:	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Mark 1:21-28

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kayla Coulter
- 4 Sydney Riegel
- 6 Sara Floray, Hannah Garbrick
- 8 Dona O'Hara
- 10 Brooks Meyers
- 14 Richard Heck, Olivia Jimenez
- 17 Robert Statham
- 18 David Downer, Benjamin Heverly
- 19 Noah Evans
- 21 Carol Brown
- 26 Joyce Barner

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jeffrey and Sandra Cronin
- 17 Ronald and Cheryl Johnson
- 23 Brooks and Tricia Meyers
- 30 Glenn and Vickie Fultz

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
- 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, Brenda Lucas,
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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Erin Eckley, Alexa Bressler
- 2 Brianna Stover Neese
- 4 Douglas Harter
- 5 Karlee Dyke-Vogt, Amanda Heverly
- 6 Cathy Arney, Jean Dunklebarger,
Michael Vogt
- 8 Alia Smith
- 9 Anya Krebs-Fox
- 10 Mary Hardy
- 11 Tyler Fultz, Floyd Reeser
- 14 Cleo Wolfgang
- 15 Jeffrey Cronin, Jr., Loren Parker
- 16 Jessica Miller
- 17 Linda Heverly, Marian Smith,
Addisyn Stover
- 21 Leland Hanson
- 23 Noah Heverly
- 26 Colton Stover
- 27 Jane Pifer, Rita Watkins
- 28 Samantha Statham
- 29 Robert Bair, Ava Bressler, Logan Coursen
- 30 Cameron Coulter, Michael Hanson,
Nora Parker

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Mike and Carol Frazier
- 10 Loren and Edward Parker, Jr.
- 14 S. Curtis and Gretta Bierly
- 23 Floyd and Elizabeth Reeser
- 26 Robert and Ardranna Henry
- 28 Randy and Linda Heverly