

Trinity Times

Winter 2023-2024

Trinity's Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00pm Candlelight Service with
Communion in the Trinity
Sanctuary

*Service will be in-person and
live-streamed at
trinitypalmcoast.org*

6:30pm Trinity's Outdoor Candlelight
Service at The Florida
Ag Museum Barn,
7900 Old Kings Road
Palm Coast, FL

Join us for Worship!

Sundays at 10:00 am
In-person and Live Stream at
trinitypalmcoast.org

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00am - 12:00 noon

AND the ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM,
fear NOT: FOR,
BEHOLD, I BRING YOU
GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY,
WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE.
FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN
THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID
A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS
CHRIST THE LORD.

Luke 2:10-11



Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Beebe, Pastor
Heasuk Che, Director of Music/Organist
Lillian Warner, Director of Handbell Choir
Judy Grady, Financial and Administrative
Assistant

Thomas Buonocore, Sexton
Jane Pellmann, Clerk of Session
Brenda Digby, Deacon Moderator



"O, Holy Night"



One particular song holds place on not only, a night like no other, but on any night. This song of gentle reminder shares not only of the promised hope of winter, but also the promise offered each and every dark night to a weary world for it out of chaos that hope may be embraced. Our ever so friends at Wikipedia offer this back story on this particularly poignant song.

In [Roquemaure](#) in France at the end of 1843, the church organ had recently been renovated. To celebrate the event, the parish priest persuaded poet [Placide Cappeau](#), a native of the town, to write a Christmas poem.^[1] Soon afterwards, in that same year, [Adolphe Adam](#) composed the music. The song was premiered in Roquemaure in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laurey. Transcendentalist, music critic, minister, and editor of [Dwight's Journal of Music](#), John Dwight, adapted the song into English in 1855.^[2] This version became popular in the United States, especially in the North, where the third verse (including "Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, And in his name all oppression shall cease") resonated with [abolitionists](#). "O Holy Night" has a controversial, albeit intriguing history. The dissensions attached to it can be connected with two distinct facts - Placide Cappeau, the lyricist being an atheist, and Adolphe Adams, the composer being a Jew.



*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining it is
the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining till He
appeared and the soul felt its worth*

***A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for
yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices o
night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
Led by the light of faith serenely beaming with
glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming here
came the wise men from the orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger in all
our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger
behold your King, before Him lowly bend
Behold your King, your King, before Him lowly
bend***

*Truly He taught us to love one another this law is
love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
and in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we let
all within us praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim*

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:8-14

A thrill of hope is what we at Trinity Palm Coast desire to offer you the next few months as we not only anticipate what is before us, but also, have opportunity to experience. Perhaps the pages before you create a sudden feeling of excitement as well as, a confident expectation of what God has promised.



Faith Formation

The holidays are upon us!

The Faith Formation Ministry is looking forward to activities for all of our members and friends – young and not so young. Remember to check the weekly bulletin, email and texts for plans and updates.

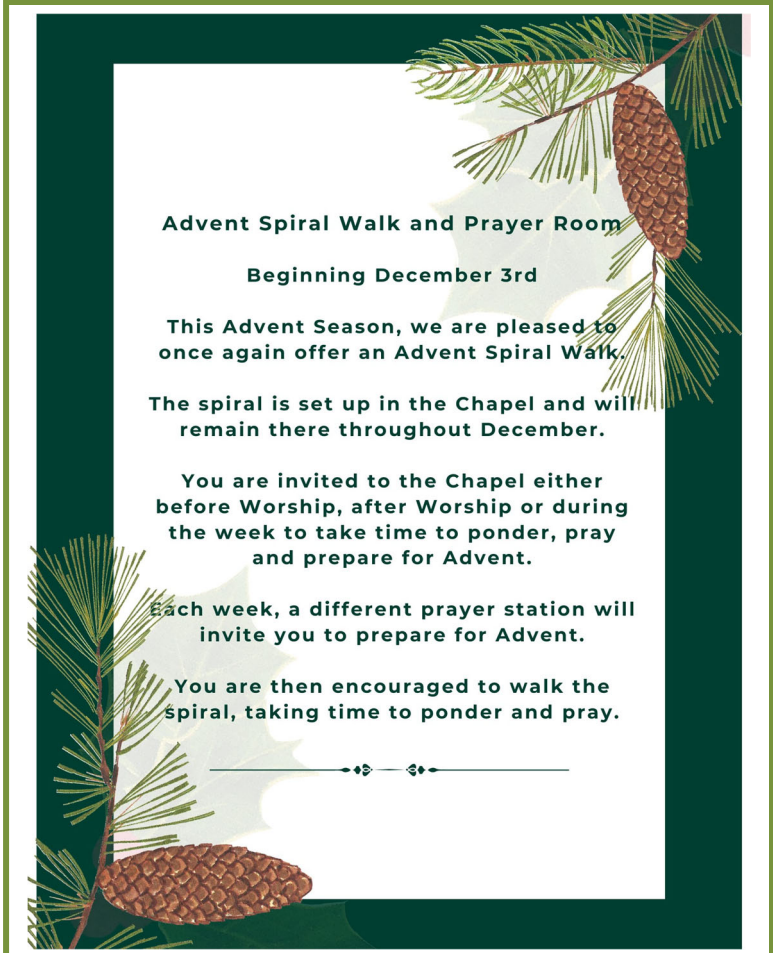
Advent will be here before we know it, and we once again will have the Advent Spiral in the Chapel for reflection and the Advent Devotional will be available the 1st Sunday in Advent. We will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 17th.

There will be 2 candlelight services on Christmas Eve...at 4:00 in the Sanctuary and 6:30 at the Barn. Yes....it can be cold and damp in the Barn, but it is so meaningful and If it was good enough for Jesus.....

The Epiphany Luncheon will be January 7th after Worship.

The Souper Bowl of Caring will be February 11th and will feature A Chili Cook Off, so get your recipes ready! We are once again asking all of our members to bring canned goods and dollars. All proceeds will go to the Care Cupboard at the Bunnell First Methodist Church.

The next few months will be very busy at Trinity, so find a spot and plug yourself in.



Advent Spiral Walk and Prayer Room

Beginning December 3rd

This Advent Season, we are pleased to once again offer an Advent Spiral Walk.

The spiral is set up in the Chapel and will remain there throughout December.

You are invited to the Chapel either before Worship, after Worship or during the week to take time to ponder, pray and prepare for Advent.

Each week, a different prayer station will invite you to prepare for Advent.

You are then encouraged to walk the spiral, taking time to ponder and pray.



Save the Date

Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 17th at 3pm

Meet in the Church parking lot
with your festive attire and own
transportation

More information to follow or
email or call the Church office at
386-445-4757 or
trinityoffice@cfl.rr.com

Music Director's Note



Giving thanks to God

Ephesians 5:20 New International Version

“Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Glory to God in the Highest!

Luke 2:13-14

¹³“suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,” ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor”

This fall I resumed the young peoples' singing hours. As of today, there are 2 youth and 1 young child. They are passionate about learning to sing. Each of them has been singing as an offertory special soloist throughout the past months. I am so proud of each of them seeing improvement day by day and more importantly they never get tired of practicing. Some come at night due to their schedule conflict just right before bedtime. They even are practicing for praising the season of our Jesus' birth, so I am looking forward to seeing and working with them further. I hope more youth and children join us for enlightening services.



The adult choir has grown in number compared to last year, however we still need more voices. I invite you to join us especially those who were in the choir before. The more people, the more graceful sounds we can produce, and in the end, we can all glorify God. Of course, not all know how to read music but what I have observed so far, most of all is improved either by memorizing the song or gradually learning the music. Some might worry that their voices get flat. I strongly emphasize all who are interested to tryout.

Upcoming for Thanksgiving and Christmas, the choir and handbell ringers are rehearsing. I appreciate their ceaseless hard work.



The bell ringers have been invited to perform at the Community Chorus Palm Coast Christmas concert taking place on December 1, Friday and December 3, Sunday at Trinity. They are amazing and thank you to the CCPC board for inviting them to play in front of a large gathering. They also will be playing prelude, offertory, anthem, and postlude along with two congregational hymns on Sunday 12/17. I appreciate all their efforts and remarkable leadership of Lillian Warner, the Director of Handbell Choir.

On December 10, the Trinity Choir is focusing on the theme “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” (Glory to God in the highest) along with Shelley Wheeler's narration before the choir sings. Jack Jeffe will also play Viola with the choir on that Sunday. I am looking forward to seeing as many people praise the Lord, the New Born King. Madelyn May, Emma Zwirn, and Madeline Arnold, our junior soloists, are working on their music too. It is a delightful time for me to work with them.

As music director/organist at Trinity, I am encouraging people who are interested in singing and playing their instruments as much as possible. Thank you for all your support and effort to make this possible.

-Heasuk Che
Music Director/Organist

Mark your calendars!

Trinity Concert

Featuring the Trinity Choir,
Handbell Choir and Friends

Sunday, April 21, 2024

4:00 PM

“To Praise God's Creation”

An Earth Day Celebration

Trinity Presbyterian Church
156 Florida Park Drive
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Trinity By the Numbers

Financial Update (As of 10/31/23)

	Annual Budget	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Variance YTD	
Total Revenue/Income	\$340,750	\$275,625	\$277,044	\$1,415	over plan ☺
Total Expenses	\$340,750	\$285,661	\$263,260	(\$22,401)	under plan ☺

Trinity is in a very good financial state for the year. Your giving has been slightly higher than our plan, and we are very grateful for your support of our all of our programs and missions in this community. Our expenses are significantly under our plan, due in large part to our staff vacancy, but also due to careful spending by all of our staff and committees. Please continue your giving as we finish the last couple of months of 2023.

If you have any questions about Trinity finances, please contact one of the elders on Finance Committee: Martha Gioielli or Kathy Cooke.

2024 Annual Budget Stewardship Update

As of 11/9/23, we have received 89 pledges for a total of \$196,238. Many of you increased your pledge over the amount pledged in 2023, resulting in an overall increase in pledged dollars of about 15%. We are very encouraged by the pledges we've received so far. We have not yet received pledges from 25 pledging units (families) who pledged in 2023. Session will be meeting soon to consider our budget, and we need to hear from all of you in order to adopt a responsible budget of revenue and expenses for 2024. You will find blank pledge cards in the Narthex and in the church office. Please fill one out to indicate your support for Trinity, and return it in the offering plate, in the office, or by mail. If you are waiting for information on your financial status, please consider submitting a pledge based on what you know now. You can revise your pledge

later if necessary. Any questions about pledging or our annual budget can be addressed to Kathy Cooke, Martha Gioielli or our Financial Secretary, Judy Grady.

Per Capita

Did you know that Trinity pays a Per Capita assessment for every one of our members to our denomination every year? Per Capita provides funding needed for all of PCUSA to remain connected and help one another. For 2024, the Per Capita assessment is \$9.85 for each individual member of the church. Our St. Augustine Presbytery, which supports Trinity and our sister churches in many ways, is funded through Unified Giving. Unified Giving is a pledge from Trinity, and for 2024 we are pledging an amount equal to Per Capita (\$9.85 per individual member of our congregation). Your pledge envelopes include an envelope for Per Capita. Please consider assisting Trinity with our contributions on your behalf (a total of \$19.70 per active member). If you do not have a Per Capita envelope, you may simply write "Per Capita" on your check to designate gifts for this purpose.

Offering of our Gifts

Please continue to give your offering. Offerings can be received in the Church, by mail, or you may utilize online banking options at www.trinitypalmcoast.org or by scanning the QR code here:





Service & Outreach at Trinity Presbyterian Church



The Service & Outreach Committee is thankful for TPC's congregation in being part of the missions through Trinity Presbyterian Church

◆ **Family Food Program**

- ⇒ Care Cupboard food distribution *"Hand On Mission"*
- ⇒ Backpack Food program *"Hands on Mission"*
- ⇒ Boys & Girls Club @ Rymfire Elementary
- ⇒ Community holiday meals *"Hands on Mission"*
- ⇒ TPC youth food programs *"Hands on Mission"*

◆ **Birthday Fund Program**-Celebrate your birthday by giving money to the Birthday Fund. By doing so you support the missions at TPC!

- ⇒ Whispering Meadows
- ⇒ Family Life Center
- ⇒ Trinity Presbyterian Church-Chinle, AZ
- ⇒ Old Glory Service Dogs 4 Vets
- ⇒ Mutual Missions at Presbytery
- ⇒ Presbyterian Disaster Relief





THE COMMUNITY CHORUS OF PALM COAST

Presents

Holiday Concerts

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023 AT 7:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 AT 4:00PM

Performed At

Trinity Presbyterian Church

156 Florida Park Dr. N • Palm Coast, FL 32137

www.communitychorusofpalmcoast.com

The CCPC thanks our many supporters and the City of Palm Coast for their Cultural Arts Grant. The CCPC's performances are FREE to the public.

(DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED BY THE CCPC)



POINSETTIAS SALE



**Poinsettias will be available for purchase
this Christmas Season!**

**This is a wonderful opportunity to honor and
remember loved ones.**

**Order forms are available in the Narthex or
outside the Church office.**

The price is \$17 each.

Please submit your orders on or before December 10th.

Thank you!



Trinity Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women started off our Fall season with our new Bible Study Guide "Sacred Encounters."

The first Circle Meetings were held the 3rd week of September and our full gathering was September 27th hosted by Miriam Circle. The speaker was Jacqueline Boykin from Camp Boggy Creek in Eustis, FL. Most of us were pleasantly surprised at the mission and scope of the camp. As many of you know, our own Brooke is now working there. The camp gives kids with disabilities and illnesses a place to have fun with other kids just like themselves. Swimming, games and no bullying gives the young people a whole new perspective.

Most of us are busy now with the Holiday Fair. We will be gearing up for our year-end Gathering and Christmas Program which we are so happy our Trinity Bell Choir will bring the Holiday Cheer. We will also be swearing in our new officers for 2024. This will be hosted by Rebecca Circle.

All women of the Church are invited and encouraged to join us.

Marti Benz, Moderator



We are looking forward to our December Gathering to be held on Wednesday **December 6th, 2023 at 12noon** in the Sanctuary and followed by the Luncheon in Mehaffey Hall. This will include Christmas music as well as the installation of our PW Team for 2024. Lunch will be provided by Rebecca Circle. All women are invited to attend.

Angel Tree



Once again, it's that time of year when we have the privilege of making the Christmas Season a little brighter for persons in our missions' programs. Past years we have supported children from The Safe House/Family Life Center, Gilda Blair, Duvall, Thornwell, Chinle and a few others. This year, there is a need closer to home. Children in our community, some of them participating in the activities being held at Trinity, can use a brighter Christmas.

The Angel tree will be placed in the Narthex by Sunday, November 26th.

Please take an "angel" off the tree, it will have a number on it, find that number on the sign-out sheet and write your name and telephone number next to it.

On the back of the "angel" there will be a name, age and one or more gift suggestions. You are not obligated to purchase all of the suggestions.

Please return your gift to Trinity no later than Sunday, December 10th BEFORE the morning service.

Gifts will be distributed after the service.

Thank you for making this a happier Christmas for those we care about.



Advent



What Is the Advent Wreath?

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of the season, with a candle lit each of the four Sundays leading up to, and on Christmas Day. The light of the flickering candle flames reminds us who Jesus is: *"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* ([John 1:4-5](#)). Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath.



Advent Devotional

The 2023 Advent Devotional is available online at: [2023 Advent Devotional](#).

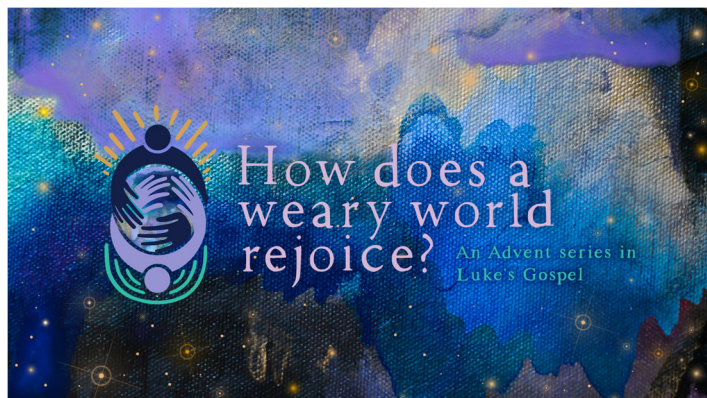
Limited copies are available at the Church.



Scan with Phone for Devotional

Bidding Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us hear again from the holy scriptures the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who do not know the Lord Jesus, or do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us: All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.



Our Advent theme for this year is:

How does a weary world rejoice?
An Advent series in Luke's Gospel



Here is what the creators, A Sanctified Art, have to say about the theme: Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were

pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people. As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, “How does a weary world rejoice?” From the opening chapters of Luke’s Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God’s closeness with great joy.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

How we developed this Advent series

During our planning for Advent, we felt called to depart from the lectionary and create another narrative-driven series. In this series, we are paying close attention to how the Gospel of Luke begins the story of Jesus: by interweaving Christ’s birth with the parallel story of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist. As we looked closely at both of these birth narratives told side by side, we saw the full scope of human emotions: isolation, fear, disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy. We acknowledged that the Christmas season is often an emotionally-charged time when we feel many things deeply—sometimes all at once. Many experience emotional dissonance in the midst of joy-filled carols and festivities.

As we studied the scriptures, we asked out loud, “What is the message we will need to hear this season?” Sarah Speed, one of our founding creative partners, referenced a poem she had written a few years ago titled, “How does a weary world rejoice?”² In it, she lists many seemingly mundane actions that fill our days: stretching your body awake, looking at the night sky, making room on the subway, helping a neighbor on the street, and so on. In the last stanza, she concludes:



*How does a weary world rejoice?
I would guess soul by soul and day by day.
But if you ask me, I bet most of it counts.*



After Sarah read her poem aloud, we heard the answer to our question: we need to hear that it all counts. We need to acknowledge the weariness of our world while also seeking real and daily moments of joy. We need to remember that all of life can be a prayer.

And so, we found ourselves compelled by the question Sarah’s poem poses: How does a weary world rejoice? In each week of our series, we respond to this question with a statement inspired by our scriptures. These texts bring us into a space of possibility; in them, we find rhythms for rejoicing, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Each weekly sub-theme is a “we” statement because joy is deeply relational and rooted in the fact that we belong to God. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God’s closeness with great joy.

Guide developed by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Commentary by guest contributor, Rev. Cecelia D. Armstrong | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



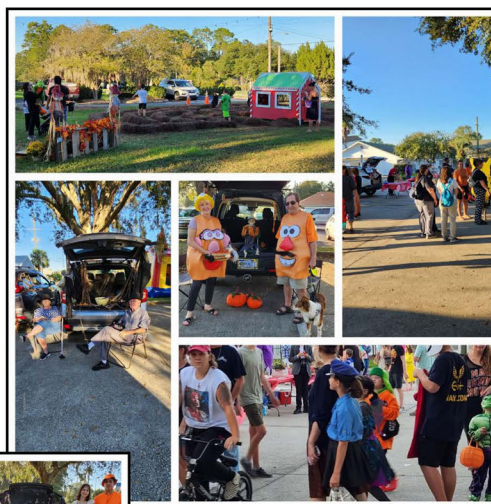
Thank You for helping to make the 2023 Pumpkin Patch & Truck or Treat a Success!



The Faith Formation is very grateful for the help received from:

- ♦ *The TPC community of shift volunteers and unloaders*
- ♦ *The Girl Scout Troup for the coverage of the last shift!*
- ♦ *The Boy Scouts collective groups for the overhead lights, the pre-setup, and participating in the Trunk or Treat*
- ♦ *For Rev Beebe for overseeing the event and for Judy for keeping our accounting side of this process*
- ♦ *And for those who purchased pumpkins to support the youth programs at Trinity Presbyterian church*

Faith Formation Committee



December Fellowship Lunch

Sunday, December 10th at 11am

All are invited and
to come and
celebrate the
season with your
church family.



Chancel Flowers for Sunday Morning Worship

**Don't forget to sign up for chancel
flowers for 2024!**

**This is a wonderful way to honor
and remember loved ones or
celebrate special occasions.**

**Sign-up cards are located on the
flower board in the Narthex.**

**Cost is \$40 per arrangement and
flowers will be ordered when
payment is received.**

Thank you!



Elders & Deacons



SESSION

Class of 2023:

Kathleen Cooke
Carol Graff
Gwen Levene
Judy Murgitroyde
Shelley Wheeler

Class of 2024:

Roger Ailshie
Martha Gioielli
Kelli Jebbia
Jennifer Kaczmarek
Thad Lang
Judy Spurrell

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023:

Colleen Connors
Nancy Cumming
Brenda Digby
Patty Edwards
Muriel Fallon
Sandy Glasner
Susan Kopyar
Jan Markiewicz
Millicent Peart

Class of 2024:

Bill Butler
Wendy Earle
Leisa Gardner
Jane Gaulding
Judy Hennenlotter
Tracy Martin
Joyce Peters
Marlene Williams
Kenny Wittmer

A Note from the Editor

I want to wish you all a joyous and peaceful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed this issue of the Trinity Times. Please note: the deadline for content submission for the Lent/Easter Edition is **January 23, 2024**. A separate Spring newsletter will be published the end of March and will cover April and May events. Please send submissions in Word or JPEG format to trinityoffice@cfl.rr.com. Thank you!



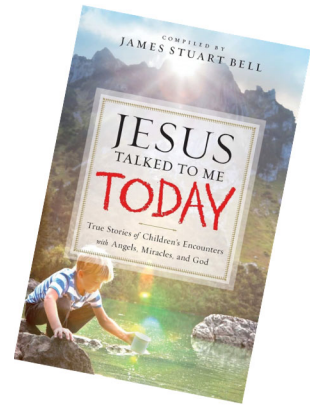
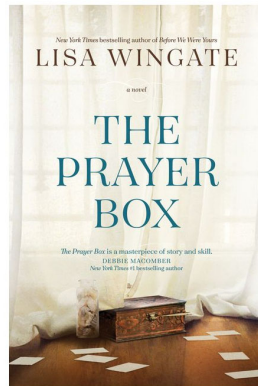
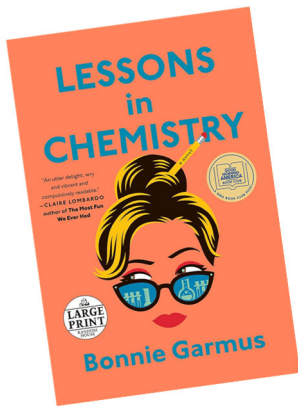
-Judy Grady



*Check out these new books and more
in the Trinity Library...*



- ❖ Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
- ❖ Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate
- ❖ Jesus Talked to Me Today by James Stuart Bell



TPC Book Club

Please join us at the library for our next meeting on
Thursday, December 14th at 11am.

We will be discussing The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood.

Angels

Angels appear frequently in Scripture. They are the messengers of God. Identify the people to whom an angel or angels appeared in the following biblical scenes.

from Bible Quizzes for Church newsletters by Frank R. Hoffman

1. An angel opened prison doors for _____ .
2. An angel directed _____ to the Ethiopian officer.
3. An angel struck _____ dead.
4. An angel directed _____ to send for Peter.
5. An angel stood by _____ in a storm.
6. An angel rescued _____, fleeing from Jezebel.
7. Angels destroyed Sodom and rescued _____ .
8. An angel saved _____ from the lions.
9. An angel directed the betrothal of Isaac and _____ .
10. An angel intercepted the slaying of _____ .

(Answers on page 18)



Epiphany Feast

January 7, 2024 11:15 a.m. in Mehaffey Hall.

Following Worship, the Faith Formation Committee invites you to celebrate the Epiphany with a luncheon, singing, and a procession of the magi as we hear their story from Scripture.

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

The word "epiphany" (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god. For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. ... Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

- An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 94-95)



*God of light, shining in darkness,
through a little child, born in
Bethlehem, you open to us the
treasure of your grace.*

*Help us to search diligently for him,
so that we may offer our lives to you
with thanksgiving, joy, and praise;
through Jesus Christ, the rising star.*

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 7, 2024



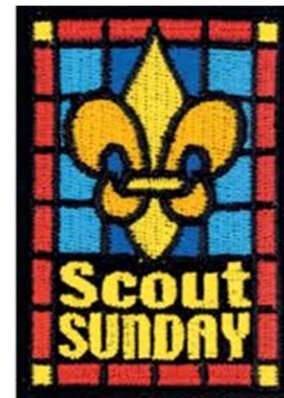
The Baptism of the Lord is closely related to Epiphany and should be considered in relation to that feast. Jesus' ministry to bring in God's rule was inaugurated in his baptism. As he came out of the water, the Spirit rested on Jesus and a sign of God's approval was heard. On this day, we celebrate not only Jesus' baptism but our own as well, for our baptism is rooted in Christ. Baptism joins us to Christ and his church, and with all of the baptized we are called to share in Jesus' ministry. In the waters of baptism we are buried with Christ, cleansed of our sins, and raised to share in his resurrection. The Spirit is given to us and we are declared the children of God.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (see Psalm 2:7). At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own Baptism.

Scout Sunday/Sabbath

Sunday, February 4, 2024



The Boy Scouts of America designates a Saturday and Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as [Scout Sunday](#) and [Scout Sabbath](#) to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. It is permissible for a local church to celebrate on a different day most acceptable to the religious leader and congregation.

Scout Sunday / Scout Sabbath is an opportunity for units to participate in the religious service of their chartering organization by attending services in uniform, conducting a flag ceremony and speaking.

MARTIN
LUTHER
KING JR.
Day



"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."##

#

***In observance of Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day,
the church office
will be closed on Monday,
January 15, 2024***

Save the date

Sunday, February 11th is Trinity's
Annual Souper Bowl of Caring.

We will be collecting can/dry goods for
our local food bank during worship.

Following worship we will have a chili
cook off in the fellowship hall!
So get those chili recipes perfected so
you can be crowned The Trinity Chili
Champion!

Watch the bulletin for more
information in January on how to
enter into the contest!



You are Invited to

The 44th Annual Meeting of the Congregation

**Sunday, January 28, 2024
Following 10AM Worship**

In accordance with The Book of Order PCUSA (G-105), The congregation shall hold an annual meeting ... for any or all of the purposes appropriate for congregational consideration. All active members of the congregation present at either annual or special meetings are entitled to vote. Congregations shall provide by rule the quorum necessary to conduct business. Meetings of the congregation shall be called by the session, by the presbytery, or by the session when requested in writing by one fourth of the active members on the role of the congregation. Adequate public notice of all congregational meetings shall be given. Congregations shall provide by their own rule for minimum notification requirements and give notice at regular services of worship prior to the meeting.

Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall be limited to matters related to the following:

- a. electing ruling elders and deacons;
- b. calling a pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor;
- c. changing existing pastoral relationships, by such means as reviewing the adequacy of and approving changes to the terms of call of the pastor or pastors, or requesting, consenting to, or declining to consent to dissolution;
- d. buying, mortgaging, or selling real property;
- e. requesting the presbytery to grant an exemption as permitted in this Constitution.
- f. approving a plan for the creation of a joint congregational witness, or amending or dissolving the joint congregational witness.

Holiday Fair Thank you and Update

This year's Holiday Fair was a wonderful experience! This fair was organized and led by Susan Kopyar and Marti Benz, the event planners. Thank you to all who helped make the 2023 Holiday Fair such an awesome experience. This includes but is not limited to the following: those who donated beautiful items for sale; those who worked to set up the sales booths; those whose smiling faces greeted the shoppers, and those Trinity members and friends who came to buy the goods and bring their families to come for lunch. It was a true community effort.

Thanks to the chefs in the **kitchen** who prepared the delicious lunch, and who made available some comfort food to take home and enjoy later. Bill B., Don and Cyndy M, Sheri and John H, Sally and Jim S., Judy & Ed M. and Ron W. all helping with food and lunch.

The **Bakery Booth** offered up some delicious treats made by our members and is always a favorite at the fair. Sally S sends, "A huge thank you to my workers in the bakery booth. I couldn't have done it without you, Penny W., Wendy R., Sheri H., and Maudie P. You four are the best! Also, thanks to all of you who contributed baked goods to the bakery booth." Sally Smeaton, chairperson of Bakery Booth. Bob Tabit's annual fresh bread was a hit, as always.

Thanks to the Circles and others who provided the **silent auction items and raffle baskets**. They brought a lot of good-natured competition. Thanks to Sharon G., Kathy B., Chris B. and Ruth G., focused on the silent auctions and raffle baskets.

The great hidden talents of **Trinity Crafters** were on display at the handicraft booth. Buyers could select from intricate Cross stitch pictures, knit pieces, even some fun hand stitch toys made by Martha F who is over 100 years old. Sandy and Bill B. continue to manage and man this booth. Kay J. was a welcome addition to the crafters this year.

The donations to the Holiday Fair included beautiful **Jewelry** to sell. This booth was coordinated and managed by Adult Choir members, Gail V., Lillian W. and Norma R. They worked for over a week to put the tasteful displays of the booth together.

An amazing assortment of donations came in for **Upscale JUNQUE**, and our **Christmas Shoppe**. These treasures were organized and marketed by Carol G., Janet S., Marti B., Edwina T., Laurie H., Jane G. and Barb D. Many treasures went home with happy buyers.

All of us like to stop in the hall to talk to our favorite cashier, Edwina Tabit.

We had an amazing display of Dolls from a collection donated to the church. Working on the **Doll Project**, Trinity ladies moved over 200 dolls to the church, packed and unpacked tubs, and spent from July through October cleaning, fluffing, and prepping the Dolls for the Holiday Fair. Susan led a fabulous team of ladies: Robin L., Leisa G., Joyce P., Joyce S., Marlene W. all contributed their time and energy just to the doll project. There were too many volunteers to list, but I'm going to add the names of a few people who really stood out. Ken M., Kenny W., and Ron W. were key for setting up the booths in Mehaffey Hall.

Norma R., Gail V., Lillian W., Nancy C., Laurie H., Marlene W., Bea P., Carol G., Martha G., were some more of our organizational and energetic volunteers.

A special thank you to our **advertising crew**... Laurie H. took care of the ads on radio and TV and the community calendars. Jan M. sent 17 letters to the churches in Flagler County.

Thanks to Martha G. and Laurie H. for collecting and counting the money.

A special thank you to our staff members - Pastor Jeff Beebe, Judy Grady, and Tommy Buonocore for their support.

We continue to look for volunteers to be leaders for next year... Happy holidays to all of you, Susan K-

The 2023 Holiday Fair profits and the Trinity Engagement Fund

This year's Holiday Fair raised \$3, 881.60 after expenses. \$215 went into the Doll account and \$3,666.60 went into the Trinity Community Engagement Fund.

The **Trinity Community Engagement Fund** will be used to support the church's community of believers by enabling us to invite, welcome, and provide access to opportunities available at Trinity for all. The fund would not be for a single purpose, but for a variety of ideas that will be brainstormed by members and friends of Trinity. For example, ideas for communication might allow us to mail out information about our events and activities or increase our signage outside. Other ideas might allow us to improve our "first impression" for members and visitors such as updating the nursery, playground, putting changing tables in some bathrooms or addressing the Anderson courtyard area. What about more lighting in the parking lots for night meetings? There are other ideas that can assist us with sharing God's love here at Trinity. Our hope is that some of the people who already use our facilities might want to come and join us in worship or in other activities. By providing support to smaller projects, the funds can increase the engagement of our members, friends, and visitors by inviting them to engage with us in our journey towards a relationship with Christ.

The fund will be managed by a group consisting of Chairman or active member of the Holiday Fair organizing committee, pastor, church Treasurer, and a session member (preferably the Evangelism/Membership chair). Ideas for consideration may be submitted to the committee through the office.

We would like to say thank you to Holiday Fair chairwomen, Susan Kopyar, and Marti Benz, who inspired us all with their beautiful smiles and endless energy. We encourage others to consider joining them as volunteers and/or leaders for future events and Holiday Fair 2024.

Thank You

Thank you all for your out pouring of love, phone calls and cards for Edwina's 90th Birthday and our 71st Wedding Anniversary.

Also thank you for all of the get well wishes for Bob after his fall and the love and sympathy with his passing.

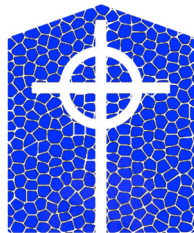
I am truly grateful for your love and friendship.

-Edwina Tabit

Angels

Answer key
from Bible Quizzes for Church newsletters by Frank R. Hoffman

1. The apostles, Acts 5:19
2. Philip, Acts 8:26
3. Herod, Acts 12:23
4. Cornelius, Acts 10:3
5. Paul, Acts 27:23
6. Elijah, 1 Kings 19:5-8
7. Lot, Genesis 19:1-29
8. Daniel, Daniel 6:22
9. Rebekah, Genesis 24:7
10. Isaac, Genesis 22:9-12



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*Trinity Presbyterian Church is called by God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be a **worshipping, nurturing and serving** community.*