

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



The people of The United Methodist Church

## DECEMBER 2017

Life is difficult. As you know, I experienced a loss in September. I am not alone in experiencing loss. We all have setbacks, disappointments, challenges, and losses. None of us escapes this troubling aspect of life. How we wish we did, right?

The blessing for me in my loss was that I did not deal with it alone. A number of people offered hugs, words of support, sent cards, and performed numerous kindnesses. What was difficult would have been many times more challenging without people being there with me. How thankful I am to have family, a faith community, and long-time friends. My gratitude is greater than my ability to express it.

Two words stand out for me in the paragraph above: **“with me.”** Our Maker knows our need to have people stand by our side. At Christmas, we celebrate that God was with us in the person of Jesus Christ. God in Christ came to stand by our side in the difficulties of life. In Christ, God stands with us in the setbacks, disappointments, challenges, and losses of life. God is so committed to be with us that not even the powers of sin, death, or hell can separate us from his love for us through Jesus Christ.

The ministry of the Church is incarnational. Ministry is about being with people in all the myriad challenges of life. It is loving people who have experienced loss of loved ones or homes. It is loving people who have lost jobs or lost their health. It is standing with people in their temptations and failures. Ministry is incarnational; it is all about being with people.

Whenever someone stands with me, I am reminded that I want to be a person that stands with people, too. And I am reminded of the joyful news of Christmas. We are not alone! God is with us!

Pastor John

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children are working hard! They will

present the Education Christmas Program on Wednesday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dinner will follow in Fellowship Hall.



# WELCOME — We're Glad You're Here — TO CHURCH



December 3

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: “Mary”

December 10 (8:00 & 10:30)

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: “Joseph”

9:15 a.m. Choir Cantata

December 17

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: “The Magi”

December 24 Morning Worship Service

at 9:15 a.m.

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Sermon: “The Messy Manger”

December 31

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: “Looking Forward”



United  
Methodist  
Women

**Our UMW will meet on  
Wednesday, December  
6<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon for a  
carry-in luncheon.**

**Emily Rodibaugh will be leading a memorial service for our UMW members who have died within the last couple of years. All women of the church are welcome to join us.**



### CHOIR CANTATA

#### Do You Hear What I Hear”

Join us in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m., on Sunday, December 10, 2017, for the Christmas cantata, Do You Hear What I Hear? What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Lord through this musical presentation of scripture and song. The Music Ministry Team (Choir) is working diligently to bring you this worship opportunity.

There are songs, solos, duets, and even a little congregation participation to help ready you and center your thoughts on the reason we celebrate this season. Through the hustle and bustle of shopping, baking, wrapping, and parties, it is good to take some time to reflect and focus on Christ's birth and all that represents to Christians. Please join us for this worship opportunity.



**Sunday School  
(K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Schedule for  
December**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Lesson: A Baby is Coming

December 10<sup>th</sup> – No SS class – You are

encouraged to attend the choir cantata at 9:15 am

December 13<sup>th</sup> – Education Christmas Program at 5:45 pm. in the Sanctuary.

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Lesson: A Baby is Born

December 24<sup>th</sup> – No SS class – Worship Service at 9:15 a.m.

December 31<sup>st</sup> - Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Lesson: Simeon and Anna

December 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:15 p.m. Service Project Lead Worship Service at Rensselaer Care Center and Alternacare

during January and the first part of February. A leader is in place for late February and March. THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF PLACES TO HELP OUT.

Would you consider giving 1 ½ hours a week for 5 weeks in the name of Jesus Christ to share God's Word and love with our young people? 5 ADULTS ARE NEEDED TO SERVE 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14. The responsibilities includes helping the children (3 year olds - 5th grade) stay on task during the story, help them understand the object lesson, and lead the prayer time. See Tammy Culp for more details.



## CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

January 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

February 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

March 4 & 18<sup>th</sup>

April 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

May 19: Rehearsal dinner (pizza party)

May 20: Confirmation Sunday (8:00 service)



“Let There Be Light:  
A Service of  
Reflection for the  
Longest Night”  
7:00 p.m. on  
December 21<sup>st</sup>

at Hope Community, (corner of McKinley and Elm)

On Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> the community is invited to attend the Longest Night Service, sponsored by Rensselaer Area Ministerial Association, an evening worship service reminding us of Christ's light shining even in the darkest nights of our lives. In these darkening days approaching Christmas with all its frantic busyness and huge expectations, we all have unhealed, stressed or just exhausted areas in our lives: heavy burdens and losses we can't talk about easily; concerns for a world of violence and war, illnesses poverty. We begin to recognize a different, deeper inner need calling us to pay attention. A need for a sacred, quiet space - a space of prayer, Scripture, gentle song and candlelight to help us open ourselves to God's loving, healing, and very real Presence.



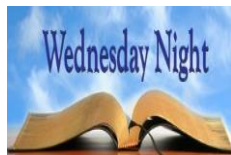
## Senior Saints

A few seats remain for this year's Senior Saints

Trip to Warsaw, IN. We will see Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street at the Wagon Wheel Theater. We will also eat an amazing Italian dinner at a local restaurant. The bus will leave Trinity@ 10:30 a.m. on December 17<sup>th</sup> and we should return around 6:30 p.m. The cost for the day is \$40 and includes play, dinner, and transportation. Call the church office ASAP to reserve your spot.

## SEEK

December is a short month for SEEK. The children will practice for the Christmas program, The First Christmas, on Wednesday, December 6. The Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 13. Children and youth are asked to arrive on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The program will begin at 5:45 in the sanctuary. Dinner will follow the program in Fellowship Hall.



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## SERVICE PROJECT



Mercy Me and Tenth Avenue North will be in concert on Friday, February 16, 6:30 c.d.t. Tickets are \$45. Call the church office by December 13, if you

are interested.

## CHRISTIAN CONCERT



Stacy Webb is leading a worship service at the Rensselaer Care Center and Alternacare on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> @ 2:15 p.m. Join us!

## SEEK



“SEEK and you shall find...” Adult leaders are in place to help lead SEEK

## MOO – OINK – BAA



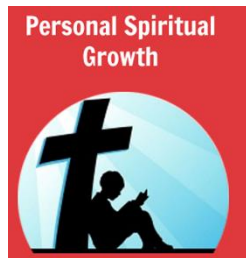


The Missions & Social Concerns Team is having a fun spirited farm animal completion thru December 17. Yes, it involves

YOU! Yes, it involves the animal of YOUR choice! Yes, tallies will be kept so YOU know which animal may be that week's "Trinity Favorite"! As you probably have guessed by now the team is jumping on the farm animal wagon with HEIFER INTERNATIONAL for the upcoming Christmas season. When you make your donation toward this awesome project you will be giving hope to families in the most dire of circumstances. Please mark your donation Cow – Pig – Sheep for easy in-house tracking. Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon" [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

### HOW ARE YOU GROWING?



A little over a month ago, the Spiritual Development Team of Fruitful Congregations presented a plan to help individuals assess where they are in terms of Spiritual Practices. By determining a starting point, it can be determined how to grow and mature in Spiritual Practices. Remember the Spiritual Development booklets are available to use. Take one home and read through it. Pray about how God would have you take the next step in your spiritual journey. Get involved in a prayer group, a Bible study, a small accountability group, and grow closer to God.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the cards, phone calls and thoughts during my surgery. Thank you to the Blanket Ministry for the awesome blanket (my kids love it as well). I am especially grateful for all your prayers. I appreciate all the thoughtfulness and concern. God Bless!

Stacie Hannon

Trinity United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the beautiful blanket and beautiful shawl. We have gotten great use out of both. Thank you for thinking of us all. It really means a lot.

Trent, Shayna, Emmett & Casen



Dear Trinity UMC,

I would like to thank all of you for your generous donations, support and encouragement for my Eagle Project of the installation of the flag pole. Without all of you, this would not have been possible!

My goal was to raise \$5,500 and with everyone's help I was able to raise \$6,190. In addition to donations from members of Trinity, family, friends and the community, I am also grateful for contributions from Trinity's endowment fund, REMC's operation round up grant and use of their truck, concrete donation from IMI in Remington, Mike Goad's donation of time and equipment for digging the hole, my fellow boy scouts, my parents and several other individuals for their help, guidance and support.

In addition to the flag pole, I am also presenting to the church five extra American and Methodists flags and giving \$897.07 back to Trinity United Methodist Church.

Again, thank you all very much for your generosity and making the project possible.

Ben Olson

Thank you to David & Angela DelPrincipe for the learning toys that have been placed in our nursery.



Special thanks to Jim Hoffman who is keeping the Church Sign updated. THANK YOU JIM!

## HOLINESS AND PURITY -- WOW!!

Larry Klingler's passion for youth and their spiritual growth lived on at the Holiness and Purity Retreat. Larry's memorial paid for the large portion of the Holiness and Purity Retreat for which we are very grateful! Twenty-four (24) youth heard God's perspective on relationships. Please pray that God will use this event to change lives forever.



Thank you to those who have prepared and served the meals at SEEK during the month of November: Nate and Shyla Brown, Trent and Shayna

Phegley, Karen Youngs; Jake and Beth Hege & family, Lance and Allison Strange and family; Scott and Brenda Green, Janet Holt, Sharon DeWees, Ruth Paulsen; Kenny and Sandra Culp, Brandon and Abby Culp, Kayla and Brandon Neibert, and Jessica Schaublaub. We are also thankful for Jim Wisley who helps clean up after the meal.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

These birthdays are in our computer. If your birthday is in December and not listed, please call the church office (866-7271) so we can get the information. Thank you!

- December 1 ..... Eleanor Black, Leealison Korniak
- December 2 ..... Kathy McMurtrie, Scott Luesse
- December 3 ..... Beckie Courtright
- December 4 ..... Regan Rodibaugh
- December 7 ..... Rita Barnett
- December 8 ..... Don Waymouth
- December 9 ..... Evan Law, Bobby Wise
- December 10 ..... Becca Todd
- December 11 ..... Addison Hesson, Kendra Hesson
- December 12 ..... Matthew Deno, LaVon Parker
- December 14 ..... Reece Klingler, Nichole Lehe
- December 15 ..... Mary Grace Heinig, Russ Martin
- December 16 ..... Scott Cook, Mike Kosta
- December 18 ..... Nash Farrell, Louie Lane, Amy Raff, Beverly Shuster
- December 19 ..... Jim Ewen, Tom Lashbrook
- December 20 ..... Richard Beaver, Jayce Halligan, Macie Kellner
- December 21 ..... Donna Antcliff
- December 22 ..... Lynda Ewen, Joan Raff
- December 23 ..... Allen Barton, Randy Black, Danielle Goin, Tony Parker, Julia Yallaly
- December 24 ..... Sheila Barton, Tyler Springsteen
- December 25 ..... Elizabeth Knoth, Peggy Smith
- December 26 ..... Jessica Nunemaker
- December 27 ..... Cay Jordan, Steve Robinson, Paige Schanlaub
- December 28 ..... Brayden Conrad, Margene Houston, Jean Huff, Jay Phegley
- December 29 ..... Bill Dunfee, Cathy Hitchings, Kelly Wright
- December 30 ..... Leslie Kennedy
- December 31 ..... John Blue, Swazy Spangler



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

These anniversaries are in our computer. If your anniversary is in December and not listed, please call the church office (866-7271) so we can get the information. Thank you!

- December 5 ..... Kelly & Amy Wedding (30)
- December 10 ..... Greg & Lynn Enstrom (40)
- December 15 ..... Walter & Beverly Scherb (44)
- December 17 ..... Chad & Roberta Gutwein (29)
- December 23 ..... Jim & Janet Adamson (34)
- December 24 ..... Robert & Elsie Dobry (63)
- December 27 ..... Jim & Diana Zacher (47)
- December 31 ..... Russ & Andrea Meinbrook (2)

### Military Personnel

Andy Allen, Justin Bednar, Nic Chapman, Patrick Crum, Myles Debshaw, Andy Meyer (serving in the Middle East), Michael "Rusty" Molenaar, Chris Northcutt, Kaitlyn Paulsen Guss (serving in Kuwait), Kevin Raber, Josh Risner, Katie Shearer, Ian Shepherd, Josh Sorba, Dr. Wakefield.



Sympathy is expressed by the members and friends of Trinity to the following:

- † Sympathy to the family and friends of Dudley Spence who died November 19, 2017

