



A Joy for All Seasons

THEME FOR DECEMBER 2020

From The Pastor's Heart

Merry Christmas dear Friend,

What a joy to wish you joy from Mt. Joy!

I am writing this letter from the rear seat of my car. It is Friday, my weekly day off and I am parked in a lovely spot on a beautiful Pennsylvania day surrounded by lush green lawns and trees. I thank God for the many times of prayer, study and writing that I have been gifted in this seat of my car. This ordinary spot of sweet fellowship, prayer, reading and work is a reminder to me of the first Christmas story. God at that time in history chose to shine his glory in ordinary places – and upon ordinary people. As I reflected upon what He did at Bethlehem and beyond, I wrote this poem and am happy to share it with you.

The manger became a birthing room,
Love divine in a virgin's womb,
God's light was breaking through the darkness,
Veiled in flesh, behold his greatness.

Humble shepherds – the heavenly Host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
God's love was breaking through the pain,
Touching lives and things mundane.

DECEMBER THEME

A Joy for All Seasons

December 6 ~ Grace-Driven Joy

Why am I so favored?

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

Rev. Barry Robison

December 13 ~ Miracle-Driven Joy

The Lord has done this for me.

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

Rev. David P. McCullough

December 20 ~ Faith-Driven Joy

For nothing is impossible with God.

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

December 24 ~ Hunger-Driven Joy

Where is the one....?

Scripture Matthew 2:1-11

December 27 ~ Promise-Driven Joy

And they will call him Immanuel.

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-24

In the Temple at the consecration,
Two voices spoke of his salvation,
God's Word was breaking through the silence,
Peace on earth amidst the violence.

The wise men from the East arrived,
Their visit left the king surprised,
God's power was breaking through the system,
His ways are higher, He's got that wisdom.

The man of sorrows, friend of sinners,
Welcomed all - losers and winners,
God's grace was breaking through the barriers,
With joy, he came to love and carry us.

So, as you celebrate the season,
Don't miss the Christ-child, he's the reason,
God's hope is breaking through the gloom,
The question is, will you make room?

Mt. Joy, PA Friday, November 13, 2020

Joyfully yours,
Pastor Arun

P.S: Miriam, Nihal and Nehara join me in wishing you a wonderful Christmas, safe and healthy days, memorable family times and a blessed year ahead.

THANK YOU!

We thank God for our staff and volunteers who helped Trinity navigate through this complex year. Without you, we would not have been able to do the ministry we were called to.

We thank God for all of you in the congregation who have prayed, participated with your talents and contributed generously to support the ministry of the church.

You matter.

You are making a difference.

Thank you!

With Christmas wishes
from the Leadership Team

THE GIFT OF WARMTH

With the season of Thanksgiving upon us, we are thankful that with your help we are able to give the gift of warmth as we begin our coldest season. On Sunday, November 22nd, the Sewing Club displayed the 72 quilts and 26 lap robes that will be given away this year. The ladies involved in making the quilts and lap robes are: Jady Conroy, Mel Eyer, Joann Frownfelter, Betty Hannum, Kathy Karnes, Kathy Miller, Janie Rosenthal, Paula Taylor, Millie Walters, Joyce Warcholak, and Mary Weller.



Group picture taken last year before the pandemic

The following local facilities are the recipients: The Paxton Home, Bethesda Mission-both the men and the women and children's shelter, UM Children's Home, and New Life for Girls. The lap robes will be wrapped and given to Manor Care as Christmas gifts. There are three ways that you can be part of this rewarding ministry. You can be involved in the sewing of the quilts, knit or crochet lap robes in the convenience of your home, or you can support us with a monetary donation. If you would like to give the gift of warmth in any of these ways, please contact Kathy Karnes or the church office.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

On November 22nd, members of the Chancel Choir sang a setting of “Now Thank We All Our God,” as arranged by David Giardinere. This hymn is a favorite of mine, and I always gravitate to its use. Chosen for the Sunday closest to Thanksgiving, it is, however, appropriate at any time, in any circumstance. The musical setting for choir, congregation, brass, and organ is taken from an organ arrangement by Sigfrid Karg-Elert. The musical setting clearly and unequivocally illustrates the awesome majesty, the awesome power, and the awesome splendor of God. However, the text, written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), was composed in a time of great suffering, especially for the writer himself. We, too, face many challenges as God’s people, charting our way through this current pandemic, and other national and global issues. May we too, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, always find courage and strength to praise God.

In this month of December, music planning and rehearsals continue for the Advent and Christmas season! On Wednesdays at 12:00 pm this month, Advent and Christmas music will be a regular part of weekly music offerings. Please do plan to attend these Midweek Music experiences, online or in person! We have had many extraordinary musical moments thus far. To attend in person, register on the church’s website or by calling the church office. Concerts begin at 12:00 pm. Because the concerts are live-streamed and recorded, you may share the links with others, and/or watch as many times as you wish to enjoy!

The annual Musicale will still take place this year. Mostly pre-recorded, we will have an online program and Sunday morning program during worship. Current guidelines require that we make slight revisions to the overall program. I have said many times, and will continue to say that making music daily, and weekly, with everyone is a blessing. I know each Sunday, each Wednesday, each rehearsal, and each time we gather to make music, will always be a special moment and offering of praise and prayer.

In this month of Christmas, I always remember that I have been blessed with many gifts. Cathe and Hayden are my greatest gifts. Our Trinity family and friendships are gifts we cherish each day.

As we await the birthday of our King, our Savior, our shepherd, our guardian, our guide, our friend, Jesus, may we remember God’s son is the greatest gift the world will ever know. To Him be all honor and power and glory forever and ever. Amen.

He is worthy of it all.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Todd

*Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
Praise the Lord with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.*

Psalm 33:1-4

REQUESTING YOUR RESPONSE: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

In anticipation of Advent and Christmas, we are seeking to plan our services and seating in advance. We would like to offer as many in our congregation the privilege of worshipping on Christmas Eve in our Sanctuary and Mt. Olivet Room (25 seats available in the sanctuary and 15 seats in Mt. Olivet).

Our Christmas Eve services are presently scheduled for 6:30 PM and 11 PM. Which service would you be able to attend? We will be very grateful if you may kindly respond to the survey in the November 22 bulletin or online by December 5th.

Your response will help us decide whether we might need to offer an additional service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve. We will also be grateful to know if you might be willing to attend your preferred service in Fellowship hall, in case we have a big response. Plans subject to covid restrictions and changing environment. To know more, contact Beth Sider, Shirley Sharpe or Pastor Arun.

*thank
you*

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Arun and Rev. Peterson for their calls to check on Nevin and our family and especially their prayers for his healing. He is doing much better but it will take months for his ribs to heal according to the doctors. We also want to thank our church family for the Birthday and Get Well cards and prayers. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Nevin is doing better each day and learning new exercises from his home therapist much to his dismay.

Patricia and Nevin Bashore.

Thank you so very much for all the lovely cards, phone calls, prayers, love and concern during Arv's recovery from surgery. We are especially grateful for the prayers offered by Pastor Arun and Pastor Peterson. Even during the pandemic when things are handled so differently, we felt the love and reassurance of the Holy Spirit. May God bless each of you.

With love and gratitude, Arv & Bev Krick

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards and support during our hospital stay and recovery. Thank you Pastor Arun for the phone calls and texts. We are blessed to have our Christian friends.

God bless you all, Rick and Jane Bittner

This is just a little note to thank all of the wonderful people who have been involved in all of the programs during this virus. I want them all to know how much it has meant to me. I have prayed for each of them and send appreciation and love to all.

In Christ's name, Joyce Karash

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and words of comfort on my sister's passing. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Allyn Litzelman

I would like to thank all those who helped to make Trinity's participation in this year's CROP Walk such a success. First, I would like to thank our walkers - Pastor Arun and Miriam Andrews, Jady Conroy, Gina and Gabrielle Martineau, Miss St. Cyr, Sandy Williams and Barbara Zimmerman. What an awesome group to share a walk with on such a beautiful day. I would also like to thank all of those who contributed to this very worthy cause. And last but definitely not least, thank you for all of your prayers. We have been truly blessed by all of your support. I pray these prayers and gifts will bless those who need our help so much.

With deep gratitude ~ Mel Eyer.

DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD UPDATE

With the rising Covid cases, Downtown Daily Bread will be closing their kitchen and return to "to go meals" for the homeless. Therefore, our kitchen help is not needed. BUT, if there are groups of people or individuals wishing to prepare sandwiches or desserts or simply donate bread, juices, etc., they will gladly accept that help.

Contact Carol Crossley with questions. 717-379-9030 Trinity is such a volunteering church that we had already filled the January spots to help. Will be in touch when they reopen.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Prayer time at the Borough Park

On Sunday, November 15, we were scheduled to gather and pray at 4 pm for those serving in our Police, Fire, River Rescue, EMT and first responder teams. The gathering had been planned in place of our annual National Night Out Event which was not possible on account of COVID-19. All through the week the weather forecast for Sunday afternoon was predicated at 80%-100% rain around 4 pm. In our worship services that morning we were encouraged to participate and pray for the weather. At 2:11 pm that day I sent the congregation an e-mail informing you that the forecast was confirming 80% rain at 4 pm. I invited you to pray and to keep our eyes on our Heavenly Weather-Keeper. I shared these words which were quoted in that morning's sermon:

Doubt sees the obstacles
Faith sees the way.
Doubt sees the darkest night
Faith sees the day.
Doubt dreads to take a step
Faith soars on high.
Doubt questions 'who believes?'
Faith answers, 'I.'
(Author unknown)

By 3.30 pm the forecast showed a prediction of 0% rain at 4 pm. There was no rain as we gathered. Thank you, Lord!!!!

We gathered and prayed for our friends who protect our town all year round through the rain, snow and the changing seasons. At times they even put their lives in harm's way in order to keep us safe. We were blessed to have our members, friends and pastors Rev. Dr. Win Green, Rev. Richard Krieg, Rev. Charlie Zahora and Rev. Peggy Spengler lead us. Police Chief Joseph Spadaccino and Fire Chief Jim Benson shared remarks in appreciation for the gift of prayer. Carol Crossley who has been the coordinator for our National Night Out Events shared her greetings and Hershey Chocolate boxes – a compliment from Hershey. Thank you, Carol! The evening was made special by music from Todd Davis and the 'Star Spangled Banner' by Michelle Loomis. Daryl Potteiger, Zach Potteiger, Tom Baum, Ken Gable and Nihal Andrews worked behind the scenes to make the event possible. We are grateful to all of you who prayed from your homes and for those of you who were able to join us in person.

As we were leaving the park, I looked up at those obedient clouds and whispered, "Thank you".

Our God reigns!
Arun Andrews

WORDS OF WELLNESS

by Barbara Zimmerman

One of the most precious gifts we can give, or receive, is the gift of REMEMBRANCE • • •

We "Remember" our LORD and the sacrifice HE made for our salvation with each sacrament of communion.

And, each year on All Saints' Sunday, our Trinity Church Family gathers together - to the Glory of GOD - to acknowledge and honor those who heave gone on before us, during the past year.

We celebrate each life and "Remember" • • •

Reflecting upon their lives, we are especially grateful for their "walk of faith" and how that faith encourages, influences, and inspires our own.

As we lift up each name -
We Remember - Give Thanks -
and are Blessed.

*The gift of life, however dear,
must on day pass away -
But love and memories remain,
untouched by time,
eternal gifts that stay.*



DECEMBER PRAYER CHALLENGE

Every time you hear a Christmas carol, would you pray for Christians who face persecution in different parts of the world?

TRINITY YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

by Haley Warner



Trinity Youth Find Ways to Serve During the Pandemic

Trinity Youth partnered with Trinity's Homebound Ministry Leaders to surprise our homebound members with festive fall gifts and love from their Trinity Church Youth Group. A special thanks to Mary Herr & the Homebound Ministry Team for making this possible!

Trinity Youth served the local New Cumberland community and children during downtown Trick or Treat. The youth dressed up and found creative ways to "hand out" candy and share God's love with our community.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children's ministry team is launching a new way of ministering to your child(ren)....**via a ZOOM call** beginning November 29 and every Sunday morning of the Advent season. The link will be sent each week.

DATES: November 29, December 6, December 13, December 20, and December 27

TIME: 9:45 am to 10:30 am

We hope your child(ren) will be available for this call every Sunday, however, if they are not each Sunday will have a stand-alone message.



To ensure your child receives our ZOOM call; please contact Donna Ratulowski at 717-512-3365. You can text or call. We will need your email address. There will be a mailing of supplies so please contact Donna ASAP. We look forward to seeing your child(ren).

DUTIES FOR DECEMBER 2020

| DUTIES | DECEMBER 6 | DECEMBER 13 | DECEMBER 20 | DECEMBER 24 6:30 PM & 11:00 PM | DECEMBER 27 9:30 AM |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| LITURGIST | Peggy Spengler | Mel Eyer | Doug Eakin | Nehara Andrews George Karnes | Yvonne James |
| CHILDREN'S TALK | Jady Conroy | Kaity Wickenheiser | Rev. Raymond Brooks | | Cheryl Bargo |
| COUNTING TEAM | Charlie Klinger and Tom Baum | | | | |

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

The 8:15 and 10:45 service have been offered on a trial basis. Due to the positive response, we plan to continue with the two services, however this is subject to change as we continue on into the unknown future of COVID 19. We are, however planning on just one 9:30 service the Sunday after Christmas, December 27th.

November 29th begins the Advent season with the lighting of the Advent wreath, and will conclude with the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. We are planning to have services on Christmas Eve, and await your responses as to how many services we will hold in the sanctuary. We will also have a Christmas Eve service live streamed. Candle lighting in the sanctuary and Mt. Olivet Room will be with battery operated candles (necessary to have so as not to have everyone's air blown throughout the church!). We will have the candelabras lite. We will not have the many poinsettias in the sanctuary, as previously announced in the bulletins. Thank you to Michelle Loomis, coordinator of Christmas decorating, the church will be decorated for Christmas!

Just a reminder that masks are required in the church building and social distancing is necessary. You know where you have been, but you do not know where your neighbor has been. The virus has proven to be passed very quickly, so please do remember the 6 foot distance, even when in a space that is sacred and seems safe. Visiting is best done outside following the services.

Thank you for pre-registering for worship services. **If you have the internet, please consider registering online.** This greatly helps the office staff with their many phone calls. Later in the week you will receive either an email or phone call (for those without the internet) telling you what your door number and seat number is. If we follow these steps we will be better able to handle more people if and when the time comes that we may increase the numbers.

The church is sanitized by our custodian, Harry Rodriguez, during the week and for the 8:15 service, and then is sanitized between the 8:15 and 10:45 service. Likewise, it will be sanitized between services on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to our church staff for their extra work in supporting the worship services during these unusual times. Worship and Christian fellowship look different these days but they are still important! Please continue to be challenged and know that Trinity is here to support you in these trying times.

“DO NO HARM. DO GOOD. STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD.”

John Wesley

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

*“The first thing I want you to do is pray.
Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know.
Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so
we can be quietly about our business of living simply,
in humble contemplation.
This is the way our Savior God wants us to live.
He wants not only us, but everyone saved, you know,
everyone to get to know the truth we’ve learned:
that there’s one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator
between God and us—Jesus,
Who offered himself in exchange for everyone
held captive by sin; to set them free.”*

1 Timothy 2:1-5 The Message

The Holy Scripture in which God has spoken to us is very clear of the importance God places on prayer. He waits patiently for us to sit quietly and listen closely to His Word to us and respond to Him in prayer. As we return to the Christmas story, we find Mary totally in love with God and listening for a Word from Him in a time when God had not spoken in over 400 years. “The angel went to Mary and said “Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Why would God choose a humble virgin to speak to? Because Mary loved God and was faithful to His Word and Him in daily prayer. The angel knew how Mary may respond to such an unexpected visit, so the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son and you are to call Him Jesus.”

Mary was comfortable in her prayer life to ask the Angel, “How will this be since I am a virgin?” The conversation between Mary and the Angel continues as the Angel explains how this will all take place concluding with “For no Word from God will ever fail.” Mary answered, “I am the Lord’s servant. May your Word to me be fulfilled.” (Luke 1:26 -38)

We too can have an active prayer life like Mary. Pastor Arun is an example of such a prayer life. Even when on vacation, He meets with God and with us to pray.

When Pastor Arun called me and said he wanted to step up our prayer life, he asked me whether I would help him with a “Prayer Wall”. Since my passion in life is prayer, I was quick to serve our Lord in this matter.

The PRAYER WALL has been on our website since the beginning of November. If you connect to Trinity’s web site, you will see a link to the PRAYER WALL. Just click the link and begin praying for the prayers that are listed there. After you pray, click the button, “Pray for this” and it will record your prayer and send a note to the person who put the prayer request on the Prayer Wall, so they know folks are praying. We are arranging for the “Pray for this” button to reset every 24 hours, so that you can pray everyday for the prayer concern and your prayer will be registered.

How do I put my prayer on the PRAYER WALL? Tap the “Share Your Prayer” button and a screen will come up asking for your name, email and your prayer request. Then scroll down and choose you desire privacy request (both church and website) and whether you want updates. Hit “Submit Request” and I’ll get a notice to put it on the PRAYER WALL.

Don’t use the internet? Please call the church office or Pastor Peggy 717-433-1670 with your request and I’ll put it up for you.

Pastor Arun and I are looking forward to hearing from you as your prayers go out to all the world.



CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer | 2 12 PM Facebook Live Midweek Music | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 6 PM Youth Group - FH | 7 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies | 8 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer | 9 12 PM Facebook Live Midweek Music | 10 11 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit | 11 11 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit | 12 |
| 13 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 12 PM Starfish Ministry - HBG 6 PM Youth Group FH | 14 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies | 15 Tidings Articles Due 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer | 16 12 PM Facebook Live Midweek Music | 17 11 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit | 18 9 AM Love Boxes Donations & Distribution | 19 10 AM Secret Sisters Group Zoom |
| 20 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 5 PM Youth Group Christmas Party -FH | 21 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies | 22 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer | 23 12 PM Facebook Live Midweek Music | 24 6 & 11 PM Christmas Eve Services | 25 Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS | 26 |
| 27 9:30 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 6 PM Youth Group - FH | 28 Office Closed 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies | 29 Office Closed 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer | 30 Office Closed 12 PM Facebook Live Midweek Music | 31 Office Closed NEW YEAR'S EVE | | |
| <p>STOP & PRAY TIMES AT 8.30 PM</p> <p>Imagine the power of 100 or 200 or 300 individuals praying united in Spirit for 5 minutes or more! Let us pray for unity, love and a true revival from the Holy Spirit.</p> | | | | | | |



Trinity United Methodist Church

Susquehanna Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

415 Bridge Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-7146
www.trinityumnc.com

Sunday Worship Services

8: 15 AM and 10:45 AM

Sunday School Classes

For all ages at 9:30 AM



Trinity UMNC

Dated Material

**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**



The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

December
2020



Please submit
articles for the
JANUARY 2021
TRINITY TIDINGS
by December 15th



As Trinity church has done in the past, we are again collecting food and toiletry items for the needy students of West Shore School District. Please consider bringing items into the church and putting them on the designated table in the hallway. This project provides dignity, anonymity and a basic need to these students PLUS Trinity church is supporting OUR Community with this effort. There is a list of the preferred items on Trinity's website and a copy on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Will you continue to help with this cause? Please contact Cathy Baum @ (717)-774-0907 for further information. Thanks to all who have supported this project.