

*Let the*  
peace of Christ  
*rule in your hearts*



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolynne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

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## **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

### **8:00 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

**Prayer:** *Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Know that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved.  
We are called into one body, the church of Jesus Christ.

**Let us draw close to God and to one another.**

**Let us join with all creation to worship God.**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

What a rare gift this season brings. God loves us so much that God came to us in Jesus. Let us humble ourselves and confess our sins before the God of love. *(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

### **SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God. We confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our heart with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **ACT OF PRAISE**

O God, open my lips.

**And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

#### THE PSALTER

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! **Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

**He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord.**

#### THE SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

St. Luke 2:41-52

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

**THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD**

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

**SERMON**

**“The Joy of the Season Continues!”** Pastor Rankin

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

# PEOPLE'S OFFERING

## OFFERING DEDICATION

We are thankful for the love that gave us life, for the mission that gives purpose to our days, and for the peace that Christ grants to us. Keep us from needless anxiety, that we may give without counting the cost. We give ourselves as well as our money, that your Word may spread where it is not known and take root where it has not been heeded. In Christ's name. Amen.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflections of your glory. When we fell short and dimmed the brilliance of your light shining through us, you held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth. When we are afraid to look upon your glory, you came as a quiet traveler, as a burning bush, and as a pillar of light. You called us to be people of light, to walk no longer in darkness, and always, you light our way. Even when we walk in darkness, you shine your light and offer your grace, awaiting our return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reveal your glory and grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the angels in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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, for ever. Amen.

## COMMUNICATION

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. We will commune by each section. The pastor will give you the wafer and you will dip it in the chalice held by the assistant. Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing after everyone has communed.)*

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space. Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

#### **BENEDICTION**



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers & Worship Aids are given by Chaplain Jere Chapman in honor of my wife Judy on her birthday today.**

**Money Counters:** Lee Bossert, Steve Shenk, Ron & Don Denlinger

**Building Trustee:** Pat Sensenig

**Communion Assistant:** Nevin Cooley

#### **Happy Birthday!**

Today – Judy Chapman

Friday – Rev. Jack Esbenshade

Saturday – Joan Cash, Pat Seachrist



Attendance for Sun., Dec. 19                      8:00–25    10:30–60    **TOTAL – 85**  
Sunday School    18

**This Week at Trinity Church**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

Monday                      OFFICE CLOSED  
Saturday                    7:00 PM – Alanon  
                                    8:00 PM - AA  
Sunday                      8:00 AM – Eucharist  
                                    9:00 AM – Sunday School  
                                    10:30 AM – Eucharist

**DEVOTIONALS:** The January-March edition of *These Days* is available in the Narthex or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

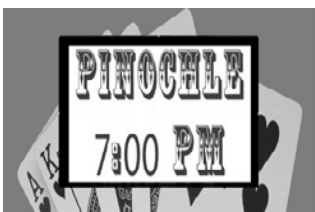
**THE JANUARY PARISH POST** is available on both floors of the church building.

**2022 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AIDS SPONSORS**

Contact Carol in the church office to sign-up for chancel flowers and worship aids for 2022. We recently changed florists and so the new price for flowers will be \$60. The price for worship aids will remain at \$26. Chancel Flowers dates available are: **January 9 & 16**. Worship Aids are available **January 2, 9 & 16**.

**If you have any flower cans from recent chancel flowers, please return them to the church!!!**

**PINOCHLE FELLOWSHIP:** Mark your calendars now because the

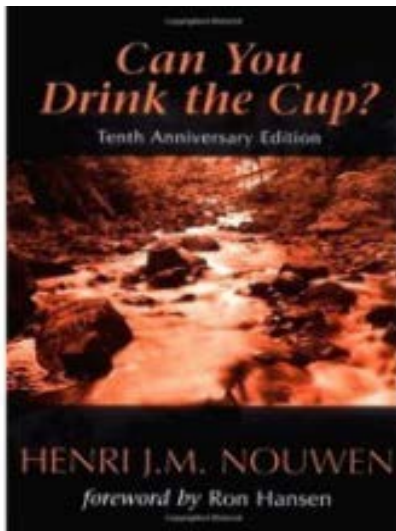


Pinochle Fellowship will meet again on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. There is no December meeting. Look for more information in the December Parish Post. You can respond using the electronic version that Carol already sent via e-mail or on the website under Ministries! Speak with

Karen Olley for more information!

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** The family of Ken Geib, the family of Greg Wagner (brother of Mike Wagner), the family of Nancy Neiswender (friend of Pastor Chris), the family of Tim Landis (friends of Paula Dennes), Dolly & John Barr, Mary Witmer, Steve Owens (son of Scott & Jane Owens), Mark & Mary Anne Ritter (friends of the Paulukows), Lee Bossert-Davis (son of Hillary Bossert Davis), Patrick & Mel (nephew of Marianne Gible & his wife), the Martin family, Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards), Hillary Brennan (mother of John Brennan), Ann Wolf (neighbor of George & Sandy DeLong), Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, David & Ann Potts (friends of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Pete & Nora Petrosky (friends of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Lynn Dull, Jill Otthofer, Paul Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel), Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards), Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio), Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Donna Denlinger, Cathy Hoshauer, Pat Miller, Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Phyllis Zimmerman, Donna Zirkel, Jose Arroyo (husband of Sandy & George DeLong's niece), Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley), Jaimie & Aurora Commero (friends of Sarah Paulukow), Mark Zody (friend of Denise Huggins), Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law), Carl Roth (Gretchen Leinbach's brother), Scott Summers, Rev. Frank Lantz, Lainie Christensen, Sandra Englert (niece of Betty Tyndall), Charles & Betty Booraem, Betty Tyndall and family, Dorothy Fasnacht, Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law), Bob & Marlyn Wible, Lily Kilgore & family, Barry Moore (Donna & Ron Denlinger's brother-in-law), Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), Judy Wisniewski (sister of Chuck Husted), Elaine Sturgis (friend of Sue Husted), Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman, Doris Leaman, Kelsey (Minnich) and Tom Burgo, Judie Bistline, Hilma Slechta, and the Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church).

**MONEY BOXES:** The children's Sunday School class has been learning about sharing God's gifts with others. They created boxes to collect coins to support a mission project or the work of our Christian Education ministry. Look for the boxes on the table across from the church office. Talk to Anne Rankin for more information.



**JANUARY BOOK STUDY:** Pastor Rankin will be leading a book study via Google Meet on January 17, 24, and 31 from 7-8 p.m. We will be reading Henri Nouwen's *Can You Drink the Cup?*

*This question---one that Jesus asked his friends James and John---"has the power to crack open the hardened heart and lay bare the tendons of the spiritual life," explains world-renowned spiritual writer Henri Nouwen.*

*The cup, a powerful image in the human experience, a symbol used to celebrate a wide range of human endeavors, becomes for Nouwen a doorway opening on the spiritual horizon. "Drinking our cup to the bottom is seen as the expression of the full freedom of the sons and daughters of God," he writes. His goal is to make the question Jesus posed pierce our hearts so that a personal answer can emerge from it.*

Please sign-up by contacting Carol in the church office. **The deadline to order books through the church is December 27.**

**CHURCH UNDECORATING SCHEDULED:** Please plan to stay after the 10:30a.m. service on Sunday, January 9 to help remove and pack up Christmas decorations from the exterior and interior of the church. Thank you in advance for your assistance in packing up decorations in preparation for next year! Speak to Cherie Cataldi or Pastor Rankin for more information.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES:** Christian Education classes will be held for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Here are the locations for the classes:

1. **Children's Class** will meet in the classroom on the first floor.
2. **Middle School/High School Class** will meet in the classroom on the second floor.
3. **The Combined Adult Class** will meet in Isenberg Hall.

There will be no Koinonia at this time!

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for worship volunteers at the in-person worship services:

**Greeters/Ushers:** To welcome worshippers at the door and to seat them in the sanctuary (10:30 a.m. service only)

**Lectors:** Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 8:00 a.m. and/or 10:30 a.m. services.

Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer.

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NORTH WINDOW** is given in memory of Leon L. & Ethel Gruber by son Greg, daughter Sharon Armstrong, and granddaughter Jessica.

**THE CHRISMON TREE:** The Chrismons on the small tree in the stairwell were made by the late Edythe Geib. Several people have asked about the Chrismon tree. The term “Chrismon” comes from the Latin “Christi monnogramma” which simply means “monogram of Christ”. Therefore, a Chrismon is a Christian symbol that represents Christ. There is a descriptive list of the various Chrismons next to the tree.

**THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE** are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace M. Dodson (mother) and Dolores A. Dodson (aunt) of Donna Wolf, given by the family and friends. The candle stand and wreath are in memory of S. Leona Wolf, mother of the late John Wolf.

**THE PEW CANDLE HOLDERS,** made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

**THE NATIVITY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN** was made by Mike Wagner.

**THE CRECHE ON THE LOWER LEVEL BY THE ELEVEATOR** was made by Mike Wagner.

## *Come, Follow Me Retreat*



Mark your calendars for a church retreat to be held at Trinity Church February 18-20, 2022. The retreat will be led by Pastor Rankin and Rev. Dr. Dave Bushnell, Pastor Emeritus of Hamilton Park U.C.C. and author of the retreat.

Here is what Dr. Bushnell says about the retreat:

*The Come Follow Me retreat seeks to invite people to experience being the body of Christ in our own time and place. This corporate identity, this “we”, can open us up to others, even to all creation. It invites us to experience others as I/Thou relationships (to use the Jewish scholar Martin Buber’s language).*

*In order to experience being the body of Christ today, the Come Follow Me retreat uses worship as its basic paradigm. The retreat follows the essential elements of worship from being called, to confession, then moving on to a unique experience of Jesus Christ, exploring how Jesus’ spirituality can help shape our own. The retreat includes a time of sharing deeply with one another remembering the waters of baptism. Then, after seeing the church as a community of abundant Christian practices, we will work to envision what our incarnational ministry will be like. Finally, we are sent out into the world, into “the long emergency” with solid “next steps” to follow.*

Contact the church office to register for this retreat!!!

## CHURCH COVENANT IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

As an individual who attends Trinity United Church of Christ I covenant to work with my fellow church members, family and friends to keep our community safe and healthy.

I covenant to. . .

*Wear a face mask as a symbol of love and care for others.*

*Sit six feet apart from others, leaving room for God to work in the in-between spaces.*

*Clean up after myself in the spaces I use because germs are everywhere I go too!*

*Honor and respect the sacredness of each person in this space and to stay home if I don't feel well or have been around someone who is waiting the results of a COVID test, knowing God is with us wherever we are, whether inside or outside the walls of the church.*

*Work together with my church family in creating a safe and healthy space to gather for worship, fellowship, or church activities as one body, united in God's love.*

*Acknowledge the hard work ahead, and the commitment to care for one another.*

Together, we as the church, covenant to care and love one another in new and different ways as we:

- Share God's love with our community
- Serve God's children
- Bring healing and wholeness to those in need
- Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study

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Parish  
Resource  
Center

Solutions For Churches & Communities

Feb 26,  
10-11:30am



Annie Browning  
M.Div., LCSW

# Using Intuition in Your Work



**DECEMBER 26, 2021**

**(C)**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
CHRISTMAS**

**FIRST LESSON. 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

**SECOND LESSON. Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**GOSPEL. Luke 2:41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

