

THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE **SUN,**
THE **MOON,**
AND
THE **STARS**

LUKE 21:25



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

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

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming day: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. *Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

Prayer As You Enter : *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

--*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*

BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!

PARISH 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.**

We turn to you, O God, in the midst of our lives.

We gather at your table to remember your mighty works of old.

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today is the beginning of Advent—the preparation time for celebrating Christ's birth.

We are here because God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born.

God's promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst.

God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

Let us pray together.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

John the Baptist calls us to repent, to prepare for the coming of God's reign.

Let us heed John's call and confess our sins in silent prayer.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

LITANY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us. Amen.

KYRIE

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

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.

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let us pray the collect together.

Eternal God, we are seeking signs of your presence in our lives. Open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts to receive some word of hope as we anticipate the coming of Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name - "The LORD is our righteousness" - proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

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

PSALTER

Psalms 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"Hope is Coming!"

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

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. 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 very right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love and for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. Born of your servant Mary, Jesus shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. As we now await the birth of the Christ child, we offer you our hymn of praise.

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.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

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.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" 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 everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)

(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.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are hanging jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill and suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers & the Worship Aids are given by Greg Gruber in memory of Leon and Ethel Gruber.

Ministering Today

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector	Rev. Sandy Morris
Money Counters	Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk, Denise Pfeiffer
Altar Guild	Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders
Building Trustee	Nevin Cooley

**Koinonia
Ministries**

Nancy Enders
Card Advent Workshop
Called to Care Nancy Enders
Visitation Janice Jenkins

This Week at Trinity Church (Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Monday 7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM – Bells
No Preschool

Wednesday 6:00 PM – Pastor/Parish

Thursday 5:00 PM – Astronomy Night Dinner/6:00 PM-Stargazing

Saturday 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist
9:00 AM – Sunday School
10:00 AM – Koinonia
10:30 AM – Worship
2:00 PM – Christmas Concert

Worship Attendance, November 24	7:45-15	10:30-76	TOTAL – 91
Sunday School	20		
Thanksgiving Eve	32		

Happy Birthday!

Today - Hope Krantz, David Trostle

Monday - Randall Woerner

Tuesday - Claire Miller

Wednesday - Scott Wible

Thursday - Theodore Slechta

Saturday - Steven Shenk, Diane Summers, Gail Kogut

PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Rhonda Hartenstine	Janice Jenkins	Betsy Bailey
Betty Fogle	Denise Huggins	Bob & Marlyn Wible
Don & Pat Miller	Mid Gockley	Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman
Dr. Janet Harriger	Joann Peck	Scott & Jane Owens
The Lehman family	Mary Lou Shaab	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Donna Wolf & Family	George & Ellie Latsha	Lainie Christensen
Sam Minder III	Erika Otthofer	Hank Fox
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Donna Zirkel	Danielle Huggins Holbein
Kathleen Sensenig Adams	Betty Tyndall and family	Michael McDonough
Kelsey Minnich Burgo	Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Rev. Ken & Marilyn Trauger

Ron Becker	Joann & Dawn Garvin	Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman
Rosemary Huber	Arlene Hoxworth	Mary Lou Sturgis
Harry & Brenda Himelwright		

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Doug Shaab

The family of Carole Rice (sister-in-law of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)

The family of Alice Palmer (friend of Rhonda Hartenstine)

Rev. Pam Illick (pastor of Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg)

Colt Sborz (nephew of Kayla & John Brennan)

Nancy Scholl (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

David Haverstick (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

Dan Congelton (friend of Nancy Enders)

Audria Husted (granddaughter of Chuck & Sue Husted)

Cindy Greiman (friend of Betty Fogle)

Carmen Sweigert (friend of Rhonda Hartenstine)

Glenn Wible (nephew of Bob & Marlyn Wible/cousin of Lon Wible)

Joe Harriger (brother of Janet Harriger)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)

Carol Hooper (sister of Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen)

Marlene Harlow (friend of Gail Kogut)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)

Kaitlyn, Ben, and Lucy Miller (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)

Barbie, Jon, and Will Bundy (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)

Rev. Jim Martin (Rev. Dr. Rich & Lanie Christensen's former pastor)

Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)

The Herr Family (Former Trinity Preschool Family)

Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong)

Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)

David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)

Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)

Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)

Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)

Harvey Sick (friend of Judy Chapman)

Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)

John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)

James Malone & family

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)

Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
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)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton
World Peace

THE DECEMBER PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

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 ELEVATOR was made by Mike Wagner.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD: Don't forget to sign the congregational Christmas card on the table across from the church office. Thank you to Betty Tyndall for once again making the Christmas card! There is a box for you to put a monetary donation for the Herr family (a former Trinity Preschool family).

DEVOTIONALS: The October-December edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance. **There are also Advent devotionals & calendars available on the table across from the church office.**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Pastor Chris and the Parish Life Committee would like to go Christmas caroling to some of our church members on December 15 after the 10:30 service (weather permitting). We will provide a light lunch and then drive to some of our fellow parishioners. There is a sign-up sheet on the table for those interested in participating.

THE 2025 APPROVED BUDGET is available in the information racks on both levels of the church building.

"I PROMISE" FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2025. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!



Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office!



AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER CHRISTMAS SHOW

We have reserved seats for the American Music Theater Christmas Show on Saturday, December 14th. The cost to see the show is \$43 for adults. Children & youth will be covered by our youth ministry fund. To reserve your seat use the sign-up sheet on the table outside the office. For more information, speak to Jeff Hackenberger.

THE KNIT IN GOD'S LOVE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

The Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting on December 17 at 1:00 p.m. and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments. The drinks/coffee will be taken care of for you! The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

THE MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) will not meet in December. We will resume our monthly breakfast meetings in January (weather permitting).

TRINITY PRESCHOOL COLLECTION

Trinity's Preschool is again looking for some help from the congregation! We are very thankful for your continued support. Here's the list of items needed!

Magnetic Bingo Chips

Stickers (Any kind!)

Dry Erase markers (Wide and skinny)

Cotton Balls

Aluminum Foil

Donated items can be placed in the box near the church office!!!

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY ON DECEMBER 8



As in years past, we will share our blessings with others by bringing (unwrapped) Christmas gifts to the service. This is our special time of sharing our gifts with residents of Ephrata Manor and Bethany Home.

The residents are very appreciative of our caring and both homes are requesting gift card suggestions to better meet needs and interests.

Ephrata Manor (United Church of Christ Home)requests:

Gift cards: Amazon, Dollar Tree, Wal-Mart, VISA/MC, Giant Food Stores, or CVS.

Bethany Home requests:

Low cut socks: men and women • Pajamas • men's athletic shorts: sizes sm-xl • waterproof mattress cover - twinXL • comforters • unisex comforters • baking sheets & pans • fabric paint • paint pens • paintbrushes • washi tape • scratch art paper • calligraphy pens and inks • rubber stamps & inkpads

Gifts Cards: Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, Amazon, Wawa, Turkey Hill, Giant, McDonald's & Domino's Pizza.

Please include Trinity U.C.C Church and address and/or individual along with your card.

Gifts will be received at both services on December 8. The children will collect them during the 10:30 service. Thank You!



Trinity UCC

2340 State St.
East Petersburg, PA
717-569-1632

www.trinityeastpete.org

Concert/Desserts

Featuring
Trinity Church Musicians

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Concert – 2:00 PM

Desserts Following The Concert

Freewill Offering Benefits
Schreiber Center For Pediatric Development
and Trinity Music Ministry



SERVERS NEEDED: We are in need of greeters, ushers, and nursery care volunteers for the 10:30 worship service. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving as an usher or greeter. Please contact Betty Fogle if you are interested in serving as a nursery attendant (717-471-1026 or bettsfog@comcast.net).

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **December 15 & 29**. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **December 24 & 29**. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT: You will again find a pink envelope in your box of offering envelopes. This is a way for you to give a Christmas gift to Pastor Rankin. If you want the pastor to receive the full amount of your gift, then you should give it directly to him. This means that the money will not go through the church treasury and you will not receive a tax deduction for your gift. All checks should be made payable to the pastor if you choose to give it to him directly.

If you choose to make your check payable to Trinity UCC, you will receive credit on your 2024 contribution statement. A gift sent through the church treasury is considered taxable income for the pastor.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Denise Pfeifer, Treasurer



LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, December 11

Place: Chives@ Brethren Village, reservation under Denise Pfeiffer

Date: December 11, 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 12 Noon

Cost: Paid by each person

Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SUPPORT:

We continue to support the medical mission project that was presented on September 8 by Donna Geisler and her brother-in-law, Dr. Bill Lovett.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can put money in the cans at the medical mission display table. We raise funds every year to buy medicine and supplies. Some are purchased in the US, but most are purchased in the Dominican Republic.



- \$25 buys 3 months of basic hypertension treatment for 3 people
- \$50 buys 3 months of basic diabetes therapy for 4 people
- \$100 buys 3 months of treatment for hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol for 4 people

Trinity has raised over \$3,000 so far for this project. The other way to support this project is through prayerful support.

If you have any other questions, speak with Donna Geisler!

Hi Trinity Congregation,

As you know we had to replace six air conditioning units. This was not a planned project and came with a cost of \$72,000. We were able to fund \$62,000 of this large payment out of several of our funds but are left with an amount of \$9,314 that will need to come out of our operating budget.

Additionally, a few weeks ago one of our automatic side doors by the elevator broke and cost nearly \$2000 to fix this issue. We will have to replace the other two in the near future.

These two large expenditures have put a strain on our operating budget. If you want to contribute any additional funds to our operating budget we would really appreciate your help. If giving a check please mark your checks with a note stating “ For Air Conditioner/ door expenses”. Also mark this on your envelopes.

Thank You for all you do in supporting our church in so many ways! It is so appreciated.

Cherie Cataldi, Consistory President



25th
Anniversary Season
2024-25

Highland
Presbyterian Church

500 East Roseville Road
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601
717-569-2651
www.highlandpc.org



**Highland Chancel Choir and
Orchestra in Gloria**

Sunday, December 15, 2024, 4:00 pm

Once again, the Highland Chancel Choir presents its annual concert on a Sunday afternoon in Christmastime. This year, their performance features Vivaldi's *Gloria* and other traditional favorites for orchestra and chorus. Please join us in celebrating Christ's birth with song and string.



***The Kid*: Silent Film with
Don Kinnier, Organist**

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7:00 pm

Don is known as the premier silent film accompanist in the northeastern United States. His programs are easygoing and feature a large dose of good-natured humor. *The Kid* (1921) stars Charlie Chaplin as a tramp who finds love and acceptance with an orphan and his mother.

GRIEF GROUP UPDATE: Pastor Rankin is ordering the books and we will plan to meet after the holidays. He is looking to offer two sessions (afternoon and evening). If you are interested in attending one of the groups, look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office. Contact Pastor Rankin if you have any questions.



THURSDAY, December 19, 1:30 PM
Sign-up sheet on table outside office



LET THE STABLE STILL ASTONISH
CONNER NEWKAM-ULRICH, INTERIM CONDUCTOR

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024 3:00 PM

Location: Bethany United Church of Christ, 140 E. Main St., Ephrata, PA 17522b

Advance tickets \$10 | At the door \$15 | Kids 18 and under FREE

To purchase tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/ab59bd73-51d9-4b05-b246-dad3ce243198>

Date: Sunday, December 8, 2024 3:00 PM

Location: St. Edward's Episcopal Church, 2453 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601

Advance tickets \$10 | At the door \$15 | Kids 18 and under FREE!

Buy tickets at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/cfec514a-dcce-4e77-81ca-097f0935d840>

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2024 2:00 PM .

Location: Brandywine Museum of Art, 1 Hoffmans Mill Rd., Chadds Ford, PA 19317

This abbreviated performance is included in the price of museum admission

\$25 adults, \$23 seniors (65+), \$10 children ages 5–18 and students with ID

Free for children ages four and under and members of the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art

Buy tickets at: <https://www.brandywine.org/museum/visit/hours-admission>

Rev. Jack Esbenshade is a member of the choir.

TICKET & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AT:

https://www.lancasterchambersingers.org/upcoming_events.html

MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Christmas Concert



Caleb Kreider is a member of the choir.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

<https://mennonitechilrenschoir.org/performances/>

ADVENT ENVELOPES: The Board of Deacons decided to give funds from the Advent offering envelope to the U.C.C. Christmas Fund for retired clergy, widows/widowers of U.C.C. clergy, and ministerial assistance. We will hear more about the U.C.C. Christmas Fund offering throughout this month.

U.C.C. CHRISTMAS FUND INFORMATION

How the Funds Are Used

The generous gifts of United Church of Christ congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund enable the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance team to provide the following gifts:

In 2023 Grants Approved Totaled \$1,943,871.19 As of December 31, 2023		
Grant Program	# of Grantees	Amount
Pension Supplementation	210	\$1,007,289.40
Health Supplementation	82	\$173,745.00
Emergency Grants	67	\$155,992.37
Monthly Supplementation Grant	74	\$351,344.42
Christmas Gift	511	\$255,500.00
Grand Total		\$1,943,871.19

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalms 25:1-10**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Next Sunday's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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