

#### 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. Carolyne 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

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

**Today's Theme:** Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news-and cause for exultation-for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

The Advent Wreath: One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of Greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Avent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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

Soon we will celebrate the birth of Jesus. We worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angels said on that first Christmas Day:

"Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to the people."

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

Let us pray together.

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. 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.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let us pray the collect together.

With laughing hearts and joyous hope, we come to you, O God. With tired souls and withered dreams, we come to you, O God. In our joy and in our sorrow, we turn to you, O God. Renew us with your love. Gather us into your strong embrace, that we may know your presence and rejoice in your promised coming. With hopeful expectation, we pray. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

## THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

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

#### **PSALTER**

A Hymn of Thanksgiving from the Prophet Isaiah (12: 2-6)

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; Make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

#### THE SECOND LESSON

#### Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

#### THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"Share the Joy!"

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 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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer**.

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** 

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer**.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in 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 are given by Joan Cash in memory of Ella M Fountain.

The Worship Aids are given by Sarah & John Paulukow in honor of everyone who has a December birthday.

#### **Ministering Today**

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

**Lector** Diane Rice

Money Counters Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller

**Altar Guild** Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders

Building Trustee Nevin CooleyKoinonia Paula Dennes

Ministries Card Advent Gathering

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.)

Today Following 10:30 Service - Caroling

Monday 9:30 AM-Noon – Preschool Lunch(3 & 4 Day)

7:00 PM – SOT Choir

Tuesday 1:00 PM – Prayer Shawl

7:00 PM – Consistory/Boards

Thursday 1:30 PM - Pinochle

6:00 PM - Scouts

Saturday 10 AM-3 PM – Isenberg Hall in use

8:00 PM – Alanon/AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist(Order of healing)

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:00 AM - Koinonia

10:30 AM – Worship(Order of healing)

#### Happy Birthday!

Monday – Debbie Wible

Tuesday – Lainie Christensen

Wednesday - Dottie Schadt, Thomas Goodhart

Thursday - Sarah Paulukow

Friday – Marvin Lehman

Worship Attendance, December 8

7:45-14 10:30-74

TOTAL - 88

Sunday School 17

#### PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

#### **MEMBERS**

Rhonda Hartenstine Janice Jenkins Betsy Bailey

Autumn Shenk 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

Nathleen Sensenig Adams Detty Lyndali and lamily 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

John Shelsky Betty Fogle Harry & Brenda Himelwright

#### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

Family of Bill Butler (brother-in-law of Walt & Betty Tyndall)

Family of Travella Hershey (mother of Gretchen Leinbach's sister-in-law)

Harold Hunsicker (cousin of Rev. Bob Hunsicker)

Ryan Dennes (son of Paula Dennes)

Delores Kurkowski (sister of Pat Seachrist)

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

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

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)

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)

James Malone & family

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 NATIVTY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN was made by Mike Wagner.

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Pastor Chris and the Parish Life Committee would like to go Christmas caroling to some of our church members on TODAY 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.

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).

#### 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.



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

**ORDER OF HEALING:** We will include the order of healing at both worship services on December 22. Those who wish to be anointed with oil will be invited to come forward during the service. We use the order of healing as way to recognize that many are in need of God's healing presence during the holiday season.

**NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Christmas is drawing near! Now is a time of reflection, preparation, and hoping in new beginnings and the arrival of great things!

Can you recall a favorite or meaningful Christmas happening in your life? Are you dreaming of creating new Christmas memories this season? Join the gathering in Isenberg Hall during Sunday School at 9:00 am next Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate the Christmas season!

Sing Yuletide carols, share your thoughts, wishes, memories of the past and your hopes for the future!

Bring a memento to show that reminds you of a special Christmas - an ornament, a creche, a stocking, a gift that someone special gave to you, a now fragile sprig of the mistle-toe that your sweet baboo first caught you under unaware! Bring your stories to relive as you share them at this festive get together with Trinity friends. Then, join in the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ with a special Koinonia treat! See you there to share!

Sunday School classes will all be meeting together to celebrate in Isenberg Hall December 22<sup>nd</sup>. A Holiday Koinonia will be held Sunday, Dec 29th; Sunday School classes will not be meeting.

#### SERVERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

- 1. Greeters for the 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., & 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services.
- 2. Ushers for the 6:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services.
- 3. Readers for the Festival of Lessons & Carols at the 10:30 a.m. service on December 29.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Chris.

**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.

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.

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* 

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

**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.

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: January 12 & 19. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are January 12 & 19. 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.

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

#### 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!

**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 <a href="mailto:bettsfog@comcast.net">bettsfog@comcast.net</a>).

**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!



#### LET THE STABLE STILL ASTONISH

CONNER NEWKAM-ULRICH, INTERIM CONDUCTOR

Date: TODAY - 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: <a href="https://www.brandywine.org/museum/visit/hours-admission">https://www.brandywine.org/museum/visit/hours-admission</a>

Rev. Jack Esbenshade is a member of the choir.
TICKET & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AT:

https://www.lancasterchambersingers.org/upcoming\_events.html



# **25th**Anniversary Season 2024-25

# Highland Presbyterian Church

500 East Roseville Road Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601 7'17-569-2651 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.

# LANCASTER AGO CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN DECEMBER 29, 3:00-5:00 PM

Christmas at the Organ, our annual Carol Sing, this year at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 409 Cherry St., Columbia 17512. The Midler-Hunter organ was installed in 1951, upgraded by Columbia Organ Works in 1997, and completely restored and expanded by Peragallo in 2017. The church is beautiful at Christmastime, and the acoustic of the room creates vibrant singing, making the Carol Sing one of the highlights of our year.

#### U.C.C. CHRISTMAS FUND INFORMATION

"



...the Glory of God shone around them... Luke 2:9

"

#### Be the Light

# **Power of Community**

Among the many letters and notes the Pension Boards receives from recipients of gifts made possible by contributions to the Christmas Fund were these words:

As a lifelong member of the UCC, I have fond memories of the Annual Christmas Fund. I never thought we would be in a situation where we too would need assistance as medical expenses and caregiving costs increase.

We are grateful that Christmas Fund is here to assist us.

Reverend Christopher Gilmore, Lead Pastor Sixth Avenue - United Church of Christ in Denver, CO

Thanks to your generosity, last year the Christmas Fund provided over \$1.9 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired church servants and their families.

Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who've devoted their lives to serving others.

Did you know that Americans owe an estimate \$220 billion dollars in medical debt? Your donation helps UCC members like Chris with unexpected medical expenses.

Visit **christmasfund.org** to learn more and donate online.



**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.

#### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6

#### SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.