



*Prepare the way
of the Lord*

LUKE 3:4

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.Carolyn 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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 Advent 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

MISSION MOMENT: U.C.C. CHRISTMAS FUND

Rev. Esbenshade

(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

We gather around the Advent wreath today knowing that we are not perfect—that we all make mistakes and do bad things.

Only Jesus obeyed God fully. Jesus helps us to live as God wants us to live. Jesus gives us peace.

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

With the coming of this light there is peace, for Christ is called the “Prince of Peace.” Christ’s name is also Emmanuel, “God with us.” The presence of Christ with us gives peace day by day.

Let us pray together.

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. 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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let us pray the collect together.

God of the prophets, whose salvation is freely offered to all flesh, open our imagination to participate in these moments in the study of your truth.

May ancient words hold for us a fresh message that engages our best efforts. Straighten the crooked ways and smooth out the rough places in our lives that we may be about the same ministry in the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Mala- chi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALTER

St. Luke 1:68-79 (The Canticle of Zechariah)

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we,
being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
**Might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his
presence all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go
before the Lord to prepare his ways,
To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break
upon us,
**To shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide
our feet into the way of peace.”**

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“Messengers of Hope & Peace”

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

How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly you have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. We pray in Jesus' 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 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.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among conference ministers, pastors, elders, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by the altar guild, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. 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 **Nevin D. Cooley** in memory of my father Nevin V. Cooley.

The Worship Aids are given to thank all the supporters of Trinity's music programs.

Ministering Today

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin |
| Lector | Rev. Jack Esbenshade |
| Money Counters | Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller |
| Altar Guild | Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders |
| Building Trustee | Nevin Cooley |
| Koinonia | Deb & Mike Lichtenwalner |
| 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 | 2:00 PM – Christmas Concert |
| Monday | 7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM – Bells |
| Tuesday | 6:30 PM – Executive Committee |
| Thursday | 10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group 6:00 PM - Scouts |
| Saturday | 10:30 AM – American Music Theater Christmas Show 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA |
| Sunday | 7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM – Koinonia 10:30 AM – Eucharist Noon—Lunch & Christmas Caroling |

Happy Birthday!

Today – Rhonda Hartenstine
Thursday – Megan Harley
Saturday – Charlene Cristy

Worship Attendance, December 1
Sunday School

7:45-15 10:30-80
23

TOTAL – 95

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 |
| 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 |
| Betty Fogle | Harry & Brenda Himelwright | |

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Family of Travella Hershey (mother of Gretchen Leinbach's sister-in-law)
Jon & Melissa Smoe (friends of Pastor Chris)
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)
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)

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 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!



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*



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.



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!

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: **January 5, 12 & 19**. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **January 5, 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.

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.**

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.

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.

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



THURSDAY, December 19, 1:30 PM

Sign-up sheet on table outside office

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.

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

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



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.

**LANCASTER
CHAMBER
SINGERS**



JAY W. RISSER, CONDUCTOR

LET THE STABLE STILL ASTONISH

CONNER NEWKAM-ULRICH, INTERIM CONDUCTOR

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

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.



Donate Online Here!

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: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

or Baruch 5:1-9 [not printed]

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness,

how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

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