



Parish Post Deadline:
3rd Monday of the month



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



*Catch the Vision,
Share the Joy!!*

Dear Friends,

We will soon gather around the Advent wreath and light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. Each week we move from darkness to light as the wreath becomes brighter. On Christmas Eve, we will light the Christ candle as we celebrate Jesus' birth and welcome the light of Christ into the dark areas of our lives.



We must be intentional about waiting for the birth of Jesus. The stores and the radio are already pushing Christmas upon us. As Christians, we take this time to wait and anticipate the hope, peace, joy, and love that the Christ child will bring us. Below are the words of an Advent hymn written by Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. In her notes about this hymn, Rev. Gillette writes: ***United States culture is one that too often encourages us to seek immediate gratification and to look for happiness in material abundance. Our faith often involves times of waiting upon God. True joy cannot be found in possessions alone. Augustine's favorite prayer states that "our hearts are restless until they rest in you." This hymn invites us to look for our Christmas joy in Jesus Christ, the one whose birth we prepare to celebrate.***

GOD, WE AWAIT YOUR ADVENT HERE

(Sung to O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee)

**God, we await your advent here:
When will these desert lands rejoice?
When will new blossoms bright appear
And all earth praise you with one voice?**

**We live in deserts we have made;
Gifts of your love we pass right by.
We seek possessions, more each day,
And then in thirst for joy, we cry.**

**God we prepare for Jesus' birth—
Searching for gifts from store to store!
Yet when you sent your Christ to earth,
You gave us joy worth so much more.**

**When in the love of Christ we grow,
Streams in the desert shall abound.
Then by your Spirit we will know:
True wealth in Jesus Christ is found.**

(Taken from Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2000)

I hope to see you in December! Let us wait together. Let us prepare together. Let us praise God together for the birth of Jesus Christ!

Blessings,
Pastor Chris

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00-2:00
www.trinityeastpete.org
(717) 569-1632/ 569-0592

STAFF

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The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call,
Covenanted Minister of Mission
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The Rev. Harry Royer,
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CONSISTORY/OTHER LEADERS

Cherie Cataldi, **President**
(717) 799-2420

Jeff Hackenberger, **Vice President**
(717) 656-4815

Bob Kilgore, **Secretary**
(717) 581-1980

Denise Pfeiffer, **Treasurer**
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(717)-203-6578

Pastor Rankin, **Chair of Elders**
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Tim Geiger, **Vice Chair of Elders**
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Steve Shenk, **Chair of Deacons**
(717) 581-9196

Nevin Cooley, **Chair of Property**
(717) 371-0346

Lon Wible, **Chair of Pastor-Parish**
(717) 471-1750

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS by Bob Kilgore

1. Rev. Carrie Call – Four Way Covenant Discussion:

Rev. Carrie shared insights from her work, including challenges with staffing, a declining OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission), and the impact of demographic shifts, such as an aging church population and a decline in church attendance. She encouraged a focus on strengths, leveraging technology, and exploring ways to reach retirees.

2. Financial Report (Denise Pfeiffer):

- **Cash Flow:** Positive as of October, though net income showed a loss of \$2,085 for the month.
- **Preschool:** A gain of \$8,000 for the month.
- **AC Replacement:** Will impact the budget.
- **Motion Approved:** Finance Committee's proposal to issue credit cards to the Preschool Director, Sexton, and Kitchen Team Chair for necessary supplies.
- **Liability Insurance:** A \$1 million policy for AA/Alanon was approved, with the cost covered by donations from AA/Alanon.

3. Unfinished Business:

- **Pastor/Parish Update:** Mark Eyer has accepted a new position.

A LETTER FROM OUR CONSISTORY PRESIDENT

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.

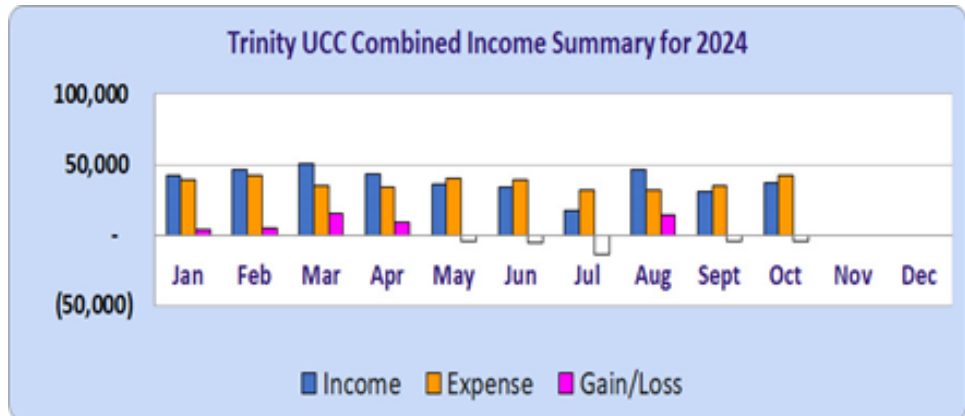
Cherie Cataldi, Consistory President

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01	Hope Krantz	(717) 872-1659
12/01	David Trostle	(717) 665-5247
12/02	Randall Woerner	717) 286-8918
12/03	Claire Miller	(717) 898-5890
12/04	Scott Wible	(717) 898-2091
12/05	Theodore Slechta	(717) 569-0543
12/07	Steven Shenk	(717) 581-9196
12/07	Diane Summers	(717) 560-9587
12/07	Gail Kogut	(610) 406-9718
12/08	Rhonda Hartenstine	(717) 892-4920
12/12	Megan Harley	(717) 569-4060
12/14	Charlene Cristy	(717) 397-0103
12/16	Debbie Wible	(717) 898-2091
12/17	Lainie Christensen	(717) 466-6566
12/18	Dottie Schadt	(717) 898-8249
12/18	Thomas Goodhart	(717) 330-9936
12/19	Sarah Paulukow	(717) 808-8785
12/20	Marvin Lehman	(717) 560-0756
12/23	Hedwig Hunsicker	(717) 299-4234
12/23	Jerry Richards	(717) 569-0138
12/24	Penny Kilgore	(717) 581-1980
12/26	Judy Chapman	(717) 569-8171
12/29	Kathleen Adams	(609) 267-2430
12/31	Rev. Jack Esbenshade	(717) 572-5745
12/31	Gale Long	(717) 299-1140

News from the Finance Committee

YTD TOTAL INCOME	\$382,646	OCT. INCOME	\$37,382
YTD TOTAL EXPENSES	\$369,063	OCT. EXPENSE	\$41,688
YTD GAIN/(LOSS)	\$ 3,583	MONTHLY GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$4,306)



Online Giving Information: Contributing your donation using our website....trinityeastpete.org....**RESOURCES, PAY ON LINE**

For several years, members have been able to make weekly/recurring donations on-line in lieu of paying cash/checks or by mail. On-line donations save the cost of a check and envelope and if using the recurring feature, remembering weekly to prepare your envelope. Presently we have several individuals/families using on-line donations either weekly or recurring.

*We believe that financial transparency builds trust and is a mark of stewardship so we want to take a moment to remind you that there is a small cost for this convenience. You'll have the opportunity to help cover the cost of processing when you give. Please know that this is **100% optional**, but we appreciate your partnership in making your gift go as far as possible to impact our mission.*

We have never asked our members to cover these costs especially since 2020 at the start of the pandemic. The costs are 1.05% when paying by check, 3.05% when paying by credit/debit card.

In 2022, we added a feature to our on-line giving whereby you can help to cover the costs of paying online by debit/credit card or checking account. This is entirely **OPTIONAL**. There will be a check-off block to use if you wish to cover your transaction cost in addition to your contribution.

"I PROMISE" FORMS were received at on Sunday, October 6. If you have not yet submitted your form, we hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2025. Extra forms are available in the information racks.

Daily Devotionals

We have *These Days* for October-December available on the table across from the church office. **Advent devotionals are also available.** If you need a devotional mailed to you, contact Carol in the church office.

December Scriptures	
12/1	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
12/8	Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
12/15	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
12/22	Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
12/24	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
12/29	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

KOINONIA

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.

PRAYER SHAWL

The Knith in God's Love 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.

Men of Trinity (M.O.T.)

Breakfast Meeting!

The men will not be meeting in December. We will resume the breakfast meetings in January (weather permitting). This is open to all men of the congregation!

TREASURE IN CLAY JARS by Rev. Jack Esbenshade

As we begin Advent, I thought I would set aside any conversation or thoughts about stewardship and focus instead upon the season. I went looking for a definition of Advent and headed for a familiar author who has crafted his work in metaphor and image. In his book *Whistling In The Dark*, Frederick Buechner has this to say about Advent.

"In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

"You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch of whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

"The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

"....if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of you somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath.

In a poetic, metaphorical way Buechner provides a different image of Advent, a new way to look at and consider the season we are celebrating as we wait with expectation. O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES AT THE CHURCH!

If you or someone you know needs canes, walkers, portable toilets, or shower seats, contact the church office. We've had a lot of items donated to us that are here for members and friends of the congregation!





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



LUNCH BUNCH Sign Up

Wednesday, December 11

Place: Chives@ Brethren Village, reservation under Denise Pfeiffer

Date: December 11, 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 12 Noon

Cost: Paid by each person

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



We are planning to go Christmas caroling around the East Petersburg community and the surrounding area on December 15 following the 10:30 AM Service. We will return to the church for some hot chocolate and cookies. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. See Pastor Chris for more information.



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

UPCOMING CONCERTS

LANCASTER CHAMBER SINGERS



JAY W. RISSER, CONDUCTOR

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
OF LANCASTER**

O Come, Emmanuel

Christmas Concert Series 2024

Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

Lancaster Alliance Church
Lancaster, PA

Saturday, December 7 at 3 p.m.

Neffsville Mennonite Church
Lancaster, PA

Sunday, December 8 at 3:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Historic Catholic Church
Lancaster, PA

(Parking Map: www.bit.ly/MCCLDec8)



**Join us as we celebrate the coming of
Emmanuel - God with us.**

Singers will be joined by soloist, Dr. Carren Moham, and other local musicians. No tickets needed. A freewill offering will be received.

Caleb Kreider is a member of the choir.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

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



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 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.





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*



Worship News: We will continue to stream the 7:45 a.m. service on the Trinity Facebook page and later upload it to our website. The Eucharist will be celebrated every week at 7:45 a.m. and at the 10:30 a.m. service on December 1, 15, & 29 & Christmas Eve at 2:30 PM & 10:30 PM. **The order of healing will be used at both services on December 22.**



2:30 PM Service with Eucharist

6:15 p.m. Prelude/6:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

10:20 p.m. Prelude/10:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Eucharist



Join us on December 29 (the first Sunday after Christmas) at 10:30 a.m. for a service of lessons and carols with Holy Communion. The service will be an adaptation of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College in Cambridge, England. **If you are interested in reading at this service, please contact Pastor Rankin!** We will

also have a regular 7:45 Service of Word & Sacrament.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The Christian Education Committee is planning a special program on December 22 at 9:00 a.m. There will be a special koinonia time beginning around 9:45 a.m. Look for more details in the Sunday bulletins.

There will be no Christian Education Classes on December 29. However, there will be koinonia beginning at 9:45 a.m.

The committee is also planning a special Epiphany program for January 5. There will be details in the January Parish Post.

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!

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



Dear Friends,

We want to thank the Stewardship & Endowment Committee and the Consistory of Trinity UCC for the \$500 grant from the St. Luke's Endowment Fund that you have shared with us at Hamilton Park UCC. Our Visioning Retreat will be held on Friday evening (11/15) and Saturday (11/16) to help us discern the next chapter of our ministry together. We are pleased to be able to have Jill White from the UCC Church Building and Loan Fund to guide our work. After our retreat with Jill and when she is able to provide us with a strategic plan for our use in charting future directions for our congregation, we will certainly update you with the benefits of our endeavor.

Our expectation is that we not only will be thinking about the congregation's future but also be considering ways to repurpose our buildings in a way that serves our community.

We are glad to report that Penn Central Conference has matched your grant to us. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dave Bushnell, Interim Pastor

Dear Trinity UCC,

Thank you for your congregation's donation of \$2,045 Receiver on 9/26 through the 2024 Vacation Bible School in support of the Open Doors building campaign. This donation is opening the door to opportunities for even more homeowners.

To have the support of the youngest members at Trinity UCC means the world to us. Thank you for allowing our team to have the opportunity to share our important work during VBS this year.

Please extend our gratitude to those involved in making this impact. Thank you again for your congregation's support of the Open Doors building campaign. We are so grateful for your commitment to affordable homeownership.

Warmly

Andrew Szalay, President & CEO

Dear Pastor Rankin & Trinity UCC:

Thank you for assisting First Reformed Church with the introduction and follow-thru, with our application for funds from the St. Luke's Endowment.

The Five-Thousand-dollar grant will assist us to a great degree as we institute the various programs, highlighted in our application. We are forging ahead with these new ideas while attempting to remain a Church for the City of Lancaster and serving the marginalized

Our Growth Team has worked very diligently these past few months to attract visitor opportunities.

Again, thank you, as we look forward to working with you in the future, as we anticipate "Lancaster 300" in 2029 and our own "300" in 2036.

Very truly yours ,

Jim Chryst, Church Growth Leader; *Rev. Devin B. Jeffers*, Pastor

CROP WALK UPDATE



We had 9 people from Trinity participate in this year's walk on October 20. **As of November 15, Trinity has raised \$10,741! The Lancaster CROP Walk sent in \$30,170.50 to Church World Service.** We continue to receive donations and will send them in throughout December. You can still give money to Mark & Chris Eyer (Trinity's walk coordinators) or Pastor Rankin (Lancaster CROP Walk Coordinator). You can also go online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/trinity-east-pete>

Donations are accepted through December 31!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SUPPORT:

As part of our Rally Day festivities on September 8, we heard a presentation by Donna Geisler and Dr. Bill Lovett about their medical mission work in the Dominican Republic. The Board of Deacons decided that the Undesignated Funds from the recent Our Gifts to Others offering will support this mission project. The Christian Education Committee will soon be sharing other ways you can support this project!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

Also, give us your prayerful support.



A NOTE FROM THE CHILD THE MEN'S GROUP SPONSORS THROUGH THE U.C.C.

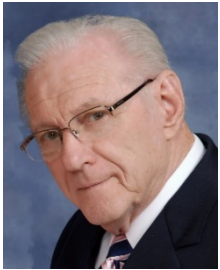
Dear Trinity,

Am happy to write to you, am an orphan girl aged 12 in Uganda. I lost my parents in a war being killed by rebels. Am seeking for support to join school with a fee of \$368. I shall be very grateful for your help.

Yours needy,
Slyvia Nadagwa
PO Box 28290
Kampala-Uganda

IN REMEMBRANCE

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:28 NRSV)



The Rev. David Gockley entered the Church Triumphant on November 2, 2024. A memorial service was held at Trinity U.C.C. on November 11 with Rev. Milton Gockley, Jr. (Dave's brother), Rev. Robert Hunsicker, Pastor John Rieker (Faith U.C.C.), and Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin officiating. A committal service was held at the Trinity Cemetery on November 23 with the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call and Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin officiating.

Rev. Gockley joined Trinity Church when St. Luke's united with us in 2015. He served as an altar guild member, greeter, nursery attendant, and member of the Stewardship Committee. A graduate of F&M and Union Theological Seminary, Rev. Gockley served the following pastorates:

Assistant Pastor, Holburn Central Parish, Aberdeen, Scotland (1962-63)

Pastor, Salem U.C.C., Campbelltown (1964-69)

Pastor, Faith U.C.C., Lancaster (1969-96)

Interim Pastor, Faith U.C.C., York (1996-97)

Interim Pastor, Salem U.C.C., Harrisburg (1997-99)

Interim Pastor, St. Luke's U.C.C., Lancaster (1999-03)

We give thanks for Rev. Gockley's ministry in the United Church of Christ and in the various communities where he served. Please keep Mid Gockley and the rest of her family in your prayers!



Douglas Shaab, Sr. entered the Church Triumphant on November 12, 2024. A memorial service was held at Trinity Church on November 22 with Pastor Rankin officiating.

Doug became a member of Trinity Church when St. Luke's united with us in 2015. He was a member of the congregation for 69 years.

Please keep Mary Lou Shaab and the rest of her family in your prayers!

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.

TRINITY CEMETERY

Any member of Trinity United Church of Christ may purchase a plot of ground for burying purposes. The price is \$800.00 per grave plus a \$250 maintenance fee, paid for by the purchaser. Contact the church secretary to purchase a plot(s) or for more information.

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 in December.

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

Where are you gifted to serve?

Mark 10:43b -45 *Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."*

 Greeter /Ushers Needed	 NURSERY VOLUNTEERS	
Volunteer as a Greeter/Usher for the 10:30 a.m. service please contact the church office. We currently have vacancies for ushers!!	We now have some vacancies for nursery care during the 10:30 service. If you are interested in caring for our children, please contact Betty Fogle (nursery coordinator) at 717-471-1026 or bettsfog@comcast.net .	The Evangelism Committee oversees the Called to Care Ministry. Meals will be provided for members after they have returned home from the hospital or during other critical situations. We are in need of volunteers to provide meals.
 Lector Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer.		Another part of this ministry is transportation to appointments. If you need transportation to appointments or worship, please contact the church office. We are in need of volunteers to provide transportation to church! Nancy Enders will be the coordinator for October-December. If you are interested in helping with the Called to Care Ministry, speak with Pastor Chris!
ALTAR GUILD	FLOWER DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
We could use a few more people to help with the weekly responsibilities to prepare the altar for worship. If you are interested, contact Nancy Enders at 717-342-6899 or nancyenders@comcast.net .		Would you like to be on the rotation to pick up the weekly chancel flowers from the florist on Friday mornings? Would you like to deliver the chancel flowers after worship to members of the congregation? If so, contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.
	Working With Children and Youth	
We are in need of leaders to plan activities beyond Sunday School for our teenagers. If you are interested, speak with Bob Kilgore, Sue Bowman, or Pastor Rankin.		

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS

Upcoming dates for worship aids are: December 15 & 29. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are December 29, January 6, 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.

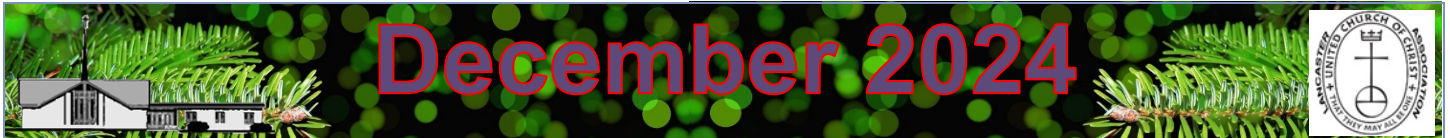
Dates	Greeters	Nursery	Ushers	Lectors	Worship Aids	Money Counters	Flowers
12/1	Dave Connor/ Darlene Zerbe	Charlene Cristy/ Dottie Schadt	Mike Wagner , Shelley Wagner, George DeLong, Anne Rankin, Rachel Baynard, Stan Seachrist, Andrew Rankin, Betty Tyndall	Sandy Morris/ Steve Gold	Gruber	Ron & Donna Denlinger, Denise Pfeiffer, Steve Shenk	Gruber
12/8	Leo Daly/Lori Daly	Betty Fogle/ Anne Rankin	Zach Baynard , Carl Spangler, Denise Huggins, Dottie Schadt, Andrew Rankin, Lon Wible, Dan Otthofer, Beth Bossert	Jack Esbenshade / Ron Denlinger	Rohrer	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller	Cooley
12/15	Gail Kogut/ Karen Olley	Hedwig Hunsicker/ Rachel Baynard	Steve Shenk , Dave Connor, Charlene Cristy, Scott Summers, Andrew Rankin, Zach Baynard, Karen Olley, Kathy McCarty	Diane Rice	Sponsor Needed	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller	Cash
12/22	Cherie Cataldi/ Dottie Schadt	Charlene Cristy/ Dottie Schadt	Mike Wagner , Shelley Wagner, George DeLong, Anne Rankin, Rachel Baynard, Stan Seachrist, Andrew Rankin, Betty Tyndall	Jack Esbenshade/ Sue Bowman	Jerry Richards	Nevin Cooley, Steve Gold, Pat Sensenig, Cherie Cataldi	Hunsicker
12/24	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Sue Bowman (2:30)/ Various Readers (6:30 p.m.)/ Diane Rice (10:30)			Sponsor Needed
12/29	Jack Keller/ George DeLong	Jodi Keller/ Sandy DeLong	Theodore Slechta , Carl Spangler, Denise Huggins, Dottie Schadt, Zach Baynard, Lon Wible, Dan Otthofer, Beth Bossert	Jeff Hackenberger	Sponsor Needed	Nevin Cooley, Steve Gold, Pat Sensenig, Cherie Cataldi	Sponsor Needed

Other Ministry Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: Dec. 1, 8 & 15 – Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders Dec. 22, 24, & 29 – Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker, Nancy Enders			Visitation Minister (Phone Calls/Visits): Janice Jenkins Building Trustee: Nevin Cooley Card Ministry: Advent Gathering Called to Care: Nancy Enders			
TRINITY BREAD: Dec. 1 – Beth Bossert Dec. 8 – Kathy McCarty Dec. 15 – Autumn Shenk Dec. 22 – Joan Sensenig Dec. 24 – Charlene Cristy Dec. 29 – Betty Fogle			FRIDAY FLOWER DELIVERY: Nov. 29 – Denise Huggins Dec. 6 – Karen Olley Dec. 13 – Anita Rohrer Dec. 20 – Diane Rice Dec. 27 – Cherie Cataldi			

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

We are now in the winter months and we may see some snow! We will try to hold worship services as long as the pastor can make it to the church. However, there may be times when we have to change the Sunday morning schedule or cancel services & Sunday School. The pastor and the Consistory president will make these decisions in enough time to inform you through the website, Trinity Facebook page, e-mail, and church voicemail. You can always contact the pastor if you have any questions. If we decide to hold services and Sunday School, we ask that you make a personal decision on whether you can attend. We don't want you to risk your health!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7:45 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Koinonia 10:30 AM Eucharist	2 No Preschool 7:00PM Choir 8:15 Bells	3	4 6:00PM Pastor/Parish	5 5:00PM Astronomy Night	6	7 8:00PM Alanon/ AA
8 7:45 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Koinonia 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Concert	9 7:00PM Choir 8:15 Bells	10 6:30PM Executive Committee	11	12 10:00AM Mercersburg Study Group 6:00PM Cub Scouts	13	14 10:30AM American Music Theater Christmas Show 8:00PM Alanon/ AA
15 7:45 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Koinonia 10:30 AM Eucharist Followed by Caroling	16 9:00AM-12 Preschool Lunch 3 & 4 Day 7:00PM Choir 8:15 Bells	17 1:00PM Prayer Shawl 7:00PM Consistory/Boards	18	19 1:30PM Pinochle 6:00PM Cub Scouts	20	21 10 AM-3PM Isenberg in Use 8:00PM Alanon/ AA
NO PRESCHOOL						
22 7:45 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Koinonia 10:30 AM Worship Order of Healing at both services	23 7:00PM Choir 8:15 Bells	24 Christmas Eve Services 2:30 PM Eucharist 6:30 PM-Family Service 10:30 PM Eucharist	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 6:00PM Cub Scouts	27	28 8:00PM Alanon/ AA
NO PRESCHOOL						
29 7:45 AM Eucharist 9:45 AM Koinonia 10:30 AM Eucharist- Service of Lessons & Carols	30 7:00PM Choir 8:15 Bells	31	OFFICE CLOSED JANUARY 1 JANUARY 2 & 3 -Secretary in office 9-11:30 AM			
NO PRESCHOOL						

Keystone Working Group Communications Summary of The Special Meeting on November 15, 2024

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced!” – Psalm 126:3
Thanks be to God!

A wide range of emotions filled our commonwealth and beyond on November 9 as the four area conferences met remotely and shared collectively in our vote to become one in Christ as the Keystone Conference. We are modeling grief... and Resurrection Life... Together, We Are Stronger!

Overwhelmingly the vote of this historic meeting was affirmed.

Penn West Conference: 134 Yes; 17 No = 89%

Penn Central Conference: 286 Yes; 28 No = 91%

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference: 246 Yes; 19 No = 92%

Penn Northeast Conference: 141 Yes; 2 No = 98.6%

Our motion to merge moves forward to the UCC General Synod in July 2025 to combine our boundaries into one Keystone Conference UCC. The wide and diverse support indicates your sacred trust in both the people and the process of this collective two-year study, work and presentation for our discernment. For that, we express our profound gratitude.

Now... the real work of bringing this vision into reality begins in greater detail. The next steps of legal, financial, personnel, technology and more will start taking shape. The 3 regional areas for staffing support will be one of the first priorities. New transitional board leadership will be elected and transitional ministerial and staff leadership will be hired. Townhall events and more information will be provided in the coming months for adoption of a new Constitution and Bylaws in Spring conference meetings. Please review the updated timeline on the [website](#). The Keystone Conference will meet officially for the first time in Spring 2026.

You will soon receive a Pastoral Letter from our four Conference Ministers. Our current congregations and associations will all have next steps to take as well. Together, we will further develop plans, and share our collective expertise and resources, creating more meaningful relationships in ministry. This is holy work!

It is our responsibility to share this summary in our various ministry settings with ALL! Relying on the grace of God, we now take the next steps of bringing this great vision into reality, by taking the hands of Christ, breathing deeply the presence of the Spirit, and walking resolutely in God's grace. Please visit the Keystone Conference Project website hosted by the PSEC at <https://psec.org/keystone/> for additional updates and information. Send your questions and comments by email to Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com or direct mail through your Conference Office.

Thank you for moving forward in our covenant. Together, We Are Stronger!
If you have any questions, speak to Pastor Chris or our delegates (Diane Rice & George DeLong)



Trinity's Preschool is again looking for some help from the congregation! We are very thankful for your continued support!

ITEMS NEEDED:

Magnetic Bingo Chips

Dry Erase markers (Wide and skinny)

Aluminum Foil

Stickers (Any kind!)

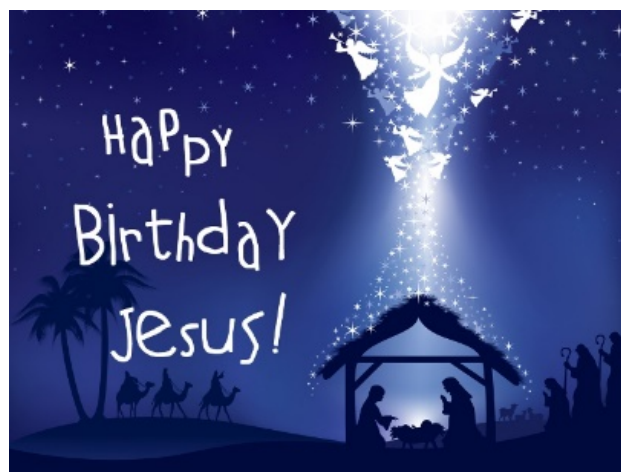
Cotton Balls

They can be placed in the box in the hallway near the office



**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*From the Staff of Trinity United
Church of Christ*





TRINITY UCC PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

We are almost halfway through the 2024-2025 school year and the progress we see in the children is remarkable. Their physical growth is evident as they seem to grow weekly! In addition, we have been

busy working on social, emotional, and language development as well as academic progress. Over vacation, spend time working with your child on letter/number recognition, shapes, colors, puzzles and a "pinch" grip when coloring, drawing or practicing their name. Also, enjoy some cozy time together reading your favorite books! Be sure to encourage playtime for your child whether that be with family, friends, or solo play. All play is learning and will aid in the development of your child.

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play IS serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." – Mr. Rogers

Merry Christmas from the staff at Trinity:

We wish all our Trinity Preschool family and friends a very Merry Christmas and blessed well wishes for a happy, healthy, holiday season and a great start to their New Year!

Christmas Program:

Please join us for the 3 Day and 4 Day Christmas Program on Friday, December 13th from 10:30-11:30 in the sanctuary of the church. Please enter through the front doors of the church. Doors will open at 10:30 and the program will start shortly afterwards. Then join us in the Big Room for refreshments after our performance is over.

2 Day and Tiny Tot Christmas Party:

The Tiny Tots and 2 Day classes will be having their Christmas Party in the Big Room on Thursday, December 12th. We would like one parent/guardian to join in the fun as they will be making a special Christmas craft. Please follow normal drop-off procedure then park your cars. We will open the doors for those able to join us at 9:15.

Food Drive:

If you haven't already, please consider donating to our holiday food drive. Please help us by contributing to a food drive benefitting the Hempfield Community through **Power Packs**. We will be accepting donations until December 13th. Items to consider donating; *peanut butter, mac and cheese (boxed), canned soup, dry pasta (elbow mac, spaghetti, penne)*.

Hempfield Power Packs
PO Box 363
Landisville, PA 17538
hempfieldpowerpacks20@gmail.com
An Affiliate of the Power Packs Project
Serving the Hempfield School District Community

Holiday Lunch Bunch for 3 and 4 Day:

Lunch Bunch is a fun way to extend your child's day! There will be one special Holiday Lunch Bunch on December 16th from 9-12 (\$26). Miss Crystal and Miss Kelly will help facilitate social, emotional, language, and physical development while students share lunch time and play with their friends. If you are interested in signing your child up for Holiday Lunch Bunch, please use the sign-up genius link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A8AE23A4FBC52-52270416-holiday>

KINDERGARTENERS FALL 2025



The Preschool Connections Club at Hempfield School District wants to connect with you! "Preschool Connections Club is an organization for any preschool-aged child who will be attending Hempfield School District for the 2025-2026 school year. Preschool Connections aides in the transition from preschool to kindergarten, so our hope is that incoming students will attend Preschool Connections Club with their parent/guardian/caregiver at their future school building of attendance."

If you are interested in signing your child up for preschool connections. Please go to the below link and select the elementary school your child will be attending for the 2025-2026 school year and RSVP.

<https://www.hempfieldsd.org/domain/324>

SPECIAL DATES:

December 5th Astronomy & Pizza Night, hosted by UCC, 5-6:30, RSVP:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCm53Bnk5zsuLm6XKu9XIM9YMHJ3_GPeBfu7jLs-IOrysLKA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

December 12th 2 Day and Tiny Tot Christmas Party

December 13th 3 Day and 4 Day Christmas Program 10:30-11:30

December 16th Holiday Lunch Bunch for 3 Day and 4 Day 9-12

December 16-January 1 Christmas Vacation

HELPFUL HINTS:

SICKNESS: If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home. If your child has a fever, please be sure that they are **fever free for 24 hours** (without medication) before returning to school.

WEATHER CHANGES: Please send your child dressed appropriately for outdoor play. We will plan to take the children outside as much as possible so please plan accordingly. This may include, boots, hats, mittens, snowpants!

In Case of SCHOOL CLOSINGS: We will follow Hempfield School District's delays and closings. If HSD is closed, we are closed. If HSD is delayed, we will follow our modified schedule; 10:30-12:30 and Enrichment 12:30-2:30.

FACEBOOK: Trinity Preschool is on Facebook! Periodically, we will post events that have already happened or helpful information. Our purpose for using this media is to inform you and the community of this rich, fun, nurturing place for growing children. Follow us on FACEBOOK

CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

Miss Crystal and Miss Kelly 4 Day: December is a short month full of candy canes, gingerbread men, Christmas trees and gift making! We will continue our letter work with a letter review and discuss the differences between wants vs. needs.

Miss Karen and Mrs. Cox 3 Day: We have started singing our songs for the Christmas program that will be held on December 13th. I'm sure your children will be singing for you at home too! During our class time students will be hard at work making presents to take home.

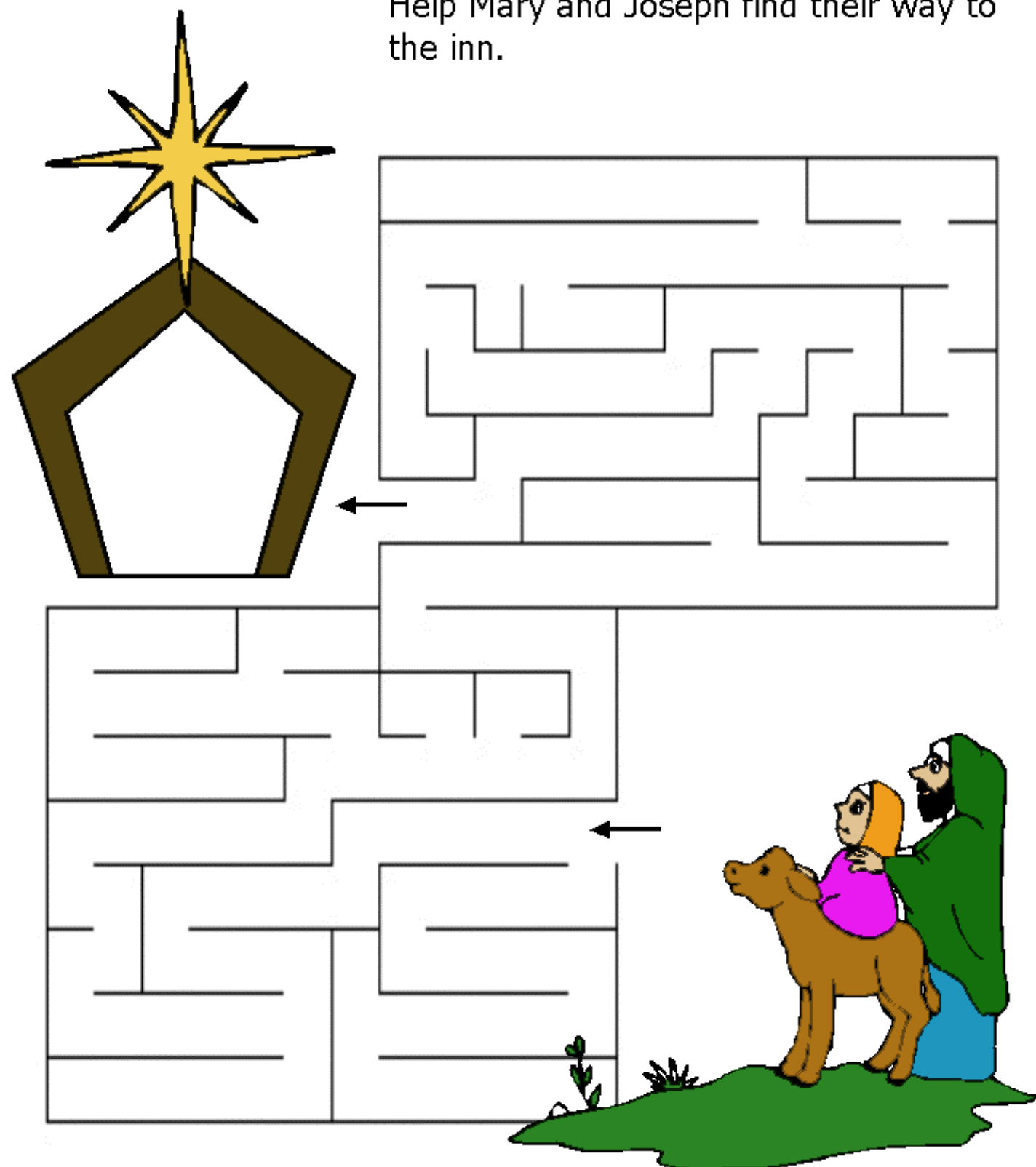
Miss Karen and Miss Ashley 2 Day: We are ready for December! It's always an exciting time for our students. We will be making special Christmas presents for our families. Before we take a break in December, we invite a family member to come and join us (December 12th) in making a craft and spending time with school friends.

Miss Crystal and Miss Kelly Tiny Tots: Wow, the holiday season is already here! Tiny tots will explore gingerbread men and triangle trees. We will listen to Christmas songs and have a fun Christmas Party. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

ENRICHMENT CLASS: We had a busy November with our Enrichment class. We had messy fun making peanut butter pinecone bird feeders and painting a pumpkin still life. We also had a music exploration day with a variety of instruments and made our own shakers. The students had a fantastic Shape Day building their own shape sculpture. In December we will have candy cane dissolving experiments and painting a winter scene. Some of our artwork will be held at school until our amazing art show in March.

Christmas Maze

Help Mary and Joseph find their way to the inn.



Trinity U.C.C.
2340 State Street
East Petersburg, PA 17520