

Trinity Tempo

December 2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
I am so very excited to wish you a very Merry Christmas. This is by far my favorite time of the year. As I was growing up, my parents instilled in us a deep sense of tradition and “set apartness.” We were taught very clearly that Christmas was different from the rest of the year. Dad started to listen to Christmas music in July, the decorations went up the day after Thanksgiving, and I would receive baby Jesus to put in my underwear drawer in preparation for Christmas morning.

Everything looked so different around this time of year. Each activity during Advent had a Christmas accent to it. We could not get away from the music or the sights and I didn’t want to. Everything was so exciting and the anticipation for December 25 made time slow to a crawl. Christmas morning was always worth it. The gifts were the last thing we did. The focus was always on the Wisemen’s star at the top of the tree, the celebration of Jesus’ birthday, and the reading of the birth narrative in the book of Luke.

Now that I am the father of my own family, I have tried to keep some of the same traditions. But things change. My wife and boys are not the family I grew up with, so the traditions are different. I do hope to instill in the boys a sense of Christmas being different. I hope it to be a true celebration that God has done something different through his son. The biggest thing I would like my children to hold on to is that the joy of Christmas is, by no means, just for Christmas. That which God has done through Jesus’ birth is for all of creation, every day of the year.

God has descended to the earth to walk among us and share his love in our everyday lives. The mundane becomes special because Christ is with us, living with us, working among us, and praying for us. What is shown to us in Genesis, “God was walking in the cool of the evening breeze...” has been relived through Jesus. God with us. What an exciting and cherished message. I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas celebration, today and beyond.

PTL,

Pastor Justin Judy

Trinity Happenings

Warm Hearts, Warm Coats

BY JANE POGUE

Our annual warm coats drive began November 26, 2023. Please look through your closets and gather all the warm coats you can find. There is a donation box inside in the library area and a box on Trinity House porch.

There is a very strong need this year for these coats, so please help us with this outreach program. Thanks!

Angel Tree

Trinity has begun collecting funds for the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program, where we provide gifts to children with an incarcerated parent. This year we have been assigned 12 children. To participate in this program, place a donation marked "Angel Tree" in the offering plate. Joanne Ondulich will need help this year purchasing, wrapping and distributing the gifts. Contact Joanne directly to assist with this ministry.

Christmas Fundraiser

Thanks to those of you who ordered candy during Trinity's Sarris Candy fundraiser. If you missed the traditional part of the fundraiser and still want to participate, you can do so by ordering online at SarrisCandiesFundraising.com.

- Click on **Online Ordering**.
- Enter the Group ID #**10-0582**.
- Start shopping.

Trinity earns 25% profit from online orders. Candy is shipped directly to your home and a \$5 shipping & handling fee applies. The deadline for online orders is December 15, 2023.





Guest Speaker

2024 brings new opportunity, and Trinity plans to host a speaker for a community event. The Board would like suggestions from you, the congregation, about a topic (one that would be of interest to residents of Trafford), the day of week and time of day. We are tentatively planning the event for April 2024. Submit your suggestions to Pastor Justin or the church office.

Special Sunday

Doorways to Hope at Home, December 10

This Conference-wide special Sunday supports six regional mission agencies in Western PA. These agencies provide food, shelter, clothing, and skill-building support, ministries that help reduce homelessness and break the cycle of poverty.

Scrip Program to End

Trinity began the TUMC Scrip Program in July 2008 as a way to raise funds for the church by selling gift cards. Participation in the program was good and Trinity saw steady profits. Over the past few years, participation in the program has dropped for several reasons. Consequently, profits have declined but shipping fees have risen. After consideration, the Ad-Council voted to cease operation of the scrip program effective January 31, 2024.

We will continue to accept orders for gift cards in December and January as usual on alternating Sundays.

Thanks to everyone who supported this fundraising program over the years. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Yocum through the church office or at (412) 372-6808.

Queens for a Day!

BY JANE POGUE

On Wednesday, November 8 we celebrated two very special people who had very special birthdays! Joan Hartley celebrated her 93rd birthday and Thelma Johnson celebrated her big 90th birthday. We had a great time, and I want to thank everyone who took the time to make this day special for our “queens.” (Check out the tiaras!)

Top left: Birthday girls Thelma and Joan.

Bottom left: Donna Piper visits with Joan.

Other party-goers include April Beam and Colleen Divito (top right) and Les Race, Donna Race, and Beverly Piper (bottom right). Jane Pogue (not pictured).





Community Events

Trafford's Holiday Happenings

Saturday, Dec. 2 from 5-8 p.m.
Enjoy Christmas carols, a parade, community tree lighting, and pictures with Santa.

Light the Way to Christmas

Friday, Dec. 8 from 6-8 p.m.
First UMC Murrysville, 3916 Old William Penn Hwy
Join in the tree lighting, Christmas carols, bonfire, games and more!

Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.
Fairhaven UMC, Rts 51 & 88 in the South Hills

For those hurting, lonely or grieving this holiday season, celebrate Christ's birth in a quiet service with seasonal readings, soft music, candle lighting, prayer, quiet carols and time for reflection.

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along Concert

Saturday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.
Calvary UMC, in Allegheny West on Pittsburgh's Northside
Tickets and music scores may be purchased online by clicking [Handel's Messiah | Calvary United Methodist Church | Pittsburgh \(calvarypg.com\)](http://Handel's%20Messiah%20|%20Calvary%20United%20Methodist%20Church%20|%20Pittsburgh%20(calvarypg.com))

Joys & Concerns

Please keep Trinity family, friends and neighbors in your prayers.

Pray for

Patty Aubele
Caleb Baker
Mary Ann Casper
Sandy Chiappetta
Harry and Marge Little
Donna Piper
Tom Puckey
Vicki Stokes
Israel and Ukraine

Also take a moment and give thanks for friends and family who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month.

Birthdays

3 Gloria Stultz
5 Linda Yocum
7 Dana Hainsey, Brent Clauser
12 Caleb Baker
21 Noell Stultz
26 Judy Cromer
28 Joan Vowler
29 Susan Rising
30 Anthony Keefer, Jay Stokes

Anniversaries

8 Les and Donna Race

Wanted: Teachers and Aides

Trinity has a long-lived Sunday School program, offering classes from nursery to adult. Currently, the program needs someone to teach (or facilitate) an adult class and aides for one or more of the children classes.

If you are interested in exploring how you can support or help with the Sunday School program, speak with Pastor Justin or Beverly Piper.

November Schedules

Scrip Program Ordering

December 3, 17 and 31

- Place orders by 5 p.m. on Sundays.
- Give orders and payment to Linda Yocum or mail them to the church office.
- Make checks payable to TUMC Scrip Program.
- Contact Linda (412) 372-6808 or the church office (412) 373-0835 for details.

Altar Flowers

3 Kathy Gleeson-Powell
10 open
17 Evelyn Felmlee
24 Chancel Choir
31 Kathy Gleeson-Powell

December

Due to Patty's surgery, the Bible Journaling group will not meet in December.

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
26 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Hanging of the Greens <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> <i>United Methodist Student Day (special offering)</i>	27 1 p.m. Senior Friends	28	29 6 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Pastor-led Bible Study	30 7:15 p.m. Choir	1	2
3 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship/Communion <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> Scrip Order Day	4 1 p.m. Senior Friends	5	6 7 p.m. Pastor-led Bible Study	7 7:15 p.m. Choir	8	9
10 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	11 1 p.m. Senior Friends	12 7:30 p.m. Ad-Council	13 7 p.m. Pastor-led Bible Study	14 7:15 p.m. Choir	15 Tempo Deadline	16
17 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> Scrip Order Day	18 1 p.m. Senior Friends	19	20	21 7:15 p.m. Choir	22	23
24 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> (church office closed)	26	27 7 p.m. Pastor-led Bible Study	28	29	30
31 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> (church office closed)	2	3 7 p.m. Pastor-led Bible Study	4 7:15 p.m. Choir (tentative)	5	6

Tempo Deadline

Articles for the January issue of the newsletter are due in the church office by Friday, Dec. 15, 2023.



Trinity United Methodist Church

407 Duquesne Avenue • Trafford PA 15085
tumctrafford.org

Justin Judy, pastor

(724) 594-4073 • jjudy79@gmail.com

Church office

(412) 373-0835 • office@tumctrafford.org

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.

Reading Program

Trinity has committed to donate \$300 in gift cards for the Trafford Elementary School's accelerated reader program. To date we are 75% of the way to our goal having raised \$225. Thanks to everyone who has given.

If you would like to contribute, use one of the special envelopes available in the vestibule. You may also give online through the church website or use your regular envelope; record your donation as "Reading Program." For information about the program, contact Beverly Piper.

