

The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229
804-288-6056

December 2021

Pastor's Corner



"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Luke 3:4

If I am right you are receiving this edition of the *Window* either at the very end of November or the beginning of December. The "holiday season" is upon us again. This one will be a little different: COVID restrictions (but much improved over last year!), supply chain problems that complicate everything, inflation, possible travel problems.

What will your December look like? Even in the midst of traditions we cherish it could very easily be full of stress, demands, busyness and obligations of cultural norms. (Have you ever experienced the feeling of relief when the holidays are over?) But in this spiritual wilderness there is a voice crying, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." That is to say that there is another way.

Take a deep breath. Slow down, and commit yourself to a holy and intentional Advent. Here are some simple tips:

Use our Advent Devotion daily. Nothing could be easier. Couple it with a prayer. Those few moments can make a huge difference in your day.

Look for signs of God every day. It may be in the beauty of creation. It may be in the face or voice of a loving person. It may be in a situation. It might come from reading your Bible. To see God, you have to be open and looking for God.

Share with those in need. Nothing can soften our hard hearts quicker. In this time of inflation, the food bags are more important than ever. Our Advent offering supports UMFS (United Methodist Family Services), how worthy is this agency serving the most vulnerable children in Virginia.

The holiday season is upon us again. But so is the holy season of Advent. What will your December look like?

Wishing you a holy and blessed Advent & Christmas,



Reconnect with Prayer

"...and he (Jesus) spent the night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12

Jesus often withdrew himself to pray. It was on the mountain and in the desert where he could be alone or together to pray to God. It was also in the morning and the evening. Even though Jesus is the son of God, he needed to have a time of prayer because prayer is a fellowship with God and a time to commune with God and discern what God is calling him to do. It was a rhythm, a pattern, and a lifestyle of Jesus. The Bible clearly describes that prayer has a significant role in Jesus' life and ministry.

How much do we need prayer in our lives? How does it play its role in your life? Do you have a prayer in your life? Does our church have a prayer?

We claim to be Christians but often time we let our rationality and logic precede prayer. Prayer is not about asking for wishes, but it is a time to tune our hearts and minds to God because Jesus prayed the most powerful prayer, "Yet, not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)

In Advent, Trinity invites you to join in prayer to reconnect to God and one another. The chapel will be open for the solitude of prayer and meditation on **December 3, 10, and 17** from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. You can leave your prayer requests in the chapel. Also, pastor Hung Su Lim will offer communion at noon. Advent is a time of preparation for "arrival." Let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive the king. Let us be one body of Christ in love, peace, and joy through prayer.

Advent Reflection Gathering

- Pastor Hung Su Lim invites you to join a reflection gathering during Advent either in-person or via zoom. It will be a time to read the gospel of Luke together and share our reflections on the readings. The gatherings will be held in Eaton Hall on **Sundays in Advent, 10:15-10:45 AM**. Come and share the good news of great joy with us. Everyone is welcome.
- Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6243348408?pwd=d2VuMFFla252aytXZlo0emlncS9YUT09>



Blue Christmas Service, A Service of Hope and Healing

We want to invite those of you who have struggled with the death of a loved one, faced life after divorce or separation, coped with the loss of a job, lived with cancer or some other disease, struggled with the COVID-19, to join the Blue Christmas Service in-person on **December 9 at 7 PM in the chapel.**

This Blue Christmas service will be reflective, accepting where we are, and holding out healing and hope. We join together to acknowledge what we have lost and to remember Jesus' promise, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" in this time of challenges. **This service will be recorded and uploaded to the Trinity website for those who are not able to join.**

This Year's Lessons and Carols Will be Live and In Person!

We hope you will mark your calendars for this year's premiere musical Advent offering: Trinity's Service of Lessons and Carols. We'll be testing all participants on the day of the service so that we can sing for you without masks! So, mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 19 at 4 PM** in Trinity's Sanctuary.



A Community Conversation

Healing is an interesting word. We always hope for proper healing after a surgical procedure for our bodies. But, healing can also be associated with our mental stability and our emotional state too. Clearly, we Americans have had much to ponder over the last several months. Sometimes, healing is as simple as talking and listening.

All communities have an assortment of leaders who help to mold and shape our paths. Some leaders garner headlines frequently, some work quietly behind the scenes. This fall Trinity is introducing a new program designed to invite community leaders to our church for conversation.

Over the last few years, Trinity has developed a supportive relationship with United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). UMFS provides a variety of services across the state for children and families. Often the work by UMFS staff is the difference maker for children. On **Tuesday, December 14**, Nancy Toscano, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Jill Gaynor, Annual Giving Officer, will be our guests. This will be an opportunity to learn how our annual Advent offering impacts the lives of children on a daily basis.

We hope you will consider attending these events, and we hope you will consider inviting a friend or neighbor to come along too. A Community Conversation will take place in the Sanctuary with a 7 PM start time. The last 15 minutes of the program will focus on questions from the audience. Additionally, we are planning to live stream each conversation.

Any questions, contact Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

Tuesday, December 14 Nancy Toscano, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Jill Gaynor, Annual Giving Officer at United Methodist Family Services



Kids Christmas Pageant

We are so excited to share with you a reimagined Christmas pageant that focuses on telling the Christmas story using kits that will be provided and all voices singing our favorite Christmas carols! The pageant

will take place during the **4 PM Christmas Eve Family Service** outside in the parking lot. Bring chairs and blankets to sit on.

7:00 PM Tuesday, December 14

in-person & online



Nancy Toscano **UMFS**
President and Chief Executive Officer
Jill Gaynor
Annual Giving Officer at United Methodist Family Services

trinityumc.net/conversations



Christmas Eve Worship

Celebrate Christ's birth at Trinity. We will have four worship services on Friday, December 24, for you and your family.

4:00 PM Family Service (This service will be Outside and includes the Kids' Christmas Pageant).

6:00 PM Modern Christmas Eve worship service with Candlelight and Communion (also online).

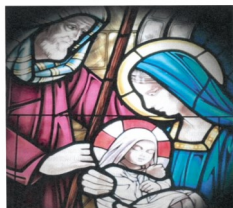
8:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve worship service with Candlelight and Communion (also online).

11:00 PM Celtic Christmas Eve worship service. A more intimate traditional service, Candlelight, Communion, harp and music in the Celtic tradition.

Find the Christmas Eve worship services at trinityumc.net/watchlive or on our Vimeo and YouTube channels.



ADVENT
2021



Trinity United Methodist Church

Advent Devotional

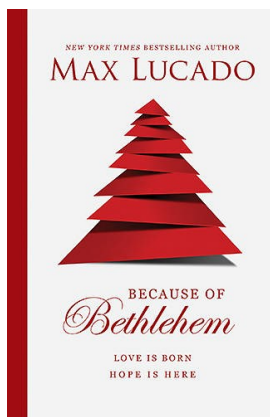
This year, in order to help you engage daily with Advent, we are sending our devotionals to you via email or text message each day. We will also be posting via social media (Facebook and Instagram) around noon. Each of these posts will contain the same content, though they will each come through to your device a

little bit differently.

We hope that this new thing helps you and your family dig a little deeper and experience a more holy Advent this year. Want to sign up? Go to <https://trinityumc.net/advent> to sign up to do mobile or email.

Limited copies of the Advent Devotional will be available Sunday, November 28. We thank our writers in working with us. We also appreciate Kim Tingler, Judy Oguich, Dianne Moore, Bill Pike and our editors Betsy Estes, and Art Utley. Merry Christmas!

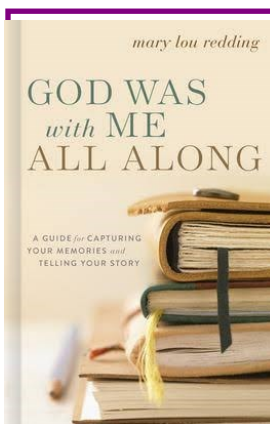
3M New Study



Beginning **November 17** and **continuing December 1, 8 and 15** the 3M Wednesday Night Group will study "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado. The group is meeting by Zoom, **6 – 7:30 PM**; persons may contact Rev. Judy Oguich for the Zoom meeting link (joguich@trinityumc.net). A few copies of "Because of Bethlehem" are available with Judy for \$10, otherwise they are available

through Cokesbury. A version is also available to download.

New Book Study: God Was with Me All Along



Join Judy Oguich and Bill Pike in the study of Mary Lou Redding's book **God Was With Me All Along**. This simple, straightforward book is "a guide for capturing your memories and telling your story." Each week, we will discuss two chapters from the book while using the carefully framed questions related to each chapter. The class will take place during the Community Hour from 10-10:50 AM in Eaton Hall. Our first class will meet on **Sunday, January 9**, and the last session will be on Sunday, February 27. We will leave ordering your copy of the book up to you as it is available from any number of outlets. If you have any questions, please reach out to Judy or Bill. We look forward to having you with us.



What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?



Parents Night Out is returning to Trinity! We are so excited to offer this event on Friday, December 3rd from 6-9pm! This is a popular fundraiser for our Trinity Kids and Student Ministries!

Kids aged 18 months through 5th grade may register! We will have age specific rooms for our toddlers and preschoolers. Kids aged 5 and older as well as all volunteers are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

Check in will be open from 6:00-6:30. Families may choose to send their kids with a nut-free dinner to eat at church. While eating, kids will be spaced out three feet apart (per COVID protocol). Kids should be picked up by 9pm.

Suggested Donation is \$10 per child (but larger donations are welcome). Please bring a

check or cash when you check in your kids for the evening.

Registration is limited and will close on December 1st (or when the event is full).

Register here:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/TrinityUMC3/_2021ParentsNightOut



The Advent season is almost here, and this year, we have a fun way to turn your Advent Calendar into a game! With Family Advent Bingo, you'll count down to Christmas with daily activities designed to help you and your family learn about the Christmas story while playing to see who can get a BINGO first!

We've created special Family Advent Bingo (FAB) Kits for you, and we can't wait to give them out! Kits will be available for pick up after November 14th. **You can find kits on the table across from Jen's office. They are available while they last; grab one to share with friends and family.**

These kits include everything you need to play Family Advent Bingo this December!

During the weekend of November 12-14 Trinity Students hosted a Fall Retreat at Westview on the James in Goochland.

Thank you to all those who made this retreat possible through providing meals, leadership and the many ways you make youth at Trinity feel welcomed and a part of our church family.

Here's what some of our youth had to say about their experience on Fall Retreat:

"Well this is my first retreat and it has been everything I needed to know about my life in 2 days. I feel I have certainly grown stronger to God and have obtained a stronger relationship with God and my peers. I hope to keep growing a stronger relationship with everyone in the church community and with God. This weekend has been everything I needed. Thank you for sending us here and I hope to come on more retreats in the future."

"God has reminded me this weekend that I am not junk. I was created in the hands of a magnificent Creator with purpose and with love. The God of love doesn't compare me to anyone else. He has a seat for me at his table with my name on it. My worth isn't determined by my grades, beauty, talents, gifts that God I know loves me beyond measure. This weekend is just what my heart, soul and spirit needed."

"This weekend has actually been incredibly moving and special because of what we've talked about. I have actually been struggling with some serious comparison problems about my body recently and the topics we covered were really heartwarming and relieving. The fact that I'm not alone and that God has a different standard of measurement is so moving for me and it has helped me switch my mindset some. I definitely look at myself through a self-loathing point of view sometimes and learning about humility and how I should replace those self-loving thoughts with thoughts that have humility really got me thinking about how I can change the way I see myself through God."

God is working in the lives of our youth here at Trinity UMC. Praise God!
Thank you for all the ways you support and encourage Trinity Students!

Serve at Parents' Night Out

Trinity Students and their Families are hosting Parents Night Out on **Friday, December 3 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM** so parents of young children can drop off their kids for Christmas fun while parents take care of some last minute Christmas details. We need our youth and adult family members to sign up and arrive between **5:30-5:45 PM** that day. Donations support Trinity Kids & Students Ministries!

Thank you for supporting Trinity Students & Kids and families in our community!

Adults and Youth Sign Up HERE: www.trinityumc.net/students

Trinity Students Christmas Party with White Elephant Gift Exchange!

Join Trinity Students on **Sunday, December 12 from 5-7 PM** for a Christmas Party in the Student Center!

Busch Gardens Christmas Town in Williamsburg!

- **Monday, December 20**
Meet at Trinity UMC Student Center at **1:15 PM**
Pick up: **9:30-10:00 PM**
- **Cost for tickets:**
- **Early-Bird Cost by December 2: \$35**
After December 2: \$45
Registration Deadline: December 17.

Already have a ticket/pass? Please indicate so on registration. Also, please have youth bring money for two meals and any spending money they require.

Please note that masks must be worn during transportation and indoor activity.

Register : www.trinityumc.net/students

Adults! Sign up to serve Trinity Students with us on Sundays!

Trinity Students Adult volunteers are an essential part of what helps make our youth feel comfortable, safe, and welcome at our Student Ministry. Thank you for supporting our students! Every kid deserves and needs to have adults who support them and encourage them. Thank you for making sharing your time and faith with Trinity Students a priority!

Have questions? Contact Jenna: jbush@trinityumc.net
 Sign Up www.trinityumc.net/students



**United
Methodist
Women**

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

From Trinity UMW President

Many thanks to Rev. Judy and many others for a stunning Harvest Day celebration. If you missed it, you can watch it on the UMW page of the website. We will be accepting Harvest Day offerings until December 14, so please consider an offering to help us jump start our unit after our COVID slump.

We are excited to invite all women to our hands-on Service Day, coordinated by Doris Clements. It always reminds me of Santa's Workshop! Come any time after 9 and share our joy of thinking of others at Christmas. We will end the morning gathering around to hear a Christmas story. Come and share our joy.

Blessings, Jo

Service Day Projects in Trinity Hall December 14 from 9-12



Projects: centerpieces, mini loaves & poppers

- Christmas centerpieces for various recipients – led by Bonnie Andrews
- Christmas Poppers for Sherbourne UMC – Circle 10 led by Sharon Wenger
- Samaritan Angels for the Hermitage Care Bags – led by Nancy Miller & Judy Putnam
- Mini Holiday Loaves for Oakgrove ES – packing led by Karen Adams & Pam Carnahan
- Greeting cards for Oakgrove ES students – Circle 1 led by Catherine Norton
- Arrange bags of cookies & notes for AA, Nar Anon and Al Anon groups meeting at Trinity and prepare 10 health kits for MHEC – Circle 6 led by Jo Lewis
- Christmas tree ornaments for various agencies – led by Gail Clelland and Trinity Stitchers

In addition to the activities on Service Day, Trinity Stitchers have made snowman and yarn sheep ornaments for Bob Argabright's Saturday Academy at Oakgrove and Christmas stockings and yarn wreath doorknob hangers for the Hermitage Care Bags.



District UMW Advent Service Saturday, December 4

Speaker: Dr. Hyo Lee, District Superintendent

Join your UMW sisters for the District Advent service at Beulah UMC, 6930 Hopkins Road, North Chesterfield. Worship will be 10:30-11:30 (registration at 10:00) in-person and livestreamed on Beulah's Facebook page. Come for a time to set your soul in the right place to turn your holiday plans into holy-day plans.

Circle News

New members welcome! Check the Trinity website for meeting times and contact information. [UMW Circles](http://www.umwcircles.org) | [Trinity United Methodist Church \(trinityumc.net\)](http://www.trinityumc.net)

Circle 4 will gather for Christmas lunch on December 3. We will collect coloring books for Sherbourne UMC Christmas gift bags and donate to Central UMC's Kid's Club Angel Tree.

Circle 5 was pleased to have seven members present at Harvest Day and hopes to see more at Service Day!

Circle 7 will be assembling TUMC staff gifts for Christmas at our next meeting.

Circle 10 will meet on December 2 at the home of Bana Caskey for their Christmas party. We will also be packaging Advent booklets and cards to TUMC homebound members.

Circle 11 will be making Candy Cane Mice for Sherbourne UMC.

Coming Soon

"Persistence in Mission"

January 11 at 10:00

Speaker: the Rev. Hung Su Lim

Mini Loaves for Oak Grove

Bring the loaves of bread to Trinity on Service Day, December 14. These can be dropped off at Trinity Hall or the Welcome Center at 9:00.

Information from Finance

Offering Envelopes

The world has changed and God has seen us through the changes and challenges. Have you changed the way you give to the church? Perhaps you started giving online or through Paypal. You may have reached the magic age when you can receive a tax break for donating your IRA distributions. No matter how you choose to support the missions and ministries of Trinity UMC, we are truly grateful for your generosity and faithfulness. If you find that you no longer need the offering envelopes that are mailed to you each quarter or if you would like to receive weekly envelopes, please contact Diane Ladd at dladd@trinityumc.net.

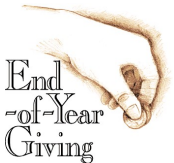
Contribution Statements

Please contact Diane Ladd if you need copy of your contribution statement before the end of the 2021 calendar year.



Trinity's Angel Tree

Trinity members have been teaming up with Central UMC in Manchester for over 15 years! We will provide gifts to needy children and youth this Christmas to share the love of Christ and walk in faith together. Thank you for using this sign up (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0944aead2da64-trinity>) to participate in our Angel Tree project. Please return all gifts to the Welcome Center on **Sunday, December 19** between 8-12. When returning your gifts have two wrapped gifts (either toys or clothing based on what you picked), place tags on the gifts with the child's first name, do not put anything on the FROM: portion of the tag. Then place your gifts in a trash bag and label the bag with your child's family number, first name and type of gift (toy or clothes). Thank you! In Christ's Love, Hilary Coakley



Calendar Year-end Contributions

IRS Code 10170A-1(b) states that only funds received by December 31, 2021 or postmarked by December 31, 2021 may be counted as 2021 contributions. The date of receipt or the postmark is the key to determining the year of receipt. Thus, if someone hand carries a check to the church on January 3, 2022 that is dated December 31, 2021 it is a **2022** gift according to IRS regulations. But, if a check arrives by mail at the church on January 3, 2022 and it is postmarked December 31, 2021 and the check is dated December 31, 2021 or before, it is a **2021** gift.

Please try to get your contributions for the calendar year into the church office by December 31, 2021. If you have any questions, call Diane Ladd at 288-6057 ext. 203.

Conserve and Create Day at Bellemeade Outdoor Learning Campus

Please come and join a dedicated group of volunteers in creating this outdoor learning campus for our community children and families. We will be creating and edging native plant beds in our youth garden, leveling wood chips in our nature play area, removing invasive plants and cleaning up our creek which is the favorite activity of our youth volunteers. The next work date is **December 11** from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon.

We will provide all tools that are needed but request that you bring water and gloves. Parking is located at 1800 Lynhaven Ave., RVA 23224. This is a wonderful opportunity to live your faith and worship in our beautiful park. We welcome your children. I look forward to seeing you and I'm most appreciative of your help and support!



Winter Weather Decisions

Decisions for closing our building related to winter weather are tricky. Basically, we follow the closing announcements from Henrico County Public Schools. For example, if schools close early or are on a delayed opening, Trinity's opening and closing times are adjusted. If Henrico schools are closed, Trinity will be closed, and this would include all day and evening events. Our ability to re-open the building after a winter weather event depends upon how quickly we can clear our sidewalks and parking lots. If we can safely get people on to our grounds and into our building, then Trinity might return to normal operations quicker than the school system. Decisions related to closing the building on Saturdays and Sundays will be made based upon weather conditions at that time. Questions contact Bill Pike bpik@trinityumc.net

Community Prayer Breakfast at St. Andrew's UMC

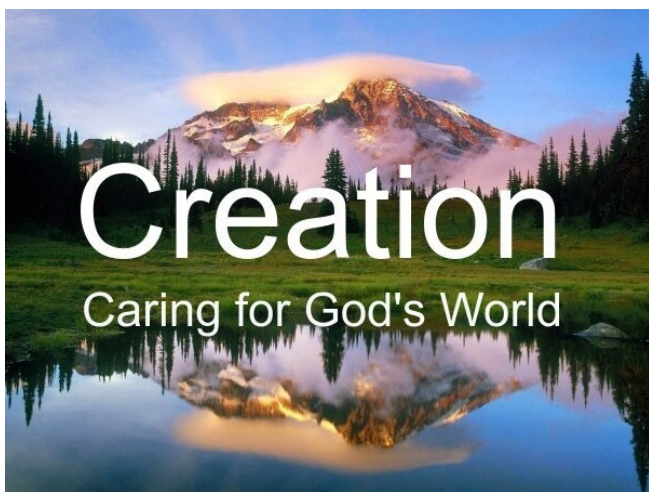
Come join us for a Prayer Breakfast at 9 AM and encouraging words from Coach Bobby Ross at 10 AM on **Saturday December 4** at St. Andrew's UMC, 9801 Fort King Road, Henrico, VA 23229. Coach Ross will be speaking on Faith, Family and Sports. The breakfast and program is \$4 per person and for the program only \$2 per person. Advanced tickets are available at www.saumcva.org or 804-270-2879, ext. 5. All proceeds will be donated to Wounded Warriors and Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU.

Christmas Recycling: Dos and Don'ts

At Christmas, recycling is as important as ever as we deal with some seasonal items that can be confusing. Here are some tips:

- Christmas cards & envelopes: if either the card or envelope has glitter, embellishments or a metallic finish, it can't be recycled. If it's all plain paper, recycle.
- Wrapping paper: glitter, metallic or foil finishes make wrapping paper non-recyclable. If you're unsure (e.g., the wrapping paper looks glossy but not metallic), perform the scrunch test; if it stays in a ball when scrunched, it can be recycled. Do not recycle shiny ribbons & bows.
- Christmas food packaging: a lot can be recycled but not all in the same place.
 - *Clean clear plastic packaging can be recycled with your plastic grocery bags at many grocery stores. Black plastic cannot be recycled.
 - *Clean foam trays, cups & egg cartons can be recycled at Publix stores.
 - *Glass bottles and jars can be recycled – keep the lids on to make sorting easier.
 - *Pizza boxes & food-contaminated items cannot be recycled.
- Christmas lights recycling: hardware stores such as Lowe's & Home Depot accept strings of Christmas lights for recycling on a seasonal basis. Call the store near you to check when it takes these.
- Broken glass ornaments: glass ornaments are not recyclable. Wrap the broken bits in a bag or bubble wrap & put in general waste.
- Delivery & gift boxes: Break these down to take up less room & recycle.

Keep the planet in mind when selecting gifts. Choosing experiences over material goods – concert tickets, a special night out – not only reduces waste but makes lasting memories!



Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Members,
Beth, Allen and I would like to thank you for all your support during Edward's illness and his death. Your wonderful support has been very comforting. We appreciate all your prayers, cards, phone calls, emails and texts. This shows just how much love is in the congregation and the ministers. May God continue to be with each of you.

Nancy Owen

Special Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to the Trinity staff and congregation for supporting our Team Rubicon Veterans back in October. That team of Veterans helped to coordinate the logistical supplies for Afghan refugees who are being housed at assorted military bases across Virginia. Team Rubicon members greatly appreciated our facilities and your homecooked meals. Some of the Rubicon members had not been home in several weeks, so they really enjoyed the homecooked meals.

Also, thanks to everyone who signed up and participated in the Giving Back to the Community workdays. The nonprofits we supported were very appreciative.

Joys and Concerns

Our sympathies to...

*The family of Donald "Spec" Campen, Jr. who died
November 16*

*Shari Adams whose mother Marty Adams died
November 13*

Gifts were received at Trinity.....

In memory of **Pat Satterfield** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Pat Satterfield** for **Afghan Refugees**

In memory of **Ed Owen** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Vernon & Genevieve Collier** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Doug Hill** for **UMFS**

In memory of **Gladys Victor** for **Boy Scouts**

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, December 13 at 4 PM for events taking place in January**. Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing to Kim Tingler, ktingler@trinityumc.net.