

The Trinity Window

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

December 2023

Pastor's Corner



The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." *Luke 2:10*

Is it time already? How are we already at the end of the year? Time does seem to fly. I think it may have to do with two things. The first is that we have Good News to share, the Good News of salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Good News generates energy and is a joy to share. The second reason that time is flying is that we're very busy around Trinity. There is always something happening, something coming, something to celebrate. Thank you to all who make what we do happen. When Good News and a full schedule sharing it come together, amazing things happen, as are happening here.

So, maybe it is time. Maybe, it is time to surge ahead even more. Maybe, it is time to rejoice in the news we have and the amazing community we have to share it in and through. Each one of us has a role to play. Each one of us has a story to tell. Each one of us has skills and gifts and abilities that can contribute to both the telling of the Good News and the community's ability to tell it. It is time.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this month, let us do so with enthusiasm and encouragement. Bring friends, neighbors, and family to the festivities. All of this helps us share THE story to even more people. The world needs this story. The world needs us. It is time.

Yours in Christ,

Christmas Eve Worship

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

10:00 AM One Blended Worship Service, (no Sunday School)

4:00 PM Family Service with Instant Kids 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 in the sanctuary.

6:00 PM Modern Christmas Eve worship service (also [online](#))

During our 6:00 Christmas Eve service, we will sing carols led by our modern worship band, share communion, and celebrate the joy and peace Christ brings. Our service will culminate in a traditional candlelight vigil. We hope you and your family will join us for this most meaningful celebration!

8:00 PM Christmas Eve worship service (also [online](#))

A traditional format service with choir and organ, special Christmas Communion, and Candlelight vigil. Come celebrate together this meaningful celebration of this most holy night.

11:00 PM Christmas Eve worship service (also [online](#))

A traditional Christmas Eve worship service. This late-night service is a more intimate format, featuring Christmas music, a special Christmas Communion, and candlelight vigil. Come, celebrate, as we bring in Christmas Day together.

Advent Sunday Evenings 4 PM

Advent will feature 3 weeks of being together for a meal and activities, all beginning at 4 PM. All activities are family-friendly and we encourage you to bring friends and neighbors with you as well.

Week 1, December 3:

“Create and Celebrate” returns for one night only with family-friendly Christmas crafts. A scaled-down version of the craft-filled craziness we so fondly remember. A covered-dish dinner will follow doing the crafts, so bring your favorite dish to share.

Week 2, December 10

“Lessons and Carols” This year’s program will feature several guest musicians and vocalists as well as Trinity’s handbell choir. A reception with a live jazz ensemble will follow, featuring special guest musicians from VCU arts.

Week 3, December 17

“Operation Christ Child”: A Christmas Play. Join us as we consider that it might have been like two thousand years as we look into life B.C. (Before Christmas). Come with us for a behind-the-clouds look at what might have been during the planning of Operation Christ Child. We will have the play at 4 PM, followed by a covered-dish dinner, come, eat, laugh, celebrate, and enjoy the season!

A SERVICE OF
LESSONS & CAROLS
PRESENTED BY TRINITY’S
CHOIR AND FRIENDS

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 @ 4:00 PM
RECEPTION WITH LIVE JAZZ TO FOLLOW.

Be our guest!



Trinity's choir (and friends) will present a service of *Lessons & Carols* on **Sunday, December 10** at 4 PM in our beautiful Sanctuary. This year's program will feature several guest musicians and vocalists as well as Trinity's handbell choir. A reception with a live jazz ensemble will follow, featuring special guest musicians from VCU arts.

The traditional "Lessons & Carols" service traces its roots to Victorian England, where it was inaugurated at King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The service includes select scripture readings and carols that tell the Christmas story with grace and power. We hope that you and your loved ones will join us for this most meaningful service.

Operation Christ Child

There’s something brewing at headquarters. Nothing will ever be the same. Of course we all know that the shepherds were the first to know about the birth of Christ. Or were they? After all, there were a lot of details that needed attention to make sure that the first Christmas went according to Scripture. It’s up to an elite band of angels to make sure everything goes as planned, from arranging accommodations (or the lack thereof) for the holy family, to hanging the star, to informing everyone of the event, to ... well, you get the picture. Join us on **Sunday, December 17, at 4 PM** as we consider what it might have been like two thousand years as we look into life B.C. (Before Christmas). Come with us for a behind-the-clouds look at what might have been during the planning of ... Operation Christ Child.

We’ll have the play at 4 PM, followed by a pot-luck (covered-dish) dinner. Come, eat, laugh, celebrate, and enjoy the season!

Longest Night Service December 21 6:00 PM in the Chapel

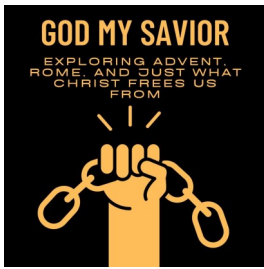
Our Longest Night service acknowledges that Christmas can bring feelings of sadness, pain, and loneliness for those who have lost a loved one, struggle with feelings of despair and disappointment, faced life after divorce or separation, coped with the loss of a job, received an unwelcome diagnosis, or experienced other forms of loss. The service takes place just prior to the Winter solstice, a natural phenomenon that ushers in the longest, darkest night of the year, symbolic of the “dark night of the soul” that often precedes our Christmas hope.

This service will be reflective, a time for us to join together and acknowledge the range of emotions this season can bring. Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on your journey, you are welcome to join us for this service of prayer and reflection, as we remember together Jesus’ promise. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Advent Christmas Offering

A reminder for the congregation that are missional offering for December will be focused on United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). In recent years, our congregation and the Trinity Foundation have made a significant financial impact at UMFS. More details will be announced via the Connection and our December worship services.





God My Savior

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, join Pastor Daniel for a four week look at the Bible stories and critical moments surrounding the birth of Christ. We will explore how these stories and moments, occurring within the world of first century Rome, set Jesus up as one who acts as a liberator in a world where we so often fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. We will meet from 6 to 7 PM on Thursdays and come together to learn, discuss, and grow! All are welcome!

- Week 1 (**November 30**): By the Rivers of Babylon
Primary Text: Matthew 1:1-17
Secondary Texts: Mark 1:1-8, 1 Kings 21:1-15, John 18:28-40
- Week 2 (**December 7**): The Word of the Lord, The Flesh of God; Primary Text: John 1:1-18
Secondary Texts: Jeremiah 1:13-19, 1 Kings 21:16-29
- Week 3 (**December 14**): Let's Talk About Money
Primary Text: Luke 1:46-55
Secondary Texts: Amos 2:6-16, Matthew 25:31-46
- Week 4 (**December 21**): The Return of the King
Primary Text: Luke 2:1-20



Benefit Concert for Afghan Refugee

On **Thursday, December 7** at 8 PM, Drew Willson is playing a benefit concert at [The Tin Pan](#), a delightful dinner-and-music venue in Henrico, Virginia. All proceeds from ticket sales go toward **Afghan refugee family resettlement** in the Richmond metropolitan area. Drew will be performing original songs and stories with a fantastic band including Shea Tuttle on bass and vocals, Lee Covington of the ButterBean Jazz Quartet on piano, and Jeff Rothman of Suggesting Rhythm (and last June's Annual Conference band) on drums. Ticket information can be found [here](#). Thank you in advance for your support of this mission opportunity!



Pub Theology

Pub Theology will be on **Tuesday, December 19**. We will meet at Kindred Spirit Brewing. The brewery is in Goochland County at 12830 West Creek Pkwy. Ste J. Start time is 6 PM. The brewery's community room is reserved for us. The church will order pizza, and we will ask each person in attendance to give \$5.00 to offset the cost. Come for the fellowship and conversation about a topic of interest.



Calling all students!

Come and join us in the Students Center on **December 10** from 6-8 pm for our Christmas party! We will have a White Elephant gift exchange, games, and more! Email Daniel if you want to participate in the White Elephant, at dguen-ther@trinityumc.net. It's going to be a great night, and you're invited!

Cedarfield Celebration

Join us on **Tuesday, December 12, 3:30 - 4:30 PM** in Cedarfield's Fellowship Hall for our quarterly celebration! We love spending time with our Cedarfield residents, but **every** Trinity member is welcome!!! Along with wonderful fellowship, we will have a Trinity update, a Cedarfield update, sing a few hymns (most likely beloved Christmas carols!) and have communion.

If you can participate on December 12, contact Carol Wampler (carolwampler@msn.com) or John Taylor (jaydetay@verizon.net).

Angel Tree

This year our Angel Tree mission project will focus on twenty five families in the Oak Grove Bellemeade Elementary School community. Karen Adams and Bob Argabright are coordinating this project. A Christmas Tree will be displayed in the Welcome Center. The tree will have the name of the child on the tag along with the size of clothing needed. Our congregation will be providing for each child a book, a toy, and an article of clothing. Gifts must be returned to Trinity by Sunday, December 17. Questions contact Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net



New Year's Eve Morning

There will be one blended
Worship service on
New Year's Eve morning at 10 AM.
There will be no Sunday School.



TRINITY Kids

What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

Kids Discipleship at 10am

Kids Discipleship during the 10am hour occurs in these locations:

- Nursery: Birth – 3 year olds
- Room 208: Preschoolers (3-5 year olds)
- Room 302: Elementary schoolers



This is what we are learning about in December:

Grab your sandals, sunblock, and swim gear because it's time for a Christmas Vacation! We'll be making sand angels and roasting chestnuts around an open bonfire on our tropical getaway. You've never experienced Christmas like this! In this five-week series, we'll focus on the birth of Jesus and the way God had been planning things from the very beginning. We'll see how God sent Jesus for a reason, learn to trust God's timing, understand why God gives us what's best, and see how Jesus is why we celebrate because Jesus is God's gift to the world.



Pick up your Family Advent Kit in the Welcome Center! Inside are a few activities to help you focus on Jesus during this busy Advent season leading up to Christmas!



Our pageant will take place during our 4pm Christmas Eve service! When kids arrive at church for the service, they can choose which character they would like to be (shepherd, angel, or animal) and we will have costumes available for them to wear! Kids will sit with their family until they are called forward to participate! Please arrive early so you have enough time to get everyone dressed up in a costume! All kids are welcome to participate; even your out of town guests!

NATIVITY TRAIL MIX RECIPE

In a bowl, mix each of these ingredients to make your own Nativity Trail Mix! Use however much of each one you like!

Before you serve to your family, talk about the symbolism of each ingredient to the Nativity story in the Bible. Here is what each one represents:

Pretzel Sticks - This symbolizes the stable where Jesus was born. Kids can take several sticks and make an outline of a stable. Tell your kids that the stable we think of is not the same kind of stable that was found in ancient Bethlehem. It was more like a cave that housed animals.

Animal Crackers - These symbolize the animals that were in the stable (cave) the night that Jesus was born.

Popcorn - This represents how the angels "popped" up on the night Jesus was born and appeared to the shepherds to tell them about the birth of Jesus.

Mini Marshmallows - These remind us of soft pillows we sleep on, which reminds us of how there was no place for Jesus to lay His head the night He was born; there was only hay.

Hershey Hugs & Kisses - These remind us of how much love Jesus has for us by coming to earth to be born so that He could save us from our sins and we can live forever with Him in heaven one day.

Mini Candy Canes - These remind us of the shepherds who visited Jesus the night He was born. Show kids how when you turn them upside down it makes a J-shape which reminds us of Jesus!



From Trinity UWF President

Dear Trinity Sisters,

Christmas is upon us---ready or not! Amid the shopping, baking, decorating and partying--Stop--or YIELD as Pastor Aaron Miller reminded us! Remember the Reason for the season. I invite you to start each day praying for priority-setting and time management (I desperately need that).

You are also invited to join in beginning the season with the Annual District Advent service on Saturday

December 2 at 10am with speaker Rev.

Leigh Ann Taylor. What an honor we have to host this event at Trinity and we want to do it well. We will need your helping hands and lots of smiling faces.



Then on Thursday December 14 from 9:30-11:30AM, Mary Ann Boyd and friends have plans for another great Service Day, where those helping hands will be put to use again working to make Christmas extra special for some needy ones in our community. Beth Noakes will present our program at 11 and we will present the Harvest Day offering to Crossover at 11:30. This is such a fun day, please mark your calendars to join us.

BTW for those of you who missed Harvest Day, we will continue to collect offerings to Crossover (checks to Trinity UMW, please) until December 10.

Remember . . . you are loved,

Jo Lewis

Save the Date

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Generosity:

Nourish the World and Relationships with Jesus

Mini Loaves for Oak Grove



All those who picked up loaf pans and instructions on Harvest Day: don't forget to bring the loaves of bread to Trinity Hall on Service Day, December 14.

December Circle Meetings

Circle 1 – We will go to lunch on Tuesday the 19th to celebrate the holidays.

Circle 4 – On Thursday the 7th at 11am we will meet at Dianne Moore's home for our Christmas program and lunch.

Circle 6 – We will meet on Tuesday the 5th at 10 AM in Room 319. Anna Schoenenberger and Betty Allen will present the program and then we will lunch together at a local restaurant. We will confirm our plans for Service Day on the 14th.

Circle 7 – During our December 21st meeting, we will enjoy a Christmas potluck dinner, share favorite holiday traditions and memories, and have a gift card exchange.

Circle 10 – We will meet Dec. 7th at 6pm. Carolyn Simpson will host the annual Christmas Party.

Circle 11 – Along with the Trinity Stitchers we will be meeting during the days of November 30 and December 5 in Room 323 to work on making Candy Cane Mice and Christmas Crafts in preparation for Service Day. Rooms 322 and 323 are reserved for the days, so persons can come and go as works for their schedules. More details will be emailed soon.



United
Women
in Faith

Christmas Service Day Projects

December 14 – Trinity Hall – 9:30am

Projects and Leaders/Participants

Clean up Christmas Eve Candles – Judy Oguich/all

Wrap Gifts for UMFS Kids – Kate Ockerman/all

Ornaments for Sherbourne UMC and others – Trinity
Stitchers

Mini Holiday Loaves for Oak Grove Elem Staff – Karen
Adams & Pam Carnahan/all

Sherbourne UMC Christmas Poppers – Circle 10

Cards for Homebound – Circle 10

Christmas Centerpieces for Various Recipients – Bonnie
Andrews and friends

Birthday Cards for Oak Grove Elementary School
Students – Circle 1

Cookies for Groups Meeting at Trinity – Circle 6

Notes and Origami Kits for Caring Closet Kids' Bags –
Ann Vaughn/all

Candy Cane Mice for Sherbourne – Circle 11

Prior to Service Day

Coloring Books/Crayons for Sherbourne – Circle 4

Gifts for Staff – Circle 7

Donations Needed for Gift Bags & Stockings



Children's OTC cough/cold meds,
Children's Tylenol,
Family size boxes of Kleenex,
Children's hats, gloves, scarves



(NEW, Travel size items, not hotel size)

Hand sanitizers
Pocket size tissue packs
Toothbrushes (soft, individually wrapped)
Toothpaste
Hand lotion
Soft cozy socks
Men's toiletries
Large print Word Search books (5x8)
Pens/pencils/crayons/colored pencils
Men's and women's handkerchiefs
Note cards – Christmas or other
Women's necklaces or bracelets



Children's coats and closed-toe shoes
Adult coats
New stuffed animals – small or regular size
Soft and squishy stress balls and fidget toys
Reusable water bottles (no metal)

**All Trinity members are invited to bring donations from the above
lists to Mission Central prior to the 14th.**

Questions? Call Mary Ann Boyd 804.304.7030

Can you Help?

Our Office Administrator, Paula Cadden, will be on planned leave from January 18 through March 1. During this time, our office will be challenged to have full coverage and need help in two ways. Can you help staff the office on occasion from 2-4 PM during these dates to answer phones and welcome visitors? Do you (or someone you know) have experience with Microsoft Publisher and would you/they be able to create the Sunday bulletins? If you are able and willing to assist, contact Eric Zimmerman, Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee at ezimme@gmail.com or Pastor Brian at bsiegle@trinityumc.net. Thank you!



Greening Your Decorating

Christmas lights are symbols of the Light that came into the world with the birth of Christ. Enjoy them and **use LEDs wherever you can** to take

care of the world that Jesus lit up with his presence. Give a package or two to someone you love to help them love creation.

Go live! Live trees that you can replant are kindest to the environment. A cut tree harvested from an organic tree farm will likely be replaced with two others.

If you already own an artificial tree, use it for at least 10 years. Keep the tree in good condition so that you can pass it on to someone else who won't need to buy one.

Ask parents or grandparents to give you an ornament that has been a part of your growing-up Christmas traditions. Pass along its story to your children.

Make your own tree ornaments representing something meaningful to you. Glue family photos to card stock and hang on the tree. Create some new stories to tell each Christmas.

Go for reusable gift bags rather than wrapping paper. Fancy paper with foil, glitter or other non-paper materials can't be recycled. The short fibers in tissue paper make it unrecyclable too.

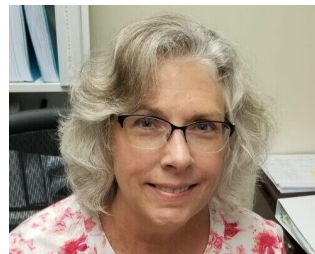
Go retro. **String popcorn and cranberries** on cotton thread. After Christmas, put the strings outside for the birds to munch on or decompose in the soil.

Rather than buying new decorations, **turn to thrift shops and garage sales** to find one-of-a-kind used ornaments and holiday décor.

For more tips, go to umcreationjustice.org.

Welcome Nancy and Laura to the TUMC Staff!

Nancy Berryman joined the staff at Trinity in August 2023 as our Financial Administrator and to say she hit the ground running would be an understatement! In such a short time, she has gotten to experience a whirlwind of activity, including year-end close, multiple payroll runs, committee meetings and the kickoff of a capital campaign – all while trying to get comfortable with Trinity, our dedicated staff and our accounting system. Nancy has been working three to four days a week, and her active presence in the office has been and will continue to be a critical piece to our operations team.



Nancy resides in King William County and loves the peacefulness of living in the country. Nancy enjoys creating outdoor art, painting, reading, serving with her church family, and spending time with family and friends.

Organist **Laura Candler White** is a Richmond native, and has been involved in the music scene for many years. She began her career in public education - teaching high school choral music for eleven years before moving on to being an adjunct instructor at VCU. While at VCU, she taught keyboard skills and was accompanist for instrumentalists and the college choirs. Additionally she played for the School of the Richmond Ballet and the dance classes at University of Richmond and VCU. Involvement in choral music has taken her to many exciting venues, both in the US and abroad.



Church music is her great love - when frequently asked what her favorite instrument is, that's an easy answer: the singing congregation! She has served in most denominations, both Protestant and Catholic and for many years was the assistant organist at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. She believes that music should enhance the worship service and is honored to be a part of the Trinity music staff.

We are blessed to have Nancy and Laura join our community!



Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers from the altar of the church. Further, I appreciate the wonderful-

ly kind message. I feel honored to be included in the “prayer concerns” and am certain that it aided in my speedy recovery.

Grace,

Robert Fricke

To my support system of friends at Trinity,

I sincerely thank you. Seeing and feeling God’s love through each of you has enabled me to get through these hard times. The flowers were welcomed to brighten the sadness and Billy and Anne Burch delivered them with love. The “stitchers” reached out to us through the hands of Louise Girvin and will always be treasured. I carry my prayer square with me all the time, such comfort.

My faith will help me continue on and your fellowship will strengthen me.

Thank you

Barbara Murray

Many thanks to my church family for their prayers, flowers, cards, calls and meals following surgery and recovery. Your love lifted me.

God bless you!

Jo Lewis

Jan Booker and Jan Reynolds thank all those who participated in the November Bereavement receptions. Whether you prepared food, set up, poured punch, helped at a reception or cleaned up, we appreciate all your efforts. These receptions are a heartfelt ministry for our church family and we thank you for your willingness to join us in this ministry.

The “Jan’s”

Special Thanks!

Many thanks to everyone who attended the annual Veterans program on November 12. Trinity members Art Utley, Joe Andrews, Mike Cross, Tykey Miller, and Joe Toler were outstanding presenters in sharing stories about family members from World War II and personal experiences from the Vietnam War. Additionally, we were treated to a beautiful acapella performance of “Taps” by Tae Lilly. A special salute to the Outreach Class in coordinating this program with the church staff.

We appreciate the efforts of Mike Cross for his power washing expertise on a recent fall afternoon. The Memorial Garden looks much better after Mike’s diligent work.

Joys and Concerns

Baptism

Essie Johnson

Weddings

Congratulations to the following couple who was recently married:

Virginia Gordon and James Dwyer who were married on November 11

Our sympathies to...

The family of Mildred Powell who died November 22

The family of Jean Hanner who died November 19

Ellen Norris whose brother Robert Adams died November 15

The family of Pat Smith who died November 12

The family of Mike Eunice who died October 30



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.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, December 11 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.