



A Message from our minister, The Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun



True Listening

A clergy friend of mine shared this story with me that theologian Martin Marty used in his publication, *Context*.

“Then Jesus took his disciples up to the mountain. And gathering them around him, he taught them, saying ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek. Blessed are they that mourn. Blessed are you when you suffer. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven.’

“Then Simon Peter said, ‘Are we supposed to know this?’ And Andrew said, ‘Will we have a test on this?’ And Phillip said, ‘I don’t have any paper.’ And John said, ‘Huh?’ And Matthew said, ‘Can I go to the restroom?’ Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus’ lesson plan and inquired, “Where are your objectives and your required competencies in the cognitive domain?” Thomas had missed the sermon and came to Jesus privately and said, ‘Did we do anything important today?’ “And Jesus wept.”

M. Scott Peck once wrote, “. . . true listening is love in action.” When we truly listen to others, we’re telling them they matter, they’re important, and we care. True listening means setting aside all other activities and thoughts. It means turning off the television, putting down the cell phone and sitting still. It means allowing someone to finish what they are saying before we interrupt them. When we offer someone the gift of true listening, we let go of our assumptions and preconceptions. We open ourselves to whatever they want to say in a non-judgmental way. We may ask questions for clarity, or we may just keep quiet.

It’s possible to learn more in a few minutes of true listening than from hours of discussing it or arguing. In the process, we may even grow closer to others than we may ever have thought possible. Friends, may your New Year be one of increased awareness, and one that is full of opportunities for “true listening” and caring.

Your minister,
Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun



INSIDE this issue

<u>Minister's Message</u>	1
<u>Prayers, Bday/Anniv, Rose W</u>	2
<u>Charge Conf. & Opportunities</u>	3
<u>Opportunities, BHF, etc.</u>	4
<u>Kids & Youth Check-in</u>	5
<u>Trinity Kids Teach - Advent</u>	6
<u>Leadership/Back Page</u>	7

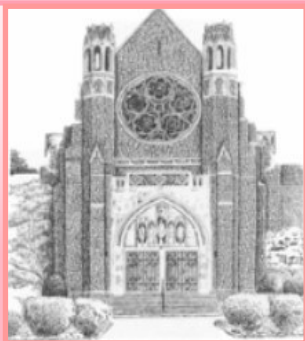


“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.”
~Vern McLellan



Please Pray for These Members & Friends:

Mary A, Lisa B, Borys B, Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Jean C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C, Benard D, Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Mary (T) G, Courtney H, Aurie I, Tom L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Holly Joy P., Sue P, Daryl P, Catherine Ann R, Henry (Bing) S, Jane S, Thomas S, Carl S, Lynn T, Alison (Allie) W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.



January Rose Window

January 4 - In loving memory of Pauline, from Judy & Paula.

January 10 - In loving memory of David C, Jr., from his mom, Barbara.

January 27 - In loving memory of Ted & Jane C, from Ted & Judy.

If you would like to light the Rose Window in memory or honor of someone for \$5.00 a night, please contact Doreen in the church office at doreen@trinityspringfield.org. Thank you.



Sympathies

We offer our Christian sympathies to:

The family of Susan C, Susan was Trinity's Associate Pastor in the 1990's.

The family of Trinity member, Claire (L) P.

Please keep these families in your prayers during this very difficult time.

JANUARY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays
Italics Wedding Anniversaries

- 1/1 Tandy B, Dustin K, Russ M., Matthew R
- 1/2 Dr. Christopher W (
- 1/3 Shelmith W
- 1/4 Daniel I
- 1/6 Jennie H, *Rich & Ashby P*
- 1/8 Clayton C
- 1/9 Nate O
- 1/11 Kathleen C, Levi V
- 1/12 Doreen B, Leslie H, Verna N, Nic O, Nathan W
- 1/13 Karen S
- 1/14 Rondi A
- 1/15 Olga A, Larry D, Jason P
- 1/16 Leonard A, Daniel J, Daniel M
- 1/17 Patrick H, Adelyn O
- 1/18 Carolyn B, Meriel E, Kathleen E
- 1/19 Ryan G
- 1/22 Frank C, Gavin M, Coulter O
- 1/23 Lisa J, Ruth K
- 1/24 Mathew H, Tony I, Linda S
- 1/25 Beth M-P
- 1/26 Eli B, Emily B
- 1/27 Tammy S
- 1/28 Amia C, Barbara C, Rick P
- 1/30 Megan M
- 1/31 Benjamin H, Grace M



Milestone Birthday

1/31 Mattie R





Special Charge Conference

After worship this Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall, District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe, will preside over a Special Charge Conference. The sole purpose of the conference is

for church members to vote to approve the Trustees' plans to install an elevator to provide accessibility to another level of the church building. Please attend this very important meeting.



The 43rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast

The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast is on Saturday, January 18, 2025. Sponsored by Wesley UMC in Springfield, it will be from 10 a.m. – Noon at the Marriott in downtown Springfield. This will be an opportunity to gather with others as we recognize and celebrate high school scholars from our community. Buy your tickets online [here](#).

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Reports are Due Friday, January 24, 2025

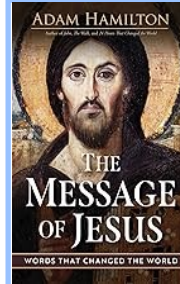
Hello Team Trinity,

If you were a Committee Chair in 2024 and have not submitted a report please submit your Annual Report to me in the church office at doreen@trinityspringfield.org by Friday, January 24, 2024. If you already submitted a report for the Church Conference, please use that and update it with any information from the date of the conference—November 16, 2024 through year-end December 31, 2024. The reports are vital because they let the congregation know what is happening in the life of the church. If you need the report you sent in for Church Conference or last year's report to have a reminder of things needed in the report please let me know at the email above and I will email you a copy. The report will be available at the end of February if all the reports are sent in by the deadline.

Thank you for your cooperation!

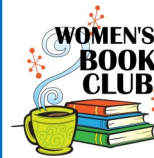
Doreen Bessey

Administrative Assistant



An After the Holidays Book Study - The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World

Did you know that much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said? If you would like to learn more, you are invited to join Rev. Calhoun in a fresh encounter with the Words of Jesus. In this six-week study by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, we will explore six of the most important themes in Jesus' teachings. why they matter, and how they speak to us today. This study will be offered Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20 at 5:30 - 7 p.m. To sign up email Doreen at doreen@trinityspringfield.org. For more info email Rev. Dr. Calhoun at revcalhoun@trinityspringfield.org.



Important Book Club Change

At our last meeting we decided to change our meeting time to 4:00 p.m. We hope that works for you.

The Art Thief by Michael Finkel will be the book we'll be discussing at the next meeting on Tuesday, January 28 at Arlene M's home.

"In this spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius, Michael Finkel gives us one of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of our times, a riveting story of art, theft, love, and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost." Amazon

All women are welcome. If you have questions, contact Jane S.

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict will be our book for discussion at our February 25 meeting.

Children & Youth News



Dinner for Sunday Night Youth Fellowship

Are you willing to provide dinner for Sunday Night Youth Fellowship? Trinity Youth enjoy eating together on Sunday nights It is always particularly nice to have a lovingly prepared meal (or lovingly donated!) offered by a member of the Trinity community. If you are willing or interested, please reach out to Rob at directorfmandc@trinityspringfield.org to select a date!



LIGHT@9, Chapel Kids and Sunday Night Youth Fellowship on hiatus until January 26, 2025



Calling All Bakers

Once more we are asking for your cooperation and generosity and encourage all bakers among you to contribute to the "Cookie Fund". The first drop off date is **Thursday, January 9**. We will accept donations any time throughout the Boar's Head weekend. Get those pans and spatulas ready! Thank you. For questions, contact Kris Goold or Lisa Foster.

2025 Boar's Head Festival Calendar



The 2025 Boar's Head calendar will be available at coffee hour on Sunday. This is the last chance to purchase one before BHF weekend when they will be sold during the receptions. The cost is \$20. The calendar features photos from the 2024 festival. Stop by the foyer and get yours before they're gone!



Boar's Head Festival Tickets

There are still seats available for the evening performances - especially Friday and Sunday night. There are also tickets available for afternoon performances. If you need help purchasing tickets, call Colleen Bugbee at 413-486-0381 Best way to get to the ticket site is through the Boar's Head tab on Trinity's website at www.trinityspringfield.org.



We Need Volunteers to Iron



Boar's Head Festival needs people to iron costumes. We have a digital sign-up form and many dates/times. Please scan the QR code to get to the sign-up or put in the HTML address. Instructions will be in the ironing room (the library on the third floor) as well as the costumes to iron. Many hands can make this a short job! Scan the QR code or sign up [here](#).

Thoughts on our Theme "I am the vine; you are the branches."



The vines on our altar stay leafy and green all year round. But we all know that at this time of year most trees, vines, and bushes have lost their leaves and the branches are now bare. Winter is upon us. In spite of the barren look of the branches there is so much going on. Plants are pulling nutrients in through their roots, the sun is helping to turn them into food, and buds are already growing with new leaves and flowers.

Creation gives us a wonderful example of what we can create on these cold winter days if we take care of ourselves. In Week Four from the "Less is More" devotional we were given a list of ideas for self-care. Like plants we will benefit from eating healthy and drinking water. But the devotional's list continues with other suggestions:

- Meditate (or just breathe) for 5 minutes
- Light a candle
- Spend time outdoors
- Fast from complaining
- Start a gratitude journal
- Do a digital detox

Turn to your digital copy to see the complete list or go to www.trinityspringfield.org and click on Advent to download the devotional. Take care of yourself this winter. What is God creating in you?

Collaborative Exhibit



The Trinity Community Gallery January Exhibit will feature artwork by Linda Lastoff and Beverlee Corriveau who have been painting and exhibiting together in many local venues. Linda's current work focuses on New England landscapes and seascapes as well as animal portraits while Beverlee's oil paintings feature flowers, landscapes and portraits. The work of both artists is a testament to their abiding love of art.



Kids and Youth Mid-Year Check-in!



LIGHT@9 Elementary

The kids of LIGHT@9 have done a lot of learning together since the start of the year. Under the care and kindness of Karen Sheffield and Rachel Smythe, they've explored the teachings of Jesus, looked at Jesus' parables, and journeyed through Advent- thinking all about hope, peace, joy, and love!

LIGHT@9 Youth

The youth of LIGHT@9 have been learning how to interpret scripture. Each week, they dig deep into the reading for that week and think about what it says about God and what it says about them. They've also been learning to think theologically- tackling questions like "What does God think about donuts?" and "What do the magi or the shepherd tell us about Jesus?"



Chapel Kids

Inspired by our theme of branches, Chapel Kids create a worship together using their own prayers, thoughts, and creativity. Led by Amelia, they've created candles used in our All Saints worship service and have created a special advent altar.



Youth Fellowship

We've been having such a good time at Youth Fellowship! We've done impromptu sermons, visited Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine, put on our very own Christmas Pageant, and, of course, played a ton of games! Each week, we have a devotional, answer deep questions, and write a prayer together.



Youth Mission Group

Be proud of our Youth Mission Group! So far, they collected over 20 coats to be distributed by the Gray House and they wrote over 100 Christmas cards to spread some cheer throughout the community. They have plenty more ideas and energy- stay tuned to see what they do next!



TRINITY KIDS TEACH ABOUT ADVENT

Throughout Advent, the kids of Trinity worked to define what the candles of Advent mean. They got creative, thought hard, and used their own lives and feelings to make meaning. Here's a small taste of what they came up with:

HOPE

something good is coming
having faith *wanting something positive*
feels encouraging *feels like happiness*
hope feels nice
hope feels motivational
we feel it in our hearts and brain
it feels like a prayer
it makes us feel good and happy
hope is like a friendly dog
hope is like a dove
hope is like a bunny's big eyes

PEACE

quiet *relaxed* *calm*
absence of conflict
hush *companionship* *happy with where you are*
sounds like music *content*
sounds like running water *sounds like a cat purring*
sounds like nature *sounds like the wind through the trees*
peace makes you smile and laugh
peace loosens you up
peace is being in relationship with God

JOY

kindness *exciting* *smiley emoji*
happy
looks like an evergreen
looks like a tulip
looks like nature *looks like bright colors*
looks like a sunflower
looks like a daisy
holy happiness
something we share *comes from within*
comes from God and Jesus

LOVE

acceptance *kind words*
friendliness
a strong feeling that's kind and nice
makes you feel happy
when you feel good around someone
makes you feel important and special
feels like they enjoy being around you
makes you feel appreciated
makes you feel like it is good to be you
God is love

THANK YOU TO THE KIDS OF
TRINITY FOR SHARING THEIR
WISDOM WITH US ALL.



The Carillon

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Springfield, MA 01108
413-737-5311



www.trinityspringfield.org
info@trinityspringfield.org



Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church, welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.



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Minister:
Church Administrator:
Interim Director of Music Ministries:
Director of Family Ministries and Connections:
Administrative Assistant:
Head Sexton:

TRINITY STAFF
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Eileen Drumm Moore
Dr. Christopher White
Rob Powell, M.Div
Doreen Bessey
Carlos Manning

Acolyte Coordinator:
Administrative Council Chair:
Board of Trustees Chair & Vice Chair:
Board of Trustees Treasurer:
Christian Education & Formation Chair:
Investment Committee Chair:
Lay Leader:
Missions Chair:
Publicity/Communications Chairs:
Stewardship & Finance Chair:
Worship Committee Chair:

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Nate Olin
Alan Harwood & Jim Mackie
Erica Weida
Brian Crawford
Russ Moore
Lisa Bakowski
Diane Mackie
Jim & Clara Lee Sharrard
Chad Thompson
TBD