

A Note from the Minister...



“It Hardly Seems Possible”

Most of us have said these words at one time or another, especially during this time of year. We say them every year – only because it is true! It is the Holiday Season again already! We’re glad for this opportunity at this time of year to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and to express love and caring for family, friends, and co-workers. Somehow, the purpose of the occasion becomes obscured by a marathon of eating, buying, wrapping and trying not to overlook someone.

What was meant to be a time of celebrating can often become a stressful overload.

Christmas in the United States has become one gigantic secular holiday. It’s also a holiday that is good for business. Many companies and stores depend financially on the Christmas season. That’s all for the good. Sales of Christmas presents and decorations help put food on the tables of many families. I don’t fault any of this. But it isn’t what I mean by getting ready for Christmas.

Most of us, no matter how caught up we are in the wonder of the celebration, seem to miss what is important about this season. Might I suggest that we keep it simple. We can keep it simple by letting go of the notion that this is going to be the most perfect Christmas ever. Reflect for a moment upon which holiday memories are the sweetest or fondest for you. How many of them revolve around grand spending, elaborate plans and non-stop activities? Reexamine the “rules” you have been using to define what it means to celebrate the holiday season.

On December 24, 2024, on Christmas Eve night, you, your family and friends are invited to our Christmas Eve celebrations. At 5:30 pm there will be a Children’s Service in the Grace Chapel,. At 8:00 pm there will be a Traditional Worship Service with candle lighting in the sanctuary and at 11:00 p.m. there will be a Service of Lessons and Carols. You will see the lights of love on the many faces of family and friends as you celebrate the birth of Jesus, hear the eternal message of God’s love for each of us and rekindle the light of hope in your heart. Come worship with us and be part of these special services.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Your minister,

Dr. C



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Trinity’s office & building will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2024 in observance of Christmas Day!



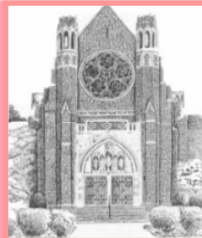
Trinity’s office will be closed Wednesday, January 1, in observance of the New Year!

VISIT US ONLINE AT:
www.trinityspringfield.org



Please Pray for These Members/Friends:

Mary A, Lisa B, Borys B, Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Jean C, Peg C, Mary C, Benard D, Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Mary G, Courtney H, Aurie I, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Bob M, Jan T M, Holly Joy P, Sue P, Daryl P, Claire (L) 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.



December Rose Window

Dec. 4 - In loving memory of Pauline, from Judy & Paula.
Dec. 10 - In loving memory of David C, Jr., from his mom, Barbara.
Dec. 14 - Anonymous

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

Dec. 31 - In honor of her granddaughter, Madison, on her 5th birthday, with love from Deb M (aka Gigi).

Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity friends,



I want to tell you how grateful I am for your prayers, your wonderful cards, your phone calls, and your visits, both during my repeated hospitalizations over the summer, and then for David's passing. These last six months have been very difficult, but your care has made a real difference. You're wonderful!

In thanksgiving for your presence in my life,

Leslie H

A very special thank-you to our guest speakers: Holly Blair, Charles Gray, Julia Gray and Alyssa Boyd. Your love and appreciation of our church shined through your testimonies. We are grateful for your testimonies and for being loving branches of our Trinity family tree.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

A great big THANK YOU to all who came forth and donated turkeys and other items for our Thanksgiving boxes. We got all that we needed. Even after we received enough sign ups, we still had people calling to ask what they could bring. We certainly have a great congregation. God bless you all!

Parkside Pantry and Missions Teams

DECEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Regular Birthdays
Wedding Anniversaries (Italics)
S - Staff

- 12/2 Casey W
- 12/3 Michael J
- 12/4 Claire P
- 12/5 Damond K, Paul W
- 12/6 Owen C, Nancy H, Alex M
- 12/6 Delight P
- 12/7 Chase C
- 12/8 Julia , Sarah C, Elizabeth H
- 12/11 Sandy G, Diane M
- 12/12 Raizel B, Virginia Y
- 12/13 Hannah D, Robert H-R
- 12/14 *Bruce & Sue Ann F*
- 12/15 Catherine T, Andrew V
- 12/16 Holly B, Kelly H, Maliyaah R, Carolyn S
- 12/17 Jean Marie C, Mary Beth O, *Ray & Donna M*
- 12/18 Richard B, Roman P
- 12/19 Killian M, Gborie S, Sarah S
- 12/20 Doug J
- 12/22 Abigail F, Johanna Lee S
- 12/23 Christopher H
- 12/24 Cathy M, Holly Joy P
- 12/25 Anthony O, Holly R
- 12/26 James D
- 12/27 Patricia B, *Berney & Shonali B*
- 12/28 Evan S
- 12/29 Richard C, Susan M-M
- 12/30 Jess H Jr., Emma R
- 12/31 Athena A



Milestone Birthdays 75/Every 5 After & 90 & Over

- 12/11 Kathleen H
- 12/11 Robert H



Milestone Anniversaries Every 5 yrs.
12/13 Lindsey & Mark C

Stewardship Pledges Continue to be Accepted



It has been an inspiring Stewardship Drive as we heard our guest speakers talk about their connections as "branches" of the Trinity tree. What was made clear is that

Trinity is a spiritually strong church with a congregation that values our connections to each other and to our community over many generations. We are a congregation that continues to grow and flourish. New families are finding our church in part due to the variety of programs we offer to all age groups.

To maintain the programs, staff and outreach activities that Trinity is known for, we must be strong financially. Our pledge income is a huge part of that financial support. This year we set a stewardship goal of \$457,600. As of November 26, 2024 we have reached \$341,317. We thank all those who have already made a pledge for 2025. If you have yet to make a commitment, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to help Trinity's roots stay strong and its "branches" many.



To make a pledge scan this QR code, click [TUMC Stewardship 2025 Pledge Form](#) or put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Stewardship Consecration Sunday Luncheon



Luncheon

To show our appreciation, Trinity invites you, your family and friends to join our Celebration Sunday Luncheon which is the culmination of the Stewardship Drive following the worship service on December 8, 2024 in Asbury Hall. Thank you all!



Boar's Head Festival Tickets Now on Sale to the Public

There are still excellent 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 413-364-5671.

While the Patron Ticket Sale period is over, we still are accepting Patron Contributions for those who would like to support the festival monetarily. To be listed in the program as a Patron, please send your contribution into the church by December 10. No form needed. Just indicate BHF on check memo and include how you wish to be listed in program.



Christmas Missions

Christmas Missions 2024

Christmas greetings from the Missions Committee. Usually at this time of year, we ask you to make donations for our Christmas Missions (formerly Christmas is Not Your Birthday). However, you have been very generous over the last year and we want to give you a break.

We all know, though, that natural disasters, food insecurity, health issues, and many other issues plague us locally, nationally, and globally. So, at this time of year, we encourage you to give to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. "Early in and last out" is a guiding principle of UMCOR.

Please consider giving to UMCOR in this Christmas season. You can go to the Trinity Giving page and make your donation or you can mail a check to Trinity and memo it for UMCOR.

Again, the Missions Committee thanks you for all your support of our local and global missions. Please consider giving generously to one or more of these Christmas Missions. When you do so, please indicate the mission or missions to direct your donation or give on-line right click [here](#) and scroll down to missions.

Thank you!

Quote

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

~ Aristotle



Poinsettia Order Forms

It's Time to Order Your "Living Memorial" Christmas Poinsettias!

The deadline for ordering poinsettias is noon on Monday, December 16! The donation for a plant is \$20 this year. Please help beautify our altar this Christmas with Christmas Poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones. **The Poinsettias are in limited supply, so we ask that you only purchase one plant. You may still add additional names on your form, but we must limit all families to one plant each.** We have 45 plants this year.

All plants should be picked up following the Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. service so they can be enjoyed at all the services. If you can't be at that service you can pick them up on Thursday, December 26 at Trinity.

We are asking all that are able to order on-line [here](#). Please just make sure to press the red submit button to get a confirmation email, otherwise won't receive it. Please do this prior to clicking the payment link if you are paying on-line! You will have to go back to the form after if you want to make the payment on-line. After you submit the on-line order form you can mail in the payment or put it in the offering plate if you feel more comfortable.



Christmas Eve Services 2024

5:30 p.m. Children & Family Service - Grace Chapel

8:00 p.m. Traditional Candle Lighting Service - Sanctuary.

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary

Please join us for these special events. All services will be very unique, so consider attending multiple services to worship in different ways.



Advent Study Opportunity An Unlikely Advent

Join Rev. Calhoun for a four week Advent study focusing on the book: *An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story*. This Advent study will focus on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story, while guiding participants through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of these unexpected characters have something to teach us about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. This study is offered Mondays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 at 12noon to 1:30 p.m. in the café, (bring a brown bag lunch). To sign up for the study, email Doreen at doreen@trinityspringfield.org. Please order the book or Kindle version on Amazon [here](#) or wherever you would like to purchase it.

You're invited to a "Less is More" Christmas!

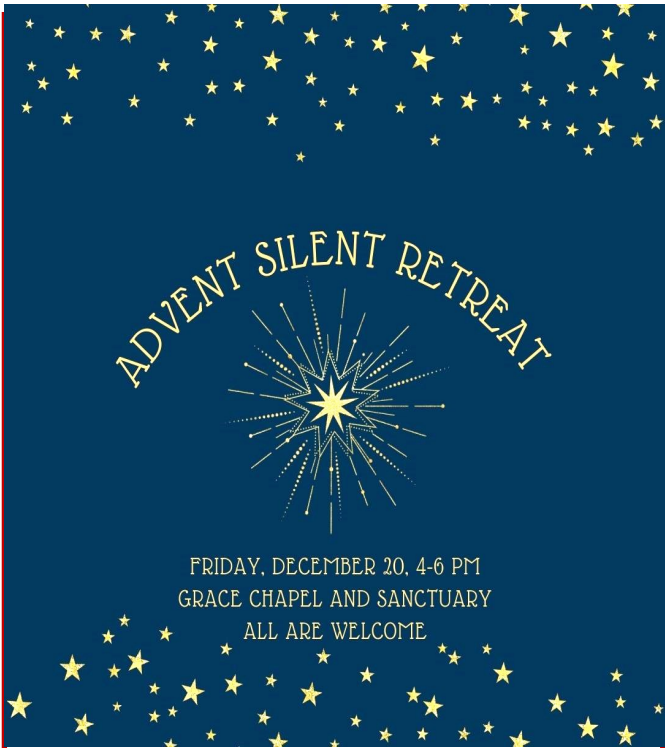


Have you ever looked at a fruit tree after its leaves have fallen? With the branches exposed you may have noticed that some are dead and others are growing tightly against one another as though they are fighting for the same space. With pruning, these trees have a better chance of staying healthy. By removing the dead branches and ones that are keeping other branches from healthy growth the tree has a better chance of bearing a full harvest

of fruit the following year. Less is more.

Perhaps you are feeling this tightness of "more" in your own lives as you prepare for Christmas. Our devotional booklet, "[Less is More](#)" from The Salt Project, invites us to enter into a simpler time during Advent. This year there is also a companion [poster](#) filled with activity ideas for each week of Advent. The booklet includes a weekly devotional including scripture, meditation, and prayer. It also includes directions for some of the activities found on the poster (such as the Advent Body Meditation or The Feast of Saint Lucia).

You can download these resources by clicking on the links in the above paragraph or going to Trinity's website, www.trinityspringfield.org, and clicking on Advent 2024. There will also be a few printed copies at the back of the sanctuary. We hope these resources will help you to "dial back the "more" to get closer to the heart of Advent and Christmas. (The Salt Project)



ADVENT SILENT RETREAT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 4-6 PM
 GRACE CHAPEL AND SANCTUARY
 ALL ARE WELCOME

Advent Silent Retreat

Step away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to spend time in silent contemplation. Advent asks us to wait; let's gather in quiet anticipation of Christ and God's promises fulfilled. The silent retreat will begin with worship together, then retreatants will enter into a time of silence. Retreatants may use that time as they like. Stations and prompts will be available to encourage reflection. We will close with worship together. To inquire or register, please reach out to Rob at directorfmandc@trinityspringfield.org.



Dec. Youth Events

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

December 2024 Youth Events

- Confirmation Class: December 1, 6:00 p.m.
- Confirmation Elective, Advent Silent Retreat, Dec. 7, 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday Night Youth Fellowship: December 8, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday Night Youth Fellowship: December 15, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday Night Youth Fellowship: December 22, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday Night Youth Fellowship will resume on January 26, 2025.*



LIGHT@9 and Chapel Kids Holiday Hiatus

LIGHT@9 (both youth and elementary Sunday School classes) and Chapel Kids will go on hiatus following Sunday, December 22. We look forward to resuming our learning and worship on Sunday, January 26, 2025.



BHF YOUTH SKATING

ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED TO SKATE THE NIGHT AWAY IN CELEBRATION OF BOAR'S HEAD.

JAN 10, 10PM

INTERSTATE 91 SOUTH
 2043 BOSTON RD,
 WILBRAHAM, MA 01095

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10-\$20
 PARENTS/ADULTS ARE WELCOME TO COME.
 PERMISSION SLIPS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT BOAR'S HEAD.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION.



Calling All Bakers

It's time to start thinking about Boar's Head Festival and the delicious cookies our guests enjoy after the shows. The receptions after the performances are a special time for fellowship and provide a wonderful opportunity for Trinity to show its hospitality. Again, we are asking for your help and we encourage all bakers among you to contribute to the "Cookie Fund." The first drop off date is Thursday, January 11. Donations are welcome any time throughout the Boar's Head weekend. Get those pans and spatulas ready! Thank you. For questions, contact Kris Gould or Lisa Foster.



Chapel Chair Capital Campaign

Trinity's Chapel chairs have served us well for almost 100 years, but they have reached a point that they are no longer comfortable or safe to use. Trustees are replacing these chairs and we want to make sure that the new chairs last just as long. We have selected a wood chair that matches the chapel, is solid and stable, and is more comfortable and sized correctly for our congregation.

The cost per chair is \$300. Trustees need your help. Are you willing to buy a chair or a part of a chair and help us keep Trinity usable for the next century? **Any size donation is greatly appreciated.**

Click here: [For more information and to pledge](#) or Scan the QR code



Makers' Market—Sunday, December 8, 12-2 p.m. in the Gallery

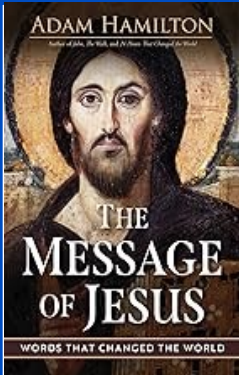
Maker's Market Features crafts by Trinity members. Crochet, macrame, cards, sewn items, jewelry, prints, kitchen goodies and more.



A Program of Prison Fellowship

Angel Tree

We are looking for people to help deliver the Angel Tree gifts to local families. Please contact Kristina Stone at angeltree@trinityspringfield.org if you can help or see her after worship on Sunday, December 8. Thank you for supporting this very special ministry.



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 for the study email Doreen at doreen@trinityspringfield.org.



Artists at the Crossroads

The December exhibit in the Trinity Community Gallery will feature the art of Artists at the Crossroads, a small group of professional artists from Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. They represent a body of work covering all mediums and styles of fine art including traditional, contemporary and three dimensional. Stop in before or after worship to view this exciting exhibit!



A Message from the Director of Music Ministries

Greetings Trinity Church friends.

As we continue to move into this very busy season, I wanted to take the time to clarify some of the music program schedule:

Youth Choirs - Rehearsal and Performance Schedule:

Sunday, Dec. 8th

Choristers and Chamber Choir sing in worship at 10:30am. Please meet in the Choir Room at 10 a.m. to robe and rehearse. No afternoon rehearsals due to my organ recital at Providence Place.

Sunday, Dec. 15th

Choristers rehearse at 12:15- 1:00 p.m. in the Choir Room
Chamber Choir rehearse at 1:00- 1:45 p.m. in the Choir Room

Sunday, Dec. 22nd

Choristers and Chamber Choir sing in worship at 10:30 a.m. Please meet in the Choir Room at 10 a.m. to robe and rehearse. No afternoon rehearsals

All afternoon rehearsals for the Choristers, Chamber Choir, and Youth Hand Bell Choir will resume on Sunday, January 26, 2025

Chancel and Bell Choir rehearsal schedule: There will be no Chancel Choir and no Hand Bell Choir rehearsals on the 26th of December. Chancel Choir and Hand Bell Choir are both off on Sunday the 29th of December.

Weekly Organ Recitals: Beginning on Saturday the 7th of December at 2:30 p.m. and continue each Saturday at the same time, I will present an organ recital. The programs are free and open to the public and will run from 30 to 45 minutes.

Upcoming programs are as follows:

Recital 1 – 7. December 2024 “Couperin Mass for the Convents”

Recital 2 – 14. December 2024 “The Music of Sweelinck part 1”

Recital 3 – 21. December 2024 “French Baroque – part 1”

Recital 4 – 28. December 2024 “There’s more to Pachelbel than the Canon”

Weekly Carillon Recitals continue on the 8th of December: Each Sunday at 5:30 p.m., I offer carillon recitals at 5:30 p.m. The programs will generally run for 30 to 45 minutes.

Recital at Providence Place: In lieu of a Choir and Hand Bell Concert, I will be playing an organ recital at Providence Place on the 8th of December, at 2pm. (This will mean a break from rehearsal that day for Choristers, Chamber Choir, Youth Bell Choir. Please see above.)

Wishing all of you a happy, blessed, and spiritually fulfilling Advent and Christmas seasons!

Anthony Lamouit

Director of Music Ministries



The Carillon
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 361 Sumner Avenue
 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.



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

TRINITY STAFF

Rev. Dr. David Calhoun
 Anthony Lamourt
 Eileen Drumm Moore
 Rob Powell
 Doreen B. Bessey
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Acolyte Coordinator:
Administrative Council Chair:
Adult Education Coordinator:
Board of Trustees Chair & Vice Chair:
Board of Trustees Treasurer:
Investment Committee Chair:
Lay Leader:
Membership & Evangelism Chair:
Missions Chair:
Publicity/Communications Chairs:
Staff-Parish Relations Chair:
Stewardship & Finance Chair:
Worship Committee Chairs:

2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tina Warren
 Nate Olin
 Erica Weida
 Alan Harwood & Jim Mackie
 Erica Weida
 Russ Moore
 Mike Rust & Sandra Collins
 Wendy Regan
 Diane Mackie
 Jim & Clara Lee Sharrard
 Sara McKeown
 Chad Thompson
 Kelly Henry & Cathy MacGovern

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worship@trinityspringfield.org