

December 2022
TRINITY CALLING

Trinity United Church of Christ
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Grace and Peace to the Body of Christ in Tiffin!

Happy New Year!

Wait! What?!...No, you read that right. The season of Advent signals the beginning of a brand-new, shiny year full of promise and hope. During Advent, we practice a kind of spiritual waiting in which we wait expectantly for the shiny, new, and hopeful things God will do in our world through Jesus the Christ.



As we wait, we meditate on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love and reflect on how we have experienced and still need each of these. We look to God expectantly to guide, heal, and transform this world into one filled to the brim with God's presence.

To help our community practice this spiritual waiting, we have advent devotionals available, and we will hold brief prayer services every Wednesday evening throughout Advent (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, & 12/21). Each service will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will feature different groups of our musicians.

Then on Dec. 24, join us as we fill our sanctuary with music and candlelight, celebrating God's gift to the world, the Prince of Peace, our Teacher of the way of Love, and our sibling in faith, Jesus the Christ. Our service will begin at 7 p.m. Bring a friend and help us kick-off the Christmas season!

Lastly, on both Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 2023, we will hold services only at 10:30 a.m. Our first service (contemporary/homestyle) has been cancelled for both those dates.

With all that said, in the meantime I encourage you to think about how you will engage the Advent and Christmas seasons. What are you waiting for? How are you expecting God to appear, help, restore, and transform what is into what God has in mind? What gift does Jesus the Christ bring to your life, our community, and the world? See you at church!

In the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ,
Pastor Karsten

Mission Emphasis for December

Crossroad Child & Family Services

Crossroad is a faith-based, nonprofit treatment provider for troubled children and their families. Behind that simple description is an extensive list of therapy, education, and family support services provided both to children who live on our campus and in the surrounding community. Located in Ft. Wayne, IN, it provides services for children in the tri-state area of IN, OH and MI. Crossroad is one of the largest providers for treating seriously troubled children and families in the Midwest.



Crossroad provides a team consisting of a chaplain, case managers, teachers, therapists, housekeepers, cooks, nurses, and others – working together to build promising futures for children. They come to Crossroad through a variety of avenues. Judges, mental health professionals, public service agencies, counselors, and educators may refer children to Crossroad to receive services. Some youth come to us through and with their families.

The German Reformed Church in the United States, a predecessor of today's United Church of Christ, established Crossroad in 1883 as "The Reformed Orphan's Home of Fort Wayne, Indiana." Trinity has been a longtime supporter of Crossroad. Your donation will support these children during this Christmas season. Thank you!



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for the lovely yellow bouquet given by Lewis Miller. My favorite color is yellow. And thank you to Shari Beidelschies for delivering them.

Bernie Durer

The Christmas Fund



The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over one hundred years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. A donation to the Christmas Fund is a way of thanking those who provided spiritual guidance and development throughout our lives. Thank you!



New Year's Resolution

One Sunday, Pastor Karsten and I were talking about member attendance and how we could encourage our members to attend church. I was telling Pastor about how I was a Dental Hygienist for many years, and that I would encourage my patients to make a New Year's Resolution or goal about flossing because, admit it, many people do not floss. So, I would encourage them to make a resolution or goal to floss at least 1x a day or start with a couple times a week. You are probably wondering why I am talking about New Year's Resolutions and flossing in a church newsletter. Well, we want to encourage our members whom we haven't seen lately to make a New Year's Resolution now. That resolution or goal could be to come to church at least 1 or 2x a month. We understand life can get busy so we don't expect you to be in church every Sunday even though that would be great. Please consider visiting Trinity at least 1x a month. We would love to see you and reconnect with you. And don't forget to floss!!!!

Pat Powers

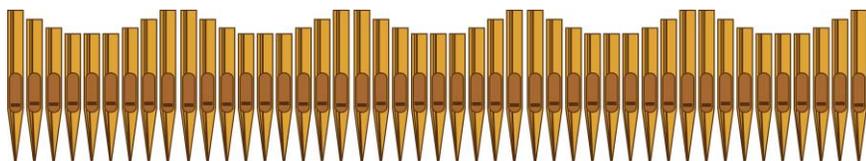
Organ Re-dedication

Our organ has been refurbished and updated and is back in the choir loft sounding better than ever! In celebration of its return, as well as a thank you to all the donors who made it possible, we are planning a formal re-dedication concert for Sunday, March 19, 2023, at 3:00 pm. Joan McConnell, our previous organist, has worked with representatives from the Muller Pipe Organ Company for the past several years to consider the instrument's problems and determine possible solutions.



She was also the chief fundraiser for the major project, promoting it within our congregation as well as contacting former organ students from Heidelberg University who studied on this instrument throughout their college years. She has invited several of those former students to perform on the re-dedication concert along with her and our present organist, Blake Depinet. We are most grateful to the family of Richard and Irene Woods, who directed their generous bequest toward the organ, which is so vital to our worship at Trinity UCC. The re-dedication concert is an opportunity for us to celebrate the return of our wonderful instrument, as well as to thank the Woods family and all donors who contributed to its renovation. We will reveal more details about the afternoon as they unfold. Meanwhile, save the date!

Vicki Ohl



Dear Trinity,

Many thanks for your hospitality in hosting NWOA's retired clergy luncheon. A special thanks to Pastor Karsten and to Joan who helped us coordinate the event by responding quickly to our request. Thanks also to everyone who set up tables and organized the luncheon space.

We heard many positive comments about the luncheon venue! Thanks again!

Church Ministry of NWOA

BLESS OUR NEST

Isn't it great to be able to have Coffee Hour again?! Of course, Sunday mornings are for worshipping together as a congregation! That comes first! But we cannot underestimate the time when we are able to have fellowship after the service, have conversations and share stories, laugh, and soothe those in need!

Do you enjoy that time? I think we all do! Just looking forward to grabbing a cookie, get your coffee or punch and looking for a seat where we can sit for awhile and visit and share is something to look forward to each Sunday. After a wonderful sermon, of course!

Currently, Coffee Hour are hosted by committees on a rotation schedule to serve as hosts each month. Cookies are the "store bought" variety that be offered from the freezer for a couple of weeks. Good, but we could make it better!

A suggestion was made to get some volunteers to supply our cookie table with some homemade fare to make the coffee hour even better! This would take some of the obligation off the committee members (some of which only have 5-6 members) to bring cookies every Sunday along with the hosting duties.

Also many folk serve on more than one committee! We don't want to have all the fun doing the baking! Right??

So we are looking for people to be cookie bakers on a Sunday of your choice! A sign-up form has been placed on the cookie table by the punch for volunteers to be cookie bakers on a Sunday of their choice. Every now and then or just be willing if we are in need.

You may have already indicated, on the time and talent form the stewardship committee provided, your willingness to bake for events. You can still indicate on the sign-up form if you would be willing to help with this. So we can update our info now!

Thanks so much to all those who are on committee and have served as hosts (since June when we started again.) That fellowship time is invaluable! We appreciate them all!

If you have any questions you can contact Andrea Foltz or Shari Beidelschies. Meanwhile – find the list and sign up!

Thanks and "Blessings on Our Nest!"

Bless This Nest



Shari Beidelschies

Council News

Church & Ministry

1. With a recommendation from Church & Ministry, board approved Christmas bonuses for full-time staff at \$500, part-time staff \$300.

Property

1. Reported purchasing winter mats to protect foyer floor.
2. Doing painting and repair to elevator and hall way.

Worship and Music

1. Invested in rhythm instruments for the children at Contemporary service.
2. Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. All are welcome.
3. The organ will be rededicated on March 19 at 3 p.m.

Pastor's Report

- 1 Evening services planned to run throughout Advent at 6:15 on Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec 7, 14, 21.
2. There will be a special service – a Blue Christmas/Longest Night service on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. For those grieving loss at holiday season.

Stewardship Campaign

1. Will work in Dec. to follow up with final numbers/lingering members.
2. Will compile results from Promise Sheets as they are returned.

New Business

1. Fran Fleet, president, informed Council of progress of sale of Richard and Yvonne Miller House and will work with New Beginning Church to finalize deposit.



Council Secretary
Shari Beidelschies

Trinity Staff

Rev. Karsten Snitker (He, him his) (Ki-fellow earth being)
pastor.karsten @trinityucctiffin.com
For Pastoral emergency, call or text 608-807-9268
Blake Depinet, Interim Organist
Vicki Ohl, Interim Chancel Choir Director
Lynn Huenmann, Handbell Choir Director
Karen Halcomb, Treasurer

Stewardship Blessing

Our Tithes are essential to keep the church open.

The gift of oneself is monumental
in maintaining the BE THE CHURCH that we value.

Fellowship is one of GOD's kindred Spirits.

Participation should be an opportunity.

How do we model "generosity"? Kindness, Charity, Big-hearted,
Considerate, Benevolent.

Thank you everyone for the loving generosity you give of your time,
talent and monetary gifts. Your dedication and involvement ensure the church
doors to remain open to everyone.

We would like to thank all who assisted with this Stewardship
Campaign again this year. We would especially like to thank our four
Motivational Speakers. Larry Cook, Lynn Heuerman Larry Kisabeth and
Mollie Lyndhurst who inspired us with enthusiasm on the topic of BE THE
CHURCH. And Thank you to the Arts Committee for arranging the
Stewardship Altar display at the rear of the sanctuary.

Please return all pledge cards and Promise sheets to the church office
no later than Nov. 30 by end of day. If you did not receive a pledge card,
please contact the church office and one will be mailed to you. Prayerfully
Submitted, the Stewardship Campaign Committee. Thank you.





Dear Trinity,

Thank you Barbara and Roy Zinn for your contribution to Trinity Church for the beautiful flowers that you shared with us on our 58th anniversary. We celebrated an anniversary lunch at Good Shepherd with the flowers as a center piece on our table in the dining room. They are still beautiful a week and a half later.

Dan and Laura Johnson

Dear Trinity,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers from Janet and Howard Beisner on Nov. 15. They brightened up my area. I had a lovely visit with Shari Beidelschies. She brought me up-to-date with the church's happenings.

Bernie Durer

Dear Trinity,

Thank you Shari for the nice visit and bringing the lovely flowers furnished by Carol Roush. I enjoyed the cards, phone calls and TWT donation to help me celebrate my birthday.

Jeanne Becker

Dear Trinity Church,

We want to thank you for the lovely flowers given to us. Also we want to thank Shari Beidelschies for the enjoyable visit.

Jane and Bill Wickham

Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers we received in honor of our 35th wedding anniversary. They were provided by Grant and Judy Kneeskern and delivered by Shari Beidelschies. We appreciated your thoughtfulness.

Steve and Marilyn Kleinhenz

Dear Members of Trinity,

Thank you so much for your cards, your words of kindness and your hugs for me through Jim Harmon's illness and his passing on to a new life.

Sue Pfaff



General Memorial

Jim Harmon by Bill and Jackie Harmon

Mary Alice Wagner by Sue and Randy Halen

Mary Alice Wagner by Bill and Jackie Harmon

Mary Alice Wagner by Roy and Barbara Zinn

Organ Fund

Mary Alice Wagner by Norman and Kathleen Rose



Christmas crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

Cookie sheets.

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

Ornamints.

What is an elf's favorite kind of music?

Wrap music!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?

Elfies.

