



TRINITY TIMES



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DECEMBER 2024



"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jer. 29.11

Greetings, Trinity Presbyterian Church family.

These words are never more true than for you all and for me as well. On May 19th, 2024 after 18 years, 8 months, and 8 days (but who's counting!) I said goodbye to St. Charles Presbyterian church as their pastor as I transitioned into the world of retirement. And as the entire congregation and friends from around the country donned their Mickey Mouse ears, I sang my final benediction with these words: "Through the years, we'll all be friends, wherever we may be. J-e-s; u-s-Ch; r-i-s and t. Now it's time to say goodbye to all our company. J-e-s- (See you real soon) u-s-Ch; (Why? because Margaret and I love you. r-i-s and t. So long!

Little did I know that 5 months and 6 days later I would be coming out of retirement to be Trinity Presbyterian Church's transitional pastor. But again, who's counting! As most of us know God is the Lord of mystery, blessings, and yes, surprises! Especially if you are open to God's transformational and challenging Spirit. So, like a trapeze artist who lets go of one trapeze but hasn't quite grabbed hold of the next, it's with excitement and hope (and yes a little anxiousness) I'm joining you all at TPC in your journey of discovery and affirmation as you all prepare to love and welcome your next pastor in the coming year.

So let me tell you a little bit about myself and my family. I grew up as a Southern Baptist in South Kansas City, six houses from a very prominent Catholic Church, and was guided to the Presbyterian Church as a thirteen-year-old. These, as well as my many days on our family farm in Macks Creek Missouri, had a profound impact on my faith and who I am today. Graduating from Baylor University I began what I thought was a career in the field of social service with juvenile delinquents, while my wife, Margaret, served the church as a Christian Ed./Youth Director. I figured my own personal experience as a juvenile delinquent could be a benefit. But like I said earlier, God is the Lord of mystery, blessings, and yes, surprises! And we found ourselves selling our house and moving to Pittsburgh (with our two children) so that I could start seminary to be a P.C.U.S.A minister. And after accepting a call to Church of the Cross in Omaha, Nebraska, Margaret went back to school for her M.S.W. to be a social worker. Thirty five years later, after serving four churches, as a student pastor, associate pastor, mission pastor, and head of staff pastor, I bring all those experiences to the good people of TPC.

I look forward to you all meeting my loving, fun, and supportive family during this next year. Margaret and I are blessed with two children and their growing families. Bethany is married to Autumn, and they have a five-month-old son Benton and live in North Carolina. While Jordan is married to Era and they have a two-year-old and a one-year-old, Julien and Violette and live in St. Louis. Margaret and I also have two fur babies (border collies) Estes and Summit who keeps us active and loved.

With anticipation and thanksgiving,
Reverend Ronnie Osborn



Reminder

**Hanging of the
Greens
Saturday,
November 29
9:00 a.m.-Noon**

**Join your Trinity friends in
getting the church ready for
Advent & Christmas.**

There are multiple trees to decorate, wreaths to hang, and other items to display. The Fellowship Committee will provide morning refreshments.



Welcome
Reverend Ronnie Osborn

Join us after worship on Sunday, December 8, as we welcome our new transitional pastor, Rev. Ronnie Osborn, and his wife, Margaret, at a reception in the Fellowship Hall. This will be Ronnie's first Sunday preaching at Trinity. We hope you can be present to offer the Osborns a warm Trinity "Welcome!"

Trinity News

December Worship Schedule

*** Sunday, December 1, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

First Sunday of Advent

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. RIM Massey

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Epistle Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Sermon: "Looking Back"

Theme: Our Advent worship helps us give voice to our yearning for the return of Christ and this yearning may help us live into this season.

*** Sunday, December 8, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

Second Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn

Special music by Trinity's choir

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 17:1-9

Second Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:26-31

Sermon: "Wait Upon the Lord – with Faith and Hope!"

Theme: We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds – a Savior.

*** Sunday, December 15, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

Third Sunday of Advent

*** Sunday, December 22, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*** Tuesday, December 24, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve/Candlelight & Communion

Rev. Bob Balwanz will lead us in this special Christmas Eve celebration.

*** Sunday, December 29, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

* In person service, *and* live-streamed on Facebook.



Christmas Joy Offering Received December 22

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we prepare the way for the leaders of our Church—past, present and future.

50% of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired Church workers and their families in their time of need.

50% of our gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equip communities of color.

Gifts can be made by check, cash, or online. Special envelopes will be available on 12/22 for in-person worshippers.



Sunday School Classes

9:15-10:10 a.m.

Classes for all ages, kindergarten through adult.

Please join us!

Last day of Sunday School for 2024 is December 22.

Special Advent Activity for Kids

Sunday December 22 the Christian Education Committee has planned a time of crafts and games for our elementary students during the regular Sunday School time (9:15 – 10:00 a.m.)

All children K-5th grade are welcome! Please let a member of the Christian Education Committee know if your child will be attending so we can be sure to have enough supplies for everybody.

We Welcome New Member Chris Bouchard



At the stated meeting on November 19, session joyfully welcomed Chris Bouchard, husband of Ann Bouchard, into membership. Chris joined by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian—Columbia.

Chris works part time for the Missouri United Methodist Foundation in a program called the Clergy and Church Financial Ministry (C2FM). Chris retired from the University of Missouri in 2016, where he was the Director of the Small Business Development Centers.

While at First Presbyterian Church, Chris was ordained as an elder and a deacon, served as chair of the Board of Trustees, and on the Finance Committee. He has also served as the treasurer for Missouri Union Presbytery.

Chris is currently a Trustee for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, and he serves on the boards of Love Coffee, the Rotary Clubs of Columbia Foundation and the MU Retirees Association.

Chris and Ann have two married daughters and six granddaughters.



Food Bank Barrels

The Food Bank Barrels will remain in the Church lobby through Sunday, December 1st.

Trinity News



Wait Upon the Lord

The season of Advent is characterized by waiting—
waiting upon the Lord for his presence
to be revealed to us on Christmas.



This year our worship series for Advent, will focus on this theme to: “Wait Upon the Lord!” Each week will look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us. Please, join us in person or on-line as we **Wait Upon the Lord, with Faith, Hope, Rejoicing, and Gratitude** as a church family!

Week 1 • Wait Upon the Lord with Faith (Galatians 3:8): Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God’s Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.

Week 2 • Wait Upon the Lord with Hope (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

Week 3 • Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.

Week 4 • Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude (Psalm 9:1): Zechariah’s waiting days for John the Baptist’s birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord’s promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior’s birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.



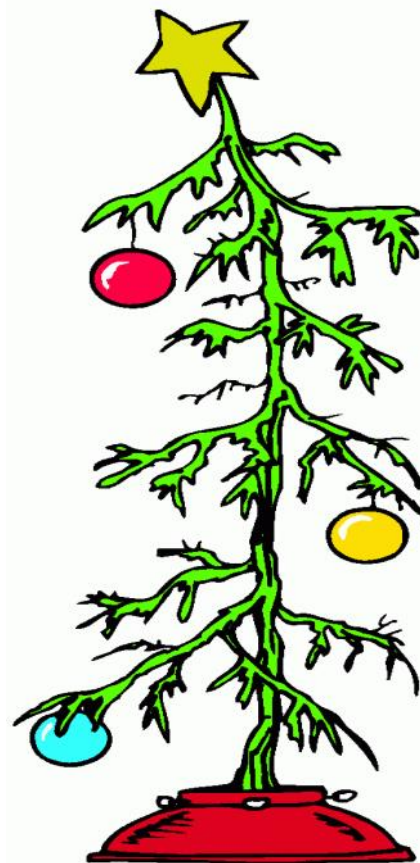
Monthly Musings by Jim West

The beginning of the new church year on the first of Advent is a time of profound significance in the Christian liturgical calendar. Advent, derived from the Latin word “adventus” meaning “coming” or “arrival,” marks a period of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, setting the stage for a spiritual journey that culminates in the joyous celebration of Christ’s birth.

The first Sunday of Advent is a time of hope and renewal. It invites believers to reflect on the themes of expectation and longing, not only for the historical coming of Jesus in Bethlehem but also for His promised return. This dual focus on past and future underscores the timeless nature of the Advent season. Churches often light the first candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing hope and the light of Christ entering the world.

Advent also encourages personal and communal reflection. It is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts and minds through prayer, repentance, and acts of kindness. The liturgical readings and hymns during this period emphasize themes of prophecy, fulfillment, and the coming kingdom of God. As the new church year begins, Advent serves as a reminder of the continuous cycle of renewal and the ever-present hope found in the Christian faith.

Advent ends on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Following Advent, the Sundays leading up to January 6th are known as the Sundays of Christmastide. This period, also known as the Twelve Days of Christmas, celebrates the birth of Jesus and continues until Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. These Sundays provide an extended time to reflect on the significance of Christ’s birth and the manifestation of God’s love in the world.



Trinity News

Holiday Breakfast

Sunday, December 29, 2024

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Come join your Trinity friends as we gather for a holiday breakfast before church on Sunday, December 29.

Bring your favorite breakfast casserole, holiday bread or fruit to share as we celebrate the year-end and welcome the coming year of 2025!



Mission Soup Supper Recap

What a remarkable evening! A Big Thank You to Stephanie Yoakum from the **COMO Mobile Aid Collective**. Their care for the citizens of Columbia who are experiencing homelessness shows compassion, a deep understanding of the needs and an unwavering ability to find ways to address those needs. It was also an event where the many blessings of Trinity were evident. From easily and automatically forming a team to provide a variety of soups, set up the room, offer Grace, clean-up dishes and best of all enjoy each other's company. A \$624 free-will offering was collected for the COMO Mobile Aid Collective.

James 2:14-17, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother, or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and well fed' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Church-Wide December Mission Project

Sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee
Serving our Columbia citizens experiencing homelessness



During the Christmas season our Church is gathering needed items for the COMO Mobile Aid volunteers to distribute through their services where all experience homelessness: adults, young adults, families with children, and a growing cohort of older adults.

If you can contribute, please select your gift(s) from the items listed below. No need to wrap your gifts. Just place them in the containers located in the Narthex.

Bring your gifts from December 1- December 22.

YEAR-ROUND NEEDS

They're always in need of survival amenities to make life a little easier.

- Tents and tarps
- Sleeping bags
- Bottled water
- Sturdy, gently used shoes
- Boots of all sizes and genders

COLD WEATHER NEEDS

- Warm blankets
- Hand warmers (Hot Hands)
- Winter coats
- Hoodies
- Sweatpants
- Hats and beanies
- Gloves
- Warm/thick socks
- Candles
- Batteries

This is an Amazon link that CoMo Mobile Aid Collective provided for ideas: [WINTER WISHLIST](#) →

Short Term Prayer Requests

Sondra Ricketts—still having issues with vertigo and recovery from hiatal hernia surgery

Anne Stahr—now at Lake George Assisted Living on Richland Rd. Webb is staying with her.

Jim West— preparing for treatment for pancreatic cancer

Long Term Prayer Requests

Lou Boka - father of Samantha Boka (George), who is under-going treatment for cancer

Paul Conditt - Sarah Humfeld's father, who has health issues

Carol Lewis—sister of Georgia Morehouse, lives in Rockville, MD, and is undergoing treatment for chronic myelomonocytic leukemia and recovering from a fall.

Esther Muench Plonk - Jim Muench's mother, who suffers from dementia

Our Deepest Sympathy

To Maria Dawson and the entire Dawson Family—Rev. Dr. C. W. Dawson, Jr. died Sunday, November 24th. A service will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Missouri United Methodist Church. Trinity will host a meal for the family after the service.

Trinity News

Christmas Caroling on December 22



Christmas Caroling by the congregation will be Sunday, December 22. Please join the Sanctuary Choir at a potluck lunch following worship. Bring a side dish to share. The choir will provide the main dishes. Following the meal, carolers will receive songbooks and car route maps. We will carol in the daylight to elderly members of our congregation. These members always enjoy the holiday spirit of our caroling. All are welcome, so join choir members on December 22 and enjoy the spirit of the holiday season by caroling—Fa-la-la-la-la! Contact Fran Muench if you have questions.



Highlights from the November Stated Session Meeting

Trinity's session met on Tuesday evening, November 19, with the Rev. Kathie Jackson moderating.

- ◆ Welcomed Chris Bouchard as a new member by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian—Columbia;
- ◆ Elected Elder Susan Winkelmann to serve as Clerk of Session in 2025;
- ◆ Approved the baptism of Rev. Ronnie Osborn's grandson on December 22, 2024, during worship.
- ◆ Approved session committee chairs and vice-chairs for 2025;
- ◆ Approved removing Maggie Winkelmann Sevrin from the active roll at her request;
- ◆ Approved a 2025 operating budget of \$374,004.
- ◆ Approved a request from the February 15th Fund Committee to use the 2025 distribution from the February 15 endowment for improvements to the Memorial Garden;
- ◆ Received the October operating budget report:

2024 Income (as of 10-31-24)	\$343,930.34
2024 Expenses (as of 10-31-24)	\$302,123.74
YTD Income/Expenses (10-31-24)	\$ 41,806.60
- ◆ Heard a report that \$624 was donated at the Mission Soup Supper for COMO Mobile Aid Collective.



We're Celebrating Our Good Neighbor, Russell Blvd. Elementary School Teachers and Staff

With sweet treats and desserts!

The treats will be delivered Monday morning December 9th.



All Men of Trinity are invited to meet for breakfast on **Wednesday, December 11, at 8:00 a.m.** at JJ's Café, 1712 N. Providence Rd. **Please join us!**

Fiber Fellowship
Saturday, January 25, 2025
(We are skipping December)

10-12 in the Youth Room
All are welcome!



We have a wonderful gift of several boxes of yarn. The COMO Mobile Aid Collective and Operation School Bell (OSB) could use hats! The OSB program has a suggested hat pattern to use. Chris Sheriff is available to guide your hat creation.

TO READ THE PASTOR'S PREVIOUS WEEK'S SERMON OR TO VIEW THE SERVICE VIDEO

go to:

<https://www.trinity-presbyterian.org/archives>

Submissions for Trinity Times?
The deadline for the January Trinity Times is
December 20, 2024.

Email: newsletter@trinity-presbyterian.org
Kyle Groshong is our editor.



Trinity News

December News for Presbyterian Women

Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!! I can't believe Advent is upon us as we look forward to gathering in our circles during this special Church Season.

Evening Circle will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, in the Fellowship Hall; and will be bringing gifts for their adopted V.A.C. family.

Afternoon Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on December 4 in the Fellowship Hall; and, as has been our custom, bring some "goodies" to share for our holiday fellowship. Watch for e-mails from your circle chair for more information.

Lesson 4, "Water Justice" is the topic we'll be discussing in our "Let Justice Roll Down" Horizon Bible Study. Please come prepared to share your insights on water, the gift of life. Any questions, please call me at 573-447-0552.



Build connections by joining one of these small groups:



Fiber Fellowship - Meets the 4th Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m. - noon, in the Youth Room. Karen Neely and Chris Sheriff are contacts.

Geocaching - Is still getting organized. Delbert Botes and Chris Sheriff are contacts.

Dining Out - Would love to see you. Cathy and Larry Holder are contacts.

Men's Breakfast - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at JJ's Cafe on North Providence Road. All men of Trinity are invited.

Senior Singles - Arranges activities 6-8 times a year. Contact the church office to be put on the email list.

Mahjong Group - Meets Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Karen Kennedy is the contact.

Women's Coffee Group - Meets the second Friday of each month to socialize at Love Coffee on the Business Loop, 9:30 am. All women are invited!



Notes from The Organ Bench By Jim West

Ah, the church organ – the grand, majestic beast that can make the walls tremble and the congregation sit up straight. There's something almost magical about this king of instruments, isn't there? At my church in Saint Louis, Marvin Park United Methodist, the organ was a venerable Rogers Alexandria. And like most large electronic organs of its vintage, it had the ability to transpose up or down with the push of a button. Which is a very useful feature, but the Alexandria model had transposition presets right above the black keys on the great organ manual and it also had a quirk that if two presets were pressed at once, it got confused and would transpose at will, every few seconds. It was a peaceful Sunday morning. The congregation was seated, I had just delivered a heartfelt sermon, and then it happens – While playing the introduction to the closing hymn The organist managed to press both of the transpose keys at once and even though she was playing perfectly, the Organ was selecting a new key every 10 seconds or so. Everyone jumps, and a few hymnals hit the floor. I paused, smiled, and said, "Well, I guess that's one way to wake up the congregation after the sermon"

Then there was the Easter service when our organist, perhaps inspired by the joyous occasion, decided to add a bit of flair to the postlude. As the congregation began to leave, the organ erupted into a rendition of "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles. The smiles and laughter that followed were a testament to the unexpected joy music can bring.

And let's not forget the time a neighborhood cat decided to join the service. Midway through a solemn hymn, a curious feline strolled across the keys, adding an impromptu and rather discordant solo. The organist, red-faced but laughing, managed to shoo the cat away.

Despite these moments, or perhaps because of them, the organ remains a beloved part of our worship life together.

Dear Church Family,

As we approach the Advent season, I am filled with joy to share some exciting updates from our music ministry. First and foremost, we are thrilled to be working closely with our new pastor in planning meaningful musical worship experiences for the upcoming weeks. The collaboration has already proven to be inspiring, and we look forward to supporting his ministry through our music.

Our choir has been diligently preparing a beautiful selection of Christmas music that we will present throughout the Advent season. The dedication and talent of our members continue to uplift our worship services, and we are excited to share these special performances with our congregation.

Please note that the choir will take a well-deserved break between Christmas and New Year's, allowing our members to spend time with their families during this special season.

On a personal note, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued prayers for my father, Jim West, our beloved organist and accompanist, as he faces health challenges. Your support means the world to our family, and we are blessed to be part of such a caring church community.

Looking forward to celebrating this blessed season with all of you.

In Christ's Service, James West



Music News
with
J. West,
Director of Music

Trinity News



Trinity Library - Book Highlight

with Marianne Fues,
Trinity Librarian

Were They Wise Men or Kings : The book of Christmas Questions by Joseph J. Walsh

Questions about Christmas ... Where did Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer come from? Who wrote Santa's biography? Whose idea was it to display Christmas Nativity scenes? Were they wise men or kings? What are frankincense and myrrh, anyway? Was Ebenezer Scrooge based on anyone in particular? Why do we celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25? Is Christmas commercialism new? Who invented the Christmas card? Have guns ever been part of Christmas celebration?

These are a few of the fifty questions that Joseph Walsh addresses. He says Christmas is about everything. "... Christmas touches upon virtually every aspect of human history, belief, thought, and behavior." This is a quick, fun, easy to read book!

Check out the Adult Library and the Children's Library! Feel free to check out books of interest. The three ring binders used for checking out books are available with each collection. Please feel free to ask for help and to recommend books for purchase!



Christmas Angel Tree

Each year at Christmas we recognize the valuable contribution the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) provides for: Children in foster care, single parent families, mentors to help children overcome challenging behavior or long-term struggles, and statewide virtual counseling appointments.

Using both emergency and long-term placement solutions, transitional housing, counseling centers and medical care management, PCHAS lovingly provides the support needed by nearly 4,500 children and families across 3 states.

Our Trinity tradition is to bring (or send) \$5 tucked inside a Christmas card to Church. (If you bring your card, it can be placed in the basket on a table next to the Adult Library door.) The cards will be displayed on the bulletin board outside the Adult Library. A Christmas tree will feature ornaments with each donor's name. Your donation will be sent to the PCHAS. Checks can be made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church with PCHAS in the memo line.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

We will begin distributing the 2024 edition of our church directory on Sunday, December 8. We will initially provide one copy per household. Members of the Congregational Care Committee will help take directories to our homebound members.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE - God's Work, Our Hands



We are looking forward to serving next on

Thursday, December 12th
4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

The number of meals we serve each month continues to increase, so your support for this important mission is greatly appreciated. Please use the link sent out in the Friday emails to sign up to donate food items or to serve. We are always grateful for monetary donations as well.

Thanks to some generous monetary contributions we have received we will be purchasing all of the food in December. We will still need servers.

Please call Susan or Bob Winkelmann if you have questions.

The Wardrobe:

Columbia's
all volunteer,
non-profit thrift store

A monthly sign up form for volunteers is on the kiosk in the church narthex, or volunteers can call Anne Seymour.



Trinity's day to work is
Wednesday, December 18th
and volunteers are needed for the
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. shift.



December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Adult Class 9:15am Children/Youth 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	2 9:00am PEO Chapter "LM" 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)	3 7:00am Evening Circle (FH)	4 1:00pm Afternoon Circle-(FH) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	7 2:00pm Dawson Family Memorial Dinner (FH)
8 9:15am Adult Class 9:15am Children/Youth 10:30am Worship 11:30am Welcome Reception for Rev. Osborn	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 2:30am PEO Chapter "JJ" 9:30am Christian Education Committee 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Sacred Harp Singers	11 8:00am Men's Breakfast-JJ's Café 6:00pm Caring Women of COMO 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 3:30pm Loaves and Fishes (Ashley St. Center) 7:00pm Mission and Outreach Committee (Zoom)	13 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	14
15 9:15am Adult Class 9:15am Children/Youth Classes 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 7:00pm Session (Rm. 12)	18 11:00am The Wardrobe 4:30pm Love Coffee Board Meeting (Rm. 12) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 <i>January Trinity Times Deadline</i> 5:30pm Women in Recovery	21
22 9:15am Adult Class 9:15am Children/Youth Classes 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time 11:45am Congregational Christmas Caroling (Potluck Lunch & Caroling)	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candle-light & Communion Service	25 Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 5:30pm Women in Recovery	28
29 9:15am Holiday Potluck Breakfast (FH) 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	30	31				