



Dear Friends,

The season of Advent and Christmas is a rich, meaningful, and mysterious time for many of us who take time to faithfully wait upon the Lord's coming at Bethlehem. It's the beginning of the liturgical year, a new year to begin the journey from the stable, to the cross, and to an ongoing resurrected faith. And it all begins with God enfleshed, born in a manger. This new season of faith is always a good time for reflection, examination, and recommitment.

As I reflected on this season and my new call to be your transitional pastor, my heart was drawn to a couple of my advent devotions from "Celts to the Creche: Celtic Advent Devotional." Brenda Warren writes about St. Frideswide, Abbess of Oxford, who is known for miraculous healings. One story about her was a critical time when she was led to safety by a mysterious white-robed stranger (an angel?) to a place of refuge, where a holy well appeared near a pigsty that she eventually converted into a chapel.

In her advent devotion, Brenda Warren writes these soul awakening words:

It is captivation to consider how the Spirit of our living and loving God can turn the pigsties in our life into chapels with wells of living water as was done for St. Frideswide. It reminds us of how a dirty, smelly noisy stable in Bethlehem became a crèche for the birth of the King of the world. The Spirit is in the business of transforming the ugly, stinky, dirty places of our life into sweet soul sanctuaries for Christ to be born anew in our lives.

Then for the December 18th advent devotional Warren introduces us to Benedict Biscop who brought education, libraries, beauty, and faith to the people of Northumbria. Biscop is known for his many pilgrimages to Rome where he often found his plans change, detouring to different cities, and accepting new unexpected responsibilities. In Warren's meditation for Advent on Benedict Biscop's life of faith she writes:

The Spirit often works in surprising ways! . . . We are going in one direction in life and a door is closed or we find ourselves on an unexplained new path in life. Then as we look back at these unplanned and often unwanted detours in our life, we often can see God's hand in these paths and we simply say, "thank you." Or as my wife, Margaret, loves to remind me and others when life takes a detour: remember God's promises, "for I have plans to help you and not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Friends, during this transition, as we begin a new year together, remember that changed plans, closed doors, painful heartbreaks often lead us to new places beyond what we can ever dream of or imagine. And may Christ's Spirit come and remake our lives and Trinity Presbyterian Church into sweet sanctuaries for Christ to live and work.

Reverend Ronnie Osborn

Brenda G. Warren and <http://www.saintsbridge.org>, (Celts to the Creche), 2018-2029.

Warren – Celts to the Creche, Day 33, December 17, St. Frideswide, Abbess Oxford

Warren – Celts to the Creche, Day 34, December 18, Benedict Biscop of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow



Trinity News

Upcoming Worship

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

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn

OT: Isaiah 52:7-10

NT: John 1:14-18

Sermon: "Our Wait Is Over: *Let Earth Receive Her King*"

Theme: Today we worship the gift of Jesus, our King of kings. We celebrate that the wait is over and our new life with Jesus has begun. Let us combine with the whole earth in glorifying him on this joyous day.

* **Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:30 a.m.**

Installation of Elders

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn

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

TO VIEW THE VIDEO FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE go to:

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

January News for Presbyterian Women



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you all have a blessed Christmas; and I wish you a wonderful 2025! Circles will gather in January to study "Air Quality" in our "Let Justice Roll Down" study book. **Evening Circle will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 7, in the Fellowship Hall.** And **Afternoon Circle will meet the second Wednesday, January 8 at 1 pm in Room 12.** Please come prepared to discuss the lesson. Watch for an e-mail from your chairman for details of your meeting. We welcome all women to our circles. If you're interested, please give me a call for more information or a study book.

Charlotte Larrick, PW Coordinator 573-447-0552

A New Year is God's gift. Enjoy the faithful blessings God so delights in giving.



**Sunday School Classes Resume
January 5, 2025**

9:15-10:10 a.m.

Classes for all ages,
kindergarten through adult.

Please join us.

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 as we celebrate the year end and welcome the coming year of 2025!



"Undecorating" Party

Please join us immediately following worship on Sunday, January 5, as we pack away the Advent and Christmas decorations.

Feel free to bring any goodies that you may have "leftover" from Christmas.



All Men of Trinity

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

Trinity News

An Organist's Confession: Behind the Console

by Jim West

Church music is often perceived as a realm of solemnity and spiritual reflection, but let me tell you, the life of an organist behind the pipes can be as entertaining as a comedy show—and I have the best seat in the house.

Picture this: it's Sunday morning, the congregation is gathered, and I'm perched on my organ bench, fingers poised over the keys. The sanctuary is a calm sea of heads, all facing forward, oblivious to the chaos hidden behind the majestic organ console. I like to think of myself as the Wizard of Oz, only with more pedals and fewer flying monkeys.

Let's start with the pedals. Oh, the pedals! For the uninitiated, the organ is played not just with hands but with feet too. Imagine trying to perform a graceful ballet while simultaneously typing an essay, and you'll have a rough idea of the coordination required. Inevitably, there's always a slip-up—a foot missing its mark and hitting the wrong note. The congregation might think it's a new avant-garde chord, but in reality, it's just my feet rebelling against the tyranny of a morning service. I sometimes cheat and use the Bass coupler because of the neuropathy in my big size 13 feet.

Then there's the music. You'd think by now, I'd have the entire hymnal memorized, but alas, my memory is as reliable as a screen door on a submarine. Hence, the hymnal, which has a pesky habit of falling off the stand at the most inopportune moments. It becomes a high-stakes game of Jenga, with each page turned bringing the precarious pile closer to collapse. One dramatic crescendo and the entire stack can topple, leaving me scrambling like a cat in a thunderstorm to get everything back in place.

Speaking of drama, there's nothing quite like the church organ to amplify emotional moments. A well-timed chord can elevate a hymn to angelic heights or add a thunderous exclamation point to a fire-and-brimstone sermon. But with great power comes great responsibility, and sometimes, the power goes straight to my head. There's a secret joy in inserting an unexpected trill or an ominous minor key transition, watching the congregation squirm just a little, wondering if it's a divine message or just a musical misstep.

Of course, the organist's life isn't just filled with mishaps and mischief. There's the sheer delight of playing a piece that sends chills down your spine, knowing you're the invisible force guiding the congregation's emotional journey. It's a strange form of invisibility cloak—everyone hears you, but no one really sees you, hidden behind the pipes, like a musical phantom.

And then there's the camaraderie with the choir. If you've never heard a tenor's high note falter because he caught sight of the organist's exaggerated eye roll, you're missing out. The silent communication, the shared glances and suppressed giggles, are the unsung harmonies that make church music a truly communal experience.

So next time you find yourself in church, listening to the organ's majestic sounds, spare a thought for the person behind the music—the one battling rebellious feet, rogue sheet music, and the occasional fit of mischief. We might be hidden from view, but we're very much part of the divine comedy unfolding within these sacred walls. ✪ ✨

Presbyterian Women Peace & Social Justice Book Discussion Group for 2025

At the November 2024 book discussion meeting of the national PW Peace & Social Book Discussion Group, it was announced that the national book discussion group was being assigned to a new committee in 2025, the Emerging Ministries Committee. This is a new committee, and it will not have its first meeting until sometime in the first quarter of 2025.

We were assured that the book discussion group will be continued but, until the new committee has a chance to meet and discuss its plans, I do not have any other details.

I will keep you posted via TRINITY TIMES and the Friday e-mails with any updates that I receive.

Marcia Lake

Fiber Fellowship Saturday, January 25 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.



Come and join us for fellowship and bring your needlecrafts or start a hat!

Trinity News

Recent Prayer Requests

Sondra Ricketts—still having issues with vertigo

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

Jim West— has begun chemotherapy 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.

Esther Muench Plonk - Jim Muench's mother, now on hospice

Our Deepest Sympathy

To the family of Mary Ann Steyaert who passed away December 7, 2024. Mary Ann was an active member of Trinity for many years.

Build connections by joining one of these small groups:



Fiber Fellowship - Meets the 4th Saturday of the month, (January 25) 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 - Plans are underway for the new year. Cathy and Larry Holder are contacts.

Men's Breakfast - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (January 8) at JJ's Cafe on North Providence Road. All men of Trinity are invited.

Senior Singles - Activities are planned for 6-8 times a year. Contact the church office to be put on the email list.

Mahjong Group - Meets on Fridays 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 (January 10) to socialize at Love Coffee on the Business Loop, 9:30 am. All women are invited!



Trinity Library - Book Highlight

*with Marianne Fues,
Trinity Librarian*

Overcomer: 8 Ways to Live a Life of Unstoppable Strength, Unmovable Faith, and Unbelievable Power by David Jeremiah

Dr. Jeremiah believes that there are at least 8 different ways we will be challenged and we must be prepared with strategies for overcoming the issues we face. Chapters addressing challenges are overcoming weakness with strength, overcoming falsehood with truth, overcoming evil with good, overcoming anxiety with peace, overcoming fear with faith, overcoming confusion with wisdom, overcoming temptation with scripture, overcoming everything with prayer. Overcomers concentrate on details that go unnoticed by others. They do what needs to be done, even when no one is watching.

Dr. Jeremiah shares scripture examples as well as stories from everyday living which help guide us to prepare to be an overcomer.



Trinity News



Annual Meeting and Potluck Sunday, January 26 following worship

On Sunday, January 26, the Annual Congregational meeting and Potluck lunch will follow the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please bring a dish to share. The meat will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

The purpose of the Congregational Meeting is to elect the 2025 Nominating Committee and to hear the year-end financial report and receive information about the work of Trinity's committees during the past year. Opportunities will be provided for members to ask questions and make comments. A PDF version of the Annual Report will be sent to all members in advance and printed copies will be available by contacting the church office. *All are welcome and encouraged to attend.*

Submissions for Trinity Times? The deadline for the February Trinity Times is

January 24 2025.

Email: newsletter@trinity-presbyterian.org

Year-End Giving to Trinity

The IRS offers a year-end reminder that contributions are deductible in the year received. If mailed, the date the contribution is received is determined by the postmark. This means that gifts and offerings postmarked or dropped off at the church by December 31, 2024 will be recorded as charitable contributions received in 2024. Gifts and offerings post-marked or dropped off at the church office after January 1, 2025 will be recorded as charitable contributions for 2025, including gifts made toward 2024 pledges.

If you are pre-paying all or a portion of your 2025 pledge before the end of 2024, please be sure to indicate "2025 Pledge" on the memo line of your check. If you need information about stock transfers, making distributions from IRAs or other types of charitable donations, please contact Ann Bouchard in the church office. Thank you for your generous financial support of Trinity.

2024 Contribution Reports will be mailed by mid-January. If you need information before that about your 2024 giving-to-date, contact Ann Bouchard.

Thank you for your continuing generosity to Trinity.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE - God's Work, Our Hands



We are looking forward to serving next on

**Thursday, January 9th
4:30 to 5:45 p.m.**

The number of meals we serve each month continues to increase – last month we served 165 meals on our night! Therefore, your continued support for this important mission is greatly needed AND 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.

Donated food items need to be dropped off at Trinity by 2:30 and those helping to serve will need to be at the Ashley Street Center by 3:30 for prep work.

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 our Wardrobe Coordinator, Anne Seymour.



*Trinity's day to work is
Wednesday, January 15th
and volunteers are needed for the
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. shift.*

**Kindness is like snow. It beautifies
everything it covers.**
– Kahlil Gibran



JANUARY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:15am Holiday Potluck Breakfast 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time 11:30am Undecorating Party	30	31	1 New Year's Day - Church Office Closed	2	3 5:30pm Women in Recovery	4
5 Installation of Officers 9:15am Classes for All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	6 9:00am PEO Chapter "LM" 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)	7 7:00am Evening Circle-FH	8 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Afternoon Circle-Rm. 12 6:00pm Caring Women of COMO 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 3:30pm Loaves and Fishes	10 5:30pm Women in Recovery	11
12 9:15am Classes for All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	13 1:00pm Columbia Garden Club 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 2:30am PEO Chapter "JJ" 7:00pm Christian Education Committee 7:00pm Sacred Harp Singers	15 11:00am The Wardrobe 4:30pm Love Coffee Board Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 2:00pm Property Committee - Rm. 12	17 5:30pm Women in Recovery	18
19 9:15am Classes for All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	20 Church Office Closed Martin L. King, Jr. Birthday	21 7:00pm Session-Rm. 12	22 10:00am Congregational Care Committee-Room 12 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00pm Mission Committee (Zoom)	24 5:30pm Women in Recovery	25 10:00am Fiber Fellowship – Youth Rm.
26 9:15am Classes for All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck Luncheon	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Committee (Zoom) 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28 11:00am MO Symphony League 7:00pm Sacred Harp Singers	29 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31 5:30pm Women in Recovery	1