

Trinity United Methodist Church

Worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Ryan Gephart, pastor

Church Office 224-2815

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Trinity United Methodist Church
434 E. Main St.
Roaring Spring, PA 16673

Trinity Tidings

Roaring Spring, PA 16673

December 2023/January 2024

Grace & Peace to you from our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ:

“Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the new born King!’” *Verse 2 of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

Charles Wesley’s Christmas Hymn reminds us this Advent & Christmas season that we prepare, honor, and live for “the everlasting Lord.” Jesus, the Christ, is the “incarnate Deity” who was “pleased with us in flesh to dwell.” Hence, Jesus our Lord did not come as an overwhelming crushing force but as the in-flesh God who out of love and grace wanted to dwell with us. This Lord would come in humbly and leave sacrificially. And because of how He loved and served, the world would be changed forever.

This December, we will explore in worship and in Children’s/Youth Sunday School “The Christmas Promise.” Some of our reflections will come from the lessons in The Good Book for Children and their “Christmas Promise” curriculum. Other reflections will come to us from Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church’s Worship Division. Still others, will be from Charles & John Welsey’s words and from my reflections on their lyrics and upon the lectionary Scriptures for the season.

As we explore what it means to welcome in the forever, rescuing, and new kind of king in Jesus; may we allow the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and prepare Him room to enter and transform us. May we allow this Advent to not only be a season of preparation for Christmas, but also a season of welcoming the greatest king of all time into our lives.

As one who gives thanks for the new born King ~ Pastor Ryan



Thank-You for your Generosity

Misty & I are so grateful for your Pastor Appreciation gift we received from the congregation on Sunday, November 12. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and we look forward to making a trip to Sight & Sound this winter or spring. We have been blessed these past five months in serving a wonderful and welcoming congregation.

With gratitude ~ Ryan & Misty Gephart



Pastor's Time Off Schedule

In general (there are times when it is different), United Methodist Full Time Pastors in the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church receive five Sundays a conference year off. One Sunday for Connectional Ministry/Conference Work and four Sundays of vacation. A conference year is from July 1 to June 30. This year with Pastor Ryan's five Sundays away, four of them land once a month from October 2023 to January 2024. After the fourth one in January 2024, his last Sunday off will not occur till either the end of May 2024 or sometime in June of 2024. Below is his schedule of five Sundays away from Trinity United Methodist Church for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

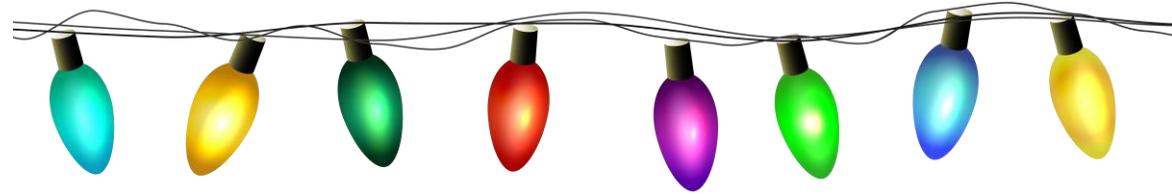
Sunday, October 8, 2023: Connection Ministry Sunday (Rev. Charles Baughman preached)

Sunday, November 5, 2023: Vacation Sunday (Doug Mingle peached)

Sunday, December 17, 2023: Vacation Sunday ~Anna's Graduation from American University (Rev. Dr. Joleen Willis, Altoona Supervisory Area Conference Superintendent preaching)

Sunday, January 7, 2024: Vacation Sunday (Doug Mingle preaching)

A Sunday that will either be the Last Sunday of May 2024 or one of the four Sundays of June 2024: Vacation Sunday (TBD preaching)



Anniversaries:

December

- 28. Paul & Ruth Adams, Scott & Kate Muthler
- 31. Phil & Tammy Keith

January

No Anniversaries

Birthdates:

December

- 3. Cole Knisely
- 9. Ishan Patel
- 10. Paul Adams, Austin Bassler
- 12. Sally Weicht
- 13. Doris Musselman
- 19. Sandy Anderson
- 27. Louise Drake

January

- 5. Phil Keith
- 7. Dusty Bassler, Candace Holt
- 10. Alta Wineland
- 11. Lindsey Hoffner
- 18. Doris Ferry
- 22. Heidi Hoffner
- 25. Jay Ebersole
- 28. Andy Bassler
- 30. Roger Bowser, Tom Crawford

December 2023 Sermon Topics (January 2024 Topics to Be Determined)

First Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 3: The Christmas Promise ~
“The Forever King” (Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37)

Second Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 10: The Christmas Promise ~
“The Rescuing King” (Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8)

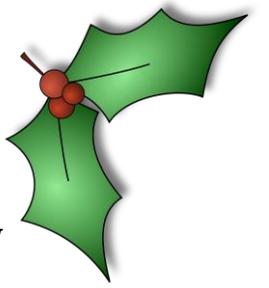
Third Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 17: The Christmas Promise ~
“The New King” (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:6-8, 19-28) *Rev. Dr. Joleen Willis, Susquehanna Conference Superintendent of the Altoona Area, preaching*

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 24 @ 9:30am: The Christmas Promise ~ *Children’s Christmas Pageant* (2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:26-38 & The Christmas Story performed by the Children, Youth & Young Adults)

Christmas Eve ~ Sunday, December 24 @ 7pm: The Christmas Promise ~
“The Greatest King” (Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14 & Luke 2:1-20 as our Scriptures for Lessons & Carols with Choir Anthem, Children’s Message, Christmas Message, Holy Communion & “Silent Night” Candle Lighting)

Epiphany Sunday & New Year’s Eve with Hymn Sing: “The Promise for All” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 & Matthew 2:1-12)

**Pastor’s Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 10:30am**



Wednesday, December 6: James Chapter 2
Wednesday, December 13: Christmas Story
Wednesday, January 24: James Chapter 3
Wednesday, January 31: James Chapter 4

February & March 2024 Schedule to Be Determined

All are welcome to attend!

Confirmation Class 2023-2024 – Once a Month Sundays @ 5-7pm

Sunday, December 3: United Methodist Theology with Scripture/Tradition/Reason/Experience and The Sacraments

Pastor Ryan needs 3 mentors to work with the confirmands in 2024. You will be part of 3 classes with the youth. Please be in prayerful consideration if you feel called to fulfill one of these roles and contact Pastor Ryan if you feel called to help.

January-May 2024 schedule to be determined (meeting once a month)

Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, May 19, 2023 (Pentecost Sunday)

**A Time for the Young at Heart Presenter in Worship
Dec. & Jan. Schedule**

- Dec. 3: Doug Mingle
- Dec. 10: Pastor Ryan
- Dec. 17: Kate Muthler (Rev. Dr. Joleen Willis preaching)
- Dec. 24: Pastor Ryan (Children’s Christmas Pageant)
- Dec. 31: Misty Gephart
- Jan. 7: Doug Mingle (Doug Mingle preaching)
- Jan. 14: Pastor Ryan
- Jan. 21: Kate Muthler
- Jan. 28: Pastor Ryan



OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS: Sandy Anderson, Linda Acker, Judy Bowers, Roger and Kay Bowser, Tanna Byler, Lorie Davis, Bud Evans, Doris Ferry, Glenda Fowler, Mike Galbraith, Ken & Pam Garlick, Ione Hammaker, Jeff Hetrick, Norm Hostetter, Ruth Imler, Pastor Evie Madison, Barbara Mingle, Bob & Doris Musselman, Barry & Connie Musselman, Dee Rodland, Gary Shank, Katlyn Wren Somogyi, Bob & Dorothy VanNatta, Claudia Weise



MEN'S/FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 6:00PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

LADIES COFFEE & CONVERSATION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH AT 9:30AM
THE VAULT IN ROARING SPRING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH AT 9:30AM
RESTORED GROUNDS IN MARTINSBURG



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17
10:45 AM

**WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP** WE WILL MEET IN THE
IHS ROOM

COOKIE EXCHANGE
DATE: ~~DECEMBER 5TH~~
DECEMBER 4TH
TIME: 6:00 PM
BRING 1 DOZEN OF YOUR
FAVORITE COOKIES & A
CONTAINER TO TAKE HOME



Angel Tree 2023

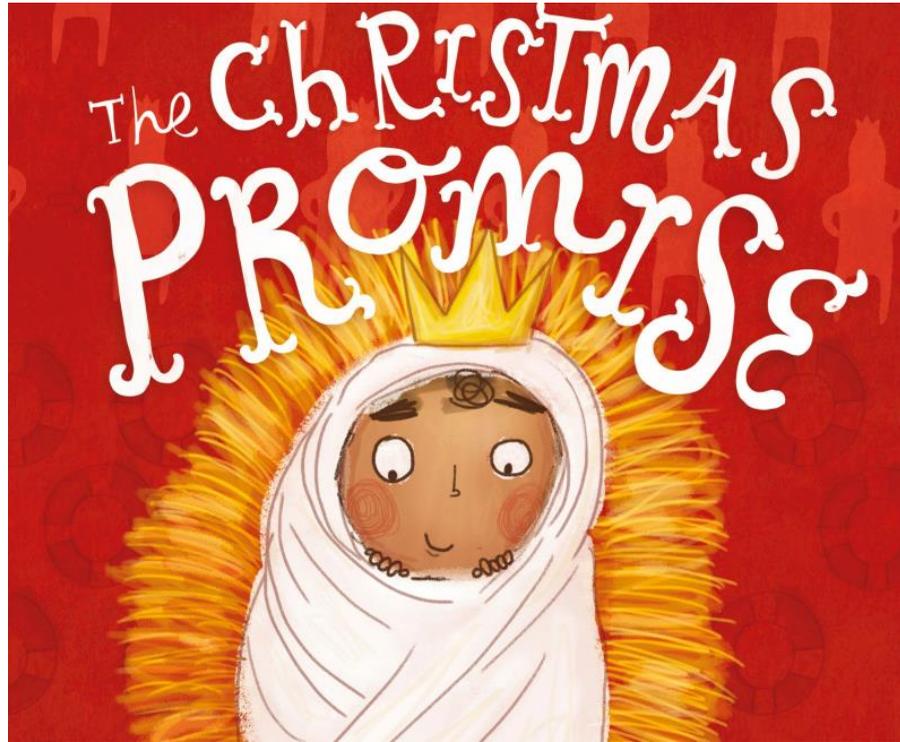
We have 117 Angels on our tree this year!

- *Gifts will be dropped off at the store or TUMC by Saturday, December 9th.
- *Gifts will be distributed to the parents on Thursday, December 14th from 6:00-7:00.




Bible Presentation Sunday

DECEMBER 10TH AT 9:30AM
3RD-5TH GRADE



Children & Youth Sunday School for December 2023

Children & Youth will join for Sunday School in December as we learn the “Ridiculously Interesting Christmas Lessons ~ The Christmas Promise” while practicing for our Christmas Pageant which will be part of our **December 24th, 2023 9:30am Worship Service (Christmas Eve Morning)**. Pastor Ryan, Amy Knisely, Luke Knisely, Lainie Heuston and others including our Youth Sunday School helpers (Dec. 3rd: Dusty Bassler; Dec. 10th: Kelly Bassler; Dec. 17th: Scott Muthler) will be leading the Children & Youth in lesson time followed by rehearsal for the pageant from **10:45am to 11:45am**.

On December 3rd the children & youth will learn about “The Forever King” (Isaiah 9:6-7 & Luke 1:26-38). On December 10th the children & youth will learn about “The Rescuing King” (Isaiah 53:4-6 & Luke 2:1-20). On December 17th our whole time for Sunday School will be a dress rehearsal for the **Christmas Pageant on December 24th at 9:30am (participants should arrive at 8:45am on December 24th to get ready for the pageant)**.

Additionally, on **Wednesday, December 27th, 2023** we will have a **Christmas Bible School (CBS) from 10am to Noon**. Our session for the Christmas Bible School will be “The Christmas Promise ~ The New King” and focus of the story of Epiphany, the coming of the Wise Men from Matthew 2:1-12. Pastor Ryan & Amy Knisely will be leading and we are looking for other helpers including youth & young adults. This will be Trinity UMC’s version of Vacation Bible School for 2023. **After CBS ~ all children, families, community members, church members, church friends and everyone else are invited to our annual Christmas Community Dinner from Noon to 1pm in the Church Fellowship Hall.**

There will not be Sunday School on

Sundays, December 24 & 31: Christmas Eve & New Year’s Eve

Children & Youth Christmas Pageant for December 2023

The Children & Youth Christmas Pageant will be **Sunday, December 24th, 2023** as part of the morning worship at **9:30am** which will be the 4th Sunday of Advent plus a Christmas Eve Birthday Party for Jesus. **All participants in the Pageant need to arrive at 8:45am on December 24th to prepare for the service.** The **traditional Christmas Eve Service** will be in the evening of **December 24th at 7pm** with lessons, carols, choir, message, communion & “Silent Night” candle lighting. ***Please make plans to be at both of our Christmas Eve Services at 9:30am & 7pm on Sunday, December 24, 2023.***

CHRISTMAS
AT TRINITY UMC
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
9:30AM - CHILDREN'S PAGEANT
7PM - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27
10AM - CHRISTMAS BIBLE SCHOOL
NOON - COMMUNITY DINNER