

Trinity United Methodist Church
Worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Ryan Gephart, pastor
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Trinity United Methodist Church
434 E. Main St.
Roaring Spring, PA 16673



Trinity Tidings

Roaring Spring, PA 16673

December 2025/January 2026

"In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.... He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:2 & 4)

Dalton Rushing, in his commentary for preachers on Isaiah 2:1-5, writes "the point, for Isaiah, is to remind his listeners of the promised hope of God's coming. This hope happens every Advent, like clockwork, just as it happens every day.... Imagine: If God had God's way, what would the world look like? How would it look similar to the world now? How would it look differently? Imagination is something of a lost art for Christians, and yet the Bible calls for it continually. If Advent and Christmas season provide opportunities for dreaming about what could be, then this scripture demands those dreams."

If God had God's way, what would the world look like? First, I believe the similarities to the world now would be the areas where people share their faith in word and action through love and empathy. It would be like Trinity United Methodist Church's 2025 Thanksgiving Day meal which comes as our church celebrates 30 years of dedicating their time and services to feeding the community through monthly meals, regular food distribution, and a yearly summer lunch program for children and adults. It would look like neighbors striking up conversations with each other peacefully about their journey in following God and caring for their community as many do who call TUMC their home. It would look like a raucous youth night of games and laughter while sharing what we are thankful for in this life.

How would the world look differently if God had God's way? What is God asking us to imagine life to be like if the love and grace of Jesus

permeated every corner of creation? Well, I would first imagine that our sharing of God's love would lead to neighbors, people, communities, and nations to "not lift up sword" against one another and "learn war no more." I would imagine that similar words of the prophet Isaiah found in the prophet Micah's work would be true: "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken." (Micah 4:3b & 4) I would imagine that children everywhere would not have to be afraid of war, violence, raids, food insecurity, or poor living conditions if God had God's way.

As we study sharing our faith this Advent, can you use your imagination to see how your faith calls you to see a better world? A world through God's lens and through God's ways. You see, when we share our faith, we need to be able to voice that bad things are happening in the world not because God wants them to happen; but because we humans in our free will have not lived up to the vision of God. We have not imagined a better way that has been laid out for us by the prophets and Jesus. We are still waiting while hoping for the day where none shall live in fear and all shall know peace.

Until that day, Advent & Christmas remind us that there is a better way. It is the way of Christ which has already come but is not completely fulfilled. As we wait, we hope for that day, which will come, when we all feast at Christ's loving banquet. Until that day, we continue to live out the ways of Jesus by doing our part to share God's peace, joy, and love in a broken world.

Until that day, may we live the better way of Jesus,
Pastor Ryan



Anniversaries:

December

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

January

No Anniversaries

Birthdates:

December

- 03. Cole Knisely
- 09. Gordon Hetrick, Ishan Patel
- 10. Paul Adams, Emily Mingle-Hershberger, Austin Bassler, Levi Galloway
- 12. Sally Weicht
- 27. Louise Drake

January

- 05. Phil Keith
- 07. Dust Bassler, Candace Holt
- 10. Alta Wineland
- 11. Lindsey Hoffner
- 22. Heidi Hoffner
- 25. Jay Ebersole
- 28. Bob Musselman
- 29. Andy Bassler
- 30. Roger Bowser, Tom Crawford



OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS: Paul Adams, Skyler Baker, Roger and Kay Bowser, Lorie Davis, Glenda Fowler, Mike Galbraith family, Sandy Garber family, Ione Hammaker family, Jeff Hetrick, Dick & Judy Hoover, Pastor Evie Madison, Barbara Mingle, Bob Musselman, Barry & Connie Musselman, Dan Musselman, Margaret Robinson, Gary Shank, Christine Thompson, Bob & Dorothy VanNatta, Claudia Weise, Alta Wineland, Lori Weicht

**December 2025 & January 2026
Children's Sunday School Announcement**

Children's Sunday School is every Sunday till May 2026 at 10:45am in the educational wing.

For the month of December, we will spend part of our time rehearsing with the Youth Sunday School Class for the Children's Christmas Play to be part of Sunday morning worship on Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 9:30am. All Children and Youth are welcome to participate in the Christmas Play.

Misty Gephart & Karen Green are our lead Sunday School teachers with various other adults as assistants and Safe Sanctuaries helpers. If you are interested in helping with Children's Sunday School, please let Misty or Karen know or contact the Church Office.



Youth/Young Adults (YPM ~ Young People's Ministry) October & November 2025

Youth Sunday School for Grades 7th through 12th every Sunday till May 2026 from 10:45am to 11:45am with the following exceptions:

No Youth Sunday December 28, 2025

Young Adult Sunday School ~ Working to see if we can have a class this year (might not happen till January 2026)

Youth/Young Adults (YPM ~ Young People's Ministry) will be every Second Sunday from 5pm to 7pm/8pm with the following schedule for the next two months:

No Youth Group in December (We are participating in the Christmas Play on December 21, 2025 at 9:30am as part of the Worship Service)

Sunday, January 11, 2026: Regular Youth/YPM Group

All youth in Grades 7th through 12th grades plus all young adults are invited to attend.

**December 2025 & January 2026
Sermon Topics & Scriptures**

1st Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, November 30: Sharing Faith Sermon Series ~ "Waiting While Hoping" (Isaiah 2:1-5 & Romans 13:11-14)

2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 7: Sharing Faith Sermon Series ~ "Peace While Living A Different Story" (Isaiah 11:1-10 & Matthew 3:1-12)

3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 14: Sharing Faith Sermon Series ~ "Sharing Mary's Joy" (Isaiah 35:1-10 & Luke 1:47-55)

4th Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 21: The Children & Youth Christmas Play (Scriptures will be included in the Play)

Christmas Eve @ 7pm ~ Wednesday, December 24: "All Earth Is Waiting" (Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, & Luke 2:1-20)

1st Sunday After Christmas ~ Sunday, December 28: "How Do We Stand Up Against Herod" (Isaiah 63:7-9 & Matthew 2:13-23)

Epiphany of The Lord Sunday ~ Sunday, January 4: "Living In the Light" (Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12)

Baptism of The Lord Sunday with Remembering Our Baptism ~ Sunday, January 11: "Come On In, The Water's Fine" (Isaiah 42:1-9 & Matthew 3:13-17)

2nd Sunday After The Epiphany (Human Relations Day Special Offering) ~ Sunday, January 18: The Book of Corinthians Sermon Series ~ "Paul An Apostle" (1 Corinthians 1:1-9 & John 1:29-42)

3rd Sunday After The Epiphany ~ Sunday, January 25: The Book of Corinthians Sermon Series ~ "I Belong to Christ ~ The Message of The Cross" (1 Corinthians 1:10-18 & Matthew 4:12-23)



Advent & Christmas Eve Readers & Candle Lighters

Sunday, November 30 (1st Sunday of Advent):

Olivia & Chuck Sollenberger

Sunday, December 7 (2nd Sunday of Advent):

Trevor & Erin Smith

Sunday, December 14 (3rd Sunday of Advent):

Mason & Joseph Hershberger

Sunday, December 21 (4th Sunday of Advent):

Nick Dunmire & Family

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve):

Isaiah & Noah Gartland and Family

126 children on the Angel Tree

Angels are available for pickup at Ace Fix It Hardware in Roaring Spring. Gifts for the children need to be returned to the store or to TUMC by December 13th. We will distribute the gifts to the parents on Thursday, December 18th from 6:00-7:00 as a drive thru.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!! To everyone who pitched in to make our annual Thanksgiving meal a success!!! We had a great turn out this year!



Schedule for A Time for the Young at Heart Presenter in Worship

December 2025 & January 2026

December 7: Dusty Bassler

December 14: Pastor Ryan

December 21: Kate Muthler

December 24: Pastor Ryan

December 28: Doug Mingle

January 4: Dusty Bassler

January 11: Pastor Ryan

January 18: Kate Muthler

January 25: Doug Mingle



Confirmation Class 2025-2026

Third Sundays each month from 5pm to 7pm During the School year

Off in December 2025

Sunday, January 18, 2026:

United Methodist Theology with Scripture/Tradition/Reason/Experience and The Sacraments

Topics for February 15, March 15, April 19, and the May date, 2026
to be determined as the class progresses

Church and Society Advisory Team Charts Path Toward 2026 Jurisdictional Gatherings for Justice and Peace

Advisory Team: Rev. James Todd Smith, Will Fenton-Jones, Rev. Phillip Dieke, Rev. David Harriss, Andrea Paret, Martha Hill, Colleen Moore, Amber Gaines, Rev. Haley Hansen, Rev. Bich Thy Betty Nguyen, Rev. Keith Sexton, and Rev. Ryan Gephart

WASHINGTON, D.C. — November 10, 2025 — The General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) of The United Methodist Church recently convened its Advisory Team for Justice and Peace for a three-day retreat on Capitol Hill, where faith leaders from across the United States gathered to discern, dream, and design the Church's next steps toward justice-rooted action.

Over the course of the retreat, participants deepened their theological grounding, strengthened connections across conferences, and began collaborative planning for 2026 Jurisdictional Gatherings for Justice and Peace — a landmark series of regional events that will mobilize United Methodists to advocate, organize, and lead for social transformation within their communities and beyond.

“It is always humbling and encouraging to be reminded that the work of mercy, justice, and peace is actively being practiced and pursued throughout our Connection,” said Advisory Team member Rev. Bich Thy (Betty) Nguyễn of the Mountain Sky Conference. “I hope that what comes next from this retreat is the opportunity to continue the work of deepening the Connection within each Jurisdiction; to contribute to the work of mutual learning, resourcing, and empowering United Methodists to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in the area of justice.”

The Advisory Team includes 10 Conference Church and Society Chairs, Peace with Justice Coordinators, and other key lay and clergy leaders committed to living out the Church's call to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Together, they are developing frameworks to equip annual conferences for grassroots engagement, legislative advocacy, and movement-building aligned with the denomination's Social Principles.

In 2026, each U.S. jurisdiction will host a Justice and Peace Gathering, inviting clergy and laity alike to:

- Engage in training and dialogue around faith-based advocacy and community organizing,
- Explore how United Methodists can respond to pressing social issues through policy and practice,
- Build networks of collaboration that extend the Church's witness for justice, peace, and compassion.

“The world needs the witness of a church that doesn't just talk about justice but practices it — together, in every jurisdiction, as one body” said Bishop Julius Trimble, General Secretary for GBCS. “These events are a call to action — an invitation for United Methodists to reimagine what it means to be a people of justice and peace in this moment in history.”

Call to Action

United Methodists in the U.S. are encouraged to connect with their Conference Church and Society Chair or Peace With Justice Coordinator (Rev. Ryan K. Gephart, Susquehanna Conference UMC Peace with Justice Coordinator, rgephart@susumc.org) to learn more about the Justice and Peace Gathering in their jurisdiction. Whether you are a seasoned advocate or just beginning your journey, your presence and perspective are needed. **For more specific information about the 2026, U.S. jurisdiction Justice and Peace Gathering, contact Amber Gaines, Engagement and Development Manager, General Board of Church and Society againes@umcjustice.org**



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service December 24th at 7:00PM



Poinsettias can be ordered in honor/memory of your loved ones to be displayed that evening. If you wish to order a plant please have your order form and money turned into the office no later than December 8th.

Adult Small Groups, Bible Study, and Fellowship Groups Schedule & Topics for December 2025 & January 2026



Women's Fellowship in the IHS Classroom ~

Tuesdays at 6pm: *December 2: Christmas Tea*
January 2026: TBD

Men's/Family Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall ~

Tuesdays at 6pm: *December 9 & January 13*
Fellowship Meal

Bible Study ~

Wednesdays at 10:30am: *December 3 & 10 at The Winelands*
January 7, 14, & 28 in the IHS Classroom
Studying the Gospel Stories of The Gospel of John

Ladies' Coffee & Conversation at Various Coffee Shops ~

Wednesdays at 9:30am: *December 17 & January 21*
Fellowship Time

Polchito Small Group in the IHS Classroom ~

Wednesdays at 6pm: *December 10; January 14 & 28*
Studying the Book of Romans (Disciple Bible Study)

McMullen Small Group @ The McMullens ~

Thursdays at 6:30pm: *December 4*
Studying How to Have Courageous Conversation
January 2026: Dates & Topic TBD

Graystone Small Group @ Graystone 2nd Floor ~

Thursdays at 1:30pm: *December 11 & January 8*
Studying Advent (December) & Epiphany (January)

****One More Small Group could be added starting in January or February 2026 ~ See Upcoming Bulletins for Details****



Trinity Church has a QR Code!!

We are making it convenient for you to tithe or make a donation when you can't be here, when you forget to grab cash or forget the checkbook. First you will need to download the Pay Pal App to your phone then scan this QR Code. It's that simple!!