

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

Cell Phone: (570)850-6637

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

Trinity Tidings

Roaring Spring, PA 16673

December 2024/January 2025

Come, Let Us Adore Him

"Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."



What Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing, came to us? Was it a Word of empire building? Was it a Word of dominance? Was it a Word of hate? The obvious answer to all of these questions after the first one is NO! God did not come in human form to build an earthly empire of military and political force. God especially did not come so that hate and fear could dominate our lives. The Word made flesh that we come to greet is Christ the Lord who is the Lord of love and grace.

On Christ the King/Reign Christ Sunday, my sermon included some definitions of what God's Kingdom in Christ is to be and what it is not to be. The Rev. Tyler Sit, of New City United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, MN (and my preaching fellowship cohort leader) gives us these words and definitions for Christians following Christ:

Christianity: "Is following the liberating path of Jesus ~ His teachings, The Bible, His gift of resurrection, His spiritual practices all of these things is what Christianity is."

Christendom: "Is when the empire appropriates the language or the rites or traditions of Christianity but uses it towards the oppression of people and creation."

As the new Christian year starts with the First Sunday of Advent on December 1, I want to be mindful and struggle with the fact that Christianity in the world has all too often turned into Christendom. That the Lord's message has been coopted by the powerful to oppress the needy, the hurting, the lost, the mournful, the "other" who is not like us. If the Word of the Father came to us in flesh not to build a world empire of dominance and hate, then what did He come to do? He came to liberate and save by His work, His love, and His grace. On Sunday, January 26, 2025, the Gospel lectionary is one of my favorite Scripture

passages. In Luke 4:14-21, in quoting the prophet Isaiah, Jesus gives us His mission statement:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Jesus was not interested in what we would call today "Christendom." Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release from what burdens us, to bring physical & spiritual healing, to set those who are oppressed free, and to proclaim God's ways of love, mercy, justice, and grace for all time. Christianity, and those who follow it, imitates what Jesus did in His life! We will explore that this Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany season in our worship & study.

So, come, let us adore Him this Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany season,

Pastor Ryan



OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS: Linda Acker, Paul Adams, Roger and Kay Bowser, Tanna Byler Family, Lorie Davis, Marsha Demchak, Luke Francisco, Glenda Fowler, Mike Galbraith, Ione Hammaker, Jeff Hetrick, Dick & Judy Hoover, Norm Hostetter, Ruth Imler, Keithly family, Pastor Evie Madison, Barbara Mingle, Bob & Doris Musselman, Barry & Connie Musselman, Eli Muthler, Margaret Robinson (Homewood), Gary Shank, Monte Smith, Katlyn Wren Somogyi, Christine Thompson, Bob & Dorothy VanNatta, Claudia Weise



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
27. Louise Drake

January

5. Phil Keith
7. Dusty 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

2025 Budget/Plan for Funding Ministry ~ Trinity UMC, Roaring Spring, PA
Copies of the 2025 Budget/Plan for Funding Ministry are available in the back of the Church for those who would like to have a copy.

December 2024 & January 2025 at Sundays at 10:45am ~ Sunday School Schedule

December 1: Children, Youth, & Adult Sunday School will help Decorate the Church

December 8: Normal Children, Youth, & Adult Sunday School Schedule

December 15: Children & Youth will not have Sunday School; Normal Adult Sunday School Schedule

December 22: Normal Children, Youth, & Adult Sunday School Schedule

December 29 & January 5: Children & Youth will not have Sunday School; Normal Adult Sunday School Schedule

January 12, 19, & 26: Normal Children, Youth, & Adult Sunday School Schedule

Reminder of Our Locations & Leaders:

Children's Sunday School meets in the 2 Children's Sunday School rooms upstairs in the Educational Wing, lead teacher: Misty Gephart; helpers rotate each week

Youth Sunday School meets in the 2 Youth Sunday School rooms upstairs in the Educational Wing, lead teacher: Pastor Ryan; helpers rotate each week

Adult Sunday School meets in the IHS Room downstairs near the Kitchen, lead teachers: Scott Muthler & Dusty Bassler; others teach at various times



Poinsettias can be ordered in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Each 6.5 inch pot is \$10. The church office will be taking orders till December 8th.

December 2024 & January 2025 Sermon Topics & Scriptures

1st Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 1: Come, Let Us Adore Him
Sermon Series: Preparations (Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36)

2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 8: Come, Let Us Adore Him
Sermon Series: Passion (Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 1:68-79)

3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 15: Pastor Charles, pastor emeritus, will be leading the service and giving the message (Pastor Ryan & family attending Anna's graduation)

4th Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 22: Come, Let Us Adore Him
Sermon Series: Promise (Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:39-55)

Christmas Eve ~ Tuesday, December 24 at 7pm: Come, Let Us Adore Him
Sermon Series: Joy (Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-15, & Luke 2:1-20)

1st Sunday After Christmas ~ Sunday, December 29: Come, Let Us Adore Him
Sermon Series: Presence (Colossians 3:12-17 & Luke 2:41-52)

Epiphany Sunday ~ Sunday, January 5: To Be Determined

Baptism of the Lord ~ Sunday, January 12: What Does Renewal of Our Baptism Mean?
(Acts 8:14-17 & Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

Human Relations Day (Special Offering), Installation of Church Officers, & 2nd Sunday After Epiphany ~ Sunday, January 19: Using Our Gifts
(Psalm 36:5-10 ~ UMH 771 with sung response & 1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

3rd Sunday After Epiphany ~ Sunday, January 26: Pastor Ryan's Favorite Scripture & Theme
(1 Corinthians 12:12-31a & Luke 4:14-21)



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service will begin at 7:00

**A Time for the Young at Heart Presenter in Worship
December 2024 & January 2025**

Schedule:



December 1: Pastor Ryan
December 8: Pastor Ryan
December 15: Kate Muthler
December 22: Doug Mingle
December 29: Misty Gephart
January 5: Dusty Bassler
January 12: Pastor Ryan
January 19: Kate Muthler
January 26: Doug Mingle

Youth/Young Adults (YPM ~ Young People's Ministry) January & February 2025

Youth & Young Adults (YPM) will meet on the Third Sunday of the Month from 5pm to 7pm for January & February 2025 (rest of the schedule for 2025 to be determined in January 2025)

We will not meet in December 2024.

Sunday, January 19, 2025 from 5pm to 7pm - Fun Activities at the Church with Pizza & Wings along with prayer & devotions

Sunday, February 16, 2025 from 5pm to 7pm - To Be Determined where we will be at and the activity/prayer & devotions

**For March, April, and May 2025: We are hoping to have a Disc Golf Church with the Young People. More to Come!

We will continue our discussions on Wedding Policy and Building Use in 2025. We hope to have final policies by May. Please pay attention for future Town Halls, discussions, and studies.

The next Food Distribution will be December 4th from 3:00-5:00.

**Women's Fellowship
December 3rd at 6:00 PM**

The women of TUMC invite you to fellowship and share your favorite cookies on Tuesday, December 3rd. The ladies will be hosting a Christmas Tea Party & cookie exchange. Bring three dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and a container to take cookies home. The ladies would love for you to join them for this special get together during the Christmas Season.



Small Group December Schedule

Rev. Gephart's Bible Study Group
TUMC at 10:30 AM
December 4, December 11

Gary & Sandy Polchito's Small Group:
TUMC at 6:00 PM
December 4, December 11, December 18

Mike & Laurie McMullen's Small Group:
McMullen's House at 6:30 PM
December 12

*Most likely the January schedule will be weekly.



ANGEL TREE

149 Angels have arrived at R.S. True Value!
Please feel free to pick a special angel or two from the tree.
Gifts can be dropped off at the store or in the church office
by December 14th.