



A Journey to Higher Ground

**The sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer.
He enables me to go on to the heights. ~ Habakkuk 3:19**

From the Pastor's Desk

My dear Trinity family,

It seems like it was only yesterday when we were saying goodbye to 2016. How time flies! The kids are growing up, the temperature is going down, the days are flying by, the times are changing fast, but God and his promises continue to remain faithful.

As you reflect upon your life in 2017 and count your blessings, what would you like to do in response to God's goodness? In Psalm 116 the Psalmist thought through that very question. Listen to his heart and resolution: What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Psalm 116: 12-14

Your two-word testimony: I wonder what you would respond with if you were asked to describe your testimony of God's work in your life in one single word? Or may two? That's it! **Have you ever wondered how your two-word testimony would look?** I want to suggest that you take time in December to earnestly ask what those two words may be. It may help to sit it in a quiet space and reflect deeply. Some of you may like to come to Trinity and be still on a weekday in the sanctuary. Reflect upon questions like: When did God first touch my life? What part of the cross and God's grace have meant something extra special to me? What could be two words that would best describe my journey of faith, hope and love? Put pen to paper and then take time to describe in a paragraph or two what each of those words mean to you or how they relate to your coming to Christ or experiencing God's character and nature. Some years ago, a pastor I know invited all his members to write their "two-word story". It took some deep thinking and praying before individuals wrote them down. The pastor then asked his church members to make a commitment to share their two-word story with their friends, neighbors, colleagues and relatives. He called it "Each one reach one through your two-word story". Would it be possible for you and me to consider doing the same this season and in 2018?

Whether life has been easy or difficult, we are all given the equal opportunity to find grace. God loves us too much to leave us without changing us. Does your journey in 2017 reflect God's handiwork and changes? The

Bible declares in 2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. What an amazing promise! God is telling us that he can renew, refresh and restore our lives.

*God is telling us that he can renew,
refresh and restore our lives.*

The Christmas narrative is filled with the promise of new life and hope. Mary and Joseph experienced an adventure like no other couple on the planet did! They traversed the virgin path of uniquely becoming a home for God's son. The shepherds outside Bethlehem found an alternate story. It was Ivan Illich who said, "If you want to change society, then you must tell an alternative story." Their mundane lives were transformed by the coming of the king of kings. **From tending sheep, they ended up testifying about the shepherd.** The wise

men of the east had a new start. Their quest for the king led them into a journey of humility, surprise, and paradoxical surrender at the feet of ‘God in the flesh’. Those men were reminded that while earthly thrones, palaces and parliaments might appear to be in charge of human affairs, it is in fact the God who made the stars and the universe who is truly in control.

Yes, change has happened in 2017. But Advent and Christmas time accelerate the message of change. In this season we remember that God stepped out of his comfort zone. He encountered and subjected himself to time, matter and space. The limitless one become restricted – even for 9 months in the womb of a Jewish virgin. The all-knowing one allowed himself to be taught the alphabet. The all-powerful one who could stride the expanse of eternity, allowed himself to be taught to take the first steps. In the incarnation, God came close – real close. As we look around our world today and think of the many who feel isolated and unwanted, we as the church have a mandate that is sent to us through the message of Christmas. It is a mandate to warm the hearts of those who are out there in the cold. It is a call to serve the poor and the down and out. It is a commission to

take the light into the darkness. It is a holy invitation to draw a broken, sin-stained world to the foot of the old rugged cross. It was G. K. Chesterton who said, “Anyone thinking of the Holy Child as born in December would mean by it exactly what we mean by it; that Christ is not nearly a summer son of the prosperous, but a winter fire for the unfortunate.”

Christ is not nearly a summer son of the prosperous, but a winter fire for the unfortunate.

As we celebrate this season together, may the Christ who was rejected by his own and who found no place in the inn, find his rightful place in our hearts and lives. Would it be that this Christmas would become very different for someone because you obeyed the call of God?

I join my family, my dear brother Dan, our leadership team and staff to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and a Christ centered new Year.

Because of Bethlehem,

Arun

Three years ago, on November 20, the Andrews family relocated to the US to serve at Trinity. They look back and bow with gratitude to God for his faithfulness and for your love and friendship.

*Pastor Arun, Dan Stokes, Janice Ocamb,
members of our leadership team and our staff
wish you a joyful season of Christmas and a blessed new year!*

*We thank God for each of you and for your commitment to Christ and his Church. We cannot express gratitude enough for each of you who faithfully volunteer in different parts of the ministry here at Trinity.
God bless you and your loved ones abundantly!*

**DECEMBER 2017 THEME:
THE WONDERS OF CHRISTMAS**

December 3: The wonder of “Let all mortal flesh keep silent”

Christmas means God came down

Focus verse: The word became flesh and dwelt among us.... John 1:14

Scripture 1: Hebrews 1: 1-4

Scripture 2: John 1: 1-14

December 10: The wonder of “Come thou long expected Jesus”

Christmas means God keeps his promises

Focus verse: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said.... Matthew 1:22

Scripture 1: Galatians 4:1-7

Scripture 2: Matthew 1:18-25

We welcome Kirk Gable to our pulpit at both our services on Sunday, December 10. Kirk is the son of Ken and Jane Gable and grew up in his formative years of faith at Trinity. Kirk is a gifted Bible teacher and graduate of Messiah College. Kirk is an elder in his church and has been chosen to prepare for ordination. Kirk and his wife Amanda have two children Hunter and Ryland.

December 17: The wonder of “There is room in my heart for thee”

8.15 am: Christmas means Christ wants to be born in our hearts today

Focus verse: ...because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Scripture 1: Matthew 1: 18-25

Scripture 2: Luke 2: 1-7

10.45: Christmas Musicale, “EMMANUEL, Our God is With Us”

December 24: The wonder of “We three Kings”

8.15 am and 10.45: Christmas means God invites us to seek Him

Focus verse : “Where is the one who has been born...?” Matthew 2: 2

Scripture 1: Micah 5: 1-5

Scripture 2: Matthew 2: 1-12

We welcome Rev. Carl Ford Peterson to our pulpit at the 8.15 am and 10.45 am services on Sunday, December 24.

December 24: The wonder of “O Little town of Bethlehem”

6:30 pm and 10:30 pm: Christmas means our lives can have meaning

Focus verse: They spread the word concerning him...Luke 2 : 17

Scripture 1: Isaiah 9: 1-7

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20

December 31: Testimony Sunday: Great is your faithfulness

Focus verse: Bless the Lord and forget not his benefits....Psalm 103 : 2

Scripture 1: Psalm 100

Scripture 2: Psalm 103: 1-22

Testimony Sunday: On Sunday, December 31, we invite as many in the congregation to share your praises to God for his faithfulness in 2017. We invite brief testimonies between a minute and three minutes at the most. This will allow us to celebrate as many stories of praise as possible.

THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU

THANK YOU to DIANNE!

Dianne Schofield has coordinated the hospitality team for twelve years. Dianne led a faithful hospitality team that is responsible for many things in the church such as fellowship time on Sunday mornings and the Sunnier Side of Sixty, the welcome bags of guests, the children's activity bags available in the lobby, and the attendance pads and follow-up on first time visitors.

Dianne has requested to step down from leading the hospitality team. She will continue to be a face of hospitality at Trinity and will continue with many other areas in which she volunteers such as co-coordinator of Safe Sanctuary. Dianne will continue to help with her valuable knowledge and energy on the hospitality team. Thank you, Dianne!

After prayerful consideration, Cathy Baum has consented to be the Hospitality Coordinator. Cathy's parents, Bob and Liz Lyter, were involved in formulating this team many years ago. We are grateful to Cathy for her willingness. Thank you to the hospitality team who work together in showing hospitality to all at Trinity. We are all really ex-officio members of this team!!

THANK YOU NOTE - October 30th, 2017

I want to express gratitude to the Trinity family for their love and support during my hip replacement surgery on October 12th. Pastor Arun, Barb Zimmerman, and Dan Stokes came to Harrisburg Hospital to the Pre-operative area before the surgery to offer prayers. Since returning home on the 13th, I am thankful for the cards, phone calls, transportation to the hospital, and even for taking Winston on a walk! All of your good deeds are appreciated. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you I always pray with joy." (Philippians 1:3-4)

~ Carl Ford Peterson

**Cancellations due to weather
will be reported on
ABC 27, CBS21, Facebook
and Trinity's Website**

SAFE SANCTUARY REVIEW

The last Safe Sanctuary Review for 2017 will be held on Dec. 5 at 6:00 pm in the Lamb and Loin Room (off the Mt Olivet Room). Those who need to attend will receive a card in their mailbox here at church. If you cannot attend this Review, please let us know. Thank you.

Donna Ratulowski at 717-512-3365 or Dianne Schofield at 717-938-3548

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS AGAIN!

Thanks to Daryl Potteiger, head trustee, and Jim Wertz the church bell in the steeple of Trinity had some repair work done and is now able to be rung again. It may have been twenty-five years since it was rung. Mr. Jack Baumbach and Jim Wertz's Father were some who rang the bell in years past. The bell was rung again on August 27, 2017.

The church bell will continue to be rung the first Sunday of each month and also before the 5th Sunday united services. It will be rung five minutes before each service time. There are youth engaged who will ring the bell as we invite all to join us at Trinity for worship!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER

Once again, we will be decorating the church with poinsettias for Christmas Eve services. If you would like to order a poinsettia(s), orders are due in the church office, along with your cash or check made payable to Trinity United Methodist Church (showing "Poinsettia" in the memo) by **Sunday, December 10th, 2017**. Cost of the poinsettias are \$8.00 each.

_____ 6" Red Poinsettia _____ 6" White Poinsettia

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Take Flowers: _____ Leave for Homebound: _____

If you are planning to take your poinsettia(s), they should be picked up no later than **Tuesday morning, December 26th**.

Your Name: _____

Phone#: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Check _____ Cash _____

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Love in the gospel of Mark, Jesus teaches us that loving God and our neighbors are of the utmost importance. This year starting Sunday Dec 3rd. and ending Dec.17th. 2017. Trinity will be collecting **CANNED FOOD** to help New Hope Ministries with their Christmas program. We may not notice, but we are surrounded by hungry people, homeless people, unemployed people, hurting people, all yearning and looking for LOVE. This is your opportunity here at Trinity Church to show our LOVE by donating CANS OF FOOD to New Hope Ministry.

God Bless You All,
 Carol Evertts



NEW MEMBER CLASSES: JANUARY 2018

We will be beginning a new series of New Member classes in Jan. 2018. The classes will begin on Jan. 24th and will conclude on Feb. 28th. All classes will be conducted on Wednesdays (excepting Feb. 14th: Ash Wednesday). We will begin each evening with a fellowship supper together and then proceed with the class. We will also be having a half-day retreat on Saturday, Feb. 17th at Trinity. Those of you who are interested in registering can collect your application forms from the table across from the mailboxes (outside the sanctuary door). All applications must be received on or before Mon., Jan.15th. Please feel free to contact Pastor Arun if you have any questions. He can be reached by email pastor@trinityumnc.com or by telephone at the church office.

YOUTH GROUP

December 3

6-8 PM Youth Group
Creation Room and FH

December 10

6-8 PM Youth Group
Creation Room and FH

December 17

6-8 PM Youth Group
Creation Room and FH



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

“A Christmas Journey” By John & Nina Bates

Sunday, December 3rd

3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

Reception following the program

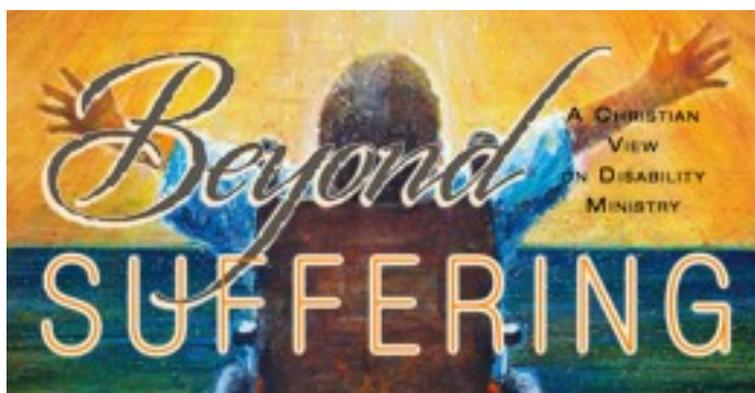


JUNIOR CHURCH CHANGES

Junior Church is back and being held during the 10:45 service every Sunday. The church has hired two interns to help with this, and with other Children's activities. We are expanding our format to include our retired pastors, who will speak with the children monthly, as they are available. We also want volunteers from our church family who are willing to speak with the children for 5-10 minutes about something special that has happened to them along their faith journey. We started last week with my story about my faith walk when we lost our house to a fire. Also, Pastor Creamer has shared with the children about the Holy Trinity, too, and will repeat it this Sunday. We hope the esteemed group of pastors will be able to help the children understand such things as baptism, confirmation, the Trinity, forgiveness, rebirth and the many things God wants our children to know. If you are able to help please let me know and we will work on a date. You may reach me, Pat Roh at 717-542-1586 or patriciaroh1950@gmail.com.

Sunday Duties for December 2017

<i>Duty</i>	<i>December 3</i>	<i>December 10</i>	<i>December 17</i>	<i>December 24</i>	<i>December 31</i>
Altar Guild	Millie Walters, Cindy Ickler- pew communion	Joann Rodriguez	Joann Rodriguez	Beth Sider, Kathy Brosius	Bonnie Minskey
Liturgist: 8:15 10:45	Rev Rodney Miller (both services)	John Mickle Joe Seker	Ken Gable Jane Gable	Sandi Tobias Karen Bowen	United Service Ron Winter
Children's Talk	No Children's Talk communion	Rev. Richard Creamer	None- Christmas Musicale	Jady Conroy- AM Mel Eyer-PM	Jody Wickenheiser
Nursery: 8:15 10:45	Doug Eakin Sue Grubb Sue Butler Kathy Miller	Jo Lower Lucille Wilt Cathy Baum Missi St. Cyr	Dianne Schofield Cheryl Bargo Donna Ratulowski	 Tracy Krasevic	No 8:15 Service
Ushers: 8:15 10:45	Daryl Potteiger*, Ken Keim, Larry Miller, Nevin Bashore, Mel Eyer George Karnes*, Scott Bankert, Melody Oligane, Norm Batcheler *denotes head usher				
Coffee Fellowship	Adult SS Class		Chancel Choir	Adult SS Class	
Adult SS Teacher	Betsy Miller	John Mickle	Marcia Haller	John Mickle	No Sunday School
Elective SS Teacher	Mary Strausbaugh	Richard Creamer	Rodney Miller	George Karnes	No Sunday School
Counting Team	Larry Bishop and Arv Krick				



BEYOND SUFFERING PROGRAM

Beginning January 2018, we plan to offer a 16-session program titled, "Beyond Suffering" which will be led by Lisa Wickenheiser. The Certificate Program is a groundbreaking course of study created to transform the way Christians view God's plan for disability and suffering. Watch for more details in our bulletin.

2017 Musicale

EMMANUEL

Our God is With Us

United Bells | Chancel Choir | Sing and Celebrate
Sonshine Choir | Trinity Youth Singers



December 14th 7:00 pm
December 17th 10:45 am

Trinity United Methodist Church
415 Bridge Street, New Cumberland PA

Rev. Arun Andrews - Senior Pastor | Dan Stokes - Music Minister

MUSIC NOTES FROM DAN

As the choirs and handbell ringers prepare for "Emmanuel, Our God is With Us", we ask for your prayers that the message will be clear and communicated in the power of the Holy Spirit. This year's theme draws from Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?", pointing to Jesus, the most certain sign that God is for us!

Thanks for inviting guests to share in these times of worship. We are grateful to Jocelyn MacMinn for providing cards helpful in extending the invitation.

Carol Everetts and her team are already at work organizing a reception in Fellowship Hall to follow the December 17th service. We are grateful for this gift of hospitality which provides an opportunity for personal connection with guests who attend. Please take a moment to sign up if you plan to attend the reception; that will help us as we plan. Donations of cookies are gratefully received and will be an encouragement to Carol and her team in their preparation.



ATTENTION HOMEBOUND/SENIORS

Please join us for lunch on
December 12, 2017 at 12:00 NOON
In Fellowship Hall, Trinity Church

followed by
The Sunnier Side of Sixty Communion Service 1:30 PM
In the Sanctuary

Donald Miller, speaking
music by Greenwood Muse Trio

RSVP Mary Herr (717-938-1910) by December 5th

ALL TRINITY SENIOR MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Reflections on Creation
December 2017

"Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." ~Proverbs 3:6 (NLT)

The days are too short, or my pace is too slow. Often, by the time I get in gear and start to feel productive, it is time to prepare another meal and settle in for the evening. It is hard for me to do much after dark. Sometimes I feel like I am behaving like my chickens – finding a comfy place to roost and not moving until morning!

But there is much to do. The Advent season tells us to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. Our society puts pressure on us in many ways to get everything right to make the holidays bright! I rebel against jumping through all those hoops. I have learned, instead, to stay focused on what really brings me happiness this time of year and that is the promise of Jesus to be with us always. That is the ultimate gift – Emmanuel – God with us!. That is what I most want to pass on to my granddaughters, instead of a slew of presents which are transitory pleasures. I want them to have this wonderful gift which is just as satisfying the day or the month after Christmas as it was when we were singing the carols about silent nights and starry skies. I want them to see God in the ordinary, everyday things of life. I want them to know His steady presence through the ups and downs with which they will surely struggle.

As I see my 3 precious ones developing into such different personalities, I want them to value themselves and others for how carefully they are made. What a blessing to know that God loves each of us for who we are! I will, of course, choose some special things for each girl, but what I most desire to pass on to them is a legacy of contentment and joy. I want to teach them to know their Creator and to treasure their bonds with each other and with extended family and community. These are things which will sustain them through life and stand up to the pressure of holidays which can so easily be disappointments if they are based on the world's standards. I want to give gifts which can never be taken away!

"Abide in me, and I will abide in you." ~John 15:4 (The Voice)

Heavenly Father, please help us to model for our children and grandchildren the wisdom which comes with age and experience. Help us to greet them always with joy and teach them how to abide in you. Amen. ~Jady Conroy

Blue Christmas
Service of Hope
Peaceful Worship for the Holy Season

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and are in need of comfort and strength this holiday season, join us to commemorate your loved ones through sharing, prayer, music and a message of hope.

We welcome all family members.

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:00 pm
(Snow Date: Sunday, December 17)

Community United Methodist Church
1601 Bridge Street, New Cumberland

The Event's Special Guest Speakers are
Michael Gingerich, M. Div.
and Thomas Kaden, M. Div.
from Someone To Tell It To

Message: "His Heart Went Out To Her"

Special Music by
Katie Comisac, Harpist

Sponsored by
Community United Methodist Church
Fishing Creek Salem United Methodist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Parthemore Funeral Home & Cremation Services
Refreshments will be served following the service.

December 2017

Choir & Bell Rehearsals:

January 2018

Sundays

8:15 AM Worship Service - S
 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
 9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship - FH
 10:45 AM Worship Service - S

Wednesdays

6:30 PM
 Sing & Celebrate

 6:30-7:15 PM
 Sunshine Singers

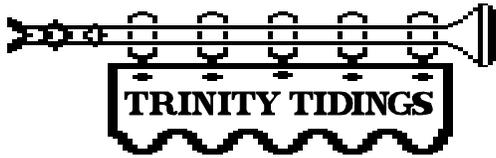
Thursdays

6:30-7:30 PM
 United Bells

 7:30 PM
 Chancel Choir

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
					9:00am Prayer Breakfast (Ickler's)	9:00am Children's Play Rehearsal 9:00am Communion Prep (K) 11:00am Children's Christmas Party 12:00pm Private
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00am Play Practice (FH) 3:00pm Children's Christmas Play (FH) 6:00pm Youth Group (CR & FH)	10:45am Grandparents in Prayer Christmas Lunch (SJ)	6:00pm Caitlin's Smiles (MO) 6:00pm Safe Sanctuary 6:30pm Worship Team (SJ) 7:00pm N C Town		6:00pm Boy Scout Christmas Party (FH)	7:30pm N C Town Band Christmas Concert (FH)	8:00am Private Party (K & FH) 9:00am Private Recital (S)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3:00pm Blue Christmas Service of Hope (Community UMC) 6:00pm Youth Group (CR & FH)		12:00pm Homebound Christmas Party (FH) 2:00pm Sunnier Side of 60 (S & MO)	12:00pm Staff Lunch	7:00pm Musicale (S)	Tidings' Deadline 3:00pm Adult S S Class Christmas Party (FH & K)	9:30am Set Up for Luncheon (FH)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am Blood Pressures 10:45am Musicale (S) 12:00pm Reception (FH) 6:00pm Youth	6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting (SJ)					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6:30pm Early Svc. (S) 10:30pm Music (S) 11:00pm Late Svc. (S)	Office Closed	8:30am Assemble Tidings (OC)			Private Party (FH)	
31	Jan 1, 18	2	3	4	5	6
10:45am United Service (S)					FH=Fellowship Hall MO=Mt. Olivet Room O=Otterbein Conf. Rm S=Sanctuary SJ=St. Johns Room	CR=Creation Room PS=Preschool Room YD=Young Disciple Rm WR=Wellness Room L&L=Lion & Lamb Rm



Dated Material

FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED



December 2017

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
415 BRIDGE STREET
NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 17070

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Worship Services ~ Sundays at 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM
Sunday School Classes for all ages ~ Sundays at 9:30 AM

TAKE 5
TO PRAY
DAILY
@ 8:30 PM

Please submit
articles for the
**JANUARY
2018
TIDINGS**
by
December 15

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Phone: (717) 774-7146

Fax: (717) 712-1200

Church website: www.trinityumnc.com



Trinity United Methodist Church New Cumberland