



The Trinity Tell *December 2018*

*Worship with us: 9:15am Sunday School
8:30am Communion Service and 10:30am Traditional Worship*

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Now as a pastor, I am biased but, I believe that Christmas is simply the best holiday. It reminds us of the enormous love that God has for us, and it sparks that little sense of magic that anything can happen. As a child I loved the special worship services that surround Christmas. From counting down the days until Christmas with an Advent calendar, to lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, and singing Silent Night by candlelight on Christmas Eve, all of those moments are so special. We make memories, we participate in rituals, and we mark the time in history when the world was changed forever.



Knowing that God *came down* to us, to live among us, to love us, and to save us we are reminded of what a personal God we serve. A God that would risk it all to come and walk our dusty roads, feel our human pain and change the world forever - that's who Jesus is. That's what we celebrate each year as we advance toward those Christmas Eve songs. Jesus is the change we are always seeking. He is the answer to our every need. And He is the reason we are all here.

I also know that at times Christmas, with all its magic and sparkle can feel a little empty especially in seasons of loss. So, this year Trinity, First UMC, and Christ UMC are going to partner to offer a special **Blue Christmas service on December 21st at First UMC at 7pm**. December 21st is the longest night of this year a symbol for loving that is associated with loss during the holidays. This year has been



filled with change, from the pastoral change of me joining you all in ministry to the many lives that have been changed by death and grief in our congregation. I want to invite you to come and participate in our Blue Christmas service as an opportunity for healing and comfort this Christmas season. I hope you'll join us.

This Advent season I pray that the spirit of Christ will meet you where you, encourage you through change, comfort you through loss, and celebrate with you in joy as we thank God for his indescribable gift!

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Andrea

Upcoming Events



Join in the fun for our Christmas Cookie Exchange! You can sign up to participate at the Info Station! Then bake 6 dozen of your favorite holiday cookies or treats. Bring in your home-made treats on December 16th in one container and we will exchange them after worship. You will leave with 6 dozen of a variety of cookies. What a great way to fill your cookie plate for Santa!

Blue Christmas
A service of remembrance and hope

December 21st, 2018
7:00pm
at First UMC
in Bowling Green

a special combined worship service of the
BG area United Methodist Churches

**FOR TO US A CHILD
IS BORN,
TO US A SON IS
GIVEN,
AND THE
GOVERNMENT
WILL BE ON HIS
SHOULDERS.
AND HE WILL
BE CALLED
WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING
FATHER, PRINCE
OF PEACE.
-ISAIAH 9:6**

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events

- Sunday, January 6th at 3-5pm — Youth Group
- Saturday, January 12th from 1-4pm —
Church Bowling Party at Al-Mar Lanes
- Sunday, January 13th from 3-5pm — Youth Group
- Saturday, January 19th at 7pm — Game Night
- Friday, January 25th at 4pm — Martha’s Kitchen
- Sunday, January 27th at 11:30am (after 2nd service) —
Chili Cook-Off
- Sunday, February 3rd from 3-5pm—Youth Group
- Sunday, February 10th at 11:30am (after 2nd service) —
Sweetheart Dinner (Jesus is EVERYONE’S Valentine!)
- Saturday, February 23rd at 7pm — Game Night
- Sunday, March 17th from 3-5pm — Youth Group
- Saturday, March 23rd from 6:30-9:00pm — Date Night
(Kid Movie) (Open to the Community)
- Sunday, March 31 at 11:30am (after 2nd service) —
Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle
(Youth Group Sponsored)
- Sunday, March 31st from 3-5pm — Youth Group

We are collecting a **Christmas Love Offering** for Pastor Andrea. If you are interested in giving, please see Beth Van Vorhis by December 21st.



Now that the **winter season** is upon us, we urge you to use good judgment when coming to church for a service or meeting.

We always hope to hold services on Sundays, but if there is a snow emergency, or if the weather is severe, please check Channels 11 and 13 for cancellations.

Christmas Poinsettias

The Maumee Watershed District UM Men are selling Poinsettia plants again this year for the ministerial scholarship grant fund. Carrying on a tradition, since 1950 the district UM Men have used funds from these flower sales to support the district students going into ministry. Many candidates have been helped over the years with the proceeds that each sale generates. These students have been helped by each individual church that participates in the sale. Please help and show we

are truly UNITED for the students in our district. This year's poinsettias are a choice of red, white, pink and marble. They will be foiled and sleeved and cost \$8 each. **The**

Trinity deadline for orders, money and dedications is Sunday, December 16th. Please submit them to the



Christmas Cantata

Please join us when Trinity's Chancel Choir performs their **Christmas Cantata, "Nativity Suites"** on Sunday, December 9th during our 10:30am service.



What Are Those Kids Up To???

Well let me tell ya! Trinity youth have had a fun autumn! Eight of us participated in Rake & Run on November 11th! We raked five yards that afternoon for our church members. (Boy, were we tired and sore.)



We also had a Family Movie Night on November 10th at church showing the movie, "The Greatest Showman." In November, the Jr. Worship Class studied what the Bible teaches us about forgiveness. In December they will be learning about Advent and our Youth Group will be decorating the kids' rooms for Christmas on December 2nd and then having their Christmas Party on December 9th. We will also be having a Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 16th during our 2nd service. Rehearsals will be in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 8th 11:30am to 12:30pm and Saturday, December 15th 10:00 to 11:00am. We hope you will join us for our program on the 16th.

*Beth Van Vorhis,
Director of Christian Education/Outreach*

"HAVE FAITH IN GOD," JESUS ANSWERED.
23 "TRULY I TELL YOU, IF ANYONE SAYS TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'GO, THROW YOURSELF INTO THE SEA,' AND DOES NOT DOUBT IN THEIR HEART BUT BELIEVES THAT WHAT THEY SAY WILL HAPPEN, IT WILL BE DONE FOR THEM.
24 THEREFORE I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT, AND IT WILL BE YOURS.
- MARK 11: 22-24

Vision Team

In November, the Trinity Vision Team had its first meeting. We will continue meeting throughout the months leading up to Easter in 2019. Working together, we will pray and discern what is in God's heart for the mission and vision of Trinity UMC. Members of the Vision Team are: Pastor Andrea, Beth Van Vorhis, Tim Smith, Ellen Pullins, Sandy Stoots, Nicki Kale, Ruth Ann Kramer, Beverly Miner, Andrew Janes, Bob Miner, and Joan Manning. The Vision Team will be reading "The Forgotten Ways" by Alan Hirsch. This book discusses the growth of the early Christian church from a spiritual standpoint and points out ways we can reclaim this connection to the Spirit of God in the current age. You are invited to pick up a copy of the book and read along. If you would like a reading plan, or if you have questions or ideas for the Vision Team please contact Pastor Andrea.



Kroger Community Rewards

Want to help Trinity's Bell Choir? You can sign up with Kroger Community Rewards. All you need a Kroger card and a Kroger account. You can follow the directions online under the "I'm a Customer" and then enroll in Community Rewards.

Krogercommunityrewards.com
 Trinity UMC Bell Choir (IU234)

HIPPA Reminder

If you or a loved one become ill and need to go to the hospital or a local care center, the medical professionals will NOT contact the church because of the HIPPA Privacy Laws. You or a family member will need to contact the church to let us know that you are sick and could use a pastoral visit or a prayer request on the email prayer chain.

Christmas Baskets

The Missions team is continuing to collect items for the 50 Christmas baskets we will give to those in need at the holidays.

Items being collected are below:

Large box of instant potatoes	Bar soap
Cans of meat	Blankets
Canned vegetables	Noodles
Vegetable oil (48 oz.)	Dish soap
Tissues	Paper towels
Shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush	



Please drop the items in the basket next to the lobby entrance by December 12th.

Soon it will be time to pack those baskets with all the donations you have generously given. You can help pack them on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are also needed for the pick-up times on Wednesday, December 19th from 9am-noon.



Thank you to all who donated cookies for the UMSO Howl-o-Ween Event on 10/30/2018. We were able to pass out over 300 cookies to students and faculty at BGSU to let them know God loves them just the way they are!

Thank you to all the folks who brought in dishes for the Consecration Sunday potluck and for all those who helped set up and clean up. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration that was highlighted with delicious food. We also thank all of our musicians and vocalists as well as Jerry Smith our choir director and Becky Fallon our Bell Choir director who spent extra rehearsal time this month in preparation for sharing the music of praise for Consecration Sunday!

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas!

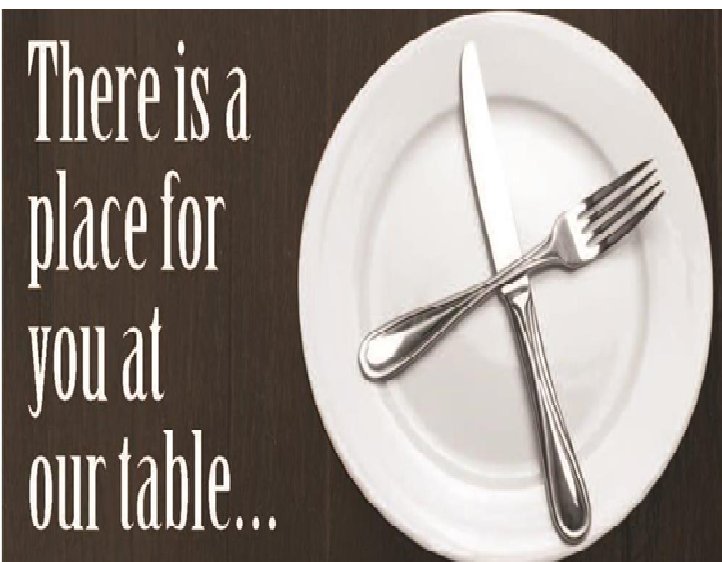
Fresh Expressions Update

Here's what's happening in Fresh Expressions:

On October 30th, our Campus Fresh Expression (UMSO) shared the love of God with students at BGSU by passing out cookies donated by members of Trinity. We also brought lovable dogs to campus to break down walls and create relationships with students. On November 2nd, our students shared their first Midnight Pancake Meal of the year with students passing by the church parking lot. We got to see so much of Jesus as we shared his love with each student and offered laughter and grace by serving our community.



What's Next for Fresh Expressions at Trinity?




You know, Jesus met people around the table for meals so often in his ministry. In sharing a meal with others, he was able to break down walls and share love and grace over the breaking of bread. What if we did that? What if we met people around the table for a meal, shared love and laughter, and learned more about Jesus in the process. What if church was on Wednesday night? What if church included music and food? What if we had dinner church?

Our Fresh Expressions team will be meeting on December 4 at 6:30pm to iron out the details for the launch of our dinner church gathering in the New Year. Dinner church will be an opportunity to gather around tables in the fellowship hall, enjoy a meal together, and grow in our faith through conversation. If that sounds like something you want to help with, Let Pastor Andrea or Beth Van Vorhis know. All will be welcome at Dinner Church, folks from the congregation, folks from the university, and folks from the neighborhood. Stay tuned for more information on the launch of this exciting new ministry!

Stewardship Update

In the month of October I shared a series of sermons on stewardship and generosity. We learned about managing our finances in the light of our faith by following John Wesley's Three Simple Rules for Money. Earn all you can, Save all you can, and Give all you can. On Consecration Sunday we celebrated what God has done in the life of our congregation for decades and we looked forward to what God will do in the future. Our Bell Choir, Children of God Choir, and Chancel Choir all shared special musical selections. We also had the joy of hearing our Choral assistant, Lucas Lourenco, share his gift of song. It was a beautiful service of worship and praise that culminated in the receiving of our annual commitment cards.



**GIVE, AND IT WILL BE
GIVEN TO YOU. A GOOD
MEASURE, PRESSED
DOWN, SHAKEN
TOGETHER AND
RUNNING OVER,
WILL BE Poured
INTO YOUR LAP. FOR
WITH THE MEASURE
YOU USE, IT WILL BE
MEASURED TO YOU."**

-LUKE 6:38

This year, we can celebrate that we have received more commitment cards than in recent years with 32 cards returned, representing a total pledged amount of \$75,810! Many of these cards indicated a desire to grow toward tithing as well as an increased giving over last year's pledged giving amount. While this pledged giving amount is not the full amount of funding needed to cover our expenses for the year, it is a good start as we journey toward financial stability as a congregation. I want to encourage you to fill out a commitment card and return it to the church office if you have yet to do so. The spiritual discipline of prayerfully considering one's finances in the light of one's faith is a step of growth for any follower of Jesus Christ.

As we enter the advent season, I would encourage you to remember our congregation as you plan your gift giving lists. If there is room in your holiday budget, please consider giving a year end financial gift to the church. This will enable our community of faith to be prepared for the New Year as well as fulfill all of our denominational giving responsibilities. I look forward to see what God has in store for our community of believers in the New Year as we work to Earn all we can, Save all we can, and Give all we can.

In the abundance of Christ,
Pastor Andrea

Women's Group

Esther Circle UMW will hold its Christmas meeting on Wednesday, December 12, at 10:30 am, in Fellowship Hall. We will be addressing Christmas cards to nursing home residents and shut-ins. There will be a potluck lunch at 12:00 noon. All Trinity women are invited to attend this time of Christmas fellowship.



Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet at Big Boy at 9am on Saturday, December 15th.



Youth Group

All teens are invited to Trinity's Youth Group meetings from 3-5pm. Sunday, 12/2—we will decorate the Youth Rooms for Christmas
 Sunday, 12/9—we will have our Christmas Party (please bring a \$10 gift card and a snack to share)

December Worship Volunteers

Liturgists

- 12/2 – Tom Ehmke
- 12/9 – Yaa Tawiah
- 12/16 – Laura Drumm
- 12/23 – Betty Jones
- 12/24 – Beverly Miner and Becky Fallon
- 12/30 – Bev Robie

Greeters

- 12/2 – Sue Maurer
- 12/9 – Tom Ehmke and Claudia Lance
- 12/16 – Shelly Warman
- 12/23 – *Need Volunteer*
- 12/24 – Al and Sandy Stoots
- 12/30 - *Need Volunteer*

Acolytes

- 12/2 – Shelby Janes and Evie Van Vorhis
- 12/9 – Allie and Katie Parish
- 12/16 – Mathias Drumm and Shelby Janes
- 12/23 – Abby Oswald
- 12/24 – *Need Volunteer*
- 12/30 – Evie Van Vorhis

Coffee Hour

- 12/2 – Tom Ehmke and Claudia Lance
- 12/9 – Parish Family
- 12/16 – Beverly and Bob Miner
- 12/23 – Terry Rishel
- 12/30 - *Need Volunteer*



- 19 Sandy & Tony Aspacher
- 20 Marge & Al Wilder
- Lesley & George Riker



- 5 Elena Kramer
- 7 Sandy Aspacher
- 8 Chris Rutter
- 9 Helen Dukes, Christiania Nietz
- 11 John Hart
- 13 Marlyn Bender
- 17 Fred Fether
- 18 Jerry Milnor
- 19 Carrol Allison, Phyllis Pickering
- 20 Sandy Stoots
- 23 Doug Stoots
- 27 Stuart Sockrider
- 28 Melissa Hart, Buzz Benschoter

Ushers

- Andy Drumm
- Mathias Drumm
- Gary Manning
- Joan Manning
- Chris Sabo
- Sandy Stoots
- Bill Kale
- Nicki Kale

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service, December 24th. Pre-service music begins at 7:15pm and the Candlelight and Communion Service begins at 7:30pm.



May
God bless
you this Christ-
mas and always~
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!

From
TUMC



Trinity United Methodist Church
200 North Summit Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402

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Or current resident

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 6:30p Drop N Shop
2 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship 11:30a COG Rehearsal 3:00p Youth Group	3 6:30p Fresh Expressions Meeting	4 3:00p Worship at Heritage Corner	5 3:00p Bible Study 7:00p Vision Team Meeting 9:00p UMSO Bible Study	6 1:00p Sewing Committee 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:00p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 4:00p CRU	8 9:30a Cantata Rehearsal 11:30a Children's Program Rehearsal 3:00p Recital
9 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship 11:30a COG Rehearsal 3:00p Youth Group	10 7:00p Finance Meeting	11 3:00p Worship at Brookdale	12 8:45a Esther Circle 3:00p Bible Study 9:00p UMSO Bible Study	13 1:00p Sewing Committee 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:00p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14	15 9:00a Men's Group 10:00a Children's Program Rehearsal 12:30 Recital
16 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship 11:30a COG Rehearsal	17 6:30p Committee Meetings 8:00p Ad Council Meeting	18 3:00p Worship at BG Manor 6:30p Packing Christmas Baskets	19 9:00a Christmas Baskets Distribution 3:00p Bible Study	20 1:00p Sewing Committee 6:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:00p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00p Blue Christmas Service at FUM	22
23 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship	24 7:30p Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29
30 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship	31					