



From the Desk of the Pastor

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means God with us)” Matthew 1:22-23

It was Christmas just a few months after the divorce. I had two children, Brandon and Christina. I was working at the pizza hut making \$2.01 per hour and at that time I was receiving \$50.00 per month child support. It was a very difficult time in our lives. I had lowered my pride and cried through the visit to the Food Stamp Office, so I could feed my children. That year I knew it was going to be a Blue Christmas, but God is full of surprises.

Brandon wanted a red bicycle from Santa and Christina wanted a highchair for her baby dolls. They were in first grade and kindergarten at the time. I agonized over how I was going to tell them that Santa is not going to bring them what they wanted for Christmas. I managed to purchase a few small things for them, but it wasn't what they had asked for. I could not bring myself to tell them the truth. It was a burden for a young mother to carry. I prayed that God would provide, but more so I asked that God would help them understand.

Christmas Eve arrived and early in the afternoon, I heard a knock at my door. It was a neighbor that lived in Carter's Valley, where we lived at the time, who I barely knew. She had put together dinner for us for Christmas Eve, ham and all the fixings. It was such a surprise I cried tears of joy and was so grateful for her thoughtfulness and generosity. After Brandon and Christina went to bed, I heard another knock at the door. This time it was my dad and brother. They had two boxes; one was a bicycle and the other a baby doll highchair. I had mentioned to Mom that I didn't know what to do, but never dreamed of them buying the gifts. Dad and Robbie proceeded to assemble the bicycle quickly as well as the highchair. Again, I cried tears of joy for the thoughtfulness and generosity of my parents. It reminded me that in good times and bad, God is truly with us. May your Advent and Christmas Season be filled with God's presence and surprising joy and peace. Even in Blue Christmases God is with us! Glory be to God!

Pastor Linda



Upcoming Events

United Methodist Women



On Monday, December 5th, at 10:30 am the ladies of the UMW will meet for tea & cookies. The focus of the meeting will be their mission project 'Baby Shower for Jesus'. They will collect new items for newborns to give to Susannah's House. This helps them restock their baby shower closet.

Advent Bible Study

Pastor Linda is leading an Advent Bible study on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. The study will follow the book *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent* by Susan Robb.

Meet and Greet

Our monthly Meet and Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 11th, following worship. The meat and dessert will be provided, please bring a side dish or salad to share.

Church Christmas Party

Trinity will host a churchwide Christmas party on Monday, December 12th, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for some festive fun and fellowship!

The Energizers Lunch Bunch

Please save the date! The Energizers Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, December 15th. Time and place to be announced!

Christmas Caroling

We invite you to go caroling with us on Monday, December 19th, at 5:30 pm. This tradition is a great way to spread Christmas cheer to our neighbors!



Holiday Reminders

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." -Luke 2:10-11

We Wish You a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Worship services will not be held on Sunday, December 25th. We hope you enjoy Christmas Day with your loved ones!

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 23rd through Friday, December 30th in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, December 24th, at 5:00 pm. We hope you and your loved ones will join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ!



Memorials

In Memory of Mindy Fox given by Deborah Counce

*In Memory of Walter M. McDaniel given by Jack Hammontree
and Patsy Hammontree*



Announcements

ONE HEART

We know that many families are coming to live in our community with different needs, including appropriate clothing for the cold season, many of them are immigrants, mostly Latinos, that is why we wanted to get together as ONE HEART to serve our neighbors, and provide winter clothing of all sizes for babies, boys, girls, women and men. We will be receiving donations of winter clothing during these months with the hope of being able to serve those who need it. Please bring items to the middle children's classroom downstairs.

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had."

-Acts 4:32

A Message from Our Tech Team

Did you know that, most likely, you can set your mobile phone to automatically go into 'Do Not Disturb' mode on a schedule? I have my (Android) phone set to do so from about 10:55AM to 12:05PM every Sunday, so I just don't have to worry about it!

On Android versions above 8.1, the functionality should be in "Settings". With "Settings" open, tap the "Sound & Vibration" item, then "Do Not Disturb", then "Turn on automatically". For more details, here is a page detailing much more about "Do Not Disturb" (I used tinyurl to make it manageable; scroll down to "Stop interruptions automatically"):

<https://tinyurl.com/mr2f6s55>

I know nothing of Apple products, but I did find this page which might help:

<https://tinyurl.com/fw25vcvh>

-Ed



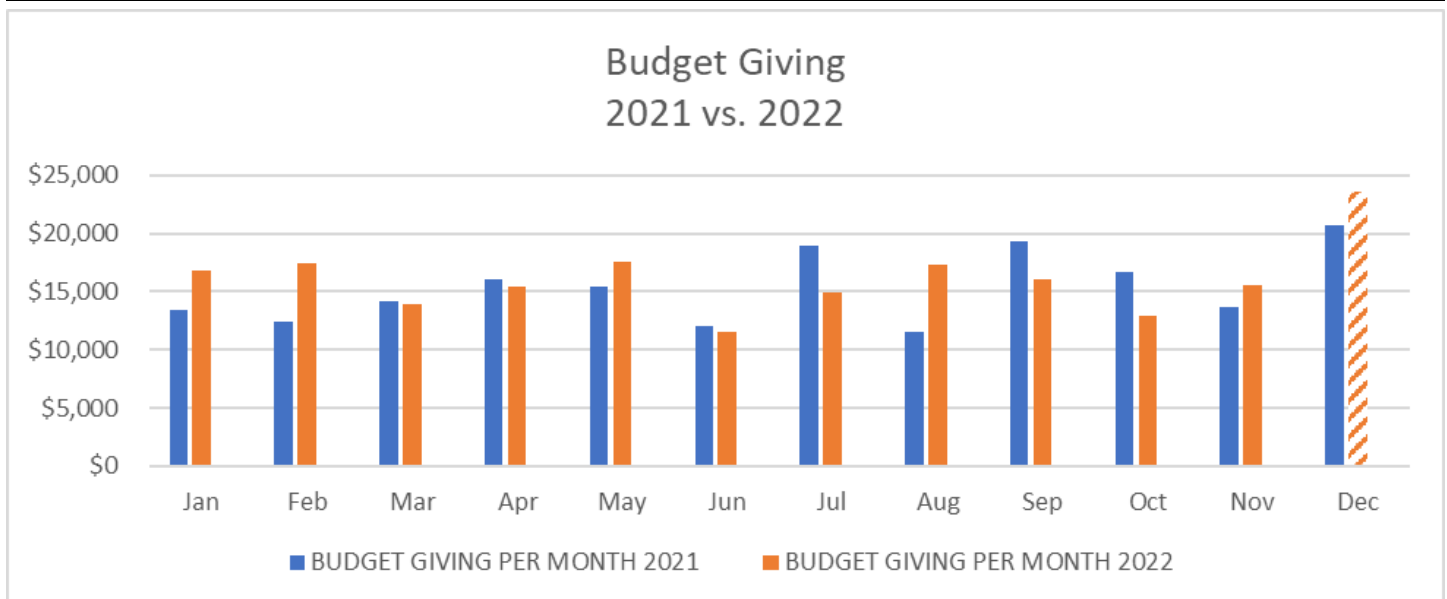
Trinity Echo, December 2022

Treasurer’s Report – December 2022

It is hard to believe that another year is getting close to being in the books (pun intended). It has been an interesting and rewarding year. **Thank you for your generosity!** Some of the year’s financial highlights include:

- Distributed over \$4000 within the community to various organizations
- Contributed over \$2900 toward church building and landscape maintenance
- Contributed over \$7000 to the repair of the HVAC system
- Contributed over \$1800 to the Church Benevolence Fund
- Contributed over \$3200 to UMCOR for disaster relief
- Contributed \$1000 to the Children-Young Men & Women of the South Sudan Mission and the Dearing’s
- Granted \$6500 in scholarships to some very deserving young men and women
- Received grants totaling \$7100 from the Holston Conference to assist us in our Mattress Ministry and Children’s Summer Programs

Budget Revenue	As of 11/28/2022
Total Budget Revenue	173,122.90
Budget Expenses	
Personnel	119,307.02
Discipleship	129.90
Worship	1,171.10
Nurture, Outreach, Witness (NOW)	2,286.01
Office Expenses	5,528.88
Maintenance, Supplies, Insurance, Utilities	28,538.10
Apportionments	7,590.00
Mission Support	1,100.00
Total Budget Expenses	165,651.01
Budget Excess (Deficit)	7,471.89





December Birthdays

<i>Joel Bonnan</i>	<i>December 6</i>
<i>Ann Chumley</i>	<i>December 11</i>
<i>Jennifer Thornton</i>	<i>December 13</i>
<i>Joanie Kirkland</i>	<i>December 16</i>
<i>Shay Landon</i>	<i>December 20</i>
<i>Ab Brookshire</i>	<i>December 22</i>
<i>Wesley Dotson</i>	<i>December 28</i>
<i>Kim Williams</i>	<i>December 29</i>

Happy Birthday!





United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The UMW met on November 7, 2022.

We had a guest speaker, Reverend Aaron Solomon (pictured below), the Church Outreach Director of Knoxville's Wesley House Community Center. We learned about the missions of Wesley House, including the Food Pantry, the Grannies Program, and the After School Programs. Aaron also talked about the plans for the future of Wesley House, which include building upgrades for childcare licensing and other initiatives. Trinity UMC contributes to Wesley House via food pantry donations (Vienna Sausage), and money for other programs as needed. We want to host the Grannies for lunch and Bingo in the coming months.



Aaron went back to work with a carload of Vienna Sausage (151 cans) from our October collection!

The December 2022 meeting will be a tea & cookies meeting and our mission project is a 'Baby Shower for Jesus': we collect new items for newborns to give to Susannah's House. This helps them restock their baby shower closet. Mark your calendars for December 5th at 10:30 am.

December 2022

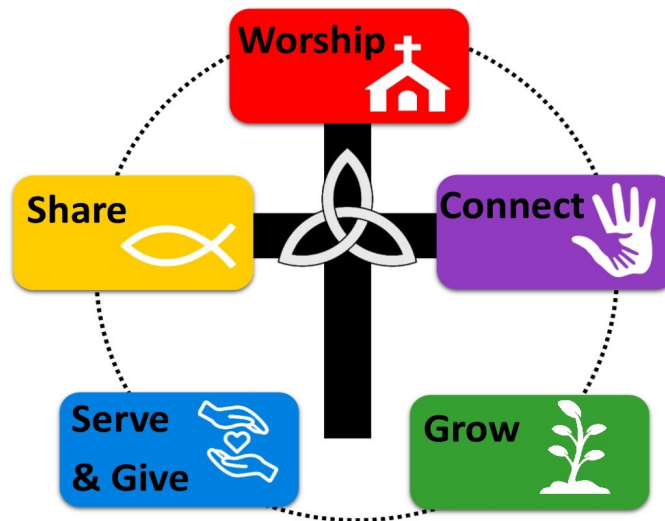


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship and Holy Communion Second Sunday of Advent	5 10:30 am UMW Meeting "Baby Shower for Jesus" Tea & cookies will be served	6 10 am Advent Bible Study	7 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 pm Meet & Greet Third Sunday of Advent	12 5:00 pm Church Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall	13 10 am Advent Bible Study	14 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17
18 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent	19 5:30 pm Caroling	20 10 am Advent Bible Study	21	22	23 Church office closed	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
25 Merry Christmas!	26 Church office closed	27 Church office closed	28 Church office closed	29 Church office closed	30 Church office closed	31



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Disciples making Disciples
to share the LOVE of Jesus Christ
with our community
and the world.



Our Mission:

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make Disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Discipleship Keys: Worship, Connect, Grow, Serve, Share