

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2024

CONTENTS

From the Pastor	1
Advent Devotional	2
Hanging of the Greens	2
Legend of Poinsettias	3
Coming to Worship	3
Christmas Eve Service	3
Live Nativity	3
Poinsettia Donations	4
Symbolism of a Candy Cane	4
Keep Advent at Home	5
Wishing Tree	5
Love Your Neighbor	6
Adopt a Project	7
Puzzles	7

FROM THE PASTOR

Advent is a period of time beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending with Christmas Eve. Some people begin thinking about Christmas long before December arrives. But not this year. This year, we are preoccupied by the daily rise and drop in Covid-19 cases. This year we may hear more often, "I just can't seem to get in the mood for Christmas." Of course, the Covid-19 has presented more than a fair share of challenges to families and communities of faith. The good news is that Covid-19 can only alter the way we celebrate Christmas. Even in the midst of this pandemic, we can still take time to prepare ourselves for the great event—the Advent of Jesus. We can take time to get ready to celebrate in a way that will be spiritually renewing.

In Galatians 4:4, we read that God had prepared the world for the coming of Christ. In the same way, Advent is not just a time of waiting but a time of preparing for the coming of Christ.

Advent comes at a time when we have our shortest days with long nights of darkness, but we look forward to a gradual lengthening of the day with its accompanying light. Continue on pg 2



FROM THE PASTOR CONT.

Likewise, Advent speaks of the darkness of sin, of our failures and unresolved conflicts, which prompted God to send Jesus into the world. It speaks of hope in the form of Jesus, the Light of the world. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5). God's plan to redeem and save this world is on its way. Take courage because the advent of the Lord is on its way. During this pandemic, ask yourself, "How can you share God's love and hope with others?"

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Did you know that the gospel of St. Luke chronicles the Life of Jesus Christ? For Advent this year if you begin on December 1st reading 1 chapter a day, until December 24th you will have read the whole gospel of Luke.

You will wake up Christmas morning with a new understanding of who and why we celebrate the life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

The principal divisions of the Gospel according to Luke are the following:

1. The Prologue ([1:1-4](#))
2. The Infancy Narrative ([1:5-2:52](#))
3. The Preparation for the Public Ministry ([3:1-4:13](#))
4. The Ministry in Galilee ([4:14-9:50](#))
5. The Journey to Jerusalem: Luke's Travel Narrative ([9:51-19:27](#))
6. The Teaching Ministry in Jerusalem ([19:28-21:38](#))
7. The Passion Narrative ([22:1-23:56](#))
8. The Resurrection Narrative ([24:1-53](#))

Try this or your Advent devotion, and see how God speaks to you through the Gospel.

HANGING OF THE GREENS AND DECORATING THE CHURCH



On December 1st we will be decorating the Sanctuary for the upcoming holiday season. To get in the energy flowing for this fun activity we will have a soup lunch.

Stay and have lunch with us, then help set up the sanctuary for the Christmas season. It will be a fun time for all.



LEGEND OF POINSETTIA

Maria, a small orphan, had no gift for Christmas Eve altar. With no other choice, she placed a carefully selected dry weed on the altar reverently and lovingly. Just as she placed the weed on the altar, the dry leaves became a rich green and the top bloomed to a flaming red. In this legend, the poinsettia was born and became known as "the flower of Christmas Eve."



P 3

COMING TO WORSHIP

We are witness to the transforming power of Christ through our regular presence in worship. Invite a friend or a neighbor with you to worship services.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our Christmas Candlelight service will be Tuesday, December 24, 7:00pm. You will hear the familiar Christmas scriptures, sing the beloved carols, and be lifted by special music and message.

On Christmas Eve all the rushing and busyness of the season is over and a holy hush all about us as we come to church. In the beauty and quietness of the night, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord once again.

You are invited to join with millions of Christians around the world as we meet for this traditional candlelight service. Come and bring your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LIVING NATIVITY

How long has it been since you were in a Christmas pageant? Huxley's Nativity Scene with live animals will be Friday and Saturday, December 20 & 21.

Volunteers are needed to help with the living nativity scene. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pastor Dass for more info.



POINSETTIAS DONATED TO TRINITY

P 4

In memory of Bob Kelley
from Jean Kelley

In memory of Richard McCrady
from the McCrady Family

In memory of Dennis Parmenter
from Kathy Parmenter and family

In memory of Kathy & Vernle Johnson, Laura & Keith Lyon
from Ron & Vicki Lyon

In memory of their parent and grandparents
from Craig and Jeanie Henry

In memory of Dan Hall
from the Hall Family

In memory of the Whisenand Family
from Mary and Sherill Whisenand

In memory of Paul & Opal Hornung and Kenny & May McKenna
from Steve & Gayle Hornung

In memory of their family and our church family
from Dick & Linda Fawcett

In memory of their loved ones
from the Weber Family, Burdette & Loa Christensen
and Doug & Martha Brown

If you have not already but would like to donate a poinsettia plant/s, please email the office, or put an order form in the collection basket. Sunday December 1st is the deadline for ordering; and cost per plant is \$12.00. Thanks for helping to decorate the Sanctuary.

SYMBOLISM OF THE CANDY CANE

Candy canes are a Christian symbol that represent the following:

- The hard candy reminds us that Jesus is our rock.
- The cane shape reminds us of a shepherd's staff and the shepherds that came to worship Jesus. It also reminds us of how Jesus came into the world to be a shepherd of his people.
- Candy canes were created as Christian symbols representing the blood and purity of Jesus.

The cane was shaped like a "J" for "Jesus" and the red-and-white stripes represented Christ's blood and purity. The three red stripes were also said to symbolize the Holy Trinity, and the hardness of the candy represented the Church's foundation on solid rock.

KEEPING ADVENT AT HOME

Decorate a shoebox with the Advent colors—purple or blue. Place Christmas cards inside the box. Each night at dinner, draw out a card and talk about how the person who sent it has brought you joy and then pray for that person.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

P 5

Pastor Emmanuel and Tessie Dass wish you all a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with joy and happiness. We hold you all most dear and wish you the very best of everything. May the love of Christ fill your hearts and homes at Christmas time and always.



BALLARD CLOTHING PANTRY WISHING TREE

The Ballard Clothing Pantry is again putting up their Wishing Tree. The Wishing Tree Project, which provides gifts for families in the Ballard Community, will begin on Wednesday, November 27, and run through Sunday, December 8.

Wishing Tree Timeline:

- Wishing Tree Begins: Wednesday, November 27, 5-7 PM
- Ballard families with children (newborn through senior in high school) are invited to come fill out a wish list. Community members wishing to adopt a family should plan to arrive after 6:00 PM to allow families time to fill out their wish lists.
- Dates to Request and Fulfill Wishes: November 27, December 4, 7, and 8
- Families can submit wish lists during these times, and community members can adopt a family from the tree to fulfill their wishes.
- Gift Return Deadline: All gifts need to be returned to the pantry by Saturday, December 14, from 10 AM to 12 PM.
- Gift Pickup for Families: Families can pick up their gifts on Sunday, December 15, from 1-3 PM at the pantry. Please note that no exceptions will be made for pickup times.

Important Note:

All information is confidential, and the wish list should include both wants and needs.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

P 6

I am sure you have seen mention in the bulletin of the “Love your Neighbor” program. This program is designed to help bring love and kindness back into our neighborhood, our city and our country. As we have all seen in the recent past our country and our world is suffering from anger, hatred and violence. We have gotten away from caring for both people we know and people we don’t know.

We can blame the pandemic, or social media or the use of cell phones and email and the lack of person-to-person contact. Or maybe the idea that if it doesn’t affect me then I don’t care. This program helps us to bring about change to one person at a time. After all “It only takes a spark to get a fire going, That's how it is with God's Love, once you've experienced it. You spread the love to everyone. You want to pass it on.” Hymn by Kurt Kaiser.

Love Your Neighbor is a program to combat the most recent epidemics facing the world today. What is that?? you ask, fearing more masks and illnesses.

The latest epidemic is loneliness and loss of contact with people. With the rise of technology and Covid contributing to isolating. People are suffering from lack of contact with neighbors and friends.

The Love Your Neighbor program has ideas and guides to bring people back together and to share the love of Jesus Christ. There are many ways in this small packet to help us reconnect with our friends and neighbors.

Some suggestions are inviting friends to a meal, or a game night, ideas to practice gratitude, generosity and hospitality. There is also information about ways that we can spread the Good News of Jesus. There is a “Map” and a guide to use to help you with this mission.

There are 12 kits. Please take on and look it over. If you are not interested, you can return it.

Even if you don’t keep the kit, maybe there are some ideas that you will take away from the kit and be able to put into use in your life.

By helping to ease the burden of loneliness you may make a difference in one person’s life.



ADOPT A PROJECT FOR 2025

P 7

Last month when we sent out the newsletter, we included a list of projects that needed to be completed to keep our building and property in good shape. Those projects included replacing the outside doors in the fellowship hall and by Pastor's office, replacing the windows in the fellowship hall and the classrooms, fixing the playground fence, and replacing the railroad ties in the landscaping by the parking lot.

Due to these needs we are instituting a program called "Adopt a Project". You can make a donation to the church to help fund one of these or other projects that need to be done here. By making a donation to the church you may be able to make an impact to your income taxes. Perhaps you need to maximize your charitable deductions for 2024 or take your Required distribution for 2025. Either option can help pay for a project and help your tax situation. (Please contact your tax advisor for additional information.)

Here is a cost breakdown for the projects mentioned above. Replacing the doors will cost about \$1,200 each. Windows are estimated at about \$1,500- \$1,700 each. There are 11 windows that need to be replaced in the next few years. Fixing the playground fence will cost \$500.00. The landscaping cost is not sure yet, but it will be a significant expense.

The Church Council and the Trustee committee encourage you to consider this new Adopt a Project program. consult with your financial representative and see if you could benefit from this program. Please talk to a council member or trustee if you have questions or would like additional information.

PUZZLES



WORD SCRAMBLE!

SKOICOE _____

ASTAN ULCSA _____

OTH COOLTHACE _____

GLIHES SELBL _____

LOCARS _____

LIMSOTTEE _____

BIGGEEDARRN _____

SHLITG _____

EONGGG _____



VAINTYIT _____

PURHOLD _____

YADNC NECA _____

MOWNANS _____

BEEEDRCM _____

GLANE _____

TINCKGOS _____

**CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THESE
CHRISTMAS WORDS??**

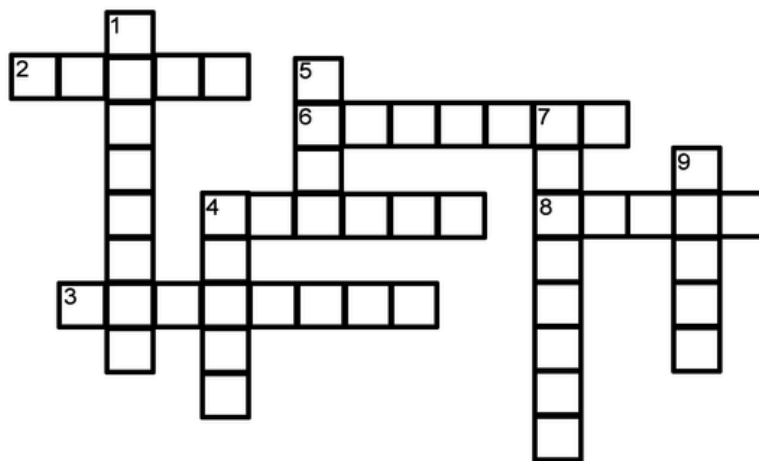
SANTA'S REINDEER'S NAMES



U S N C H N M A G I C A N A G
R N L B L I T Z E N B S X T T
V E E E X G Q E P K D G M J S
W X C S I B M R N E H X D L P
A I U N J G E E C H P J I B W
T V E O A S H C C S L Y P B Y
E O Q W E D T N H C O L U Q H
M L W N G D U A R A D F C S A
O A T K R O R R I Y U B Y N T
C S Z A K Y E P S H R V B K N
S T O C K I N G T B A C S T A
P O B N B B N N M Z V A E U S
W E Z I B S O D A S H E R N R
H A W N J D D K S V D N L W C
M Z A U C S Q Y E N M I H C L

DASHER PRESENTS
DANCER CHIMNEY
PRANCER STOCKING
VIXEN
COMET
CUPID
DONNER
BLITZEN
RUDOLPH
SANTA
SNOW
FLY
MAGIC
SLEIGH
CHRISTMAS

www.northPoleNews.Org



1. Which month is Christmas?
2. Christmas colors are red and _____)
3. What type of animal pulls the sleigh?
4. Who delivers presents on Christmas day? (down)
4. Santa rides on the _____
5. Presents go under the _____
6. Who is the reindeer with the red nose?
7. Kids open _____ on Christmas.
8. Who builds and wraps the toys?
9. _____ Christmas and a Happy New Year