

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Advent Season

BY PASTOR EMMANUEL DASS

Advent is a period beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending with Christmas Eve.

Some people begin thinking about Christmas long before December arrives. Others are halfway through that month and still saying, "I just can't get in the mood for Christmas; maybe when it snows..." They are waiting for something to happen to get them into the mood for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

In a spiritual sense, that is what Advent is all about. It is a time for us to prepare ourselves to celebrate that great event, cont.

What's inside this issue:

THE ADVENT SEASON

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

KEEPING ADVENT HOME

CHRISTMAS LEGENDS

TUM HANDS SERVING OTHERS

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

MEANING OF ADVENT WREATH

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

BIBLE STUDY

WORSHIP

LETTER TO CONGREGATION

PUZZLES

The Advent Season cont.

the first coming of Christ, a time to get ready to celebrate in a way that will be spiritually renewing to ourselves. 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 expectantly but a time for preparing for the Christmas celebration.

The Advent Season 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. Likewise, Advent season speaks of the darkness of sin, of our failures and unresolved conflicts, which prompted God's sending Jesus into the world but it also speaks of hope because God did come in the form of Jesus, the Light of the World. The Gospel of John says, "In him was life, and that life was the light of everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5).

Therefore, Advent is a time of soul-searching—of repentance and contrition—but it is also a time of thanksgiving and joy; thanksgiving for what God has done for us and joyful anticipation of that great day on which we celebrate it.

The Advent Season is a time for worship, a time for seeking to understand our part in God's larger plan for the world. If you'd like to do a family devotions but haven't found the time or courage to start, Advent is a natural opportunity to worship together in your home. During the Advent Season ask yourself: How can I share the words of Christianity? How can I share the good works? We need to remember that from the beginning of Christianity Christians, even at times when there's been a great deal of persecution, shared God's love with others? Have a soul-searching Advent Season!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be Saturday, December 24 at 7:00pm. You will hear the familiar Christmas scriptures, sing the beloved carols, and be lifted by music and message. On Christmas Eve all the rushing and busyness of the season will be over and a holy hush is all about us as we come to the church. In the beauty and quietness of the night, we celebrate the birth of our Lord once again. You are invited to join billions 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.



Keeping Advent 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.

Christmas Legends

Candy Cane Legend

In the 17th century the government of England would not allow Christians to celebrate Christmas. A candy maker took a piece of candy and shaped it like a shepherd's crook to be a secret symbol of Jesus. The three small stripes were for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the large red stripe was the life of Jesus that he gave up for us. The candy cane was a double gift, a sweet treat and a symbol of Christmas.

Legend of the Little Drummer Boy

Zach was asleep when voices outside his house suddenly awakened him. A parade passed in the middle of the night.

Immediately he saw his chance. He took his coat, got his drum, and stepped outside. However, the people outside looked strange. Three rich men were sitting on camels, guided by servants.

Zack followed them, caught up with the parade, and started to play his drum. Excitingly he played as loud as he could.

The parade left the city, and happily, Zack accompanied them to a stable, where he saw a baby was born. Everybody presented their gifts to the baby. However, he had nothing to give.

He did not know what to do and started to play his drum. Baby Jesus turned his head to the sound and smiled at the young drummer boy. He had not smiled at the gold, the frankincense, or the myrrh, but he did smile at the sound and heart of the drummer boy.



Legend of Poinsettias

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.”



TUM Hands-Serving Others

Who is this and how can they help your neighbors?

We are a Grantee through Story County Housing Trust and focus on areas of Story County not served by other Grantees. Specifically, that is Story County proper with exception Of Collins, Nevada, Maxwell, Roland, Gilbert communities. The remainder of the county is supported by “TUM Hands-Serving Others.”

The Story County Housing Trust (SCHT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a designated Local Housing Trust Fund by the Iowa Finance Authority for Story County. The goal of the SCHT is to improve affordable housing in Story County.

The SCHT provides funding to grantees who provide housing assistance under one of two programs: 1) Owner-Occupied Repair or 2) Rental/Shelter Based Assistance.

So far this year we have done Nine-(9) projects for qualifying clients with failing housing structures from delayed maintenance, HVAC systems, sanitary plumbing, water heaters, entrance issues, doors and windows (security). Essentially we have invested approximately \$38,000.00 in our neighbors homes to keep them in their homes, safe and secure.



We keep the funds in Story County with local contractors and suppliers, we serve only Story County clients.

A Recent Project included a handicapped ramp.

Thanksgiving Baskets

We put together a total of 18 Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in the community. The baskets included meat, potatoes, a vegetable and bread. Thanks to Pat Cole, Craig and Jeannie Henry, and Traci and Brian Kirtley for their help.

Little Free Pantry

Come and check out the Little Free Pantry that has been installed on the corner of the church property. Feel free to add supplies to it.

The items that seem to be the most popular are snack foods such as granola bars, pop tarts, fruit snacks, single serving mac and cheese and cereal, and personal care items.

Just please keep in mind food safety and weather conditions.



5 Advent Wreath Candles and Their Meaning

Advent candles are a part of Christian traditions that serve as a reminder that Jesus came as Light into our dark world.

There are five candles lit in the advent candle set. Each one represents something different. Traditionally these are lit one per week on Sunday during Advent. However, in most church services they do them all at one lighting. There are three blue or purple candles, one pink or rose candle and one white candle. Each one represents something different:

1. Candle of Hope (Prophet Candle / God's People Candle)

The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. Prophets knew of the hope of the coming Messiah. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. Our hope is only found in Jesus Christ. This is God's forgiveness for man. This one is a purple / blue candle.

2. Candle of Faith (Bethlehem Candle)

The second candle represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. This candle reminds of the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. The experience or journey of Joseph and Mary in the city of Bethlehem. The Baby Jesus in the Manger. This one is purple or blue.

4. Candle of Peace (Angel's Candle)

The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace—He came to bring people peace with God and with each other again. This candle represents peace and justice that the angels and Christ brings to the world. It also can represent purity. This candle is usually purple or blue.

5. Candle of Light & Purity (Christ Candle)

The fifth candle is white, and it represents light and purity and is called "Christ's candle" as it represents Christ coming into the world. It is placed in the middle as a reminder of the preeminent place of Christ. This candle represents the life of Christ and His purity.

A wreath, being a circle, has no beginning or end and symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The wreath, when decorated with evergreens, which are symbolic of life itself, points to God's gift of life even as the world grows dark and plants die back with the lessening of sunlight hours.



Trinity Church Council Highlights

The sanctuary project and roof replacement are completed. Final painting and replacing the crosses on the outside will be done in warmer weather this spring. There are always ongoing building needs, and the council will be developing a budget and timeline plan for future maintenance. If you notice anything needing repair or replacement, please bring it to a council member's attention.

Special thanks go out to all the volunteers who help each Sunday and with special events. We couldn't do these things without you. The Fall Family Fun was well organized and those who attended enjoyed the activities.

The council will be reviewing the yearly church calendar at our December meeting. Please let a council member know if you have suggestions for events to be included.

Assisted hearing devices will be purchased. We also discontinued our copier agreement and purchased our own printer at considerable annual savings.

Online Bible Study

Bishop Kennetha is hosting an online Bible Study on Tuesday's at 7 pm on Zoom: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, 2023. It is not too late to sign up!

It is based on the book "Unrelenting Grace" by Bishop Ken Carter.

Bishop Carter calls grace the essence of a holy life, in which we recognize that God's loving presence in our lives is a gift.

The study will help us remember who we are as United Methodists, and give us a sense of common belonging, shared identity and unity. Maybe, it will even put us on a road to healing.

If you want to read the book, but not participate in the Bible Study, you can do that as well. Let the office know if you would like to join the Bible study. We will get the book for you.

Worship

We witness the transforming power of Christ through our regular presence in worship. Invite a friend or a neighbor to come with you to worship services. "God has poured out his love into our hearts," (Romans 5:5).

Please join us on Sunday at 9:30 AM.





TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

102 Lynwood Dr.
Huxley, Iowa 50124
Pastor: Dr. Emmanuel Dass
Website: TrinityMethodistinHuxley.org
Email: huxleyTUMC@gmail.com
Church office: (515)-597-2625

November 30, 2023

Dear Trinity Friends,

On the first Sunday of 2023 pieces of the sanctuary ceiling were found scattered on the church pews below. The cause may never be clearly known, but after much time had passed the engineering report suggested errors made in past roofing projects and storm damage may have been the culprit. The engineering firm gave us a set of guidelines to follow in our repair work that will hopefully prevent this from happening again.

Today we have a brand-new shingle roof and a completely new flat roof. We chose to upgrade some church features as repairs were in progress. These included electrical switches, ceiling lights, wall fixtures, ceiling fans, sanctuary windows, repair of stained glass window, exterior door, and exterior paint (when weather permits). Upgrades were also done in the Narthex and hallway to the Fellowship Hall. The sanctuary HVAC system was reviewed, and a few upgrades were made to improve system efficiency. We are already seeing lower utility costs.

A project of this size and scope would typically be evaluation, study, and fund raising before the project began. However, the timing of all that needed to be done did not allow the usual process as we focused on minimizing further damage. Your church council secured permission to use our Parsonage sale funds to assist with repairs and upgrades that the insurance proceeds did not cover. Our agreement was, and we are committed, to repaying these funds over time as donations are made. Note, all the financial details are attached on the second page.

Further, we are committed to securing our church for the future and more upgrades remain to be needed. The Fellowship Hall/Sunday School windows are in need of replacement, and Fellowship Hall doors should be replaced as they have deteriorated and do not provide energy efficiency and security. We would project to replace them with new one-way egress doors similar to the door installed in the Sanctuary repair project.

Opportunities exist for stain glass inserts in our new south wall window of the Sanctuary. This would be for the center windows of each and could be a beautiful addition for our Sanctuary.



We have many positives to be thankful for as we are current on our bills and salaries for staff. Plus, we are hoping to be fully paid on our apportionments by the end of the year. I am very confident that all the work that has been completed will help to secure and protect our church for future years. Please continue to consider how we may all work together to use this opportunity to rebuild our finances, and solidify our church finances for many years to come.

Respectfully,

Craig D. Henry

Craig D. Henry, Church Council Chair
Trinity United Methodist Church

John12:24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Church Repairs – Financial report

Parsonage Fund CD

Beginning Balance:	\$157,739.52	November 2022
Transfer to money market	\$ 50,000.00	April 2023
Ending Balance:	\$105,737.18	November 28, 2023

Note: The original CD is now in the Money Market Account

Insurance Payments: Grinnell Mutual (Two separate claims)

\$88,310.75	Church Repairs - Sanctuary
\$17,739.73	"
\$571.03	"
<u>\$11,945.82</u>	Final w/Depreciation allowance

Claim NO: 1 Total: \$118,567.33

Claim No. 2 Total: \$58,585.00 Church Repairs – Building Repairs

Total Payments from Grinnell Mutual for 2023: \$177,152.33

Contractor(s) & Payments:

A.C Landwin	\$5,600.00	New gutters and down spouts on church
*Academy Roofing	\$11,800.00	New flat roof (above sanctuary)
Converse Conditioned Air	\$1,155.00	HVAC upgrades (Thermostats, Air Vents)
Converse Conditioned Air	\$389.70	
Citation Bldg. Supply	\$7,031.45	Three-(3) New Sanctuary Windows (Commercial)
*Clean Machine	\$1,642.45	Shampoo and clean carpet (Sanctuary, Narthex, Hallway)
*Kinzler	\$12,267.00	Spray foam (Sanctuary ceiling)
*Kurrent Electric	\$4,868.10	Remove and installation of electrical components
*Liberty Lock	\$70.35	Door lock repair
Matt Devig Construction	\$11,600.00	Demolition and rebuild of South sanctuary wall.
Matt Devig Construction	\$9,257.60	Exterior painting of sanctuary (Pending weather)
Matt Devig Construction	\$460.00	Removal, repair, repainting of Flame & Cross emblems
Matt Devig Construction	\$1,200.00	Installation of South Sanctuary window
Richard Shook	\$5,000.00	New stain glass window insert (East side of sanctuary)
*Service Master	\$24,191.09	Remediation stabilization services
*Sunbelt rentals	\$12,412.67	On site rental equipment (Lifts & scaffolding)
*TMJ Construction Sacs	\$6,870.00	Repairs of the roof stub walls
*Van Meter Electric	\$3,659.52	New light fixtures, sanctuary
*Worth Exteriors	\$67,558.80	General Contractor for repairs
*Worth Exteriors	\$53,317.19	Roof replacement (Hail damage)
Misc expenses	\$150.00	Labor for moving furniture.
Misc expenses	\$558.18	New registers, corner covers
Craig & Jenine Henry	\$1,906.42	New Sanctuary Computer
Walter Lain	\$694.80	Communication Cables (HDMI)

Note(s):

* Insurance reimbursement

Items are "Not" paid but work is complete.

Items are "Not" paid, and work is "NOT" complete.

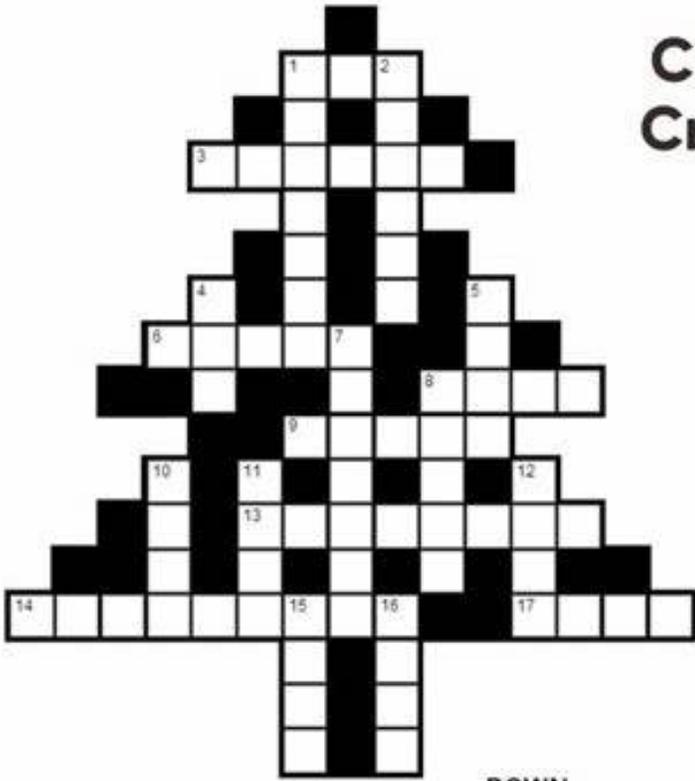
Donations:

Stained glass window \$1,000.00

New Sanctuary Computer \$750.00

Puzzles!!

Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christmas

DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle _____"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ___"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider

1. ahrtew _____
2. tnigergse _____
3. rmyer _____
4. oftyrs _____
5. tayrp _____
6. ttosneaip _____
7. eretalcbe _____
8. soanse _____
9. maiyfl _____
10. ljloy _____
11. tipisr _____
12. tiotsemle _____
13. rete _____
14. hlaodyi _____
15. eeirerdn _____
16. cyinehm _____
17. elsve _____
18. aasnt _____
19. cngtkoiss _____
20. sdel _____

May you experience God's Grace and Joy during this Christmas Season, and as we prepare for His coming. Merry Christmas, Pastor Bass

