WELCOME TO TRINITY CHURCH

If you are a newcomer to the congregation please make yourself known to one of the clergy or to one of our ushers before worship.

Pastoral Team
Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett - Interim Co-Lead Pastor
Rev. Dr. Charlie McNeil - Interim Co-Lead Pastor
Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos - Associate Pastor
Rev. Jisun Nam - Associate Pastor
Pastor Sharon Hoff - Congregational Care Pastor
Ginny Thorp - Congregational Care Lay Minister

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Worship Schedule
Saturday 5:00 pm - Worship in Trinity House
Sunday 9:15 am & 10:45 am - Worship in Sanctuary and Livestreamed
Dear Trinity Friends,

We have passed the darkness of the longest night of the year. We have just come through the celebration of the re-birth of Christ in our hearts and have sung, “Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.” And now we are on the edge of a brand-new year with new beginnings, fresh starts, and pristine opportunities.

Jesus speaks a timely word to us: “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). Jesus knows our hearts and minds, how we think and how we act. In 2022, this might translate something like: you can’t drive forward looking in a rear-view mirror. Jesus was saying we need to keep our spiritual focus and our lives looking forward.

Trusting in God, there are so many good things that await us in the new year! One of the largest will be receiving a new Lead Pastor. We will never forget Pastor Frank and celebrate his ministry. Now, we are called to “put our hand to the plow” and look forward with positive anticipation to whomever God will be providing as our new pastor.

Hopefully, Pastor Tanya and I have been a shock absorber to receive most of the grief propelled negativity and transition toward healing. Hopefully, looking forward, you will graciously welcome the new Lead Pastor with warmth, eagerness, and positive spiritual energy, trusting in God’s resurrection power to live out God’s promise, “Behold, I do a new thing!”

Jesus also said, “I go to prepare a place for you!”—that’s not just heaven, but here on earth in 2022!! Let us go into the future trusting in God, living lives of love, and meeting Christ in all we do!

Faithfully,
Charlie

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Dear Trinity Church,

We have waited through the season of Advent, sitting in the shadows watching for the Great Light to appear once more—and the star has shone upon us announcing the arrival of the Christ child! As in all advents, or new beginnings, a time of adjustment commences, inviting us to consider how we welcome in the possibilities that are offered to us. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love and sound mind, as is written in 2 Timothy. God ushers us into a new space of ministry and mission as a new year begins, and as Trinity anticipates receiving a new lead pastor, as well as empowering new lay leadership. This is an exciting, if unsettling, time.

Pastor Charlie and I have stood beside you over the past six months, with our hands to the plow, pushing forward through grief and change, unchartered and unfamiliar territory. This has not been an easy time, but it has been a necessary time of preparation, renewal, and restoration. As Pastor Charlie moves on to return to his work in psychotherapy, I will remain for the next few months as the bishop and cabinet discern the appointment of a new lead pastor and as new lay leadership takes its place on the various committees of the church.

It is my prayer that we will continue to partner to prepare Trinity church for next things in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and one of power, love and sound mind. May God continue to bless this church, its ministry and mission, using the Trinity church well to serve God, neighbor and the world, a bastion of peace and mercy in a world desperate for love and hope.

With best wishes for wonder and joy in the new year.
Pastor Tanya
Good News! from Your Missions Ministry Team

By Joan Caldwell & Elsa Todd

Mission News

At the December meeting, your Missions Ministry Team approved donations to the following faith-based organizations:

1. Carmen Ministries (outreach to juvenile offenders) - $3,000
2. New Hope Girls (outreach to abused/exploited girls in the Dominican Republic) - $3,000
3. "We Care" (outreach to the homeless in our area) - $2,000
4. Truck Stop Ministry - $1,000
5. UNTO - $1,000
6. Hoving Home (Christmas gifts for the ladies) - $250

We would like to Thank! everyone who made donations (financially, materially, and/or with your time and talents) over this past year to the outreaches that our church supports. You exemplify "the hands and feet of Jesus" by doing His work here on earth.

Sharing the Christmas Spirit with the Community

We often consider Christmas as a season of giving. Much of our energy is spent discerning which gifts we will give to those on our lists and we go about the task of gift giving in many ways.

Giving according to John Wesley was a means of expressing generosity rooted in gratitude for God’s generosity and a means of fulfilling the great commandment to love God and neighbor and that’s exactly what happened at Trinity this Christmas season.

One of the Lord’s Pantry volunteers and member of the Stone Soup Symphony, Andy Meissner, stopped by to play some Christmas carols for all our clients and volunteers and to spread some Christmas cheer.

The Truck Stop Ministry lead by Joan and Bill Caldwell along with many volunteers got together to assemble cookies and candy bags for the truckers passing through the TA on I-80 in Columbia, NJ the week before Christmas. Together they assembled 326 bags! Each bag contained 1 dozen homemade cookies, holiday candy, and a Christmas message.

The Family Ministry leaders and students performed during the Live Nativity scene in between services to remind us of the birth of Jesus and the real meaning of Christmas.
Good News! from Your Missions Ministry Team

THANK YOU to all our volunteers, Ministry leaders, students, congregation and community neighbors for all your gifts.
The Lord's Pantry
By Kellie Pennington

Thanks to all who helped the pantry in any way during the holiday season. We truly appreciate your gifts of time, talent and treasure. You helped to brighten the holidays for many families in our community.

The pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 - 12:00, and Tuesday night from 5:00 - 7:00. All are welcome, we are here to provide food to everyone who needs it.

During the month of November we served 717 people (217 families): 211 children, 424 adults, and 82 seniors.

United Methodist Men
By Bill Blaskopf

Our December 13th program was: Dr. Bruce Murphy, President of Centenary University. Dr. Murphy gave an excellent presentation on: “What is the future of Centenary University and of Higher Education.” We had 29 people in attendance.

Our upcoming breakfast is:
- January 8th: Our speaker will be Mr. Scott Shivers. Mr. Shivers will be the Fifth Speaker in our ongoing series “Understanding our Neighbors.” He will speak on: “What does it mean to be a Christian Scientist?” We hope you all plan to attend, and we still need you to RSVP to Bill Blaskopf at bblaskopf@newarka.edu or text/call #201-841-2284.

This year UMM sold 42 Christmas Wreaths and made just under $300 towards the Torgersen Scholarship Fund.

Starting January 2nd we will be taking orders for our 15th Annual Hoagie Sale. You may order either one of 2 hoagies, with or without onions. Pickup of the hoagies will be Saturday February 12th between 11am and 1pm. The price of a hoagie is only $10 and this year a personal bag of chips will be included. As usual, all profits will go to the scholarship fund.

Always remember, UMM is not just for men. We invite all members of Trinity to attend. Among our goals is to provide: a sense of community, a meaningful presentation, and a fantastic breakfast.
Martha's Friendship Circle
By Joann Caldwell

Martha's Friendship Circle had their annual Christmas gathering at Heath Village on Monday, December 6th. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and getting into the Christmas spirit.

Jan Wells sang some lovely Christmas songs...and all were invited to sing familiar holiday songs as well. Paul Wells entertained us with Christmas questions and trivia...and told a touching Christmas story. He also reminded us that Santa Claus is for children's entertainment...but Jesus is for real, for all of us! Santa Claus made a surprise visit at the end of the meeting!

Martha's Friendship Circle participates in the Trees for Troops outreach. This year our tree will be going to a military family in Texas.

Middle School Ministry
By Renee Feldman

Wednesdays during the month of January, MSM will take "The Distinct Challenge". Students will enjoy games and gathering intended to help them figure out more of what makes them unique and how they can take the next step on their journey toward discovering who God made them to be.

The Pizzapalooza Event is an event for HSM and MSM students on Friday, January 21st from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. We will simply be enjoying God's good gift of pizza, and of course, spending quality time with each other! This is the perfect opportunity to bring a friend with you. Check the website or the sign up link.

The next meeting of Martha's Friendship Circle will be on Monday, February 7th, at 2 p.m. at Heath Village.
With Deepest Sympathy
To George Hackett on the death of his wife Mary Ellen.
To Trixie Lynar on the death of her husband, Tom.
To Anna Serpa on the death of her brother-in-law, Hank Pellegrino
To John Torkos on the death of his grandmother, Ruby Hiscock.
To Darlene Meeh on the death of her sister, Donna Verrico
To the family and friends of Jessie Strowbridge
To Carol Gall on the death of her sister, Florence Taylor
To Donna Re on the death of her sister, Bonnie Marino.

Baptisms
On December 19th we celebrated the Baptisms of:

- Kingston Alexander Uanserume, son of Jon-Arthur and Nicole Uanserume
- Nairobi Elizabeth Uanserume, daughter of Jon-Arthur and Nicole Uanserume
- Hailey Savannah Whitehead, daughter of Travis and Amy Whitehead

From Your Pastoral Staff

On behalf of your pastoral staff, I would like to thank you for your generous gifts this Christmas season. We also thank you for your support as together we continue to navigate these times that are both uncertain and filled with excitement for what is to come. May we continue to be the church that God has joined together in this place serving God and the children of God as we are called to do in such a time as this.

May the new year be filled with peace, joy, hope and love for you and your families!

Love,
Pastor Deb
HAPPY NEW YEAR

May God be with you through the new year and fill your life with joy, peace and happiness.

May this day and the days ahead, hold many blessings for you and your family.