



# *The Lamplighter*

Trinity United Church of Christ

December 2016 – January 2017

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity United Church of Christ,

Advent and Christmas – two of my favorite seasons of the year! Advent is that time of preparation leading up to the day when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The word "Advent," is from a Latin word that means "coming." There are three meanings behind this "coming" that we remember and celebrate each year. One is in the past where we remember the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago in a small manger in Bethlehem. The present day coming can happen now, as Jesus Christ seeks to come into our hearts and transform our lives. Finally, the third coming will happen in the future, when Christ returns as our King and Judge and establishes God's Kingdom on earth. No one knows for sure when this tradition of Advent began but some believe it dates to the sixth century when monks were ordered to fast in the month leading up to Christmas Day. For us, the Christmas season begins on Christmas Day, although in the Catholic tradition, Christmas Eve is also considered the beginning of Christmastide. Depending on the different ecclesiastical traditions, the Christmas season can last anywhere from 12 to 40 days. For us, Christmas ends with Epiphany, or the coming of the Wise Men, where we remember that Christ came for "all" people, Jew and Gentile alike. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to kneel before Jesus and worship him as a deity.

These seasons carry a great deal of meaning and tradition for us here at Trinity. Our beautiful sanctuary is transformed by the trees, lights, and flowers into a place of joy and celebration. The children's voices echo from the chancel as they sing their Christmas songs and the pews become filled with life and love. As I stand before you on these Sundays, I sense the presence of the Holy Spirit and perhaps even a glimpse into the heaven that awaits us.

As we celebrate this season, I hope you can capture some of these feelings of joy and take them into your own homes. Christmas isn't always a time of joy for some people. Family disputes and hurt feelings have a way of infiltrating our celebrations and ruining any sense of joy we might have felt. Difficult memories of loved ones lost, or a bitter childhood experience, tug at our hearts and make it hard to see the hope and peace the season promises. I wish I could personally remove all the pain that life deals us, but I don't have that power. I know someone that does though – and there is nothing more comforting than the assurance of Jesus' love for us and the knowledge that we are loved, despite our flaws, and are welcomed and embraced, even when our hearts are heavy.

My prayer for you and your families this Christmas is that you will be able to experience the joy of this season. Regardless of whether you receive that special gift you had hoped for, remember that you've already been given the greatest gift of all time. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." Amen.

God Bless,  
Pastor Dave



Trinity United Church of Christ, 104 N. Pennsylvania Avenue,  
PO Box 212, Centre Hall PA 16828

\*Pastor David Downer\*

\*814-364-2120 (church office)\* \*814-531-4192 (parsonage)

\*E-mail address: [trinucc@verizon.net](mailto:trinucc@verizon.net)

\*Website: [www.trinitycentrehall.org](http://www.trinitycentrehall.org)\*

\*Facebook: Trinity United Church of Christ\*

## Liberating Word: The Truth of Life

by Rev. Michael Piazza and shared by Pastor David Downer

C. S. Lewis discovered that life was more than reading books and having discussions he knew he could win when Joy Gresham became part of his life. She was a Jewish-born American who converted from atheism to Christianity, and a divorced mother of a nine-year-old boy. She had written letters to Lewis and then traveled to England to meet him. Their life together began as a friendship. She eventually asked him to marry her so she could be granted British citizenship and stay in the country. He did, but he did not live with her or experience life with her until the day he learned that she had bone cancer. It was then that he realized he loved her more than his own life. While she was in remission, they took a trip to the country to see a valley Lewis had seen his entire life in a picture hanging on his wall, but had never experienced in person. There, Joy told him the truth of life: "The pain is part of the happiness now," she said. "That's the deal."

Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest and professor at Piedmont College, tells of her many journeys overseas in which she shops and brings back an item that will be a tangible reminder of her journey. On her trip to Greece, however, the villages she visited had no stores. She could not accept the wisdom of the lilies (Luke 12:27), so she began to look for a rock or something else permanent that would help her avoid the knowledge that her life, like the lilies, is sweet and fragile -- here today and gone tomorrow -- with no purchasable protection from that fact.

Ultimately, she and her companions climbed a mountain where the rocks turn to shale and the trees to shrubs. "That was when I looked down and saw one tiny red flower blooming in the brown dust at my feet," she wrote. "Since Greece gets no rain in August, it must have survived on dew. A little further I saw a yellow one -- just one -- and after that a white one, nestled in the shadow of a stone. They were all so different, and so improbably alive. Compared to them, rocks were cheap. Rocks would always be there, while these small beauties held nothing back. It was now or never for them. I could love them or not -- the choice was mine -- but I could not own them. They were not made for that."

It is now or never for us. We can love or not; the choice is ours. We cannot, however, own this life; we were not made for that. It wasn't until after his beloved Joy's death that C.S. Lewis discovered that very real truth.

Jesus said that we have to lose our lives in order to find them. Saint Francis said, "It is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Blessings,

Rev. Michael Piazza

Virginia-Highland Church, 743 Virginia Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA, 30306

### PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Tom & Janice Adams	Nate Althouse	Lance Arney	Susan Berry	Denny Bressler
Sheila Corl	T. J. Coursen	*Phyllis Crater	Carol Dale	*Sally Dreibelbis
Jean Dunklebarger	Gracie Eisenhower	Ronald Flood	*Ron Fultz	*Trudy Furner
*Mary Hardy	Leroy Harper	Russell & Myrtle Harpster	*John & Carol Hayes	Rev. John Hench
Ted Hubler	Marty Ilgen	Kathleen Kasubick	Staci Keen	*John Krebs
Rich Krout	Haylie Leedy	Diane Matter	Kylee McClenahan	Denny McCloskey
Larry Myers	*Miriam Myers	Nagle Family	Malcolm Obiri	Jon Perkins
Dean Rishel	Carin Roberg	Shane Royer	Guy Rudy	Todd and Tammy Russell
Joshua Shaffer	Pat Smith	Tina Stevens	Laurie Stover	Nate Summers
Jenn Tice	Rebecca Wagner	Raymond Walker	Adam Watson	Chris Wert
*Faye Winkelblech	Brenda Wilt	Melissa Wolfe	Duane and Wilma Yarger	Bette Yingling

[\*In personal care residence]

## **CHURCH RECORD**

### **Births**

Layla Rae Fultz was born October 5, 2016. She is the daughter of Cassandra and Tyler Fultz.

Rosa Rachelle King was born October 5, 2016. She is the daughter of Cassandra and David King.

### **New Members**

Carol and Mike Frazier, 111 Pheasant Run, Spring Mills, PA, 16875, on November 13, 2016.

Cassandra and David King and children - Jonathan, Adelyn, and Rosa, PO Box 253, Millheim, PA, 16854, on November 13, 2016.

Gail Teti, 120 Middle Street, Centre Hall, PA, 16828, on November 13, 2016.

### **Deaths**

Gloria Brooks Sharer Taylor Haines, on October 3, 2016.

Betty Ann Hartley, on October 11, 2016.

Wilma Mae Heiser, on October 27, 2016.

Lois Ross Boozer Krape, on November 8, 2016.

### **New Address**

Carol and John Hayes, Wynwood House - Boalsburg, 294 Discovery Drive, Boalsburg, PA, 16827

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

Trinity UCC Pot Luck Christmas Banquet and Children's Program in the Fellowship Hall on December 4 at 5 p.m. Ham, rolls, and milk are provided. It has been whispered that Santa Claus might be attending!

Weekly offering envelopes for 2017 have been placed in the Ridge Street vestibule. If you did not receive a box of envelopes and want them, please contact Linda Barner.

The financial books will close on December 31, 2016. Please have your donations to the church office or Linda Barner, financial secretary, by that date.

Annual reports for 2016 are due to Beverly Guyer, church secretary, by January 8, 2017. The committee chairperson or secretary from each committee is required to submit a report of their committee's activities for 2016.

A new church directory will be available in January 2017. Please notify Beverly Guyer of any address or telephone number changes. E-mail addresses and cell phone numbers can also be included. Beverly's e-mail at the church office is [trinucc@verizon.net](mailto:trinucc@verizon.net).

## **ANGEL TREE FOR ZERBY GAP FAMILYWORKS BOYS**

The SALT Committee at Trinity UCC has chosen the boys at Zerby Gap Familyworks as recipients for Christmas gifts this year. Please help by sponsoring an "Angel." Simply take an Angel from the tree and purchase the gift listed on the back. Return the Angel and the unwrapped gift to the church by December 18. SALT members will wrap and distribute the gifts.

Zerby Gap Familyworks provides group home living for at-risk boys ages 12–19. They are located in Spring Mills, PA. This program provides a structured and nurturing environment that focuses on working towards permanency and success in the right living environment for each individual. Success is achieved by engaging the individual and their families in their own lives and showing them how to live successfully with others.

These boys have helped Trinity UCC with some of our church projects. Let's help give them a joyful Christmas this year.

## **ADVENT STUDY GROUP**

Beginning on November 30, Pastor Dave will be leading an Advent Study on "The Redemption of Scrooge." We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday through December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please join in this spiritual journey as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith.

**REFORMED AND LUTHERAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**  
**INFORMATION ON RATE INCREASES**

Effective January 1, 2017, rates for cemetery lots at the Lutheran and Reform Cemetery in Centre Hall will be increased. The new rates will be as follows:

- Members: \$400 per lot
- Non-Members: \$600 per lot
- Burial/Maintenance Fee: \$100 (a one-time fee for leveling off the dirt and planting grass seed on the lot after burial)

A member is a person who belongs to either St. Luke Lutheran Church in Centre Hall and/or Trinity United Church of Christ in Centre Hall.

Please contact Joe Hammaker at 364-1670 if you wish to purchase a lot or Robert Long at 364-9254 if you have any questions.

**ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
October 2	85	32	November 6	85	33
October 9	62	35	November 13	99	40
October 16	84	29	November 20	81	32
October 23	61	35	November 27	97	35
October 30	92	27			

**THANKS AND APPRECIATION**

- ...to Jane Pifer, Alexis Witherite, and Toni Witherite for sharing their highlights from the Guatemala Mission Trip
- ...to everyone who donates food to the Centre Hall Potter Township Food Pantry; and Robert and Shirley Reed for delivering the items to the drop off location
- ...to the Caregivers Committee for arranging the JOY Luncheon on October 18
- ...to Cathy Arney, Sally Arnold, Ardranna Henry, Jane Pifer, Shirley Reed, Dot Strickler, and Nancy Vogt for donating baked goods for the Hartman Center Fall Festival and Pastor Dave for delivering the items; and Cleo Matter for picking up the themed basket for the silent auction
- ...to everyone who contributed candy and treats for the Trunk or Treat event
- ...to Cleo Matter for assisting Pastor Dave at the off-site monthly communions
- ...to Russ Brooks for leading worship service and delivering the message on October 23
- ...to the congregation for the \$157 donated to UNICEF
- ...to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Advent season
- ...to the Caregivers for delivering cards and gifts to the shut-ins; Trinity UCC has received many compliments and appreciation from those who have been on the receiving end – they especially enjoy the cards prepared by the children

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 4: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion  
5:00 p.m. Trinity UCC Christmas Pot-Luck Banquet and Children's Program in the Fellowship Hall
- December 5: 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting
- December 6: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill Haven
- December 7: 1:30 p.m. Advent Study Group in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- December 11: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service; Annual Congregational Meeting following worship service  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Parsonage Drop-in and Mingle with Pastor Dave, Terri, and Emily
- December 13: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House in Centre Hall
- December 14: 1:30 p.m. Advent Study Group in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- December 18: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross Offering  
Zerby Gap Familyworks Angel gifts final day for drop off  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Caroling around town
- December 20: 8:30 a.m. Centre Hall-Potter Township Food Pantry Distribution  
7:00 p.m. Consistory Committee Meeting
- December 21: 1:30 p.m. Advent Study Group in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- December 24: 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion; Hoffman Homes for Youth offering
- December 25: NO Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
- December 28: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- January 1: NO Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion
- January 3: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill Haven
- January 4: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- January 8: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion  
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class / Youth Group Meeting
- January 9: 6:00 p.m. Take down the Advent decorations at the church
- January 10: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House in Centre Hall
- January 11: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- January 15: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
- January 16: 8:30 a.m. Centre Hall Potter Township Food Pantry Distribution  
7:00 p.m. Consistory Committee Meeting
- January 18: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- January 22: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class / Youth Group Meeting
- January 25: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- January 29: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Responsibility	December 2016	January 2017
Head Usher	<b>Dec. 4:</b> Sally Arnold <b>Dec. 11:</b> Beverly Guyer <b>Dec. 18:</b> Dot Strickler <b>Dec. 24:</b> Cathy Arney, Carol Clark-Baney, Jean and Russ Brooks, Jackie Stover, George Moellenbrock, Sally Arnold <b>Dec. 25:</b> Carol Clark-Baney	Ben Malone
Alternate Usher	<b>Dec. 4:</b> Cathy Arney <b>Dec. 11:</b> Carol Clark-Baney <b>Dec. 18:</b> George Moellenbrock <b>Dec. 25:</b> Cathy Arney	George Moellenbrock
Altar Flowers	Tammy Besecker	Tammy Besecker
Altar Guild	Lois Martz	Terri Downer
Communion	Sally Arnold (Dec. 4)	Ben Malone (Jan. 1)
Caregiver	Wendy Spearly	
Choir Director	Terri Downer	Terri Downer
Fellowship Coordinator		Ann Moellenbrock
S.A.L.T.	Zachary Floray	Shannon Arney
Marquee Manager	Richard Delaney	Richard Delaney
Oil in Candles	Angela Auman	Beverly Guyer
Organist	Carole Smith	Carole Smith

Date	Greeters	Greeters	Acolyte	Call to Worship	Scripture Reader	Children's Message
December 4	Larry and Dot Strickler	Ron and Denise Sweitzer	Andrew Boob	Pastor Dave	Dot Strickler	Vickie Fultz
December 11	Peggy Treaster	Eleanor Tyson	Sara Floray	Rick Arnold		Pastor Dave
December 18	Gail Teti	Dixie Vogt	Katie Martell			Ruth Floray
December 25	Nancy Vogt	Ennis and Nancy Wagner	Owen Miller			No Sunday School
January 1				Pastor Dave		
January 8	Dan, Lori, and Tessa Walter	Rita Watkins	Harrison Reish			Vickie Fultz
January 15	Tom, Toni and Alexis Witherite	Kirk Wolfgang, Leena Reilly and Carter	Katie Romig			Teri Statham
January 22	Lance and Cathy Arney	Shannon and Rylee Arney	Rylee Arney			Ruth Floray
January 29	Rick and Sally Arnold	Rich and Angela Auman and Family	Kylie Auman			Pastor Dave
February 5	Robert and Ruby Bair	Carol Clark-Baney	Ella Smith	Pastor Dave		Vickie Fultz
February 12	Linda Barner	Joyce Barner	Maddie Gooch			Teri Statham

Trinity United Church of Christ  
104 North Pennsylvania Avenue  
PO Box 212  
Centre Hall PA 16828  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Merry Christmas  
and a  
Peaceful New Year  
to you.



### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2016 – JANUARY 2017

December 4:	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-24
December 11:	Isaiah 40:3-5	Luke 1:39-45
December 18:	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:1-7
December 24:	Isaiah 9:6-7	Luke 2:8-20
December 25:	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Luke 2:8-20
January 1:	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Matthew 25:31-46
January 8:	Isaiah 42:1-9	Matthew 3:13-17
January 15:	Isaiah 49:1-7	John 1:29-42
January 22:	Isaiah 9:1-4	Matthew 4:12-23
January 29:	Micah 6:1-8	Matthew 5:1-12