



The Lamplighter

Trinity United Church of Christ

December 2017 – January 2018

Greetings, Church Family! Once again, a year has flown by and I'm wondering what happened! Writing for the December-January newsletter is always one of the more difficult tasks for me. In one sense, I like to spend some time at the end of the year reflecting on all that has happened in the previous twelve months; but on the other hand, I like to look forward to a new year and the anticipation of all the ministry activities, new friendships, and adventures that await us in 2018. It's a bit like the character Tevya in the movie and musical, "*Fiddler on the Roof*."



Weighing the sides of a decision on one hand and then the other is Tevya's way of praying and talking with God. I love the intimacy and familiarity of these "conversations," and often wish I could pray more like Tevya. If you've never seen this movie, it is one well worth watching! After seeing it several times, the one thing about Tevya that I've come to admire is that despite his own desire (and stubbornness) to adhere to the traditions he knows and is comfortable with, he ultimately compromises. And his compromises are done out of love, and for love.

Our lives are like this. They are a constant stream of choices and decisions (and often compromises), the results of which may shape our lives in unexpected ways, or lead us into unfamiliar places. And I don't think there is a better guide to our decisions than the one Tevya ultimately

decided upon – love. Some of us recently began an Advent Bible Study entitled, "*Christmas Gifts That Don't Break*," by Rev. James W. Moore. One of the lessons we're studying describes God's gift of love. This lesson is an important one for me, because it reminded me that while beginnings and endings may be important, they are not **the** most important.

As I mentioned at the beginning, while endings prompt us to remember, and beginnings prompt us to anticipate, over time it is the love we give and the love we receive that determines our joy and happiness in life. This realization prompts me to look around and ask: "Who has God placed in my life or along my life's journey that needs to hear about and feel God's love? And how can I be an instrument of God's love in such a way that they might experience the joy that a relationship with God and our Savior Jesus Christ offers?"

Perhaps you've experienced a great loss this past year, and sadness is the principle emotion ruling your heart this season. That's not unexpected or unusual. But out of love, God promises to walk with us, through the good times and bad, and we can find the assurance of God's presence in the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Scripture tells us that the gift of agape (Godly) love is meant to drive away the fears in our hearts. 1 Peter 4:18 tells us that, "*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear....*" Rev. Moore reminds us that the gift of God's love causes our hearts to awaken. And we can be sure that God hears the inward longings of our hearts, whether we express them as succinctly as Tevya or not!

This to me, is Christmas. This reminder that we are never so far down or so far gone that God's love can't reach us. After all, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*" Merry Christmas, Trinity family, and may God bless each of you this season and into the new year!

Yours in Christ, 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: trinityucccentrehall@gmail.com

Website: www.trinitycentrehall.org

Facebook: Trinity United Church of Christ

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Weekly offering envelopes for 2018 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, 2017. Please have your donations to the church office or Linda Barner, financial secretary, by that date.
- Annual reports for 2017 are due to Beverly Guyer, church secretary, by January 7, 2018. The committee chairperson or secretary from each committee is required to submit a report of their committee's activities for 2017.
- A new church directory will be available in January 2018. 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 is bhg2@psu.edu.

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 again 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 17. 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Glenda Bressler Abrams	Lance Arney	Jane Boldin	Elmer Campbell	Sheila Corl
Jody Covalt	T. J. Coursen	*Phyllis Crater	Erin, Austin, Conner Derr	*Sally Dreibelbis
*Jean Dunklebarger	Gracie Eisenhower	Tanya Evans	*Trudy Furner	*Mary Hardy
Russell & Myrtle Harpster	*John & Carol Hayes	Rev. John Hench	Megan Henry	*John Krebs
Connie Masullo	Diane Matter	Robert Mayhew	Denny McCloskey	Judy Moellenbrock
Jody Musser	Tanya Musser	Larry Myers	*Miriam Myers	Nagle Family
Malcolm Obiri	Lynda Onofry	Tim & Cherise Osborne	Charles Patschke	Dean Rishel
Shane Royer	Kent Smith	Marilyn Sproule	Susie Stevens	JR Stoner
Laurie Stover	Lori Stover	Shannon Stover	Jenn & Abbey Tice	Colin & Jaci Tucker
Brett Tyson	Rebecca Wagner	*Faye Winkelblech	Duane and Wilma Yarger	Sandy Young

[*In personal care residence]

CHURCH RECORD

Deaths

Kenneth L. (Ken) Frazier, on October 19, 2017; Ken is survived by his wife Sara, son Kenneth Michael Frazier, and daughters Nancy Wagner, Beth Ann Znaniack, and Sandra Zerby

Susan Malone Perry, on November 16, 2017; Susan is survived by her parents Ben and Sylvia Malone, and sisters Sharon Carrigan and Sandra Cronin

ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2017

Date	Worship Service	Sunday School	Date	Worship Service	Sunday School
October 1	78	32	November 5	67	33
October 8	81	36	November 12	86	29
October 15	77	26	November 19	71	37
October 22	61	29	November 26	91	30
October 29	91	29			

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

...to Nancy Vogt for her presentation on the electric piano to the Child Development and Family Council (CDFC) children and playing songs for them
...to Amy Smith for decorating the doors in the church for Rally Day and creating the campfire scenes throughout the sanctuary
...to Rick Arnold, Jean Brooks, Ruth Flory, and Teri Statham for decorating their classrooms and doors for Rally Day and preparing and presenting the program during worship service
...to Carol Clark-Baney for serving as liturgist on October 22nd
...to Marieta and John Smith for picking up and delivering the twenty-four Clean-Up Buckets
...to Angela Auman for serving as liturgist and Rich Auman for delivering the message on October 29
...to Teri Statham and the children for the delightful UNICEF presentation on October 29; an offering of \$145 was received
...to everyone who donated candy and goodies for the Council of Churches Trunk or Treat event; this event can't happen without your support
...to Cathy and Lance Arney for hosting the Halloween Hay Ride
...to Ruth Ann and Scott Flory for hosting the Halloween Bowling Party and the Youth Group Campfire in November
...to Martha and Craig Weidensaul for donating and delivering the Christmas Trees to our church
...to everyone who helped decorate the church for Advent, including our smallest helper, Layla Fultz!
...to the Sunday School students for their donation of \$250 to the "Rise Against Hunger" in lieu of receiving Christmas Gifts from Trinity
...to Angela Auman, Terri Downer, Joan Pecht, and Jane Pifer for donating the refreshments served at the Northern Association Town Hall Meeting at TUC
...to Dot Strickler for coordinating the funeral meal for Mr. Frazier and to everyone who provided food and helped serve the meal
...to Mike Frazier for creating the custom Christmas Cards and to all who purchased the cards; proceeds will benefit our local missions
...to Cathy Arney, Carol-Clark Baney, and Karen Keller for being Nursery volunteers during November
...to Nancy Wagner and the Quilts of Valor for presenting quilts to some of our exceptional veterans: Carol Clark-Baney, David Downer, and Robert Reed



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 2: Centre Hall Tree Lighting at St. Luke Lutheran Church
- December 3: 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 Santa visit
- December 5: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill, Spring Mills
- December 6: 11:00 a.m. Council of Churches Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m. Bible Study, "Christmas Gifts That Don't Break"
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- December 10: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting
- December 12: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House, Centre Hall
- December 13: 1:30 p.m. Bible Study, "Christmas Gifts That Don't Break"
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- December 16: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parsonage Christmas Drop In hosted by Pastor Dave and Terri Downer
- December 17: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Veterans of the Cross special mission offering; Sacrament of Baptism
11:30 a.m. Annual Trinity UCC Congregational Meeting to follow worship service
5:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling – carolers needed!
- December 18: 6:30 p.m. SALT Committee wrap Zerby Gap Familyworks Christmas gifts
- December 19: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting
- December 20: 1:30 p.m. Bible Study, "Christmas Gifts That Don't Break"
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- December 24: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service (all offerings will be donated to Hoffman Homes for Youth in Littlestown, PA)
- December 25: Christmas Day
- December 27: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- December 31: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
- January 2: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill, Spring Mills
- January 3: 11:00 a.m. Council of Churches Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- January 7: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion
- January 9: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House, Centre Hall
Pie Shoppe Orders due this day
- January 10: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- January 11: 6:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education Committee Meeting
- January 14: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with a special presentation by Chiz Rider Ministries
5:00 p.m. Youth Group "Lock In"
- January 16: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting
- January 17: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- January 18: 6:30 p.m. SALT Committee Meeting
- January 20: 10:00 a.m. Pie Shoppe orders delivered
- January 21: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Crockpot Luncheon to follow Worship Service
- January 24: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- January 28: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Responsibility	December 2017	January 2018
Head Usher	December 3: Beverly Guyer December 10: George Moellenbrock December 17: Steve Riegel December 24: Beverly Guyer Christmas Eve: Sally Arnold Carol Clark-Baney Ben Malone Ann Moellenbrock George Moellenbrock Steve Riegel Sydney Riegel December 31: Sally Arnold	Cleo Matter
Alternate Usher	December 3: Carol Clark-Baney December 10: Sally Arnold December 17: Sydney Riegel December 24: Dan Readinger December 31: Steve Riegel	George Moellenbrock
Altar Flowers	Tammy Besecker	Tammy Besecker
Altar Guild	Carol Brown	Terri Downer
Communion	Beverly Guyer (December 3) Sally Arnold (Christmas Eve)	Cleo Matter (January 7)
Caregiver	Peggy Treaster	Joan Pecht
Choir Director	Terri Downer	Terri Downer
Fellowship Coordinator	Beverly Guyer	Volunteer Needed
S.A.L.T.	Dorothy Strickler	Cathy Arney
Marquee Manager	Richard Delaney	Richard Delaney
Nursery Volunteer	December 3: Jerelene Reish December 10: Sara Hanson December 17: Ann Moellenbrock December 24: Rick Arnold December 31: Cathy Arney	January 7: Carol Clark-Baney January 14: No Nursery January 21: Karen Keller January 28: Jerelene Reish
Oil in Candles	Beverly Guyer	Beverly Guyer
Organist	Carole Smith	Carole Smith



HALLOWEEN BOWLING

Thank you to Ruth Ann and Scott Floray for hosting the Youth Group Halloween Bowling. A good time was had by all!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS (continued)

Date	Greeters	Greeters	Acolyte	Call to Worship	Scripture Reader	Children's Message
December 3	Tricia Limbaugh and Family	Ben and Sylvia Malone	Ella Smith	Pastor Dave	Rick Arnold	Vickie Fultz
December 10	Sara Frazier	John and Lois Martz	Jackson Romig	Rick Arnold	Carole Smith	Teri Statham
December 17	Don and Cleo Matter	Josephine and Barbara McNitt	Rylee Arney	Carol Brown	Harrison Reish	Ruth Floray
December 24	George and Ann Moellenbrock	Philip and Brianna Neese and Family	Andrew Boob	Rylee Arney	Rick Arnold	Pastor Dave
December 31	Mike and Carol Frazier	Glenn and Vickie Fultz	Sara Floray	Rick Arnold	Carol Brown	Teri Statham
January 7	Dona O'Hara	Charles and Christine Patschke	Paige Auman	Pastor Dave	Carole Smith	Vickie Fultz
January 14	Joan Pecht and Nevin Dutrow	Sara Jane Pifer	Ellie Romig	Kylie Auman	Rick Arnold	Ruth Floray
January 21	Robert and Shirley Reed	Barry and Jerelene Reish	Katie Martell	Rick Arnold	Katie Martell	Teri Statham
January 28	Steve and Deborah Riegel and Family	Hetty Runkle	Kylie Auman	Kylie Auman	Carole Smith	Pastor Dave
February 4	Jim and Kim Smith	John and Marieta Smith	Harrison Reish	Pastor Dave	Rick Arnold	Vickie Fultz
February 11	Lynn and Carole Smith	Marian Smith	Sam Martell	Rick Arnold	Sam Martell	Ruth Floray



OCTOBER HAY RIDE

Thank you to Cathy and Lance Arney for hosting the Youth Group Hay Ride. There are rumors that Sasquatch was sighted.

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

Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New
year



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

December 3:	Isaiah 64:1-9	Mark 13:24-37
December 10:	Isaiah 40:1-11	Mark 1:1-8
December 17:	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24:	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Day:	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-14, 15-20
December 31:	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Luke 2:22-40
January 1:	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Matthew 25:31-46
January 7:	Genesis 1:1-5	Mark 1:4-11
January 14:	1 Samuel 3:1-10	John 1:43-51
January 21:	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Mark 1:14-20
January 28:	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Mark 1:21-28

