



JANUARY 2024

TRINITY CONNECTION



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY UMC



*"Trinity UMC is a fellowship seeking to share
the love and word of Jesus Christ with all."*

WELCOME TO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

If you are 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. Erica Munoz - Lead Pastor
Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos - Associate Pastor
Rev. Donald Gebhard - Pastor of Outreach and Worship
Ginny Thorp - Congregational Care Lay Minister

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Worship Times

Saturday 5:00 pm - Worship in Trinity House

Sunday 9:15 am & 10:45 am - Worship in Sanctuary and
Livestreamed

From the Pastor

January is an emotional month. It can feel anti-climactic after the excitement of Advent. Some people feel sad or down when the decorations get put away and things seem to quiet down. January is still part of the Christmas season which concludes on January 5th but we tend to celebrate Christmas only on the 25th of December. January can also be a time of new beginnings as we embark on a new calendar year.

I often say that January 1st is one of my favorite holidays. It's a real freebie. There are no requirements to have a special meal, visit folks, buy gifts, or do anything really. It's the one day off with no strings attached and you can do as you like. Maybe it's a day you get organized for the new year by setting resolutions, setting goals, or transferring your birthdays to the new wall calendar, (if you still use one of those).

Here at Trinity, we've been talking about new beginnings for a few years. We've experienced things that have caused us to reflect on who we are individually as well as who we are as a faith community. This year it is time for us to put some action to all of that reflection. Sure, the reflection and analysis will continue, but we also have to get boots on the ground and get to work. As we do this work together, I invite you to consider your commitment to each other, our community, our church, and to God.

I leave you with the Covenant Prayer written by the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. I encourage you to pray this prayer at least this month, BUT only if you mean it. It's a serious thing to pray.

I look forward to all the great ministry we are going to do together because YOU BELONG HERE for such a time as this.

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

Peace be with you!

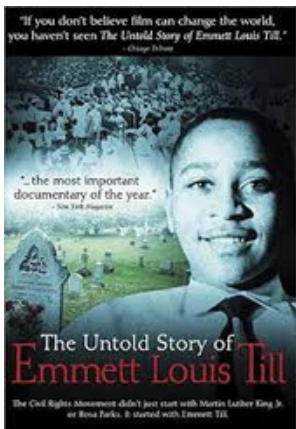
- Pastor Deb

SOUP SALE

HOT SOUP~WARM SOULS

On Sunday, January 14th we will be having another Hot Soup~Warm Souls sale! This event was so successful last year we decided to do it again. If you would like to donate your signature soup to this event, please let us know. Last year we had 100 quarts of soup and we'd like to meet this goal again this year! We supply the quart soup containers and labels. Please let us know what type of soup you would like to make and how many quarts you would like to provide. This year the proceeds are going to support Rise Against Hunger, our Lenten Day of Service Project.

Any questions, please contact Maureen Boer @ maureen855@gmail.com or text 201-230-6242.



Movie and Discussion *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*

Join us for the movie and then discussion as we look at the sin of racism we are called to dismantle.

We will meet in the Rotunda on January 14th at 12:30pm. Bring your lunch!



Fun for Seniors

Senior Social

Mark your calendars: January 18

Come and enjoy fellowship and activities with other seniors! Coffee and a snack will be provided. You are invited to bring a friend. Come and enjoy lots of time for conversation, a few games, and an occasional guest speaker. Meet in Trinity House on Thursday, January 18, 1:15 - 2:45 p.m.



Human Trafficking!

Trinity United Methodist Church is proud to present

Rev. Mandy Bristol-Leverett, founder of

The Church and Community Abolition Network (CAN)

This informational session is open to the entire community. CAN empowers participants to do abolition including prevention, detection, action, advocacy and survivor care of sex and labor trafficking. Human trafficking is happening in all 50 states.

January 21, 2024

Light lunch served starting at 12:15

Trinity House, 212 E. Moore Street, Hackettstown, NJ

Questions & RSVP to penza288@gmail.com by 1/17/24

Or call the church office at 908-852-3020

This event is sponsored by Church and Society. We look forward to seeing you.



January 5 Hoagie Sale Begins

January 14 Soup Sale

January 14 Movie and Discussion

January 21 Human Trafficking Presentation

February 14 Ash Wednesday Service

February 23 ASP Talent Show

March 9 Lenten Day Apart

March 16 Lenten Day of Service



**Our Mission Trip to
ASP Dates are
7/13-21/2024**

We are looking for acts for the Talent Show on February 23rd that supports this mission.

Contact Tony Albanese if you have an act for the show.

Staying Connected



WOW!! A HUGE "THANK YOU!"

to all who donated cookies and/or candy, who helped assemble the bags...those who in any way contributed to the 2023 outreach to the truckers passing through the TA on I-80 in Columbia, NJ.

497 bags were filled with 1 dozen cookies, holiday candy, and a Christmas message! $497 \times 12 = 5,964$ cookies!!

We are showing our appreciation to the truckers for the long hours they spend on the road...and we pray they will be touched by the Christmas message.



Join us for KidVenture Wednesday Night Worship!

We have a great time! You won't want to miss it!
Join us on January 24th in Starr Hall!
5:30-7:30 p.m.

We gather on the Fourth Wednesday of the Month

Dinner, Music, Crafts, Activities, and Learning for kids and adults.



Trinity's Friendship Circle

The annual Trinity Friendship Circle Christmas luncheon was held on December 6th at Heath Village. What a wonderful time of holiday fellowship with 60 people in attendance!

After a delicious meal, Gerry D'Albis played the keyboard, Mary and Joseph were portrayed by Madeline Waskis & Jacob Philhower as Fred Bormann read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke. Soloists sang "Oh Holy Night" (Mark Paris), "Mary, Did You Know?" (Tammy Bormann), "Silent Night" (Pastor Erica Munoz), and "Til the Season Comes Around Again" (Jan Wells). Ginny Bormann read us "The Christmas Cross" a very touching and meaningful story by Max Lucado. The program which was enjoyed by all was brought to a close by Pastor Paul Wells giving the Benediction.



Youth Ministry Happenings

YOUTH MINISTRY DATES TO NOTE

JANUARY 3
NO Youth Gathering

JANUARY 17
A special Wednesday Gathering at Pastor Erica's
RSVP to Rachel for address & to be put on the guest list for the front gate

JANUARY 21
12:15 (Trinity House)
The Church & Community Abolition Network will be holding an informational session on Human Trafficking. Interested in getting involved in a Social Justice cause? NOW is the time!
5:30 - 7:30 (Upper Room)
Sunday Social

Wednesday Gatherings
1/10 Upper Room
1/17 Pastor Erica's
1/23 Thrift Shop
1/31 Food Pantry

SAVE THE DATE

02

MONTH

17

DAY

24

YEAR

CONFIRMATION 2024*

WE START WITH A LOCK-IN SATURDAY NIGHT ENDING SUNDAY MORNING WITH OUR FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS AT 9:15

*OPEN TO ANYONE IN 8TH GRADE OR OLDER WHO HAS NOT YET PARTICIPATED IN A CONFIRMATION CLASS

Staying Connected

United Women in Faith

By Trisha Massa

On December 2nd, the TUWF welcomed 60 people to our Christmas gathering. We were entertained by acapella groups from the West Morris Central Senior High School, who performed selections from their upcoming Christmas concert, followed by a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. Breakfast and fellowship were shared. Our next gathering will be in February.

We continue to work towards providing an after-school program for our local community. We are in the initial stages of developing a program that will include tutoring and some physical activities. If you have the time and talent and would like to help us develop the program, we encourage you to join us!

Our next book discussion group will be held on January 15, from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, in Room 105. We will be discussing, *INVISIBLE CHILD: POVERTY, SURVIVAL, AND HOPE IN AN AMERICAN CITY* by Andrea Elliott. It is the winner of the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize and a finalist for the Bernstein Award, and the story follows eight dramatic years in the life of Dasani, a precocious and imaginative girl living in a homeless shelter in Brooklyn. This group is open to anyone interested in attending.

United Methodist Men

By Bill Blaskopf

Thirty-five people attended our December 9th breakfast which featured Mr. Chris Young, the General Manager of the Centenary Stage Company. Chris spoke about the upcoming productions at Centenary and shared some of what goes on behind the scenes in the planning and booking of productions.

Our January 13th breakfast will feature Mr. Paul Markowitz who will speak to us about his experience at Tres Dias. Tres Dias is a three-day Christian experience to become closer to God.

Our 17th annual Hoagie sale will begin the first weekend in January and run through February 5th. You may order your hoagie using either our order form or by using the church bulletin's "Just Say Yes" form. You will be able to pick up your hoagie(s) on either February 10th or 11th. Remember, all profits from the hoagie sale go to the Torgersen Scholarship Fund.

There will be NO Breakfast in February as we will be using that date to start making the hoagies. We will resume regular breakfasts on March 9th with NJ Author Paul Semendinger, who will speak about his book *The Least Among Them*. This book is about baseball players who played one Major League game in their career and that game was for the N.Y. Yankees.

Finally, we would like to report that we sold 35 Christmas Wreaths, which raised \$175 for the scholarship fund.

Always remember, UMM is not just for men. Among our goals is to provide: a sense of community, a meaningful presentation, and a fantastic breakfast.

Be a Part of Our Small Group Happenings!

By Pat Riegler

Happy New Year! The Small Group Ministry Team has some exciting things happening in January.

Our 2nd Annual Soup Sale is **January 14th**. Our goal is to have 100 quarts of soup for sale. If you'd like to donate your favorite soup, please contact Maureen Boer. For those of us who are looking forward to buying some delicious homemade soup, keep a lookout for the Just Say Yes Order Form. The proceeds for this sale will support the Trinity's Lenten Day of Service project, Rise Against Hunger, which is scheduled for **March 16th**.

On **January 28th at 12:15 in the Rotunda**, we'll have a gathering of all the small group facilitators. This will be an opportunity to share ideas, successes, challenges, and fellowship. To RSVP please contact Pastor Deb at ddevos@catchthespirit.org. All Small Group Facilitators are strongly encouraged to attend.

The documentary "Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till" will be shown on **January 14th** at 12:30 in the Rotunda.

If there is a topic that you would like to see the Small Group Ministry offer, please reach out to the SGMT whose members are:

Glenn Ashton	Eileen Bozzuffi
Cindy Behler	Deb De Vos
Jerie Berkowitz	Arlene McCollum
Fran Blaskopf	Rita Merring
Maureen Boer	Pat Riegler

Wesley and the People Called United Methodists Fact #5!

It is during this time (1729) at Oxford that John and Charles "Holy Club" became known as the Methodists because of their "methodical" pursuit of holiness. The word Methodist was first used in a derogatory way. The members of the "Holy Club" soon adopted the name Methodists.



Other Ways to Stay Connected with the United Methodist Church :

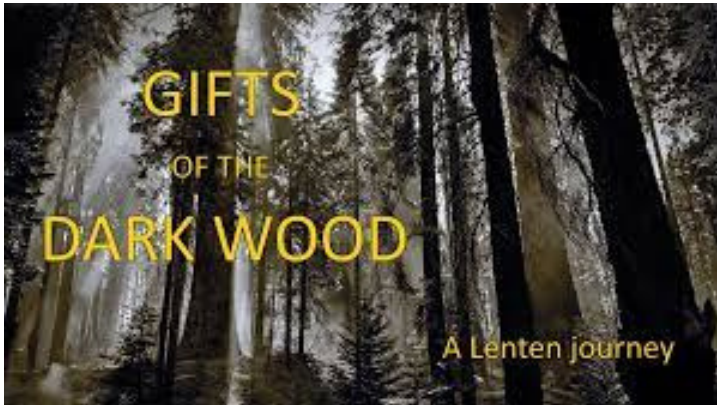
www.resourceumc.org

www.umc.org

And with our own Greater New Jersey Annual Conference:

www.GNJUMC.org

Other News



Join us for all our Lenten Activities

Ash Wednesday Service - February 14
Lenten Day Apart - March 9
Lenten Day of Service (Rise Against Hunger) - March 16
Lenten Sermon Series and Small Groups based on
Gifts of the Dark Wood by Eric Elmes

More details to follow in the bulletins, church emails,
and worship promotions - stay connected.

Missions Team Update

By Joan Caldwell

Carol Hawthorne spoke at the December meeting of the Trinity Missions Ministry Team. She brought us up to date on the current situation in Haiti. Read the letter from Carol and the latest Dayspring newsletter (on the TMMT bulletin board at the entrance to Starr Hall) to get the details.

The team voted to give a \$2000 donation to Family Promise for the programs they are running for those in need. Check the flyer on the bulletin board for ways you can help.

The dates for the 2024 TMMT meetings are on the bulletin board. Please consider joining us at the table...to learn more about the Missions that Trinity supports and to share new opportunities with us.



Announcements



Our Sympathy to:

Maria & Mark Broadhurst and family on the death of her father

Vinnie & Laura Iacampo on the death of his stepmother

Barbara & Andy Martin on the death of her father
Bernhart Nelson



From your Pastoral Staff

It is with warmed hearts and spirits filled with your love and care that we thank you for your generosity this Christmas. Thank you for the cards, gifts, goodies, and financial gifts you gave us. We are grateful to serve you and serve with you. We look forward to the exciting year that is before us as we do ministry together here at Trinity.
Blessings and Love!

Pastor Erica
Pastor Deb
Pastor Don
Ginny Thorp