

December 2025

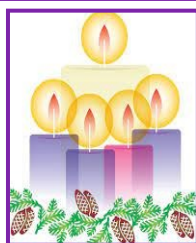
Volume 35, Issue 12

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Christmas Cantata



## Advent Mini Concerts

Trinity's Advent mini-concerts follow the 10:20 am worship service in our Sanctuary after a brief break for setup. The programs last approximately 20 minutes and can be enjoyed **IN PERSON or ONLINE**.

**December 14** – Marie Sierra and Lynn Moser, piano duets

**December 21** – The Agave Winds – woodwind quintet

## Cantata Sunday December 21

During the worship service, the Trinity Choir and Orchestra will present Mark Hayes' beautiful Cantata, "CANDLES AND CAROLS". This 25-minute work will explore the preparatory journey of the four Sundays in Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Through carols both new and old and narration, the cantata will prepare your hearts for the blessing of the arrival of the Christ Child & the true meaning of Christmas. This joyous presentation is a perfect time to invite someone to enjoy it with you **IN PERSON or ONLINE**.



## Christmas Eve December 24

### Christmas Café in Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm

This year's café will have an "ABC's of Christmas" theme. Enjoy hot cider, cocoa, sandwich fixings, cookies and fellowship with friends old and new.

*Please bring holiday goodies, veggies or fruit to share.*



Christmas Eve

### Candlelight Christmas Eve 6:20 pm

The service opens with children and youth processing into the Sanctuary dressed up as characters in the nativity story. Traditional lessons & carols will follow with a Christmas message, led by Dr. Mack, along with instrumentalists & vocalists

*Bring your family, friends and neighbors as we celebrate our Lord's birth on this holy day! **IN PERSON or ONLINE**.*

# PASTORAL LETTER



The movie “White Christmas” ends on a dazzling stage filled with young ballerinas, elaborate red and white Christmas costumes, beautiful music, champagne toasts, a star-topped tree, and in the background, the snowy Vermont countryside with a horse-drawn sleigh passing by just at the right time – a Currier and Ives type of Christmas with a happy ending. Perhaps this year, more than other Christmases of recent memory, we can relate to the authentic circumstances surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Characteristic of those difficult times, the announcement of the Prince of Peace’s birth did not bring peace for those who received this astonishing news.

For Joseph, the news from his betrothed that she was going to give birth must have been traumatic and disheartening. In Mary’s culture, the life of a single woman who became pregnant was not only ruined, but at risk of severe religious oppression or even death. And so, in the deep of night, to a woman whose moral integrity had been ruined in the eyes of her religion and to a husband who was still reeling from the unexpected turn of events that dramatically changed his life, the Son of God and the Savior of the world was born and placed into the trough from which the animals ate. In heaven, the stars shined and the angels sang, but on earth humanity did not yield one bit of its cruelty, its oppression, or its injustice to welcome Jesus Christ into the world.

American author and novelist Taylor Caldwell summed up what the birth of Christ meant to him when he wrote, “I am not alone at all, I thought to myself. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.” Like Caldwell, we know that

the joy of Christmas is not experienced in a Currier and Ives scene from a movie – it is found in those moments when, thinking that all is lost, that the world makes no sense, that humanity has no hope, we suddenly hear the cry of a new-born baby on a starlit evening, born in the ruins of poverty and weariness, telling us that we are not forgotten, telling us that we are loved, telling us that God is here. “Come, let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” Merry Christmas.

*Dr. Mack*



## Christmas Eve Service Nativity Scene

Calling all children, grandchildren, and friends! All children and youth are invited to participate in the processional and nativity scene for the Christmas Eve candlelight service. **Please arrive by 6:00 p.m. to pick out your costume.**

For more info, please speak with Liz Barlow or Kathy Moser, or call the church office at (520) 623-2579.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

### **GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS** (children preschool - 4th grade)

*Teacher: Kathy Moser*

#### **ADVENT WHEEL, SERVICE PROJECT AND CHRISTMAS PUZZLES**

We will be having Sunday School downstairs in Room 8 following the children's message. On the first Sunday (Dec 7) the children will have a great time learning the meaning of Advent candles as they color their Advent Wheel. We will meet in the library on the second Sunday (Dec 14) to do our "to-go-bag" project. The "to-go-bags" will then be handed out to individuals in the congregation to distribute to those in need. We put together 80 to-go-bags last month. On the third Sunday (Dec 21), children will remain in the worship service to enjoy the Christmas Cantata. On the fourth Sunday (Dec 28), we will have Christmas fun with a variety of Christmas puzzles and activities.

### **THE CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS** (5th Grade & Older)

*Teachers: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull*

#### **GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG**

Children and youth in 4th grade and above are encouraged to pick up an activity packet and WORSHIP BAGS, and to sit with their families during worship. These resources contain activities to enhance their worship experience. Please return the worship bags after the service.

Look for the Children in Worship display in the narthex.

## ADULT CLASSES

### **MACK'S ADVENT CLASS** December 14 & 21 9:00 am in the Upper Room

"Voices of Advent" by Dr. Matthew Skinner leads readers through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. Over four weeks this class helps readers experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian Church Year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the incredible story of Jesus. December 14: The Voices of Mary, Zechariah, and the gospel of John, December 21: The Voices of Angels and Prophets.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Our themes for December are "Advent" and "The ABCs of Christmas". Please check out the library's Christmas display along with the variety of books on Advent and Christmas which are on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. Instructions for checking out books and the "check out" card basket will be on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. When returning books, please leave them in the Book Return basket in the library. The library is open before and after the worship service. Please contact Kathy Moser, your librarian, if you have any questions. Please note: The book "Café Justo" is available for check out by the Just Coffee display near the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## WHO'S IN YOUR PEW Meet Bruce & Peggy Chamberlain

### **What did you do for a living?**

I was a university professor of music for 41 years, serving at the University of Missouri-Rolla, Trinity University (San Antonio), Murray State University (Kentucky), University of Northern Iowa, and the last 18 years at the University of Arizona, the last 10 of which as the Associate Director of the Fred Fox School of Music.

### **Where is your hometown?**

Southern New Jersey just outside of Philadelphia

### **What do you like to do in your leisure time?**

I love to read, mostly contemporary non-fiction, swim laps daily in our backyard pool & do the NY Times and Arizona Daily Star sudoku and Ken-Ken puzzles.

**What is your favorite food?** Steak grilled in the backyard and sweet potato pie, which I bake from Grandmom Chamberlain's recipe.

### **What are your favorite hymns?**

"Lift High the Cross"

**What does this church mean to you?** I am a lifelong Presbyterian, went through Communicants Class and was president of the Westminster Fellowship at my home church in New Jersey. I have served as choral director for Presbyterian churches in Missouri, San Antonio, Iowa and here at Trinity Tucson. Trinity has truly become home for Peggy and me; we particularly enjoy the warmth, support, and love that Trinity exudes, the fellowship with the choir and staff, & the mission awareness to our location in the heart of the city.

**What is something that many people would not know about you?** I played varsity baseball for 4 years in high school. We were NJ State Champions my senior year.



### **What did you do for a living?**

I Taught K-12 vocal & general music, but did not enjoy it so, I went into banking and investment sales for 20 years while performing in community theater and conducting a church choir.

**Where is your hometown?** a very small town in NW Iowa called Ida Grove, but I've lived in Tucson longer than anywhere

### **What do you like to do in your leisure time?**

Read, travel, spend time with my incredible family, sing, play word games, cook, watch old movies.

### **What is your favorite food?**

I LOVE potatoes and crispy fried chicken and any kind of noodles.

### **What are your favorite hymns & Bible verses?**

"Be Thou My Vision" & I love the Christmas story in Luke

**What does this church mean to you?** Bruce and I have had such wonderful support over our years here, I feel loved, appreciated, accepted and valued by this church family.

**What is something that many people would not know about you?** I have modeled, done print and TV commercials, DJed, sung backup for Barry Manilow & sung with the Lettermen with them singing backup for me. I was a jock in high school lettering all 4 years in golf, 6 on 6 basketball, track and softball. Bruce and I directed a production of "The Music Man" in Meredith Wilson's hometown of Mason City Iowa in celebration of the Iowa Sesquicentennial.

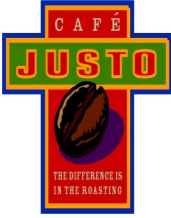


Casa Maria sandwich making  
**December 14, 2025** in Fellowship Hall  
after worship & the Advent Mini Concert.

Birthday & Anniversary Celebration  
**Sunday, December 21** in Fellowship Hall  
after worship & the Advent Mini Concert



# MISSION NEWS



## Just Coffee For Sale

The Mission Committee sells Just Coffee in Fellowship Hall before and after church each Sunday. The display is near the stained glass window manned by volunteers. You may pay by cash or check. Coffee is \$10 and the proceeds benefit Café Justo, a grower-owned Coffee Cooperative in southern Chiapas Mexico. For information: [justcoffee.org](http://justcoffee.org).

## TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 3:00 pm** in the basement of the Sanctuary building. Monetary & food donations are always welcome & appreciated.

**Food Pantry Numbers** In November 736 people in 297 households received 327 Food Bank Boxes. 43 households returned for a pantry visit. There were 292 Walk-ins - an average of 42/day.

**Food Pantry Needs** Check the table in the Narthex for ideas. Canned vegetables, protein or granola bars, tuna or other canned protein and peanut butter are needed. Donations may be brought to church on Sunday & the office Monday - Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Sign up to volunteer at [trinitytucson.org/volunteer](http://trinitytucson.org/volunteer).

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



## Recent Special Events



All Saints  
Candlelight  
Service

Church Picnic  
at Reid Park



Youth Bible  
Presentation  
11/30

Photos by Kathy Moser

## Game Day Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am in Fellowship

**Hall** Looking for a fun way to unwind, connect, and challenge your mind? Join us for table games, laughter, and great company! We play Mexican train and have other games too. Bring your favorite game & a snack to share.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering our Presbyterian church congregations have long expressed their compassion for others, especially for those who serve the church. This Offering is received for the equal benefit of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). The offering will be taken in person **Sunday, December 21**. You may also mail in your donation or make it online & designate "Christmas Joy Offering" in your memo throughout the month of December.



# Session Notes

At the November 9<sup>th</sup> Called Congregational meeting we elected Eileen Lamse, Tom Roof, Koffi Seddo and David Toering for the Elder Class of 2028. We elected Ruth Russell to fill a vacancy for the Elder Class of 2026. For the Deacon Class of 2028 we elected Celest Dzakpa, Charity Everitt, Kathy Moser and Emalie Wilka Scott and for a vacancy in the Deacon Class of 2026 we elected Team Wickizer – Ida and Rick. Congratulations all! We are so thankful for those who serve as our church leaders. Thank you, thank you for saying "Yes."

Here are the highlights of the November stated session meeting:

- Session approved moving the December 16<sup>th</sup> stated meeting to December 8<sup>th</sup> to have its Annual Deacon/Elder dinner meeting. The elders will cook for everyone, and the deacons will clean up. Each group will then go their separate ways for their regular meeting times.
- A new General Assembly policy requires Trinity PC to affirm/review or update an anti-racial policy, an anti-harassment policy and a family leave policy annually. Session has committed to do so in 2026.
- The Deacons plan to sponsor selling snacks, etc. during the December 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Street Fair.
- Mission Committee reports planning an open house and presentation on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Volunteers are needed to pick up Casa Maria sandwich making ingredients in the future.
- Every committee has reviewed their budgets for 2026 and attempted to trim expenditures.
- Property Committee is researching companies to repair and replace deteriorating flagstones that pose a safety risk to those walking across them.
- Property continues to update room rental rates and marketing options.
- Stewardship & Finance is planning to pay out reimbursements on a bi-monthly basis. The days that check signers also do payroll checking are the days that reimbursement checks will be issued. This change requires an adjustment for how and when reimbursement requests are submitted.
- Worship Committee has finalized all plans for Advent. Check out the rest of the VISION for all the festivities and worship events.
- There is an organ key that keeps sticking and after being repaired may continue to cause problems. Because of our consummate

organist, Lynn Moser, you don't notice the problem when it arises. Our organ needs prayer, a miracle, a lottery win or a gift of a million dollars from a random billionaire somewhere.

Session and Dr. Mack prayed for church members in need of special care and concern.

Janet Hooper,  
Clerk of Session



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**December 7** Isaiah 11:1-10 & Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**December 14** Isaiah 35:1-10 & Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**December 21** Isaiah :7:10-16 & Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**December 28** Isaiah 63:7-9 & Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23



## HONORING & MEMORIALS

*In Memory of* Don Myers by Billie Holbrook

*In Memory of* Don Myers by Matthew Derstine & Kathleen Goll-Derstine

# TRINITY MILESTONES



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS JANUARY BIRTHDAYS (1–10)

2	Ida Wickizer	17	Heather Lind	1	Sanani Mukadesa	2	Dr. Mack Sigmon
4	Melinda Arnold	19	Ann Butler	2	Emmanuel Alley	2	Barbara Pollack
5	Errol Dimenstein	19	Janet Jones	2	Dale McCray	9	Jeri Ogden
7	Marilyn Slagle	22	Beatrice Spillers				
9	Bonnie Stull	22	Jeremy Roggow				
12	Rosalie Goll	25	Charity Everitt				
13	John Hill	31	Sherry Letson				

### December Anniversaries

20 Bobby Whipple & Sherry Letson

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS

Join in the fellowship **Thursdays 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm in the Library.** Led by Tim Christian, of St. Andrew's Presbyterian youth ministry, the group discusses current events, their week together, & work through different topics and the application of our faith, especially within the college sphere. **They begin again January 29, 2026.** Follow sapccollege on Instagram for updates.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE WINTER STREET FAIR THIS WEEKEND

- Deacon Bodega is selling drinks and snacks. Shifts available Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Contact Daphne Madson to sign up.
- Cup of Water is distributing cups of water to fairgoers. Shifts available Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Contact David Croteau to sign up.

## TRINITY WOMEN

**The Horizon's Bible Study** meets **Tuesday, December 9 at 9:30 am in the Library.** Dr. Mack leads the 2025-2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study "Finding Resilience, Joy, & Our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rhashell D. Hunter. In this nine lesson Bible study, we are exploring resilience which is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy. We will also seek to rediscover our identity.

**Ryan's Bears** This year around 80 bears were completed along with caps and lap sized quilts! They were blessed December 7 & are being delivered to Arizona Children's Association, Gospel Rescue Mission, Primavera & Our Family Social Services for their Christmas Giving. The bears are dedicated to the memory of Imogene Moser, Leone Mohny and Bunny Mallams who helped make many a bear. We start making bears for Christmas 2025 on **January 20, 2026 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.** Any questions, call Ruth Myers 520-326-6888



