



TRINITY BELLS

*A Publication of Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
4435 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield, WI 53005*



"after the comma"

No Room at the Inn

Couldn't believe it. On a recent flight, I knew that the plane would be pretty full. I had booked a flight on Southwest Airlines and registered for the flight boarding; I had number B26. Not a front-line seat, and definitely not at the end of the line, but as I looked around at the gate area, it was a full flight.

When I fly, I am a window seat person. Something about having that glimpse of the take-off, flight above the clouds and the inevitable landing just seem to me that I want to witness as much of this as possible. Being able to see the ground from above also gives me a chance to be in wonder of God's creation and how we have lived and developed our living systems. Daytime flight allows for seeing fields, hills, mountains, roadways, buildings and for me following the rivers and waterways always leaves me in awe. Yes, a bird's eye view from within the seated position of a seat with my safety buckle on and many other passengers along for the ride.

As I boarded the plane- I made my way towards the first open window seat which to my chagrin was all the way back in row 28 out of 29. As I passed down the center aisle, I caught glimpses of who my fellow travelers were and in my mind the stories of who they were, where they were going and how they were doing were another gift of the imagination. As I made my way to my seat which had me sitting with my left arm toward the window, I had two seats open to my right. I wondered who would find their way next to me? Would they also be traveling to see family? Would they themselves be joined by other family members during this trip? Would they mind if I buried myself into a book throughout the flight...or would they want to have a conversation? (I find that it is different with every flight I have taken...which is also a gift...as I never really know who I am going to learn about...)

As I began to settle in get my book out, a family had made its way to the back...7 in total. The mother took the row in front of me with the two smallest children (sister and brother), and behind me the older siblings all took the last row. That left the dad of this clan to find the aisle seat next to me. The mom peaked her head and turned around and looked at me with a smile and giggled as she said, "well now you are a part of this family and if you need a place to stay once we get to our destination- seeing as you will know us after this flight, you are invited to join us at home!". The dad and couple of the kids chuckled and I politely replied that it was a wonderful invitation and would be fun, but I was also on my way to see family...but thanks!

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January 2024



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4435 North Calhoun Road
Brookfield, WI, 53005
262-781-9378

Email: contact@trinitybrookfield.org

Web Site: www.trinitybrookfield.org

Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday Worship

Worship: 10:00 am

Fellowship Hour: Follows service

Holy Communion: First Sunday of the Month
(unless noted otherwise)

Sunday School

1/7, 1/21

Contact Kathy Haass (KatydidHaass@gmail.com)
with questions or for more information.

Open to the Community

Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Monday Quilters: 1/8, 1/15 – 8:30a-4:00p

Troop 21: 1/7, 1/21 – 6:00-8:30p

Staff & Lay Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Krueger

Council President: Mark Burbey

Director of Music: Mike Hetzel

Administrative Assistant: Mikey Hetzel

Cleaning Custodian: Jodie Gerard

Maintenance Custodian: Eric Dahm

Ministers of the Church:

All Members of Trinity United Church of Christ

Newsletter Deadline

The 15th of each month.

Happy Birthday!!



Arnold Dahm..... 1/16

Janice Fredrick 1/18

Peg Zahn 1/26



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Nancy Korslin

Jerry Krainer

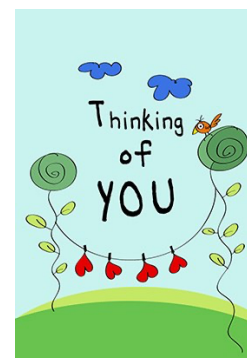
Sherry Nuszbaum

Joann Shue

Fred Theilacker

Marion Wandsneider

Patricia Wendlandt



Worship Services - Jan 2024

Sunday, January 7th

Worship Service – 10:00 AM
Communion with Intinction
Sunday School

Sunday, January 14th

Worship Service – 10:00 AM
Council Meeting 11:15 AM
Missions Meeting 11:15 AM

Sunday, January 21st

Worship Service – 10:00 AM
Sunday School

Sunday, January 28th

Worship Service – 10:00 AM
Budget Discussion

Usher Teams

January 7th - Dahm Team, Group 5
(Eric Dahm, Edith Heins, Tootie Seidel)

January 14th - Halvorson Team, Group 1
(Terri Allen, Emily Goblirsch, Kathy Haass, Joe Halvorson)

January 21st - Mielke Team, Group 2
(Sarah Dahm, Lori Krueger, Dave Mielke, Lynne Mielke, Naomi Stewart)

January 28th - Stanley Team, Group 3
(Kathy Dahm, Bob Stanley, Roberta Stanley, Linda Rube)

CHRISTMAS TEA





Continued from page 1

She turned back to getting the children ready for the flight and eventual take-off.

I looked down the center aisle and saw many more people coming down the center just as I had done a few minutes before and trying to do the math it seemed like there were more people than seats left. At this point I began again wondering who would take the center seat between me and the father of the family surrounding me.

At this point a younger couple had made their way to our section and from the look in their eyes, they had decided on the seats that were open in our row. The young lady took a seat on the other side of our row in the aisle and the young man took his position in the middle seat next to me. A quick glance between us let the other know that it was a fine choice and would be a safe seat. No words, but the communication of body language and knowing that there were not many other options for seating created a welcoming space for us to be in. We were on a journey together, not planned with this seating arrangement, but going in the same direction nonetheless.

Our flight took off and it was just as the sun was setting with an overcast sky...but it was amazing to break above the clouds and see the world above. God's glory from different vantage points and it was all good! After we leveled out and I was able to use my tray in front of me, I began to read my book. The kids in front of me were sharing a small smartphone between themselves and they giggled as they watched the Grinch movie. The dad I could see was also watching an in-flight movie and he had chosen the "Barbie" movie. I was amused of his movie selection, but seeing as I had just seen the movie a week prior- knew he would enjoy it. The young man next to me had placed full ear headphones on and then proceeded to place his head down in his arms with the seat tray supporting his effort to take some rest.

As the flight went along, At first, I couldn't believe it. I could tell my seat friend had fallen asleep and now his frame and arm were leaning into me. At first, my thought was "Hey- this is my space...I need you to get back on your side of the seat...(as you know most airline seats nowadays are pretty tight on space and elbow room to begin with). I contemplated nudging him awake to express my need for my space, but then I reconsidered. Sure, I wanted more of my own space, but my fellow traveler just needed some rest and in a safe place. I could handle this for a while, couldn't I? It made me think of how when Christ was born, how those who had been asked maybe could have made room at the Inn, maybe even given up a couch or something. There was room, but it was within the makeshift location of a barn that held the invitation to rest and be. The reply of the animals you could imagine were of- "hey, this is our space...maybe you should move on", but in response they embraced and accepted the fellow travelers in their midst. They understood that the barn was a home for all to be and that it was equal in its shelter and invitation to those who entered it. Yes, we should be so invitational in our own living and journeying.

So, I let my seat friend sleep for a while. Someday, I'm sure, I will need the same.

God thank you for giving us the space within our hearts to be open so that we may be shelter for others. Let us make room for the love of Christ so that others may feel safe and loved as you have taught us. Amen

Pastor Dan





Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez

Let the good times keep rolling after the Jazz Worship Service on February 11th and come on down to the Dining Hall for lunch.

The Mission Committee will be serving Jambalaya, Cornbread, Salad, and Louisiana Crunch Cake.

See Dave Mielke or Joe Halvorson for tickets.

Adults are \$15.00 and children are \$7.00.

Let us know if want carry-out.

All proceeds will go to Back Bay Mission in Back Bay, Mississippi.

Mitten Tree

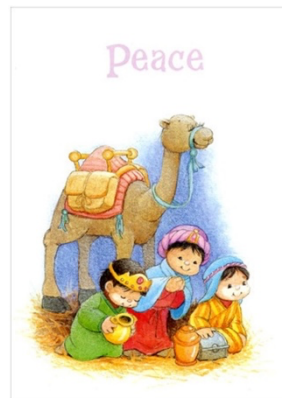


During the months of December, January and February the Mitten Tree will be in the Gathering Space.

You are invited to decorate it with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves that will be going to the Hope Center in Waukesha.



Thank you



Trinity Sunday School & Confirmation Students

Your performance of The Three Kings was outstanding. Your acting, narrating and music performances made our Sunday morning service very special. **A job well done all.**

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Chloe Brown | Michaela Faulk |
| Braden Koch | Doobo Lee |
| Eden Ruehmer | Doona Lee |
| Hayley Koch | |

Thank you parents for your support and patience with all our rehearsals. Jill Gretenhart for co-directing, Kathy Dahm for projectionist and Robin Komassa for your voice.

Flower Calendar

Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature



There are openings on the Flower Calendar to bring flowers to decorate the sanctuary. If you have a celebration you would like to share or just to bring some of God's beautiful creation indoors. The calendar is located in the dining hall by the kitchen.

Worship & Arts

Cup of Life

December was a busy month for the women of Cup of Life. On Wednesday, December 6th, six of us went up to Fond du Lac to engage in some retail therapy at the wonderful Christmas store known far and wide as Kristmas Kringle Shoppe. We spent approximately 1 hour and a half looking at ornaments, District 56 Villages, Jim Shore Santas and Fontanini nativity scenes. Everyone had a good time and spent on gifts for family and friends. After this, we drove in two cars to Sawmill Inn in Richfield for lunch, which again was a big hit with the ladies. We arrived back in Brookfield at around 3 with all having a good time and agreeing that this was a great way to start the holiday season.

On Saturday, of that same week the ladies came together to set up the Dining Hall for the Annual Christmas Tea in Memory of Roland Perschon that was held the next day after Worship. Each table was decorated in either red or green tablecloths with red candles set in greenery. The two main tables were decked out with red, green and plaid tablecloths overlaid with a lace runner. The centerpieces were provided by Kathy Immekus and consisted of a lighted lantern and a yule log surrounded by greenery. The next day, December 10, the ladies got to church early so that they could put out the 3 types of stollen provided by Edith Heines cookies and chocolates provided by Tootie Seidl, fruit cake made by our very own Illene Dahm. peppermint and cinnamon teas provided by Janet Schuster and many other treats provided by all of the other women in Cup of Life. The tables were set with 4 different patterns of paper plates and matching napkins with a Christmas theme and Christmas mugs or Trinity's white mugs and, right before the worshipers came downstairs for coffee hour, the lights were dimmed and the candles were lit. We counted at least 50 people at the tea and what was especially rewarding was that many of them stayed for at least an hour talking and having a good time. Thanks go to all of the ladies of Cup of Life who set up, brought items, cleaned up and basically made the Tea the success it has become over the last 3 years. Thanks go to Roberta Stanley who also drove to Fond du Lac earlier in the week and helped Janet with the teas, Dawn Faulk who brought the candy canes for the children and was meticulous in the set-up of the tables, Jan Schuster and her helpers who made and poured the tea throughout, Edith who passed out the stollen, Lynne Mielke and Tootie who made sure that everything was running well at the serving table and that all of our guests were comfortable.

The last thing to report on was that the ladies of Cup of Life, with the immense help of Kathy Immekus made over 75 Christmas cards for Senior Citizens who live at an apartment complex near the church. We spent the month of November gluing, stamping, and writing these beautiful, hand made cards which Edith dropped off.





Hi Kids,

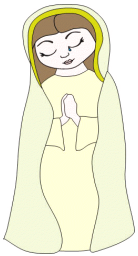
This month we are going to learn about a new person from the Old Testament, her name is Hannah.

This story is about a woman named Hannah who really really wanted to have a child. Every year she would go with her husband to a place called Shiloh.

While they were there, there would be a big festival and everyone would celebrate all that God did for them. They would thank God for their crops and everything God gave them, and give sacrifices or presents to God to show how thankful they were.

This sometimes made Hannah very sad because she wanted so badly to be thankful, but was discouraged because she couldn't have a child. That didn't mean Hannah moped around and felt sorry for herself but in her heart she was very sad. Her husband still loved her very much and tried to make her feel better but nothing seemed to work.

Finally Hannah did the only thing she knew that she could do to help her situation. One evening when they had finished eating and drinking Hannah went to the temple and began to pray.



When Hannah prayed she was very honest with how she was feeling. She sometimes cried a lot and probably felt like God had forgotten her. But while she was praying she promised God, "Dear God, if you would only look and see how sad I am and remember me, please give me a son. If you would do that for me I will dedicate my son to you for his whole life."

As Hannah was praying there was a man named Eli, a priest, who was sitting nearby and saw her. While Hannah was praying she was praying to herself, her lips were moving but Eli couldn't hear her say anything. We can pray just like this to if we need to, we can pray to God in our head so no one can hear.



Eli realized that Hannah was being very honest and truthful with God and he said to her, "Go in peace and may God answer your prayer." After that Hannah left she felt much better because she had talked to God about what bothered her. Early the next morning she even went to worship God before she went home.

You see, sometimes God doesn't answer our prayers, but we can't just be mad forever and not talk or thank God for all the other good things in our life. God knows what's best so there's always a good reason why he hasn't answered your prayer.

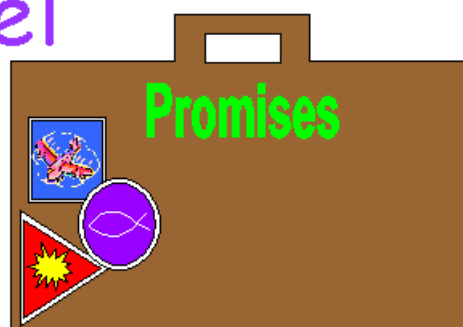
But awhile later a great thing happened. God of course remembered Hannah (because God doesn't forget any of us) and gave her a son, and she named him Samuel.

Hannah had waited so long for this child and she loved him so much, but she remembered that she made a promise to God. Hannah was an honest woman and when she made a promise she meant it. Again, Hannah had a good attitude and wanted to give Samuel back to God, she wasn't mad at herself and change her mind. Hannah kept her promise.



Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Hannah & Samuel Anagram



eimoprs _____

aeprry _____

adensss _____

aelmsu _____

bdeelss _____

ehopprrt _____

rsttu _____

abby _____

hioprsw _____

aegv _____

Hannah Word Search

D G P N W Y A L E G A V E S N
K E R R B O I N T K R H A P M
N G S A A S R E S R O M H E H
A Z B S T Y H S D W U P F E O
H T A E E P N I H E E P S L N
T D N Y O L R M L I B R U I E
T E S R T O B O N O P I E B S
D L P R A H T R U S T E D D T
N R A E L D L P K H V S N R L
B G N I P E E L S Z A T R Y Y

ANSWERED
BABY
BLESSED
ELI
GAVE
HONESTY
LEARN
LISTENED
PRAY
PROMISE
PRIEST
PROPHET
SAD
SAMUEL
SLEEPING
SPOKE
THANK
TRUSTED
WORSHIP



January 2024

Revised 1/2/24



**TRINITY UCC
BROOKFIELD**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 10:00 am Hymn Sing 31	1	Office Open 2 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	3 Cup of Life 10:00 am, DH	4	Office Open 5 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	6
Worship 10:00 am Communion -Sunday School Troop 21 6:00 - 8:30 pm, DH 7	8	Office Open 9 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	10 Confirmation Class 5:30 - 7:30 pm	11 W&A Meeting 1:00 pm, DH Property Meeting 3:00 pm, DH	Office Open 12 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	13
Worship 10:00 am Council Meeting 11:15 am Missions 11:15 am, DH 14	15	Office Open 16 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	17	18	Office Open 19 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	20
Worship 10:00 am -Sunday School Troop 21 6:00 - 8:30 pm, DH 21	22	Office Open 23 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	24 Confirmation Class 5:30 - 7:30 pm	25	Office Open 26 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	27
Worship 10:00 am Budget Discussion 28	29	Office Open 30 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	31	1	2	3
4	5	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Trinity is an Open and Affirming Church</i></p> <p> contact@trinitybrookfield.org 262-781-9378 www.trinitybrookfield.org </p>				