



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

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**December 2019**



### *Join Us*

Friday  
December 6  
11:30 a.m.

Help decorate the  
sanctuary tree!  
All are welcome.

## *Out On the Way*

*by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr*

Greetings friends on the Way! It's beginning to look and feel a lot like Christmas, everywhere we go! The stores, long before Thanksgiving arrives, are filled with Christmas reminders and toys and gifts. Getting ready for Christmas, for many, means to buy piles of gifts, put up a tree, and plan the food for festivities. The snow on the ground (already!!) can even make you believe it's December.

As God's people, and Christ's followers, our Way takes us down a different path. It centers us not on physical gifts, but on the great Gift, Jesus; the bearer of the greatest gifts: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light! First we will wind along a path that carries us to a time of Thanksgiving – a time at the end of a year of growing (remember the season of Pentecost is for the growth of our spiritual lives). It is contemplating the real 'harvest' in our lives this year. We will celebrate The Reign of Christ Sunday, in high spirit, and then quiet down for the beginning of Advent, a time when we await Christ's coming again.

Our theme for this month is "Love God" and how easy God made it to see how much we are loved, by sending us a child, a baby to greet us and draw us toward the Light. During the month of December, we will gather to light the Advent Candles, taking time to prepare our hearts, as well as our church, for the coming of the Christ-child.

On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will go caroling, carrying with us the gift of joy. We will begin an Advent study, taking a look at the book of Amos, one of the great prophets of the Church. We will see Christmas through our children's eyes on



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## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**Email:** [contact@trinitybrookfield.org](mailto:contact@trinitybrookfield.org)

**Web Site:** [www.trinitybrookfield.org](http://www.trinitybrookfield.org)

### Office Hours

**Monday:** Closed; Open 12/23  
**Tuesday:** 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
**Wednesday:** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Thursday:** 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**Friday:** 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### Sunday Worship

**Worship:** 10:00 a.m.

**Fellowship Hour:** Follows service

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

### Sunday School

September through first week of June

### Open to the Community

Worship, Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
Game Nights, See Schedule on Website  
Boy Scout Troop 21, Sunday 6:30 p.m.  
Quilters, Mondays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
All Special Events

### Staff & Lay Leaders

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Susan Stull-Carr  
**Director of Music:** Mike Hetzel  
**Administrative Assistant:** Kathy Shine  
**Cleaning Custodian:** Jodie Gerard  
**Maintenance Custodian:** Eric Dahm  
**Ministers of the Church:** All Members of Trinity United Church of Christ

### Newsletter Deadline

Please submit articles and photos for the January publication by Thursday, December 12th.

### Worship Attendance

230 worshippers in October and 314 in November. *Thanks for joining us!*

Sunday, December 15th, and listen to the angels sing when our Celebration Singers offer their gifts to us On December 22nd. Sunday, December 29th, will be a special Carol Sing Sunday. If you have some bells, bring them along to ring in the New Year!

When I was young, our Christmases were really quite simple. I don't remember any special foods, other than snickerdoodles, ginger snaps and lefse. Our gifts were simple – always new socks and underwear, a special dress that looked exactly like my sister Deb's. I remember one year, receiving a little white fur muff and purse. I wish I knew where it was! Dad usually bought us something he enjoyed as well – a hockey rink, a race car track and we loved the time we shared together in our basement! He would make us a skating rink and take us tobogganing. Simple pleasures. Quiet joys. We usually drove to Iowa to see grandparents, and there the gifts were even simpler, but always such joy and laughter and love! Each year, my sister and my cousin Robin and me always got matching flannel nightgowns, made by Grandma Polly.



But always, the centerpiece of Christmas pointed us to Christmas Eve. The focus of Christmas was always about God's love for us and how deep our love for God should be. Invite a friend, or perhaps a family member to join you at our service of "The Light" Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

May you know the joys of simple days, breathless wonder, quiet waiting, and the love of God!

Peace,

*Pastor Susan*





These are a few of the many comments that the 150th team heard after the 150th anniversary weekend. More comments follow.

A worshipping congregation of over 150 years is unbelievable and Trinity has done that. Most of the anniversary team members have been members of Trinity their life time and can trace their spiritual roots back several generations, and the newer members to the team have been around quite a few years as well. My point – this has been a “labor of love” and an opportunity to show that love and caring for Trinity’s family of faith. **“THANK YOU TO THE TEAM”**

We wish to thank everyone who helped out. We couldn’t have done this without the help of **Eric Dahm** who moved so many tables and chairs and provided an enormous amount of help; **Sarah Dahm** who assisted in setting up and taking down those tables and chairs; **Ralph Zahn**, our outstanding emcee at Saturday’s luncheon; everyone who contributed picture boards and memorabilia; **Pat Matthews**, who provided additional help with set-up and take down, and **Troop #21 Boy Scouts** for their outstanding help in welcoming the guests.

Special thanks to **Franz Rigert** who presented an outstanding message on Sunday morning, **Mike Hetzel** who created an outstanding musical program for

the worship service, **Trinity’s super choir**, the **Sunday School Children** who sang for us, and **Trinity’s Reunion Choir**. Thanks, also, to **Pastor Susan**; the former church presidents who served communion; photographer, **Lou Frank**, for taking many, many pictures; and **Mark Burbey** who video-taped the entire service and **Jan Frank** for her P.R. work.

A few more comments heard:

- Jan Schuster – extolling the 150th two-day celebration – great to hear such positive things
- Gerry Masch – started making plans to attend as soon as she heard, so glad she was able to attend both days
- “Franz” was wonderful, a great speaker, extremely friendly as he spoke to everyone, including the small children
- Many people wondered how we got everything done and who was on the team (*see the team names to the right*)
- “Delicious meal” Bunzel’s Catering praised for the food and efficiency in serving and clean up.
- The homemade cupcakes baked by Erica Michlig were delicious as was the cake made at the Pick and Save bakery and served on Sunday
- Many “great job” comments about our emcee Ralph. Yeah, he was great.
- Jan Frank – “outstanding job, team!”

- “Outstanding decorations throughout the church”
- “Love the magnets, outside banner, special name tags”
- “Thanks for the ‘angels created from hymnals’ I love them and won the one on my table – I am so happy”
- “It was great to see people who have moved away over the years who came back to celebrate with us”
- “In addition to Franz, it was wonderful to see former Trinity Pastors in attendance: Rev. Tom Zoelzer, Rev. Jan Doleschal, Rev. Margaret Zedan, Pulpit supply Rev. Bob Wells, special guest minister Rev. Nancy Pfaltgraf. Thanks to Rev. Matt and Sue Schneider-Adams for the beautiful bouquet of flowers and wonderful letter as they were unable to attend.
- “An outstanding celebration, THANKS to ALL!”

Feel free to write any additional comments and send to the office for future Bells articles. Also, send any comments to Marlene as she will be writing a report on the event for the church records and historical records.

**Your Anniversary Team:**

Chris Faulk, Janice Garens, Marlene Helinski, Lee Lannan, Paula Matthews, Lynne Mielke, Arlene Preston, Diane Siebold, Pastor Susan, Judy Taylor, and Jan Wolff



## *Poinsettia Sale*

Orders are now being taken for the poinsettia plants that will be used in the sanctuary at Christmas time. The last date to place your order is December 8, 2019.

Members who order a plant are welcome to take it home following worship on December 24 (if desired). An order form is included in this issue of the Bells, and also in our weekly bulletins through December 8.

# *Save the Date*

## *Budget Explanation Meeting*

Sunday, January 26, 2020  
Following Worship

## *Trinity Annual Meeting*

Sunday, February 9, 2020  
Following Worship

## *150 Years in Ministry*

Dear Trinity UCC Friends,

Congratulations on 150 years of ministry in this community! For fifteen decades you have made a real difference in peoples' lives, shining with the light of Christ. Your influence has spread far beyond the original group of founders, far beyond Brookfield itself. The faith living within you has overcome hardships and unforeseen forks in the road. Our Savior's work in you has been an energy that continues to shape you as clear-headed witnesses even through the disturbing headwinds of our times.

Our days with you were brief, but there are many things we treasure about our time together. You cared for me and my family in a very difficult time. Your generosity of Spirit was a real blessing all through our time together.

You welcomed all of us into the life of the church and the community. We still remember that warm breath of wind (in December!) that greeted us as we stepped out of Trinity House after meeting with the search committee, which told us this is the right place to be.

I remember our first experience of the Racine Kringle, which happened with you! And we are forever grateful for being initiated into the passionate Packer-Badger-Brewer culture of Wisconsin with joy and beer – which we have carried with us into Iowa.



We continue to thank God for your living faith and willingness to follow Jesus wherever he chooses to take you. You have faced some serious challenges in the past years, and you have come out on the other side with grace and hope and renewed vision. We thank God for the music that continues to sing in your soul.

We are sad that we cannot be with you for this celebration, but our prayers abound. We hope the flowers we sent bring some color and joy to remind you of our ongoing gratitude for the ways you filled our hearts and our lives, and ministered to us with persistent grace.

We wish you a happy anniversary – and many decades to come!

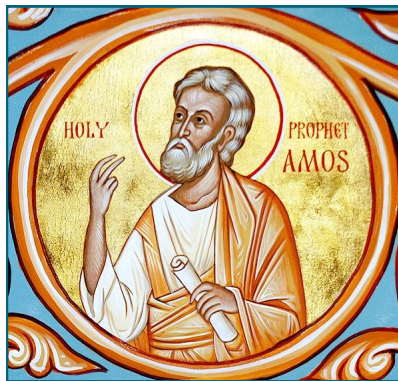
Gratefully in Christ,  
Matt and Sue Schneider-Adams

## Advent Soup and Study

During Advent we'll study the Prophet Amos. Amos wrote at a time of relative peace and prosperity but also of neglect of Yahweh's laws. He spoke against an increased disparity between the very wealthy and the very poor. His major themes of social justice, God's omnipotence, and divine judgment became staples of prophecy.

**Join us in the Dining Hall  
when your schedule allows!**

Tues, November 26, 6:00 p.m.  
Tues, December 3, 12:00 Noon  
Tues, December 10, 6:00 p.m.  
Tues, December 17, 12:00 Noon



## Mitten Tree

Our mitten tree has a **NEW LOCATION**. It will be in the hallway by the main entrance. Missions Committee will be collecting mittens, scarves, and caps through February, 2020.



## December 8, Toy Drive

The Mission Committee is having a Toy Drive! **One day only: December 8, 2019!** Bring an unwrapped stuffed animal to fill **The Trinity Christmas Zoo!** We will bring our animal offerings up to the tree during worship. Pastor Susan will lead us in a blessing.



Christina Matthews  
Roberta Stanley  
Meghan Dahm  
Lola Krainer

## Keep Our Homebound Members in Prayer

Donna Brill  
Beverly Littmann  
Geraldine Masch  
Glenn Siebert  
Marion Wandsneider



*Thinking  
of  
You*



## Happy Anniversary

Dan & Kathryn Dierbeck  
Robin & Sarah Komasa

## Thank You for the In-Harvest Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated items for The Waukesha Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets. And special thanks to **Lee** and **Dave** who packed, loaded and delivered items to the pantry.



December 1 – No Classes  
 December 8 – Class  
 December 15 – No Classes – Children’s Christmas Program  
 December 22 – No Classes  
 December 29 – Class  
 January 5 – Class  
 January 12 – Class  
 January 19 – No Classes  
 January 26 – Class  
 February 2 – Class  
 February 9 – Class  
 February 16 – No Classes  
 February 23 – Class  
 March 1 – Class  
 March 8 – Class  
 March 15 – No Classes  
 March 22 – Class  
 March 29 – Class  
 April 5 – Class  
 April 12 – Easter Sunday, No Classes  
 April 19 – Class  
 April 26 – No Classes  
 May 3 – Class  
 May 10 – Class  
 May 17 – Class  
 May 24 – Memorial Day Weekend, No Classes  
 May 31 – Pentecost Sunday (*undecided at this time*)

# Join Us for Advent & Christmas

## Advent Soup & Study on Tuesdays

Nov 26 & Dec 10 at 6:00 p.m., Dec 3 & Dec 17 at 12:00 Noon

### 1st Sunday of Advent Worship, Communion Sunday, and Hanging of the Greens

December 1, 10:00 AM

*Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle, the Candle of Hope*

### 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship

December 8, 10:00 AM

*Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle, the Candle of Peace*

### 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship & Children’s Christmas Pageant

December 15, 10:00 AM

*Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle, the Candle of Joy*

### 4th Sunday of Advent Worship & Christmas Choral

December 22, 10:00 AM

*Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle, the Candle of Love*

### Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 4:00 PM

*Lighting of the 5th Candle, the Christ Candle*

### First Sunday After Christmas

December 29, 10:00 AM

*Sing Along to Celebrate the New Year*

### Epiphany Celebration & Communion Sunday

January 5, 10:00 AM



# *Hanging of the Greens*



## **Candles on the Table**

The ancient Tabernacle and Temple of God held lamps that burned continually in God's presence to remind the Israelites that God spoke to Moses in a burning bush and lead them through the desert with a pillar of fire.

Whenever you see candles this Advent, remember that the long awaited day has come. Light was born in darkness, when Jesus was born in a manger.

## **Wreaths on the Doors**

Almost all of us put evergreen wreaths on our doors at Christmas. They are a sign of welcome and originated as signs of unending life and of victory. As you pass through doors with wreaths, may you remember that Jesus Christ won your salvation. May every wreathed door be an opportunity to recommit your life to Jesus.



## **Holly and Evergreen Garlands**

The most striking and universal feature of Christmas is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. The color green represents eternal life. Evergreens were used to teach God's unchanging character.

When you see greenery this holiday season, remember that you can trust God and God's promises. We can celebrate Christmas, because we know that Jesus is not going to change his mind about saving us and giving us eternal life.

## **Poinsettias**

Catholic missionary priests in Mexico and Central America used their December, star-shaped blooms to illustrate the Flaming Star over Bethlehem, which announced the Bright and Morning Star of Revelation. When you see these foreign plants this Christmas, remember the Star and the foreign Magi, and remember we were foreigners to Israel when our ancestors converted to Christianity.



## **The Christmas Tree & Decorations**

An evergreen tree is a reminder that God comes to us and is ever-living. We think of the tree of the cross on which our Savior gave His life for our redemption. Lights symbolize the beauty of the sky and stars. Decorations, both homemade and store-bought, remind us of the beauty of God's creation shared with us anew each day. May God fill your home and your heart with the hope, peace, joy, and love this Christmas and always.

## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

The Worship & Arts Committee is selling poinsettias for Christmas this year. Colors available are Red, White, Pink, and "Jingle Bells" (red w/white flecks).

Prices are \$12.00 for a 6" plant, \$20.00 for a 7" plant.

**Place your order forms WITH MONEY attached in the Sunday morning offering plates through December 8 or mail to the Church Office.  
(All orders must be received by December 8, 2019.)**

*If needed, mail order form and payment to:*  
Trinity UCC, 4435 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield, WI 53005

Please print clearly:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

### — INDICATE QUANTITY ORDERED —

6" @ \$12.00 each

7" @ \$20.00 each

Red \_\_\_\_\_

White \_\_\_\_\_

Pink \_\_\_\_\_

Jingle Bells \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed:  Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Proceeds to Decorating Funds*



*Poinsettia Plants from  
Shady Lanes Greenhouse*