



Trinity Tidings

Celebrate. Connect. Communicate.
Connecting God's Love Story with our Community.

December 2025

ISSUE 12

VOL. 81



Merry Christmas, my dear Church Family.

This advent and Christmas season reminds us of the faithfulness of God. He loves us more than we can ever imagine. Since He created humankind in the garden of Eden, His heart has never stopped pursuing us. His love has never stopped yearning for us. His eye has never stopped watching out for us. On the other hand, we the people He created have forgotten, forsaken, wandered, rebelled, and broken His tender heart. To a holy God, there can be nothing more heart-wrenching than to watch those He lovingly created tarnish their lives in sin and surrender to the enemy. Into that hostage crisis God plunged in-not wielding a nuclear force, but with His everlasting John 3:16 love. What began at Bethlehem culminated at Calvary. As shepherds came and Wisemen worshiped, we must not forget that over the cradle that Mary and Joseph sat beside, was the shadow of the old rugged cross. Christmas is a lot of fun, carol singing, food, family, and more, but it is far from true to its meaning until those who celebrate it embrace Jesus, the Savior of the world. Celebrating Christmas without accepting the salvation that Jesus offers is like getting into a cruise liner which has no bottom. Can you imagine that? You are all checked in for the cruise of a lifetime, but before you know it, you are at the bottom of the ocean. My friend, this is indeed serious business. While industries and commercial houses make millions, if not billions, out of the season, Christmas is not a business. It is the biggest investment of love by the kindest heart in the universe-to save the most lost, the most broken, and the most unworthy hearts He can ever find. The Father longs for us to connect with Him. He woos us. He calls us. He paid for us. And when we return, He dances over us. The Father's heart is never happier than in the return of the prodigal.

That first Christmas, the King came to His own, but His own did not recognize Him nor did they receive Him. He did not give up. The Bethlehem inn that had that "no room for you" sign did not deter him. It still does not. What sign do you have in your heart for Him? Let me close by sharing this poem that I wrote a few years ago.

Room?

The manger became a birthing room,
Love divine in a virgin's womb,
God's light was breaking through the darkness,
Veiled in flesh, behold his greatness.

Humble shepherds – the heavenly Host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
God's love was breaking through the pain,
Touching lives and things mundane.

In the Temple at the consecration,
Two voices spoke of his salvation,
God's Word was breaking through the silence,
Peace on earth amidst the violence.

The wise men from the East arrived,
Their visit left the king surprised,
God's power was breaking through the system,
His ways are higher, He's got that wisdom

The man of sorrows, friend of sinners,
Welcomed all - losers and winners,
God's grace was breaking through the barriers,
With joy, He came to love and save us.

So, as you celebrate the season,
Don't miss the Christ-child, He's the reason,
God's hope is breaking through the gloom,
The question is, will you make room?

Wishing you a really real Christmas.
A-room Andrews! (That's the way Siri spells
my name at times. Maybe a hint!)

**NEW CUMBERLAND
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

December 7

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Elkwood Park, 7th & Bridge St.
Bring a canned meat/meal
for Starfish Ministry.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Take time to journal your gratitude for God's work in your heart and life in 2025. Consider: What are you thankful for? What do you regret? What must you surrender to Him?

Ask Him what your dream for 2026 must be even as you seek to walk with Him.

2025 THEME:

IMMEASURABLY MORE!

**DECEMBER'S THEME:
CHRISTMAS BY CAROLS**

**December 7 - Communion Sunday
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Luke 2:25-35**

**December 14
Joy to the World
Luke 2:8-20**

**December 17
Christmas Musicale @ 7 PM**

**December 21
O Come All Ye Faithful
Christmas Musicale at 9:15 AM
John 1:10-14**

**December 24
What Child Is This?
Matthew 2:1-12**

**December 28
Testimony Sunday
Psalm 34:1-8, Psalm 103:1-13**

**THE PASTOR AND STAFF
WISH YOU A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A
VERY BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM A 31-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR DECEMBER 2025

Date	Theme	Daily Title	Passage
Dec 1	Anticipation	Promise in the Garden	Genesis 3:8-21
Dec 2	Anticipation	The Call of Abraham	Genesis 12:1-9
Dec 3	Anticipation	Blessing for All Nations	Genesis 22:9-18
Dec 4	Anticipation	Promise to David	2 Samuel 7:8-16
Dec 5	Anticipation	A Branch from Jesse	Isaiah 11:1-10
Dec 6	Anticipation	The Coming Shepherd	Micah 5:1-5
Dec 7	Anticipation	Waiting in Hope	Psalms 130:1-8
Dec 8	Announcement	Announcement to Zechariah	Luke 1:5-17
Dec 9	Announcement	Elizabeth's Joy	Luke 1:18-25
Dec 10	Announcement	Gabriel Visits Mary	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 11	Announcement	Mary Visits Elizabeth	Luke 1:39-45
Dec 12	Announcement	The Magnificat	Luke 1:46-56
Dec 13	Announcement	Birth of John the Baptist	Luke 1:57-66
Dec 14	Announcement	Zechariah's Prophecy	Luke 1:67-80
Dec 15	Arrival	Joseph's Dream	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 16	Arrival	Journey to Bethlehem	Luke 2:1-5
Dec 17	Arrival	Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:6-7
Dec 18	Arrival	Shepherds Hear the News	Luke 2:8-14
Dec 19	Arrival	The Shepherds Visit	Luke 2:15-20
Dec 20	Arrival	Jesus Presented at the Temple	Luke 2:21-24
Dec 21	Arrival	Simeon's Song	Luke 2:25-35
Dec 22	Arrival	Anna's Praise	Luke 2:36-40
Dec 23	Arrival	Wise Men Seek Jesus	Matthew 2:1-8
Dec 24	Arrival	Gifts for the King	Matthew 2:9-12
Dec 25	Arrival	The Word became flesh	John 1: 1-14
Dec 26	Assurance	God's Faithful Love	Lamentations 3:19-26
Dec 27	Assurance	Hope for the Future	Jeremiah 29:10-14
Dec 28	Assurance	New Heart, New Spirit	Ezekiel 36:24-28
Dec 29	Assurance	If God Is For Us	Romans 8:28-39
Dec 30	Assurance	God's Unchanging Purpose	Hebrews 6:13-20
Dec 31	Assurance	All Things New	Revelation 21:1-7

Reflection Questions for Each Day

What does this passage reveal about God's character or His plan?
How does this message speak to our present times and circumstances?
What is one practical way in which I can act or obey today?

CHRISTMAS EVE AT TRINITY

Christmas Eve service times have been altered this year in an attempt to meet the needs and desires of the congregation. We hope these revised service times will make it possible for more of us to attend. We welcome your feedback in the new year, following Christmas.

Revive - 4:00 PM

This service will be led by Jamie Bream and the worship team. The Kanakaraj family will lead in the readings and light the Advent wreath. Candle lighting will conclude the service and will use battery-operated candles. This is a child-friendly time; however, the nursery will also be staffed.

Traditional Sanctuary Service - 7:00 PM

This service will include the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and other special music. The Meade family will lead in the readings and light the Advent wreath. Candle lighting will conclude the service and will use real candles, the first since Covid.

Pastor Arun will preach at both services. Parents, bring your children. Services include “The Christmas Kids Corner” by Barbara Hawk.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING AND POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who worked together and decorated Trinity Church on Saturday, November 29th. It's always a festive and happy time to come together in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. Thanks to Kristin Jensen for coordinating this event. Thanks to Ken Gable for his many jobs, including putting the roping around the sanctuary, and to Tom Baum and Mike DiMatteo, who helped with other decorating jobs.

Thank you to Dianne Schofield for preparing the Christmas Eve individual candles and overseeing their distribution. Thank you to Jeff and Charlotte Wagoner for their work with the candelabras used on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to Tracey Williams and her team for their work with the poinsettias. Thanks to all who ordered a poinsettia. Be sure to pick yours up following either Christmas Eve service.

May all be blessed for their service.

DECEMBER SUNNIER SIDE OF SIXTY

Join us on Tuesday, December 9th for the Sunnier Side of Sixty. The Christmas luncheon will be at 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Carol Evertts and her team will be hosting the lunch. Please reserve your place for lunch if you have not already done so.

The Christmas service will take place at 1:15 PM in the beautifully decorated sanctuary. Pastor Arun will bring a message centering around the theme “More in Your Christmas Mission”. Ministering in music will be a Trinity quartet comprised of Sue Grubb, Kendall Bankert, Tom Baum, and Bob Druckenmiller. Communion will be prepared by communion steward Jane Gable and served to congregants in the pews by Pastor Andrews, Pastor Brooks, Pastor Meyer, and Bishop Peifer.

WORTH THE WAIT by Jamie Bream, Contemporary Worship Leader

*“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hurries toward the goal and it will not fail.
Though it delays, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay long.”*

Habakkuk 2:3 (NASB)

As referenced in previous December Tidings, I LOVE CHRISTMAS! I love the decorations, celebrating with family and friends, eggnog (only the Hood brand, though)... and of course, the music! I listen to holiday music all year round, but there is just something special about singing the songs of Christmas during the season of Christmas. Usually, a handful of songs will stand out to me each holiday season, and this year is no exception. I've found myself increasingly humming Phil Wickham's "Worth The Wait", even before Thanksgiving—the traditionally accepted time to start listening to Christmas music. Starting off with the chorus from "The First Noel", Wickham soon dives into a trio of original bridges, as listed below:

*You were good on Your promise, sent Your Son to our darkness
Savior of our souls, He will light the way, Jesus, You were worth the wait*

This section highlights God's faithfulness in fulfilling centuries of promises by sending Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus arrived as the "great light" that Isaiah prophesied, proving that God's timing was perfect and worth the wait.

*Hear the hosts singing glory, See the star, this is holy
Creator of the world in a manger laid, oh Jesus you were worth the wait*

The focus here is the profound contrast between Jesus' status as the mighty King and Creator, and His humble arrival in a manger. This unexpected humility is the essence of the Christmas miracle, showing that His kingdom entrance was worth the wait.

*He will heal all the broken, take back what the enemy has stolen
With a fire in His eyes, and freedom in His name, oh Jesus You were worth the wait*

This section explains how Jesus' earthly ministry centered on tangible redemption. He came with a restorative "fire" to reclaim what the enemy had stolen, restoring humanity's broken relationship with God and confirming that this work was truly worth the wait.

*He will die so we don't have to, and then He'll rise, to make a way through
Forgiven by His love and covered in His grace, oh Jesus You were worth the wait*

The core message is the Gospel of substitutionary atonement. Jesus' sacrificial death and powerful resurrection create a path for reconciliation with God through forgiveness, love, and grace. This pivotal moment of history's fulfillment makes Jesus eternally worth the wait.

*Every heart come and adore Him, every knee bow before Him
The King of every King, forever You will reign, oh Jesus You were worth the wait*

The final bridge directs attention to Jesus' second coming, when He will return to reign forever as King of all kings. We are currently in an "appointed time" of waiting, and remembering the anticipation of the first Advent reassures us that the glory of His return will be infinitely greater; Jesus is worth the wait now, just as He was then.

“A Merry Christmas to us all, and may God bless us, everyone!”

PEOPLE LOOK EAST

by Andrew Meade, Director of Traditional Music

By the time you are reading this note, Advent will have begun, Trinity will have re-started its children's choir with a couple of rehearsals, and we will have had an orchestra participate in Sunday morning worship. However, from my perspective writing this article, none of these things have happened yet. I have no idea how they will go! I'm anticipating these events in the future, but you will be reflecting on them in the past. As I think about these two different perspectives, I'm reminded that we serve a God who is not bound by time and space, and He knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen. This is a great thing to remember as we plan for the future. We do our best to anticipate how we will use our time, talents, and resources, but ultimately, we know that God will work things out according to His will – and sometimes the outcome is very different than we were expecting! That's one of the important lessons of the Advent and Christmas season. God's people had been anticipating the coming Messiah for generations, but when God finally sent His Son to earth, it was probably not in the way that most people considered or expected.

Our choir began the Advent season singing an arrangement of the carol, "People Look East", which includes several metaphors for expectation and preparation for the coming of Christ. The first verse presents the idea of preparing your home for the arrival of a Guest. The second verse talks about a seed surviving months in the cold, barren ground as it awaits the warmth of spring to blossom into a beautiful Rose. The third verse offers imagery of a new Star piercing the darkness of night and bringing light to the people below. And the final verse is about our response: sharing the good news! Just as the angels announced the news to the shepherds, we too should share the good news of Christ with those around us. One simple way to do that is to invite a friend, neighbor, family member, or coworker to one of our special seasonal services. I encourage you to consider someone in your life whom you could invite to join us for the Christmas Musicale (Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm & Dec. 21 at 9:15 am) or one of our two beautiful Christmas Eve services (Revive at 4:00 pm and Sanctuary at 7:00 pm). We'd love to see our church full of familiar and unfamiliar faces during this special season of the year! The final lines of "People Look East" say:

*Set every hill and valley humming with the news the Lord is coming.
People, look East and sing today, Love, the Lord, is on the way!*

I hope that, together, we can set Trinity and New Cumberland humming with the good news of Christmas.

**CONCERT UPDATE**

On Friday, December 5 at 7:00 PM, Trinity Church will host Voices of the Valley, a community choir from central Pennsylvania. Known for their high-quality performances, the ensemble presents a diverse repertoire that spans classical masterpieces to beloved modern works, celebrating the richness of choral music. Join them for an evening of inspiration and joy, where voices come together to create lasting memories.

BEING KIND AND APPRECIATING OTHERS

by Kristie Leibold

Each year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I put a container of miscellaneous snacks out for the mail carriers and delivery drivers.

This year, around the end of spring/beginning of summer, when the weather was just overwhelming with heat and humidity, I had a thought, why do this just at the holidays? After all, these people work hard every day. So, I purchased a small fridge and filled it with assorted drinks and a container of different snacks. I placed the fridge on our front porch and attached a note of appreciation. I also placed a note on our trash and recycle containers to ensure everyone was aware.

Wow... what a huge success! Everyone loved the gesture and were so appreciative. Our mail carrier told me that our house is well known to all the New Cumberland postal folks, and they enjoy this neighborhood route specifically because of the kindness we have shown them, especially with this summer's heat. The delivery drivers (Amazon, FedX, UPS, etc.) were also happy and always nod or bow to our camera to say thank you. However, I think the ones who appreciate it the most were the trash and recycle collectors. Their job is not easy, and you can imagine how hard it must be to deal with the heat and the smell. When they stop at our house for pickup, they all come to the porch and have a little break in front of our house. If we are outside, they will thank us in person.

I never imagined the impact of just trying to show a little kindness to others. Each and every one truly appreciated the thought behind this treat, but honestly, I'm the one who benefited the most. Their happiness filled my heart with joy. It does not matter if your gesture is small or large; what matters is letting people know you appreciate them.

Proverbs 11:17 - "A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself."

Proverbs 19:17 - "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them."

Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY AT TRINITY

by Bishop Pauline Peifer

What a blessing! More than 90 people were registered in the 10 groups that met this fall in congregational homes, in addition to several groups at the church. We discovered together that the book of James gives us practical wisdom and life lessons, such as growing through trials, enduring temptation, speaking well of others, and the rewards of perseverance. We eagerly look forward to having small groups again, likely during the Lenten Season. There is always room for more groups and more participants. As you can tell from the story told by Kristie Leibold in her small group (and included here), these sessions were not only challenging but very inspiring.

GRATITUDE FROM HARRY RODRIGUEZ'S DAUGHTER

I wanted to send my upmost gratitude to our Trinity family, for all the prayers for my father, Harry Rodriguez's, healing. His pain has gotten a lot better. I asked myself today what my true calling in life is, and I realized that it seems to be becoming the best daughter and caregiver I can be. Every day I bring the mail to my dad and it's a handful of cards. It's the best feeling to know that people think of you. Thanks for all the cards. Thanks to the ones who have sent breakfast or bought a dinner, and thanks to Pastor for his famous Chick-Fil-A that my dad always talks about. For the ones stepping in to take over some of my dad's custodial task at church, THANK YOU. Thanks for all the phone calls to check on him. Our church is the best and truly does God's work. Thanks everyone. Stay blessed! Lucille Martinez

SECRET SISTERS

The annual Secret Sisters Reveal meeting will take place on December 20 at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. A catered luncheon will be provided by Olive Garden. All Sisters should bring a Christmas gift for their secret sister to be exchanged. Pictures of several Secret Sisters and guests attending the American Music Theater's Christmas show on November 15 are shown here.

In January, new Secret Sisters will be selected. The program welcomes new Sisters, both church members and non-members. If you are interested please come to a meeting to see if this program is for you. Please contact Vicky Forman at 717-623-6568 with any questions.




PRAY & GO
The Outreach Program for EVERYONE

DECEMBER 15
@ 2:30 PM

Total of 1679 houses
have been prayed for.

Coordinator of Pray & Go:
Sharon Sheffer 717-774-3137
(sesheffer@outlook.com)

Trinity's Kids for Christ Ministry
The Christmas Story

Sundays at 11:00 AM
Welcoming grades 1-5!
Nursery available



Trinity Church, 415 Bridge Street, New Cumberland PA 17070 (717) 774-7951 www.trinityonbridge.com

Surprise on December 7! Special guest with pet joining us.

STARFISH MINISTRIES: DECEMBER 14 from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Our October and November outreaches have been extraordinary. In October, we served 164 folks and wiped out most of our supply. After a desperate request, the donations came piling in and we once again were able to serve 160 folks in November. The number of homeless individuals is growing and the weather is getting colder; yet, with your help and the help of many individuals and organizations, we continue to serve those in need each month. God does provide! Current needs: thermal underwear, hand and foot warmers, men's gloves, toothpaste, deodorant, HOODIES! (all sizes, Unisex work-gently used but clean), men's winter shoes/boots (especially sizes 10 and up), OTC cold/flu meds and cough drops, and winter socks (NEW). We will also be providing Christmas bags on December 14 and are hoping for some carolers! Hint hint?

STARFISH MINISTRIES



Contact Carol Crossley
for more information.

TRINITY'S VISION RETREAT
Saturday, February 7 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM
at Christian Life Assembly in Camp Hill, PA

What will we do at this retreat? We will engage in a time of worship and devotion, an inspirational session, conversations, and discuss of our program plans for 2026. All of this will be done while keeping Trinity's mission statement and vision at the core of our conversations. It will be a great time of working together as a team and thinking of ways in which we can do better. Leader, please don't miss this time together. We will also be engaging in prayer together as we commit our congregational work to God at the beginning of a new year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Arun.



Men's Checklist for Life

Start date: Saturday, January 31
Time: 8:15-9:45 AM
Tentative location: Perkin's Restaurant (Lemoyne)

Inviting all men to fellowship.
 Choose and pay for your breakfast.
 Includes 15-minute devotion and discussion.

To register, use sign-up sheet near mailboxes.
 Location may change due to response.
 To know more, contact Ken Ross, Ralph Hawk, or Arun Andrews

VICKIE'S ANGEL WALK



RALLY DAY



DUTIES FOR DECEMBER 2025

	9:15 GREETERS	11:00 GREETERS	USHERS
DEC 7	Carol Crossley	Mark Houser	Rex Hood, Daryl Potteiger, George Karnes
DEC 14	Michelle Meckley	Lucy & Gabby Martinez	Rex Hood, Jeff Wakefield, Scott Bankert, Gordon Taylor
DEC 21	Harry & Bonnie Minsky	Tom & Cindy Bailey	Barb Mickle, John Mickle
DEC 28	Ron & Barb Dysard	Shawna Estep	George Karnes, Matt Ickler
	WORSHIP LEADERS	9:15 NURSERY	11:00 NURSERY
DEC 7	Bishop Pauline Peifer	Jan Snyder, Tracey Williams	Sandra Williams, Vi Humphrey
DEC 14	Mary Dimm	Jan Snyder, Tracey Williams	Melissa St Cyr, Betty Caboot
DEC 21	Musicale	Jan Snyder	Charlotte Wagoner
DEC 28	Scott Copenhaver	Nina Stoner	Jan Ocamb
DEC 18	GREETERS: Deb Copenhaver		USHERS: Michelle Meckley, Mike DiMatteo, Scott Bankert Daryl Potteiger
DEC 24	7:00 PM GREETERS: Mickle Family	WORSHIP LEADER: Sharon Baillie	7:00 PM USHERS: Gordon Taylor, Scott Bankert, John and Barb Mickle

REMINDER ABOUT GIFT CARDS

With the holiday season approaching, why not purchase gift cards to use for your grocery shopping for all of those holiday meals and gatherings? Of course, they make great gifts, too! We have cards for Giant, Weis, and Karns in denominations of \$100, \$50, and \$25. They're easy to use, and the missions fund of Trinity Church benefits by receiving 5% of the proceeds for each card you purchase. The gift cards are available for purchase on Sunday mornings during Coffee Fellowship from Matt Ickler. They are also available during the week in the church office. If you are not able to come to the office during the week, we would be happy to receive your order by phone, letter, or email in the church office. We will mail the cards to you after receiving your check through the mail. We thank each of you for the many generous ways in which you support the Lord's ministry at Trinity.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------



	1 6 PM Youth After School Study Time	2 8 PM Facebook Live Prayer Time	3 6 PM Youth Group	4 10 AM So N' Sews 10:30 AM Celebrate from Heart and Spirit Bible Study	5 7 PM Voices of the Valley Concert	6 9 AM Communion Prep
7 Communion Sunday	8 10:45 AM Grandparents in Prayer 2 PM Worship Committee 6 PM Youth After School Study Time	9 12 PM Sunnier Side of Sixty	10 6 PM Youth Group	11 10:30 AM Celebrate from Heart and Spirit Bible Study	12 7 PM New Cumberland Town Band TIDINGS DEADLINE	13 7 PM Sylvan Choral Concert
14 12 PM Starfish Ministry 3 PM Sylvan Choral Concert	15 2:30 PM Pray & Go 6 PM Youth After School Study Time	16 8 PM Facebook Live Prayer Time	17 6 PM Youth Group	18 9:30 AM Love Boxes 10 AM So N' Sews 10:30 AM Celebrate from Heart & Spirit Bible Study 7 PM Musicale	19	20 10 AM Secret Sisters
21	22 6 PM Youth After School Study Time	23	24 4 PM Revive Christmas Eve 7 PM Traditional Christmas Eve OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p>SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:15 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 - Traditional Worship 10:30 - Coffee Fellowship 11:00 - Revive Worship and Children's Sunday School</p> </div>		



Dated Material

**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**



Trinity Church
415 Bridge Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-7146
www.trinityonbridge.com



Please submit articles for the January 2026 Trinity Tidings by December **12th**.



TRINITY CHURCH'S 2025 CHRISTMAS MUSICALE

A Service Of Lessons & Carols

Join Us for a Journey to the Manger through Scripture and Song

Thursday, December 18 at 7 PM

Sunday, December 21 at 9:15 AM