

The ACORN

Vol. 12 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL December 2024



**Christmas Eve
Traditional
Candlelight
Service
6pm**

**Caroling & Bell Ringing
at Publix Landings**

**Sunday, December 22nd
2 pm**

All are invited to come have
fun and share Christmas cheer.



Thanks to everyone who helped
decorate the campus! Fun was had
by all!!!

Congratulations to Margie Aukland
for winning our 2024 Chili Cookoff!
Second place Kristie Compton



This year our Advent theme in worship is Journey to the Nativity.

An Advent Reading list to guide personal devotion time during Advent is available on our website: www.iTrinity.org or printed copies in the Church Office.



Christmas Invitations

Christmas is one of the times of the year in which people are more open to invitations to church. Who is on your mind to invite to church right now? Invitation cards for Christmas Eve worship are available on Sundays in Courtyard or Church office. We hope you will give this invitation to someone you know. Consider also offering to meet them so they have someone to sit with.

The Advent Wreath

Each candle represents something different—

Love

Hope

Joy

Peace

There is beauty in reflecting upon how Jesus delivers these virtues to the world and to our lives.

The white candle in the middle is called the Christ Candle and is lit on Christmas Eve.

Pastor's page

Pastor's Note

One the wonderful worship events of the year occurs on Christmas Eve. The joy of the evening as Christ's family gathers to welcome him home is like no other. And it is a time to welcome home many friends and family who can't often make worship on a regular basis. During Advent, my sermon series has been 'Journey to the Nativity.' On Christmas Eve we will conclude that journey with a 'Welcome Home' theme. Christmas holiday is often one in which family gather together to warm greetings of Welcome Home! On Christmas Eve that same greeting will be heard as we welcome others but also Jesus into our heart once again.

Some people struggle with the idea of welcoming the Christ child on Christmas Eve. Jesus has been here, why are we acting like this night is a new event all over again? For me Christmas is not just a time of remembering Jesus' birthday, but it is a time to open our hearts back up to Jesus. Various situations can happen during the year – busyness, illness of self or loved one, financial stress, loneliness, grief – that cause us to pull away from Jesus. Christmas is that time to open our heart once again and invite Jesus to be born again in our heart with a Welcome Home! We all need time to check on the status of our relationship with Jesus. Advent is a good time to do that and then we are prepared to truly throw open the doors of our hearts as we seek Jesus our hope.

I look forward to Saying Merry Christmas and Welcome Home to you on Christmas Eve. We will have one Candlelight Service at 6:00 with a children's time and wonderful music. Invitation cards are available for everyone to give to a neighbor, friend or family member. Tell them you will save a seat for them if it will help them feel more comfortable. (If you are available to help as a greeter that evening please let us know.)
I look forward to seeing you all on Christmas Eve!

Linda

Candlelight Christmas Eve – Welcome Home!

Time: 6:00

Where: In the Sanctuary

Who: Everyone is invited! Children's Birthday time and singing of Christmas music for all.

Why: We celebrate the birth of Jesus once again in our heart.



January 5th 2025 Worship

We will start the new year off with a special service as we dedicate ourselves and our new year to God's glory.



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was first established in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage. Since that time it has grown into a multi-faceted organization serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children from across the state of Florida. In addition to providing a higher level of therapeutic residential care in two locations, they also provide foster care and outpatient counseling in multiple counties. They realized that they had outgrown the Children's Home name, and needed something that better represented the purpose we serve and the care we provide. That new name is Residing Hope.

The local church is the veritable backbone of everything that happens at Residing Hope beginning in 1906 when local Methodist Churches began collecting Fifth Sunday offerings. Those Fifth Sunday offerings have become part of the fabric of support by the local churches here in Florida and continue to bless our ministry.

Please make checks payable to Trinity United Methodist Church or online at www.iTrinity.org and click "online giving"



We are so grateful for many who have made your financial commitment to Trinity for 2025. If you have not had a chance to do so yet, please consider doing so by the end of the year. Thank you for your support of the ministry of this church!

All financial donations to the church for 2024 must be made by December 31st for your personal tax purposes.

Thanks giving

On Thanksgiving Sunday, this big Turkey greeted and welcomed all to our Thanksgiving celebration!



Prayers

What an honor it is to lift up our church family in prayer. One of the greatest privileges of Christian life is the opportunity to pray. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Team, please let the Church office know.

Please lift extra prayers for:

Kay Anthofer, Lucy Athas, Becki Creighton, Barb Ellsworth, Karyn Eubanks, David Hardenburgh, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Elle Lyons, Bev Packer, Marie Piraino, Troy Poulin, Phyllis Pritchett, Rhonda Puhaly, Mary Raymond, Jan Robertson, Ken Smith, Dawn Sutton, Carol Swart, Chuck Swart, Joan Utter, Kara Voyles, Laurie Ward, Christy Wilhelm, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of John Ellsworth who died November 17, 2024. A Celebration of John's Life was held at Trinity on December 8th.

Also please pray for our military family: Tanner Holly, Gunnar Kral, Joshua Marsh, Dylan Mitchell, Brandon Oberkamp, Audrey Santana, Craig Scott, Devin Voyles, Dylan Youngblood. Note: please let us know if any of the above are no longer in the military service.

If you would like to receive Pastor Linda's **Weekly Witness**, please send your email address to: Trinity@iTrinity.org to be added to the email Group. This is a short mid-week devotional with some announcements for that week.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



Staff Love Offering

We are so blessed by a wonderful staff here at Trinity. Each of them has such a heart for serving this community of faith. At Christmas we would like to say thank you for a job well done with a Christmas love offering for Karen, Russ, LaTerry, Ingrid, Sebastian and Gennie.

You can leave your gift in the decorated box outside of the sanctuary, in the church office or can give online at our website. Please mark your offering as Staff love offering

clearly. Please give all your gifts by 12/16 so they can receive them by Christmas.

Thank you!

Your Staff Parish Committee

Leadership Council



THANK YOU!

It takes a team of people to effectively lead the ministries of this church in the various committees of the church. As we reach the end of this year, we want to recognize and thank those people who have served in leadership at the church who will be rotating off.

Much thanks to:

Brenda Lee Hickman - Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
George Cook - Chair Staff/Parish Relations
Cathy Tjaden - SPRC
Susan Hicks - Board of Trustees
Brenda Moore - Community Connections Chair
Laurie Ward - Nominations

Pecans



Everyone agrees... they are delicious. The gift bags of chocolate covered or cinnamon glazed are perfect as gifts.

This fundraiser to support our Community Connection Events and needs everyone's help: sell to your friends, family, and neighbors.

Mammoth Halves (1 lb bags) and Pieces (1 lb bags) are \$15 per bag. Chocolate covered or cinnamon glazed in a gift bag are \$12.

Get yours on Sundays or in the Church office during the week.

Community Food Drive

A small but mighty crew in November collected and delivered to Church of the Palms Food Pantry 124 pounds of non-perishable food donations. Cash donated was \$200.00.

Mary delivered to Remnant an abundance of items this month: 6 blankets, sweaters, sweatshirts, sneakers, jeans, costume Jewelry, hygiene items, and books. Also, several glass jars of spaghetti sauces, olives, and cranberry juice.

Mary reports that when she delivered to Remnant their were exclamations of joy and gratitude. She says "it fills my soul." December Community Food Drive is on

Saturday, December 21st, 9- 10:30am, Trinity Parking Lot.

We're hoping that we can fill the truck and deliver more than usual to the food pantry this month. The need is great!



Has your contact information changed?

If so please let us know so our records can be updated. We want to be able to keep in touch with you so we can share news about everything that's going on at Trinity!

Nancy Smith
Membership Secretary
Nancy@iTrinity.org or call Church office

December Birthdays

Greydon Wilhelm 12/1
Janet Wyatt 12/1
Pat Bell 12/2
Turner Means 12/4
Debbie Utter 12/5
Sherman Campbell 12/6
Sam Caudle 12/6
Joy Jones 12/8
Jared Anthofer 12/9
Scott Hunt 12/9
Joan Utter 12/9
Beatty Shipley 12/10
Jen Biddle 12/12
Tony Cajka 12/12
Bob Ward 12/14
Rhonda Puhaly 12/16
Marlane Stidham 12/16
Carol Harris 12/18
Carole Pearson 12/18
J.D. Ellsworth 12/23
Karen Remfrey 12/23
Carol Swart 12/25
Richard Ladny 12/26
Ken Smith 12/28
George Cook 12/30
Basil Dubrosky 12/30
Charlotte Bryner 12/31
Lynn Dubrosky 12/31



Anniversaries

Brad & Audrey Pritchett 12/11
Troy & Colleen Logan 12/13
James & Solita Tay 12/21
Mark & Margie Aukland 12/25
Steve & Marsha Mayers 12/28
Owen & Pat Woodyard 12/29
James & Jean Henry 12/31



**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



Trinity – Sarasota
a United Methodist Church

4150 S. Shade Avenue
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Email: trinity@iTrinity.org

www.iTrinity.org

Join us Sunday at 9:00am or 10:30am for In-Person Worship or Live-streaming
Worship on Facebook.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUMCSarasota/>

Or watch the recording anytime on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8ri4OChHWMbbJt3rgfRLg>

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Linda Tice
Traditional Worship Director: LaTerry Butler
Director of Children/Youth Ministry: Russell Towery
Sound/Projections Board: Sebastian Girstl

Business Administration: Jack Hundley
Secretary: Karen Remfrey
Preschool :Glenna Schrock, Wanda Butler;
Abigail Gonzalez

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World