

The ACORN

Vol. 1 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL January 2025



The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,

To make music in the 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.

January Worship



Come meet your Southwest District Superintendent on January 12th!

We are blessed to have Rev. Dr. Debbie Allen worshipping with us on this Sunday. Her sermon will be “The Shocking Secret Happy People Learn” based on Phil 3:1 and 4:4.

Let’s have a great worship attendance to witness to all the wonderful people that are part of Trinity and the exciting work that is done here!

Centering Prayer Workshop

The “Inhabit the Garden” Centering Prayer Group
Would like to Invite You
To
A Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop
Monday 20 January 2025
From 9 AM until Noon In Haley Hall
“For God alone my soul waits in silence.” Psalm 62:1

Centering Prayer is a Christian method of meditation based on the teachings and practice of Jesus. It is a contemporary version of an ancient practice. It is ecumenical and inter-faith friendly. Based on faith, hope, and love, it is not in competition with any other method of prayer.



The workshop will consist of four Conferences: Prayer as Relationship, The Method, Thoughts and Use of the Sacred Word, Deepening Your Practice. There will be two periods to practice Centering Prayer.

Stephen and Christine Hoffman have been Commissioned by Contemplative Outreach to present this Workshop. They serve on the Presenter Formation Service Team of Contemplative Outreach.

Registration is helpful but not required. Contact Stephen and Christine at Stephen_palmetto@earthlink.net or 941-773-7008.

The Inhabit the Garden Centering Prayer Group is grateful to be able to meet in the Garden of Hope each Friday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 AM. We have been meeting weekly in this location since July 2020.

Pastor's Page

Happy New Year to Everyone! I am excited to look forward to 2025 and all that God has on our 'To Do' list here at Trinity! Sometimes in looking ahead it is helpful to look at what in the past has inspired us. Right before Advent, during our Stewardship Commitment Sunday, I asked you to reflect on how you witnessed God at work at Trinity last year. Here is a summary of many of your observations:

- Sharing Jesus with children here and in our wonderful preschool.
- Studying God's word in Bible studies on and off campus.
- The excitement of our music ministry.
- The powerful and caring work of our staff.
- Small group opportunities that connect and feed our souls such as UWF circles, Sunday morning classes, Men's Lunch and other groups that meet regularly.
- A welcome attitude of this congregation toward all visitors and new members.
- Inspiring Worship and preaching.
- Evidence of acceptance and care shared toward others as a witness of our faith.
- Trinity being a gathering place for community groups to meet.
- Prayer keepers and other amazing volunteers who share Christ's Compassion and Care.
- Providing hope and grace to youth at risk both locally and abroad.
- Monthly food collection and support to Remnant House as well as other Community Outreach opportunities throughout year.

I invite you to look at this list, celebrate all that God is doing through us here at Trinity and then look at what is next as we look forward into 2025. This list is a great start for a new year, but I invite each of us to be in prayer for where God is leading us. I can't wait to celebrate all the new aspects of 2025 this time next year!

John Wesley taught Methodists to pray the Covenant Prayer each New Year as a reminder that what we do is not for our own sake, but to glorify God. Join me as we pray this as a church asking for God's guidance in 2025.

*I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by you or laid aside by you,
enabled for you or brought low by you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.*

New Year Blessings!
Linda

Trinity Preschool



Santa and his elves attended the PreSchool Christmas Party bringing gifts and lots of smiles!



Christmas Blessings

Persis circle (and the United Women in Faith) and Community Connections committee decorated an Angel Blessings Christmas tree in Haley Hall.

We included 15 paper ornaments for children with Sarasota Safe Children Coalition and 15 for Pines residents. Our generous congregation took all 30 ornaments the first Sunday they were on the tree and bought requested gifts for the 15 children and 15 Pines residents who may have had no one else to buy them presents.

United Women in Faith

UWF news:

So many thanks to the UWF decorating team who helped decorate Haley for Christmas, Frosty Fest and the New Year: Joy Voyles, Joy Jones, Sandy Thayer, Laurie Ward, Ginny Lints, Mary Weaver, Lisa Hatfield, Laura Hardenburgh, and Evelyn Miller. Even some extended family members helped also: Joy Voyles' daughter, and Evelyn's daughter & granddaughter. Special thanks to Karyn Eubanks' son & daughter-in-law, Mike and Christie Eubanks who help us get boxes of decorations down from Haley loft and help put them back up when needed so none of us have to traverse a ladder!

Frosty Fest on December 14 was another wonderful event! Thanks to 22 members who served in numerous ways and thanks to 62 who attended!

UWF's annual Special Mission Recognition award (a pin and certificate) were given on Dec 14 to Beatty Shipley, co-chair of UWF board and Lisa and Carroll Hatfield, extraordinary volunteers for UWF and the Church.

Beautiful New 2025 UWF updated directories are available to all UWF members thanks to Nancy Masterson who produced them. Most members received them at Frosty Fest, but the rest of you can find yours on the UWF table in Haley Hall.

Check out new books on the UWF table and blue shelf. Available for anyone who loves to read!

2025 UWF Board will meet Mon. Jan 6 at 1 pm in Haley Hall: 2025 Board Members: Co Presidents: Beatty Shipley & Evelyn Miller. Secretary/Missions: Carol Harris. Treasurer: Nancy Masterson. Membership: Nancy Smith. Spiritual Growth: Pam Pierce. Reading Coordinators: Karyn Eubanks & Vickie Gill. Event Coordinator: Sherrill Carr. Hannah Circle Rep: Ann Golm. Ruth Circle Rep: Mary Weaver. Persis Circle Rep: Becki Creighton.

Circles will meet January 13 (Hannah), 14 (Ruth) and TBA (Persis). Contact your Circle leaders for information as to where and time.

Pizza Wednesday



Hey Trinity! If you haven't yet been to one of our monthly pizza nights, you get another chance.

Wednesday night, January 15th, at 6:00 pm in Haley Hall, we do it again. Those that come enjoy pizza, fellowship and fun. Give it a try. Join us. Questions? Contact Carroll Hatfield 941 924 0445.

Thank you



A special Thank you to all who participated and helped with the very special Christmas Eve Service. Those who were present were blessed by your serving, to once again Welcome the baby Jesus into our hearts.

Trinity Staff thanks, with humble gratitude, all who gave towards the Staff Love Offering at Christmas time. Each one of us appreciates the generosity and support of this wonderful congregation.

- Gennie, Ingrid, Karen, LaTerry, Russ, Sebastian.

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, Dorothy Summers, Carol Swart, Chuck Swart, Joan Utter, Kara Voyles, Christy Wilhelm, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Dawn Sutton who died on November 20, 2024.

A Life Celebration Service for Ray Garriott will be held at Trinity on Sat., Feb. 1st at 1 pm

Also please pray for our military family: 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.

Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Studies

Flourishing Friends meets every Thursday via Zoom at 2pm. Contact Carol Harris for more info.

New Study begins this month: *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got To Get Out of The Boat* by John Ortberg

The Disciple Small Group will begin the study of '*Disciple IV: Under The Tree of Life*' on January 8th, 2025.

This group will meet every Wednesday at 11:00am in Haley Hall. Please contact Brenda Moore for more information or if you have any questions.

Trinity Leadership Council 2025

A. CHURCH COUNCIL:

1. Chairperson Church Council/Lay Leader : Diane Freestone (2018)
2. Church Treasurer: Marla Wagler (2017)
3. Financial Secretary/Interpreter of Connectional giving: Tom Thayer (2013)
4. Lay Member to Annual Conference: Brenda Moore (2024)
5. Recording Secretary: Karen Remfrey (2019)
6. Membership Secretary: Nancy Smith (2017)
7. Chairperson SPRC: Ian Bland (2024)
8. Chairperson Finance/Stewardship: Carroll Hatfield (2022)
9. Chairperson Trustees: Dave Masterson (2018)
10. Community Connections Chair: _____
11. Preschool Board Chair: Nancy Masterson
12. UMW President: Evelyn Miller & Beatty Shipley (2023)
13. Children's Home Representative: Jacque Ray
14. Director of Children/Youth/Campus Ministries: Russ Towery
15. Director of Traditional Worship: LaTerry Butler
16. Pastor : Linda Tice

B. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Staff-Parish (note: * indicates chair)

Class of 2025: Lisa Hatfield

Class of 2026: Sally Wood

Class of 2027: Margie Aukland Ian Bland* Laurie Ward

Nominations (note: chair is the pastor – by Book of Discipline)

Class of 2025: Dave Masterson Sherrill Carr

Class of 2026: Margie Aukland

Class of 2027: Carol Harris Karyn Eubanks

Trustees:

Class of 2025: Kevin Wilhelm Dan Jackson Dave Masterson

Class of 2026: Mark Aukland Mary Raymond

Class of 2027: Steve Mayers David Liller Chris Compton

BOD: Lay Leader: Diane Freestone Lay Member A.C. Brenda Moore Pastor Linda Tice
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Finance

Elected members: Carroll Hatfield (2020)* Deb Martin (2022) Curt Eskew (2024)

Members as per the Book of Discipline: Pastor (Linda Tice) Lay Member of the annual conference (Brenda Moore), Council Chair (Diane Freestone), SPRC representative (Ian Bland), Trustee representative (Dave Masterson), Stewardship chair, Lay Leader, Financial Secretary (Tom Thayer), Treasurer (Marla Wagler), Business Administrator (nonvoting).

Ministry Leaders

Anti-Racism Representatives: Evelyn Miller Linda Tice Brenda Moore

Creation Care Ministry: Karen Remfrey

Community Connections: _____

Community Food Drive

On a chilly December morning, the team collected and delivered to Church of the Palms 135 pounds of nonperishable food donations. Cash donated was \$500. At least one new (to us) neighbor donated and a couple of Trinity attenders came by for the first time.

Mary delivered to Remnant a substantial amount of clothing, blankets, personal care items, 2 containers of laundry detergent, and various food items such as syrup and instant soups.

Next Community Food collection will be on Saturday, January 18th, 9 to 10:30 am in Trinity Parking Lot. Come by to help sort and pack, to drop off nonperishables, or just to say hello.



January Birthdays

Pam Anthofer 1/1
Jerry Voyles 1/9
Danny Smith 1/14
Henry Schnathmann 1/18
Revella Lee 1/20
Trent Rader 1/21
Adria Pike 1/21
Diane Nash 1/25
Barb Elder 1/25
Phyllis Landis 1/27
Ruth Jackson 1/27
Vinnie Nash 1/30
Pat Woodyard 1/30



Anniversaries

Lee & Joy Moyer 1/5
Dave & Nancy Masterson 1/20



Pecans

Pecans still Available. This fundraiser supports 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.



**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



Trinity – Sarasota
a United Methodist Church

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Sarasota, FL 34231

Tel: 941-924-7756

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