



PATHWAYS

DECEMBER 2023
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Be A Part Of Living Trinity's Living Christmas Card! Share a holiday Photo, a Christmas Carol, Special Memories, etc.

On Christmas Eve morning, December 24th, Trinity will present the 2023 Living Christmas Card in lieu of a morning service. That morning, you will enjoy scripture, music, photos, and various Christmas messages from everyone in Trinity's congregation! The video will go live on YouTube Christmas Eve morning, so plan to enjoy it anytime while celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, exchanging gifts, or spending time with friends and family.

Trinity would like everyone to contribute to this special presentation. Here are just a few ideas:

- Email Trinity your Christmas card (or have it scanned in the office)
- Share your Christmas letter
- Record a Christmas greeting/message
- Record a reading of a favorite Christmas story.
- Play a favorite Christmas song on an instrument.
- Read a Christmas scripture
- Share a favorite Christmas tradition
- Share a Christmas family memory
- Sing a Christmas song



You can submit your photos and videos to the church office or to Neal Strand via email (See directory for email addresses). If needed, Trinity will help you record your special message after a church service (please coordinate a Sunday with Neal Strand). Multiple entries are welcomed. Please help make it a very special living Christmas for all of Trinity to enjoy!

7PM Christmas Eve Worship Service: There is a 7pm worship service on Christmas Eve, which is viewable both in person and with YouTube.

Note: Since the video will be shared on YouTube, it is public. Please be mindful of sharing personal details (for example first names only). If you have questions, please contact the church office or Neal Strand.



An Advent Devotional - Sign up for yours today!

The *Presb. Outlook* is once again offering accessible and stirring daily devotions for Advent. Daily reflections by *Outlook* Editor Teri McDowell Ott help readers wrestle with Christ's promises in a broken world.

We live in a world filled with anxiety, uncertainty and conflict. What word does Jesus have for us in this space? How can we adapt and plan for what is coming? These are the questions that Teri McDowell Ott asks in her 2023 Advent devotional.

"We often treat Christmas as an end, as if all we are waiting for is the birth of Christ and the opening of presents on Christmas morning. After the living room is trashed, full of ripped wrapping paper, and all Santa's cookies have mysteriously disappeared, we've successfully 'done' Christmas.

(continued on page 2)

Worship Services


DEC 3

10am - 1st Sunday of Advent & Communion Sunday
(In person & YouTube)
11AM-FSSF: Jacob

DEC 10

10am - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Inter-Gen. Orchestra
(In person & YouTube)

DEC 17

10am - 3rd Sunday of Advent
Christmas Joy 
(In person & YouTube)
Sunday School, Lesson #12
11 AM - ACLO
&
7pm - Blue Christmas

DEC 24


4th Sunday of Advent
Prerecorded, Congregational "Living Christmas Card"
(Available all day. YouTube only.
No in person AM worship.)
&
7pm - Christmas Eve
(In person & YouTube)

DEC 31


10am - Caring & Sharing
(In person only. No YouTube.)
&
1pm - Stonecrest Worship

Christmas JOY, Special Offering - Sunday, 12/17

The Christmas Joy, Special Offering will be offered at Trinity on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17th. Information about this year's offering is on display throughout the church, and will also be shared with you in the weeks leading up to 12/17. You may pick up a purple **Christmas Joy - Special Offering** envelope today! Consider giving during this very special offering. Thank you!




CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE




MATTHEW 25


The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.




WAYS TO GIVE



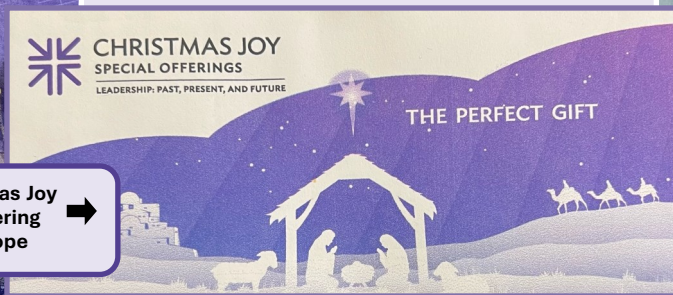

Through your congregation



Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Jan. 10th - Ladies' LUNCH BUNCH GATHERING

All women of Trinity are invited to join us for lunch on **Wednesday, January 10th, 2024, at Andiamo in Woodbury at 11:30AM.** An RSVP is REQUIRED by Tuesday, January 2nd, to Jane Williams or Susan Rooney (see church directory).

Can't attend in January? No problem! We will continue to meet in Woodbury at a variety of locations on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30am. We hope you can join us! -Jane & Susan

(continued from page 1)

But Christmas is a new hope, not an end. We celebrate Jesus' first Advent with an eye toward his second and the way God is actively at work redeeming and renewing our world," she writes.

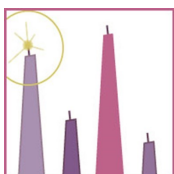
This devotional will highlight and reflect upon apocalyptic passages of the Hebrew Bible, as well as passages in the New Testament that refer to the second coming of Christ. Some Christians use these texts as weapons, stoking fear of end-time judgment to convert people. This devotional highlights the ways people from marginalized communities turn to end-time prophecies for hope. These voices, along with biblical scholars who offer helpful historical and cultural context, will be this devotion's focus.

Upcoming Events for December & January



2024 Pledge Card Reminder

If you have not yet done so, please return your 2024 pledge cards to Trinity to allow for planning of the 2024 calendar year. If preferred, you may opt to send an email to the office with your yearly pledge. Thank you!



Advent Wreath Sign Up - Slots Are All Filled

Thank you for signing up to be a part of the lighting of the Advent Wreath during a worship services this Christmas season!



The Intergenerational Orchestra Plays on SUN, 12/10

It been a few years since Trinity's Intergenerational Orchestra made its debut, On Sun, 12/10, the orchestra is back by popular demand! Directed by John Griffiths, the orchestra will play during the worship service at Trinity on the Prelude, the hymns, and the Postlude

Final Rehearsal: Sun., 12/3 from 11am-12pm.

THANK YOU TO TRINITY!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection of much needed winter wear items for youth in the local school district. You filled three bins with winter socks, hats, mittens and gloves! The items have been delivered and are helping to keep these individuals warm!



Caring & Sharing Service on SUN, 1/28.

Caring & Sharing services meet in Trinity's fellowship hall instead of the sanctuary and are in person only (no Youtube). The theme for this interactive service will be announced soon. Stay tuned for info.

JAN 7 - Celebrating Epiphany with Star Words. Watch for more details to come!

JAN 28 - Caring & Sharing service in fellowship hall. The theme will be announced soon.

FEB 11 - Annual Congregational meeting after the worship service.

If you have not yet done so, please turn in your 2024 TRINITY PLEDGE CARD.

Generosity Sharing Giving Love

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Where God's Love Welcomes All

My/Our Pledge of Giving for 2024

Name(s): _____

Yes, I/we intend to support the work and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church during 2024.

My/our pledge is \$ _____ per week \$ _____ per month \$ _____ annually

My/our email address is: _____

Please return your card on or before Generosity Sunday, November 12, 2023

☐ Also, Per Capita Apportionment that we pay to the Presbytery in 2024 is \$29.50 per member

At Church: _____
Drop in the _____
Offering Plate or _____
in the office _____

2125 Tower Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125

By Mail: _____
By email: admin@trinitywoodbury.org

☐ Check this box if you would like information about payment via authorized payment from your bank account. Giving is also available via cash, check, or via text. If at least 70%, you may be able to give from an IRA.

Thank you! Your gift may be tax deductible depending on your tax situation.

(Front side of pledge card)

☐ I have made a plan to give in my will (planned giving).
☐ I would like more information about Planned Giving.
☐ I would be willing to share my generosity story and how this community has shaped me.
☐ I'm giving more this year knowing there are many in our faith community that have fewer financial resources this year.

Pledges for 2023
Please consider taking a "step up" in 2024

Estimate for 2023	Number of Family Units
\$1 - \$1,000	11
\$1,001 - \$2,500	17
\$2,501 - \$5,000	15
\$5,001 - \$9,000	6
\$9,001 & above	5

(Based on pledges at this time last year.)

More Than Enough

(Back side of pledge card)



11/12 - Welcome Back Pastor April Luncheon

Trinity celebrated the return of Pastor April after worship on Sunday, 11/12 with a Mason Jar catered luncheon. During the congregational meal, Pastor April shared a slide show of photos from her sabbatical time of renewal. The meal was coordinated by Pastor April as part of her Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant. Dessert included cupcakes from Mason Jar, plus a surprise birthday cake for Pastor April's birthday (11/11)!



Lilly
Endowment
Clergy
Renewal
Programs



Happy Birthday, Pastor April!





Lilly
Endowment
Clergy
Renewal
Programs



11/26 Music & Fellowship

Trinity heard voices of praise and joy during the worship service last Sunday, 11/26!

Afterward, a meal was shared in the fellowship hall.

Thank you to Anna Awasom and her family for the fabulous food and festive music that was shared!





11/26 - Trimming of the Christmas Tree!

Those who were present after the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 26th, trimmed Trinity's Christmas tree. All ages participated and it looks wonderful!



December At A Glance

12/3 - FSSF, First Sunday Soul Feast

On Sunday, 12/3 Trinity will discuss *Jacob* in our continuing discussions on figures from the Old Testament. Leaders are needed for upcoming discussions. Discussion guide is provided to leaders.

12/3 - New Members Reception Join Trinity as we welcome Ross Anderson & Althea Hofer as members during the worship service. Refreshments and dessert will follow in the fellowship hall.

12/4 - Purchase RaiseRight holiday gift cards!
Due: 12/4. The order will be placed on 12/5.

12/15 - Due: Living Christmas Card submissions are due to Neal Strand or the office by Friday, 12/15.

12/17 - Sunday, Christmas JOY Offering. Purple offering envelopes are available now thru 12/17.
When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot!

12/21 - Thursday Stated Session Meeting
Elders, please bring an appetizer to share. 7PM

12/17 - 2023's Final Sunday School Lesson #12
Matt:4:23-5:12:11-12, *"Coming down the mountain."*
Class meets 11:15am-12:15pm. Instructors: Eyana M., Lindsay W. & Rick W.

12/17 - After Church Lunch Outing

ACLO meets SUN., 12/17 at 11am. This group meets on the 3rd SUN each month. All are invited to this get-to-know-each-other-better lunch outing! Look for Brad W. in the Narthex at 11:00am. The group will agree on a restaurant as a group and then spend time there together.

12/31 & 1/28 - Two upcoming Caring & Sharing Services (in fellowship hall). The themes will be announced soon. C&S services are in person worship only. There is no YouTube for C&S worship services.

12/31 - Happy New Year Trinity family! The church looks forward to seeing you in 2024!

DECEMBER MEETINGS:

CCMT (Deacons): Tue., December 12th, 9am.

Committees: Thur., 12/14, 6PM & 7PM

Session: Thur., 12/21, 7PM. **Reminder: Elders, please bring an appetizer to share.**



Happy December Birthday to these special people...

DeLaura A.
Brainda C.
Tove G.
Comfort N.

Sue B.
Jack D.
Pierre L.
Bob P.

Jesse C.
Dan F. (Friesema)
Jean M.
Josh U.

Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary			Thru month of	OCT.
	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Program Donations	\$20,495.88	\$205,477.90	\$210,106.97	\$252,128.37
Total Program Expenditures	\$22,798.46	\$228,749.16	\$233,330.64	\$279,942.42
Donations Less Expenses	(\$2,302.58)	(\$23,271.26)	(\$23,223.67)	(\$27,814.05)
Checking Roll Forward Add	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
Income Less Expenses	(\$1,302.58)	(\$13,271.26)	(\$13,223.67)	(\$15,814.05)
			Actual program donations for 2023 thru October: \$205,478 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$210,107 Difference: (\$4,629) Program don. w/JAN lg. donations prorated for 2023 thru OCT \$202,478 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$210,107 Difference: (\$7,629)	
Program Mortgage Expense	\$4,344.90	\$43,449.00		
Mortgage Principal Paid	\$3,951.18	\$38,892.51		
Mortgage Interest Paid	\$393.72	\$4,556.49		
Mortgage Balance	\$114,244.25			