



***Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023  
Our Children's Christmas Program  
Rev. James Vander Schurr***

***Trinity United Church of Christ  
600 Main Street  
Berlin, Pennsylvania***

**Prelude**                      **God Rest You Merry, Gentleman – Diane Bish**  
   **What Is This Lovely Fragrance – Paul Manz**

**Announcements**

**Welcome and Announcements:**

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity United Church of Christ.

**\*Call to Worship**

All God's people— Boys and girls, women, men:

**Come and worship!**

Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

**Come and worship! Come and worship!**

All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

**Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath: "The Candle of "Joy"**

Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us to share this joy with others, especially those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

**Enjoy our "Children's Program"**

**"New Star"**

A New Star tells a younger New Star all about the First Christmas.

**Hymn No. 141      O, Little Town of Bethlehem (Congregation)**

**Youth Singing                      There's a New Star in the Sky**

**Youth Rainbow Bells              Angels We Have Heard on High**

**Hymn No. 166      We Three Kings of Orient Are (Congregation)**

**Hymn No. 147                      Silent Night (Congregation)**

**Cast:**

Old Star – Bobbi Roberston

New Stars – Jack Parish and Lucy Wright

Mary – Kaitlyn Miller

Joseph – Knox Stiffler

Gabriel – Cohen Clark

Elizabeth – Cora Wright

3 Kings – Colton Custer, Matthew Miller and Carter McClain

Shepherds – Clayton Coulter, Ky Gindlesperger and

McKenna Tataleba

Angels – Easton Coulter, Tatum Stiffler and Kam Gindlesperger

Herod – Truitt Ogburn

Scribe – Vesper Ogburn

Caesar – Elizabeth Hart

Thank you all for your hard work and taking the time to share this program with all of us!

You are all truly a blessing!

***Every child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever fresh and radiant possibility.***



With Joy We Now Offer Our Gifts

**\*Presentation of the Offering – Singing of the Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

**Offering Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, grant that the gifts we have placed on your altar this morning may be an accurate expression of the deep appreciation we feel toward our only Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Lord's Prayer** (using debts and debtors)

**\*Hymn No. 123**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**\*Benediction**

Go in peace to "love" and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Response – Sung with Dismissal**

**Now Unto Him Who Is Able  
Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling.  
To make you stand in His presence blameless and with great  
joy.  
To the only God our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Be the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.  
Both now and forevermore, Amen.**

## \*Going Forth

Postlude

Recessional on "I Saw Three Ships"  
Douglas Wagner

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### Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

### **Shut Ins:**

Lew & Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring,  
Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor.

### **Healing Concerns:**

Mark Amyot, Melvin & Bonnie Baughman, Donnie Baxter, Jim  
Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer,  
Rhonda Brown, Clinton Clark, Ray Coleman,  
Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Greg Croner,  
Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz, John Foor,  
Nancy Gindlesperger,  
Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris  
Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen-Janicki, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim  
Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy,  
Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, Larry Pritts, Brian Reed, James  
Robb, Brett Sarver, Nancy Schrock, JoAnne Smith,  
Peggy Stayrook,  
Betty Strasser, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge,  
Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

## The Saints In Action

TODAY- 3rd Sunday of Advent & Christmas Play

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bell Rehearsal

Next Sunday – December 24 – Christmas Eve  
and 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Giving From 12/10/2023

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$4587.00	\$3155.58	\$1431.42
<b>Ben</b>	\$315.00	\$182.69	\$132.31
<b>Maint</b>	\$170.00	\$163.46	\$6.54
<b>Mem</b>	\$500.00		\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	\$5572.00	\$3501.73	\$2070.27

Benevolence includes Donations to Food Pantry of \$15 and Adopt a Family of \$25.

**Worship Attendance: 82**

**Sunday School: 36**

**Where You May Find. . .**

**The Nursery:** *is on the lower level for children and their parent. A big screen TV is mounted in the room so that you may watch the service.*

**At the Sanctuary Entrances. . .**

Large Print Bulletins

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

Hearing Amplifiers

*These Days – Devotional*

**Assisting in Worship**

**Sound:** Tyler Gindlesperger (Board), Gaye Maust (Camera)

**Ushers:** Julie Petro, Tom Croner

**Acolytes:** Vesper/Truitt Ogburn

**Flowers on the altar** in memory of her husband, Carl, her sister Kay Barnard and her parents Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Barron and Karl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saylor, sisters, Mary, Phyllis and Helen, brother Richard by Karol Saylor.

***The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by***

*Church Secretary: Pam Bush, Jean Ann Darr*

*Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger*

*Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick*

*Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas*

*Virtual Organist: Rick Kimmel*

**Consistory Elders:**

*Tom Calvert, President, 814-267-3771*

*Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650*

*Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166*

**Consistory Deacons:**

*Amy Clark, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco*

*Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner*

*Amanda Custer, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust*

**Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday**

**9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Mailing Address: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: [berlinucc@yahoo.com](mailto:berlinucc@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.berlinucc.org](http://www.berlinucc.org)

**Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.**

December 24 Peter Kaltenbaugh (Both Services)

December 31 David Ackerman

**Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.**

**The Sunday School** study on I Peter will be put on hold for the next several weeks. Tom Calvert will be teaching instead with very interesting videos on the Holy Land which brings the Bible alive with Jewish culture and scenery. Please join Tom in the Fellowship Hall after morning Worship Service. Snacks and beverages are usually provided.

**Hugs & Kisses** Youth group has organized a group event to the Johnstown Tomahawks Faith and Family night on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7PM for anyone who is interested. They have created us a group ticket ordering link so you can order your own tickets and we will all be put in the same section together for the hockey game.

The link is <https://fervo-enterprise.com/event/trinityunitedgroup>

If you have any trouble – email Amanda Custer at [amb00rn@yahoo.com](mailto:amb00rn@yahoo.com) and I can send you the link via email if interested. This is open to anyone from our church, friends, and family who want to attend. Tickets are \$13.12 with taxes/fees included. Also Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM will be family game night in our church basement. This is for ALL AGES, so bring your favorite game and a snack and come join in some fun and fellowship.



**Adopt A Family** is having a **Wrapping Party**, tomorrow, Monday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please bring scissors, tape and wrapping paper.

**The Trinity Bells** will be playing next Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at both Christmas Eve services.

**Thank You** from Karol Saylor for all the prayers, cards, thoughts, and concerns with the passing of her husband, Carl. They are all very much appreciated.

### **Thank You form the Berlin Food Pantry**

On behalf of the Berlin Food Pantry, thank you for your financial support. This donation will assist in helping those who struggle to make ends meet within the greater Berlin and Shanksville District. May God continue to share these blessings.

### **Birthright of Somerset Tree**

The Birthright tree has been posted in Fellowship Hall once again, just inside the door on the Vine Street entrance. It has tags on it so please take the tag, purchase the item on the tag, and return the item and the tag so that the tag can be used again next year.

### **The Garrett Christian Community Church Choir and Friends**

will present their annual Christmas cantata, "Good News From Home" on Sunday evening, January 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at their church at 800 Walker Street in Garrett. There will be candle lighting and a time of fellowship will conclude the evening. This is the former Garrett United Methodist Church.

**The Souper Bowl Competition** is fast approaching. There will be two winners again this year, so we will have to be on our game and regain our #1 spot. The four quarters of the competition will be the four Sundays in January and the two Sundays in February before the actual Superbowl. If making monetary donations, please mark your envelope "**Souper Bowl**" and make your check payable to Trinity UCC.

### **Live Streaming Options**

From time to time, despite our efforts to provide you with reliable streaming services, we encounter problems. We are still investigating the reason we did have our Veterans Program live stream to Facebook. There are two other options for viewing which is our actual website at [berlinucc.org](http://berlinucc.org) or YouTube under Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin PA.

**Pastoral Care:** For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Calvert, President of Consistory at 814-267-3771, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



A PRAYER FOR THE  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Joy-filled Giver of Life,  
let the anticipation of your birth  
fill us with overflowing joy.  
May our excitement and anticipation  
be a sign to the world  
that you are always near.  
Amen.



**Have a Blessed Week!**