

## Winter

When the geese are flying south  
And the sky is grey, my dears,  
Close your eyes and lift your nose;  
Listen with your careful ears.

Feel the winter coming on;  
Hear it in the crackling trees;  
Note the crisping, quivering wind  
Sharply snapping at their leaves.

Feel it on the windowpanes—  
Chilly glass on fingertips—  
Mark the biting of the air,  
Heated breath on numbing lips.

See it in the early eves,  
In the glowing sunset where  
Shadows of the naked trees  
Rattle in the biting air.

Watch the nuthatch and the wren;  
They know it is time once more  
To abandon careful nests,  
As they've done each year before.

Let the frost rest on your face;  
Sense a shiver on your skin.  
See how pretty nature is  
When she ushers winter in.



*laf*

## Just Plain Ponderings by Your Consistory President

As we look ahead to the future of our church I'm excited to be working more closely with our Student Pastor Dave Creamer, and anticipate what God has in store for our shared ministry! Although we enjoyed the variety of talents brought to us by our team of Supply Ministers, we lacked the connection with, and opportunity to build a relationship with a pastor. Seeing more of Dave in the year ahead we have that opportunity to build these relationships and learn to know each other better. We also have the opportunity to see him sharpen his pastoring skills as he proceeds through the Pennwest Academy and one day receiving Ordination! May God give us all the privilege to share that day with Dave and his family!



### Consistory Corner Trinity United Church of Christ September 9, 2024

#### Attendance

X Leanna Coughenour (Asst. Secretary)	X Ann Slifco
A Gale Hay	X Tom Croner (President)
A Rus Ogburn (Vice President)	X Amanda Custer
X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)	A Julie Petro
X Jim Darr (Treasurer)	X Pam Bush (Asst. Treasurer)
A Jean Hart	A Bill Landis

President Tom Croner called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 7:00pm. Ann Slifco offered prayer.

## Minutes for August meeting

Minutes for the August 12, 2024, and the August 20, 2024, meetings were sent to the consistory members electronically before the September meeting. A motion was made by Ann Slifco, seconded by Pam Bush to approve the August 12th and 20th minutes. Motion Approved.

## Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given to the consistory prior to the meeting for review. No corrections were made. A motion was made by Leanna Coughenour, seconded by Ann Slifco to accept the report for audit review. Motion approved. Jim Darr stated that the Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on October 1, 2024, at 6:30pm. The Budget Committee consists of all Deacons and Financial Secretary, Renee Gindlesperger, The Personnel Committee needs to meet before the Budget Committee. This meeting was set for Friday, September 27, 2024. This committee is Rus Ogburn, Nancy Bittner, Jean Ann Darr, Leanne Calvert, Gary Estnick, and Tom Croner. The Congregational meeting was set for Sunday, December 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Pam Bush, seconded by Jim Darr to have Operation Christmas Child giving in the month of October. Motion approved.

## Standing Committees Reports

A. Christian Education – Leanna Coughenour reported that Rally Day was on Sunday, September 8, 2024. A light breakfast was served. The Children wrote Bible verses on the parking lot and the Adults played Bible Tabu. Fun was had by all in attendance.

B. Property - Jim Darr reported the property committee will be checking the moisture on the walls, reported ruts on the front yard and the reformed cemetery needed mowed and several flags were broken. A bid was received from Laurel Asphalt for sealcoat for the parking lot in the amount of \$4,906. A motion was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Pam Bush to have Laurel Asphalt seal the parking lot. Motion approved. A motion was made by Amanda Custer, seconded by Ann Slifco to have the lines painted on the

parking lot at a cost of \$560. And to have sand added to the sealcoat to make it ADA compliant. Motion approved.

C. Music – Ann Slifco reported that the music committee recommends Larry Faust from Johnstown to tune the Steinway and the other pianos in the church for the amount of \$75.00 per piano plus any parts that may be needed. A motion was made by Ann Slifco, seconded by Leanna Coughenour to have Larry Faust tune the Steinway and the other pianos as stated above. Motion approved.

D. Sound – Pam Bush reported on the damage to the projector from the lightning strike. The projector was repaired as best that it can be. It is old and parts are no longer available to repair completely. It gets warm and will eventually quit working altogether. The insurance company has or will be reimbursing us for the phones and the projector pro- rated per age in the amount of \$2527. The phones were replaced for a little over \$800. For the two phones. There are two options to replace the projector with a new laser projector or to have installed one or two televisions in front of the church which would be operated from the sound console and would not need the projector and screen in the front of the church. A congregational meeting will have to be scheduled for the decision on the above. It is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 29th. The estimates for this project will be received this week.

#### Coordinator Reports

A. Association & Conference – Tom Croner reported that the Somerset Association meeting will be held at our church on September 15, 2024, 2 – 4pm. A light lunch will be served. Delegates for the November 9th meeting are Bob Brown, Amy Clark and Cohen Clark.

Pulpit Supply Report - Tom Croner reported that the Supply list is filled through the end of the year except for December 8th.

Search Committee – The search committee presented a proposed agreement for David Creamer to be our Student Pastor while he is going to school to become an ordained minister. This agreement would be effective starting March 1, 2025 for a quarter minister for

10 – 13 hours a week. He should be a Lay Minister by that time frame. A motion was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Pam Bush in favor of the proposed agreement. Motion approved. All consistory members not in attendance at this meeting were contacted and also approved this agreement per Tom Croner, President. David Creamer has also entered the same agreement with Unity to be a quarter minister for 10 – 13 minutes. Each church will handle their financial agreement.

Opening prayer rotation for October 14th meeting will be Pam Bush.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pam Bush, seconded by Jim Darr at 8:38pm.

The next meeting of the Consistory will be Monday, October 14, 2024, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sheron Engleka, Secretary

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

Jim Darr and Pam Bush explained to the congregation about the lightning damage to the projector. The projector is old and the parts that are needed to repair it are no longer available. We can replace the projector with a new projector that has a sharper and clearer picture to be located where the current one is placed. Or we can replace the projector and current screen to one or two televisions to be hung on the wall on each side of the arch where the tape has been positioned. The Commercial televisions that are recommended are 100 inch diagonally but they would not fit in the area available. A smaller commercial television would need to be purchased. The new projector would be less than \$5000. One television would be less than \$5000. Two televisions are recommended. We have received or will be receiving a check from the insurance company with a prorated amount for the current projector that can be used to offset the above purchases.

Several questions were asked by the congregation:

- 1 Would the placement of the televisions block the Christmas Tree? – No
- 2 Would the Projector be placed differently than the current one? – No
- 3 Would the current screen need to be larger? – No
- 4 Would we be able to see the televisions from the side view? – Yes, They would be of commercial quality and would last longer than the ones in our homes today.

A paper ballot was passed out to the congregation. The vote came back as follows:

Projector – 59                      Television – 7

We will be going with a new projector due to the above vote.

A motion was made by Chris King, seconded by Jean Ann Darr to adjourn the congregational meeting. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheron Engleka, Secretary  
Trinity United Church of Christ

**October 14, 2024**

**Attendance**

X Leanna Coughenour (Asst. Secretary)	X Ann Slifco
X Gale Hay	X Tom Croner (President)
X Rus Ogburn (Vice President)	X Amanda Custer
X Sheron Engleka (Secretary)	A Julie Petro
X Jim Darr (Treasurer)	A Pam Bush (Asst. Treasurer)
X Jean Hart	X Bill Landis

President Tom Croner called the regular meeting of Trinity United Church of Christ Consistory to order at 7:00pm.

Tom Croner offered prayer.

## **Minutes for September meeting**

Minutes for the September 9, 2024, meeting was sent to the consistory members electronically before the October meeting. A motion was made by Bill Landis, seconded by Leanna Coughenour to approve the September 9<sup>th</sup> minutes. **Motion approved.**

## **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was given to the consistory prior to the meeting for review. No corrections were made. A motion was made by Rus Ogburn, seconded by Jean Hart to accept the report for audit review. **Motion approved.** The budget and the pastor and personnel committees met prior to the consistory. A budget for 2025 was presented to the consistory. It was decided to table the budget until the November meeting to receive more information as to all of the funding sources etc.

## **Pulpit Supply report**

Tom Croner reported that the pulpit supply is scheduled through December with Dave Creamer, Pastor Jay Shaffer and Steve Dinning.

## **Standing Committees Reports**

- A. **Christian Education** – Jean Hart reported that the Lego room is coming along. Some Legos and brick yard blocks have been donated along with Lego boards.
- B. **Fellowship and Funeral** – Tom Croner reported that the lunch that was served to the Somerset Association meeting on September 15 was very much appreciated by those in attendance. Good job by all those who helped with this event.
- C. **Hugs and Kisses** – Amanda Custer reported that approximately eleven were in attendance to the

bike event sponsored by the Hugs and Kisses. The next event is on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lutheran Church at 6:30 for pumpkin Carving. Then on November 3<sup>rd</sup> the Hugs and Kisses are sponsoring Candy Bar Bingo at 5:00pm at our church. A sign-up sheet for this event is at the back door bulletin board. Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> the Hugs and Kisses and the Lutheran youth will be cleaning up the IOOF Cemetery. Bring rakes for this event. The corn gathering events went well and the corn was given to the Berlin Food Pantry for distribution.

D. Property – Jim Darr reported that the parking lot has been seal coated. The balance of the project will be finished when the weather is a little warmer.

E. Music – Ann Slifco reported that the bells have been scheduled to be cleaned and repaired.

### **Special Committees' Reports**

A. Christmas Decorations – The decision was made to set up the Christmas tree on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm. Anyone that can help please come to the church to help with this project. Many hands make a big difference on this project.

### **Coordinator Reports**

A. Living Waters – It was reported that the camp ground is being used and that new playground looks good and has been well received and enjoyed.

### **Old Business**

A. Special mission - Caring for Churches, Tom Croner reported that approximately \$1000 has been given for this mission. It was reported that there are three different ways to donate to the hurricane relief – UCC Church Hurricane relief fund, Lutheran Church, Berlin and the Unity UCC fund for buckets for clean-up



supplies. More information on these three ways of contributing will be in the church bulletin.

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Jim Darr, seconded by Rus Ogburn to purchase American Flag pins for the Veterans. **Motion approved.**

It was announced that the Deacons and Elder going off the consistory need to find a replacement to be given at the next consistory meeting.

A motion to donated \$250.00 to the Bethlehem Experience was made by Jean Hart, seconded by Bill Landis. **Motion approved.**

Opening prayer rotation for the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Bill Landis.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gale Hay, seconded by Jean Hart. **Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the Consistory will be **Monday, November 11, 2024, at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted  
Sheron Engleka, Secretary



August - September 2024

CURRENT            MAINT.                            BENEVOLENCE

Beg. Balance	\$156,610.03	\$23,145.48	\$740.00
Receipts	\$23,976.01	\$15,069.30	\$1,880.00
Distributions	\$14,969.91	\$4,853.37	\$2,620.00
Ending Balance	\$165,616.13	\$33,361.41	\$0.00

Benevolence Distributions: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$165; Berlin Food Pantry (Benevolence Budget) - \$402.05; Trinity Outreach Budget Benevolence - \$591.25; Global Ministries - Child Sponsorship - \$90; Our Churches Wider Mission - \$1,371.70

--Jim Darr, Treasurer



**Those Remembered in prayer:**

God's guidance and protection for the Armed Forces.

### **Shut Ins:**

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

### **Healing Concerns:**

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Wilma Durst, Reon Engleka, Paul Gallick, Don Gary, Nancy Gindlesperger, Marlene Gotchen, Karen Griffith, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris, Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen Janicki, Peter Kaltenbaugh, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Larry McCullen, Cathy Meyers, Joyce Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, Brian Robb, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Phyllis Stoy, Brooke Stutzman, Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Rick Work, Lucy Wright, Allison Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

### **Please Update**

Please let the office know of the status of anyone you have placed on the Prayer List.

### **Hospice Volunteers Needed**

Hospice volunteers come from all ages and walks of life, with an extraordinary love and compassionate concern for others. They contribute to the overall well-being of our patients, families, and UPMC Family Hospice team members. Volunteers help Family Hospice and those we serve in many ways.

- Patient/family companionship
- Bereavement support
- Pet assisted visits
- Clerical
- Share musical talents
- Barber and hair stylist

All volunteers receive free training and orientation. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Family Hospice, call Daun, volunteer & bereavement coordinator at 814-515-6056.

### **Bethlehem Experience**

Planning is underway for the 5th biennial “Bethlehem Experience in Berlin PA. This year’s event will be held Sunday December 8th, on the Block Party Lot in Berlin. In an effort to cut down on the waiting time, we are planning to offer a “walk through” from 200-4:00 p.m. and a “drive through” from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

How can you help?

- 1) Pray that the people coming to the event experience Jesus and pray for favorable weather.
- 2) Donate funds to purchase supplies for building sets; pay for rental of sound/lighting systems.
- 3) Volunteer to help with making the sets, costumes, painting, etc.
- 4) Volunteer to serve as actors – we will need approximately 40 volunteers.
- 5) Volunteer to help with set up and tear down December 7-8

If you are able to donate, please make check payable to: Bethlehem Experience, 500 South St., Berlin PA 15530  
If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following:

Joanne Stoltzfus – 814-233-5905

Cheryl Hay – 814-267-5642

Angie Klink – 814-442-9195

Jeanette Landis – 814-267-3020

April Logue – 814-267-5072

Lorrie Shaw – 814-521-8852

### **Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.**

**November 3 Jay Shaffer**

November 10 Dave Creamer

November 17 Dave Creamer

November 24 Dave Creamer

**December 1 Jay Shaffer**

December 8 Steve Dinning  
December 15 Dave Creamer  
December 24 Dave Creamer  
December 29 Dave Creamer

**Bold dates indicate holy communion.**

## *Worship Assistants*

### **November 3**

Sound: Jim Darr, Tom Croner  
Organ: Jean Ann Darr  
Flowers: Chris King  
Bulletin: Craig & Amanda Stiffler  
Ushers: Amy & Jason Clark  
Acolyte: Matt & Kaitlyn Miller

### **November 10**

Sound: Pam Bush, Tom Croner  
Organ: Rick Kimmel  
Flowers: Craig & Amy Saylor  
Special Flowers: Larry & Judy McCullen  
Bulletin: Larry & Judy McCullen  
Ushers: Debbie Boyer, Bill Landis  
Acolyte: Cohen Clark

### **November 17**

Sound: Pam Bush, Tom Croner  
Organ: Nancy Bittner  
Flowers: Barry Landis  
Ushers: Rus Ogburn, Jim Walker  
Acolyte: Vesper & Truitt Ogburn

### **November 24**

Sound: Colton Custer, Gaye Maust  
Organ: Amanda Custer

Flowers: Michele Romesburg  
Ushers: Ken Miller, Leonard Gary  
Acolyte: Cora & Lucy Wright

**December 1**

Sound: Chris King, Lori Gindlesperger  
Organ: Ann Slifco  
Flowers: Judy McCullen  
Ushers: Pam Bush, Julie Petro  
Acolyte: Colton Custer

**December 8**

Sound: Jim Darr, Russ Hillegas  
Organ: Jean Ann Darr  
Flowers: Dave & Missy Miller  
Ushers: Tom Croner & Amanda Custer  
Acolyte:

**December 15**

Sound: Colton Custer, Gaye Maust  
Organ: Amanda Custer  
Flowers: Karol Saylor  
Ushers: Sheron Engleka, Allissa Wright  
Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

**December 22**

Sound: Cohen Clark, Pam Bush  
Organ: Amy Clark  
Flowers: Sue Coughenour  
Bulletin: Craig & Amanda Stiffler  
Ushers: Jim & Jean Ann Darr  
Acolyte: Matt & Kaitlyn Miller

**December 24**

Sound: Pam Bush, Russ Hillegas  
Organ: Rick Kimmel  
Ushers: Bob Brown, John Wisler  
Acolyte: Cohen Clark

**December 29**

Sound: Pam Bush, Gaye Maust  
Organ: Amanda Custer  
Flowers: Dale Gindlesperger  
Ushers: Deb Boyer, Jean Hart  
Acolyte: Cohen Clark

***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:**

*Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650  
Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166  
Jim Darr, Treasurer, 814-267-5260*

**Consistory Deacons:**

*Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour,  
Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740,  
Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis,  
Julie Petro, Ann Slifco*

**Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday**

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

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234  
Mail: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

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

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

**Pastoral Care:** For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner, President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, 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.

## The Advent Wreath

The keeping of an Advent wreath is a common practice in homes or churches. The concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th century. However, it was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape.

The modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, originated from a Protestant pastor in Germany. To deal with the impatience of the children awaiting Christmas, whom he was teaching, the pastor made a ring of wood, with nineteen small red tapers and four large white candles. Every morning a small candle was lit, and every Sunday a large candle. Modern practice only retains the large candles.

The wreath crown is traditionally made of fir tree branches, knotted with a red ribbon and decorated with pinecones, holly, laurel, and sometimes mistletoe. It is also an ancient symbol signifying several things. The crown symbolizes victory, in addition to its round form evoking the sun and its return each year. The number four represents the four Sundays of Advent, and the green twigs are a sign of life and hope.

The fir tree is a symbol of strength and laurel a symbol of victory over sin and suffering. The latter two, with the holly, do not lose their leaves, and thus represent the eternity of God. The flames of candles are the representation of the Christmas light approaching and bringing hope and peace, as well as the symbol of the struggle against darkness. For Christians, this crown is also the symbol of Christ the King, the holly recalling the crown of thorns resting on the head of Christ.

The candles symbolize, in one interpretation, the great stages of salvation before the coming of the Messiah; the first is the symbol of the forgiveness granted to Adam and Eve, the second is the symbol of the faith of Abraham and of the patriarchs who believe in the gift of the Promised Land, the third is the symbol of the joy of David whose lineage does not stop and also testifies to his covenant with God, and the fourth and last candle is the symbol of



the teaching of the prophets who announce a reign of justice and peace.

**There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.**

### **Close Encounters of the Best Kind**

Five years ago, when I had a nine-to-five job, I commuted to work – two to three hours to the office, four to five hours home. I did that every day for three full years. I've got the stubs from the bus companies to prove it. I no longer schlep to an office like a regular working Jane, and these days I rarely take the bus anywhere. Although those long, grueling hours of traveling are far behind me, I carry with me the priceless gifts of three complete strangers. And I met them all while riding a bus.

It was my first day back to work after a month-long illness, and my first time to ride a bus in as long. As I waited at the bus stop, I wondered whether I'd luck out and get a seat. I wasn't a woman who expected a man to offer his seat to me; after all, we all paid the same fare. But I didn't relish the thought of having to stand the entire trip dressed in office clothes and high heels, especially since I still felt weak from the illness. That morning, I stepped inside the crowded bus and wanted to just turn around, get off, go home and call in sick. Maybe it was the panic on my face, or maybe I turned a pale shade of green, but before I could bolt, a man stood up and offered me his seat. I thanked him and gratefully sat down. As the bus rumbled through the city streets, jolting its passengers with each stop and start and every corner, we talked and discovered that we both worked in the same area, our office buildings only two blocks away from each other. He stood the whole way... for two hours. Until then, I'd rarely seen, much less experienced, such chivalry. There are those who would have us believe that chivalry has gone out of fashion, but my experience on the bus that day convinced me otherwise, I was, and still am, grateful to have been on the receiving end of it. And I've made a point of practicing the ageless custom of chivalry, in my own way, with simple acts of kindness to others, whenever and wherever I can.

Most of the time during my commuting days, I smiled a lot. I smiled at the person next to me on the bus and across from me. I smiled at the security guard at the office building where I worked. I smiled at the janitor as he mopped the hallway floor. I smiled at the cashier in the mall. Smiling at people became second nature for me, a genuine expression that came spontaneously from my heart. But at first, I did it because I had learned that if I smiled at someone, I'd get a smile in return. An old woman taught me that lesson, and I didn't even know her. I was seated beside her on the bus on my way to work one morning. She had kind eyes and kept looking out the window, ooohing and aaahing at the tall buildings and sights. I was trying to read a book, and she kept leaning over my seat, causing me to lose my concentration. I was about to ask her if she wanted to trade seats, but the look of wonder on her face stopped me. Her eyes were wide and shining, and her mouth was stretched in a wide smile. She was oblivious to my stare, because her eyes were fixed on something outside, a section of skyway still under construction. She seemed delighted at the sight of cars and buses going up the ramp and onto the skyway. I couldn't help but feel somewhat envious of her joy. I'd seen those same building, same skyways, and same scenes countless times before, but never in the way and with the delight she did. I was humbled that she found something so simple, which I had considered to be mundane, to smile about. I turned to her and saw that she was looking at me, the smile gone from her lips. I wanted to see her smile again, yet I was unsure of what to do. Finally in the passing of a split second, I decided to take the risk: I smiled. She smiled back. And I saw that the glow had returned to her wrinkled face. I've been smiling at people ever since...on the bus, in the market, on the street, and everywhere in my life. Most of the time, they smile back. It was a warm March evening, and I'd just taken a seat on the bus that would take me home, I sat in the third row, by the window, on the driver's side. It was nearly 6:00pm., but the bus was not yet full and the driver gave no indication that he intended to get the bus on the road any time soon. A middle-aged woman took a seat opposite me. She was crying. Not speaking to anyone in particular, she tearfully narrated her story. She had come to the city to visit her daughter. On the way to the terminal, a thief had

snatched one of her bags. It had contained half of the money she'd brought with her. The other half was rolled in a hankie and hidden under her blouse, so she fortunately still had some money left. The bus conductor, driver, and other passengers listened to her tale. After a few minutes, she stopped crying, removed some cheese bread from her bag, and began to eat, worry still knitting her brow. An old man in tattered clothes got on the bus. He sat in the seat directly in front of the woman. After a few minutes, all seats were taken. The driver got behind the wheel and started the engine. The bus conductor collected tickets and began asking us where we were getting off. When he came to the old man's seat, he became suspicious and asked the old man whether he had any money. The old man admitted that he did not. He explained that he had spent all his money that morning when he'd accidentally got on the wrong bus and now he was trying to go home. Upon hearing this, the bus conductor ordered the old man to get off the bus. The old man didn't budge. He was almost in tears as he begged the bus conductor to let him take the bus so he could get home before dark. The bus driver, who had been listening to the exchange, stood up, approached the old man, and repeated the conductor's command to get off the bus. The woman seated behind the old man was also listening and observing the incident. When the bus driver and conductor raised their voices at the old man, she interfered. "Stop harassing him! Can't you see he's only trying to get home?" "He doesn't have any money!" the driver shouted. "Well, that's no reason to throw him off the bus." She insisted. Then she said, "How much is his fare?" The bus conductor mumbled the amount. "Fine," said the woman. She reached inside her blouse, took out her remaining money, and handed the fares to the bus conductor. "Here's his fare and mine, just stop giving him a hard time." All heads turned to the old woman, who, just minutes before had been crying over the money she'd lost. "It's only money," she shrugged. By the time the bus rolled out of the terminal, she had given the old man some of her bread and a dollar. She rode the rest of the way home wearing a Mona Lisa smile of peace and grace, the money she'd lost earlier forgotten.

On the road of life, the chivalry and smiles of strangers can lighten our loads and lift our spirits. How much sweeter the journey when we make it a little smoother and richer for others. (Shery Ma Belle Arrieta)

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank you for the people you put in our paths to show us how to be kind and thoughtful to others showing us your light and teaching us with their acts of kindness to others how we should live our days. Amen

### **How To Pray**

“Prayer is simply talking to God” – and the most important thing I can say about this is that God wants you to talk to Him!

God hears our prayers on all occasions, whether we're praying out loud or praying silently in our hearts and minds. After all, he knows all about us and knows what is going on inside us - both good and bad. The Bible says that God sees our innermost thoughts and desires. The Bible also says the Lord detests evil plans, but he delights in pure words.

God even hears our prayers when we can't even put them into words – times, for example when our hearts are too burdened or confused to even speak. The Bible says, the spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

One of God's greatest gifts to us is the privilege of prayer - a privilege that is possible because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Thank God for the privilege of prayer and learn daily to “Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you”.

### **Congregational Meeting**

Our annual meeting will be held December 1st. The agenda will include minutes from our previous meeting, budget, election of new consistory members and old/new business.

### **Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2025 will be available for pickup during Sunday Services on November 24, December 1 & 8. All remaining boxes will be mailed by the end of the year.. Please help us cut postage costs by picking up your boxes or making arrangements for them to be picked up.

### **Christmas Flower Orders**

Enclosed in your issue of Trinity Trumpet was the order form for Christmas Poinsettias. Please note that the cutoff date is November 20<sup>th</sup>. We would encourage you to order soon to ensure the colors you would like. Please feel free to use the back of the form for any additional information and include your contact number in the event there are any questions. Additional order forms are available next to the Daily Devotionals.

### **Christmas Decorating:**

Will commence the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be erecting the BIG TREE this year!!! Merry Christmas to us!! The big tree is a big task, so on the night of Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. we would like as much help as possible.

**For those who attend Sunday School**, we will be having Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> during class time. This will include a covered-dish brunch, with signup sheets at both entrances. We hope all the youth and children will come to help decorate the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season. This is always a fun event as the children love seeing all the memorable decorations made and donated over the years.

**Sunday, December 15th- Church Christmas Play** - any youth interested in participating, please contact Jean Hart at 814-267-5667 ASAP. We need you! Even if just a small part or to play the Rainbow Bells and if interested please contact Amanda Custer at 814-483-4283. We are planning on practicing during church (9-10 AM) November 10, 17, 24 and December 8. Everyone is welcome!

**Youth Rally 2024 Camp Living Waters**  
"Escaping Egypt"

Come join us at Camp Living Waters for our 2024 Youth Rally where we will try to escape Egypt just like the Israelites did. Can you make it out before the 10 plagues are sent?

☆Friday, December 6, 2024 – Sunday, December 8, 2024

☆Event is for youth in grades 6th-12th

☆Cost of event will be \$25 per camper

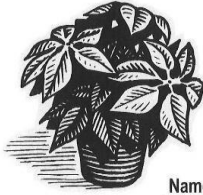


**Our Annual Salute to Veterans**  
**November 10, 2024**  
**During Sunday Service**

Please take this opportunity to join us in honoring our Veterans as well as those currently serving.



# Christmas Poinsettia Order Forms – Yes, It’s That Time



## Poinsettia Order Form

All Orders Due By 11/30/2024

Checks Payable To TUCC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Color	Quantity	Size, # Plants, Cost
		Sm(6"x1p \$15) Med(8"x2p \$28) Lg(10"x3p \$35)
Red*		
White*		
Pink*		
Marble		
Jingle Bell		
*Lg only available in Red, White, Pink		<b>TOTAL</b>

**Please add any additional information below:**

## **Our Blessings and Very Best Wishes for A Wonderful Holiday Season**

**When we reach the close of another year,  
When the Christmas Season again draws near,  
May the clouds of conflict have passed away  
With the ushering in of a better day.**

**May a light, like Bethlehem's star, arise  
Scatter the gloom of our darkened skies,  
Lead us onward through winding ways  
Perhaps through stress of sorrowed days,  
Through sacrifice, dangers and grief untold  
Still may it shine, like the bright Star of old.**

**Gleaming afar, may its radiance sweet  
Mark the path for our weary feet  
Clouds cannot hide it, mists cannot dim  
Our faith in God and our trust in Him!  
This is the star, whose wonderful power  
Shall guide and cheer in the darkest hour.**

**Its light will safely our footsteps bring,  
At last, at last, we shall find the King!  
The King, who is waiting, the world to bless,  
The King, with his Sceptre of righteousness.  
The King, whose dominion shall never cease,  
The Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace.**

*Tillie c. Jeroleman*