

# Trinity Trumpet

January/February 2022

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*From the  
Pastor*

## Pastor's Ponderings. . .

What can we expect in 2022? I have been sent several memes, so of which make me laugh, others cause me to shake my head, and still others cause me to say, "really?!?" I wish that when my calendar turned from December 31 to January 1 that all my challenges would simply go away and that I would start the new year without any encumbrances. I know it doesn't work that way, so I make resolutions.

What is a resolution? Webster's Dictionary defines *resolution* as "a firm decision to do or not to do something." Resolution connotes intention, determination, aspiration, it is an act of will. It is also based on a moral or personal belief. Our will to do something can only be enacted in something that we believe matters.

There is a history of making yearly resolutions, dating back 4,000 years to Babylon. The Romans believed January a doorway of time to consider the previous year and make changes.

The early church adopted the spiritual practice of reflection on past mistakes and resolving to do better. John Wesley developed a service for New Year's Eve called *The Covenant Renewal Service*, a watch night service of prayer, scripture, Holy Communion that was an alternative to the drunken celebrations that happened in his day.

As I ponder what God is up to in these past 24 months, I have been listening to hear what God is saying to us from Heaven based on the hardships and trials we have faced in this past year. Here are 5 resolutions that I believe fit this year:

**Resolution 1 – *Stay Connected with the Church*** – There has been much written that in the past year our mental health is at an all-time low as people have been suffering from anxiety and depression, that is true in all groups except those who are involved with the family of God. We gather to encourage one another, Jesus has promised that He is in our midst where 2 or more are gathered in His name, when we fail to gather together, our hearts move to unbelief.

**Resolution 2 – *Remain Flexible and Open to what God Is Doing*** – Many of us are planners. We don't do well when things get changed when we are not in control. Someone has said, "How to make God laugh, tell Him your plans." God is still good even when life changes. In the midst of this pandemic, we are learning new things, we are finding new ways to accomplish our goals, sometimes what we are doing is better than what was before.

**Resolution 3 – *Slow Down – Take Time to Rest*** – We are used to running a million miles a minute, yet it is not when we are running that we understand He is God – Psalm 46 says, ***be still and know that I am God!*** |

understand that 2020 showed us what we couldn't do, weren't able to do. Resting includes trusting that it isn't all up to us. We rely on God who is living and active and able to do anything. We find our rest in Him.

**Resolution 4 – *Speak Gospel Life into the Chaos of the World*** – People today are searching for something that is real, secure, loving and good. Guess what? That's what we have to give. Be a good steward of your words to influence others by speaking the hope and life of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of others. Encourage others to lift their eyes to God. That's what they need to hear.

**Resolution 5 – *Love Your Neighbors*** – Find ways to reach out to neighbors. Bring relief to those in need. That is the heart of God and part of preaching the Gospel!

### **A Prayer for the New Year**

Father, thank You for Your love and grace to help Your people have the power to bear fruit, in season and out of season, in good and hard times. Lead us by Your Voice and Spirit in 2022, teaching us Your ways to speak Your Word and Truth to the world. Help us to be intentional, committed, and consistent to gather with other believers, stay flexible and open to what You have planned, to rest in You, speak Life and Hope to a world in chaos, and to show Your love to our neighbor. Help us to have your creativity and compassion for others in difficult days. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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### **Pastor's Invitation to Help Mayfield United Methodist Church**

On Christmas Eve, Pastor Dave challenged us to consider helping a congregation in Mayfield, Kentucky whose building was destroyed by the December 10<sup>th</sup> tornadoes that raced across that region. The pastor and his wife left the parsonage and took shelter in the church. All that was left is a small shell of a once grand building. The congregation's first priority is to provide for their community. Pastor provided \$500.00 from his discretionary account, Trinity Outreach has matched that gift with an additional \$500.00. During the month of January, you are invited to

consider an additional gift to help people who are unknown to us. Mark your gift “Mayfield” and we will encourage them with our gift.

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***Lent and Easter 2022***

This year Lent doesn’t begin until March 2 – Ash Wednesday and Easter is the third Sunday of April. [Pastor’s are especially pleased when this happens in the liturgical calendar as it gives time to breath and refresh after a busy Christmas season.

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**Christmas Undecorate Party**

We thank Ann Slifco, Nancy Bittner, Chris King, Jean Ann Darr, and a host of others who helped to decorate the Trinity Church so wonderfully. In the days ahead, it will be time to take down the decorations. On Sunday, January 9 following worship we are seeking the men of Trinity to take down all of the wreaths and place them in Fellowship Hall. Ann with the supervision of Nancy [who is recovering from a health challenge] will direct the efforts to efficiently and properly store all of the items used beginning on Monday, January 10. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

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**Abolishing Medical Debt Campaign**

Trinity Church provided in 2021 to the Penn West Conference a gift of nearly \$1,300.00 towards a campaign to purchase medical debt for those burdened by overwhelming medical debt. The debt is purchased literally for pennies on the dollar. The program has in the name of the UCC erased more than \$71 million dollars of debt thus far. Rev’d David Ackerman notified the Conference that the company who works with the national UCC that within the 30 area county of the conference that no debt is available for purchase. As the campaign was promoted to relieve medical debt within the geographic area of the conference, it was never imagined that there would be no debt available for purchase.

We have 2 options for our gift. We can leave it with the conference and it would be used in other regions of the US. We can ask for the gift to be returned and be used for local mission. Pastor Dave has approached the Conemaugh Health system about such a purchase of debt. He is waiting to hear from the board chair, Attorney Doug Bell, if this would be possible.

Consistory will be taking this matter up at their January meeting [Monday, January 17]. Your opinion is sought in making this decision.

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## **Consistory Corner**

### **Consistory Officers for 2022**

President: Tom Calvert  
Vice-President: Rus Ogburn  
Secretary: Alissa Wright  
Treasurer: Jean Ann Darr  
Assistant Treasurer: Amy Clark

The entire Consistory will be installed in worship on Sunday, January 16, 2022. We will recognize the four retiring members of the Consistory that day. We thank Reon Engleka, Larry Hay, Curt Shaulis, and Jenna Ogburn for their service.



### **“Souper Bowl” Competition – 5 Sundays in January**

It is time for our annual “Souper Bowl” Competition. In January 2022 we will again be competing with one another for the “Souper Bowl” certificate. There will be two winners again this year. One for larger churches (over 100 families) and a second for smaller churches (under 100 families). The four quarters of the competition will be the five Sundays in January. Food items should be taken to the fellowship hall and placed in the designated location. Monetary donations should be given in an envelope marked “Souper Bowl” competition (checks should be made out to Trinity UCC).

Our local food pantry continues to grow. We are serving approximately 100 families from the Berlin and Shanksville School Districts. In this time of economic stress and the pandemic it is so meaningful for all of those who can help the food pantry. We have a great group of volunteers that truly enjoy the fellowship at the food pantry. Nonperishable (non-expired) food, condiments, baking products, paper supplies, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and monetary donations are welcome.

Prayers are requested for our clients and volunteers. May God continue to share his blessing with each and every one of you.

“Berlin Area Food Pantry”

**There is still time.....**

# *Secret Pals*

## **About “Secret Pals”**

“Secret Pals” is a program started here at Trinity UCC in 2011.

**Purpose:** to provide a way for adults in our church family to encourage, support & affirm the youth of our congregation.

**Program:** Adult partners will be matched to youth who are part of our church family, and will send them cards, etc. to affirm and encourage them and let them know that they are an important part of our congregation.

## **Guidelines:**

1. In October 2021, parents in our church family will be asked if they would like their child/children to be a part of “Secret Pals”. Parents will then fill out a sign-up form and place it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or give to Bobbie Robertson by no later than **January 30, 2022**.
2. The program will be open to our church youth ages 4 – Senior High School.
3. Adult partners will be recruited and will sign a commitment form. One adult may be matched to more than one child if desired. The identity of the partners will remain secret until revealed in Summer or Fall, 2021
4. Adult partners will be asked to make the following commitment:
  - I will pray every day for God’s care and protection for my “Secret Pal”
  - I will remember my Pal’s birthday and holidays (Valentine’s Day, Easter, beginning and end of school, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas) with a card in the mail.
  - I will remember my Pal’s birthday and Christmas with a gift, not to exceed \$20.

Adults interested in participating, please complete the form. Parents of youth who would like to participate should complete the youth form on the back.

There are forms hanging on our church bulletin board at the Vine Street entrance or stop by or call the church office and we will see that you get one.

**Deadline is January 30th!!!**

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**Financial Reports** submitted by our Financial Secretary, Renee Gindlesperger and Treasurer, Jean Ann Darr

October 1 – December 31, 2021

|                       | CURRENT     | MAINTENANCE | BENEVOLENCE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Beg. Balance</b>   | \$50,560.92 | \$8,426.92  | \$0.00      |
| <b>Receipts</b>       | \$46,668.99 | \$2,963.00  | \$6,015.71  |
| <b>Distributions</b>  | \$40,683.69 | \$329.88    | \$6,015.71  |
| <b>Ending Balance</b> | \$56,546.22 | \$11,060.04 | \$0.00      |

Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$370; Berlin Food Pantry (Benevolence Budget) - \$188.28 OCWM - \$3,081.21; Trinity Outreach (Benevolence Budget) - \$596.22; Pastor’s Discretionary Fund - \$125; Veteran of the Cross - \$100; Strengthen he Church - \$100; Neighbors in Need - \$100; Adopt A Family (Secret Santa) - \$1355

**Memorials (as of 12/31/21):**

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Lucas Hayman**.



Gifts were given to the Memorial Music Fund in Memory of **Lucas Hayman**.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Lester Coslic**.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Al & Jeanne Lambert & Rick Lambert**.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Dirkje Stellingwerf**.

Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in Memory of **Jim Suder**.

--Jean Ann Darr, Treasurer



**Those Remembered in prayer:**

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

**Shut Ins:**

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

**Healing Concerns:**

Sally Altfather, Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Carol Boyer, Jim Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Larry Custer, Dana Dawson, Dawn Gindlesperger, Andrea Shaulis Harris, Barry Landis, Larry McCullen, Jennifer Miller, Bonnie Murphy, Nancy Schrock, Avis Specht, Kelly Tharp, Robin Walker, Harry and Jane Watkins, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Karen Will, Kimberly Kay Roos Zimmerman



"I am the  
*resurrection*  
and the  
*life.*"

JOHN 11:25

We commend to our Lord Jesus Christ the following persons to eternal life:

Dirkje Stellingworth  
Jim & Kay Suder

*We pray God's peace and comfort for the Stellingworth and Suder Families.*

### **Worship Assistants January / February**

#### **January 2nd**

Sound: Tom Croner, Russ Hillegas

Flowers: Lewis & Barb Berkley

Acolyte: Cohen Clark

#### **January 9th**

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Jim Darr

Flowers: Richard Croner Family

Acolyte: Kaitlyn Miller

#### **January 16th**

Sound: Chris King, Gaye Maust

Flowers: Larry McCullen

Acolyte: Lily Countryman

**January 23rd**

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Tom Croner  
Flowers: Bill, Anne & Willie Slifco  
Acolyte: Kaitlyn Miller

**January 30th**

Sound: Gaye Maust, Pam Bush  
Flowers: Mike Fogel  
Acolyte: Vesper Ogburn

**February 7th**

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Chris King  
Flowers: Russ & Jeanne Hillegas  
Acolyte: Cora Wright

**February 13th**

Sound: Jim Darr, Gaye Maust  
Flowers: Michele Romesberg  
Acolyte: Cohen Clark / Colton Custer

**February 20th**

Sound: Tom Croner, Russ Hillegas  
Flowers: Bob & Colleen Glotfelty  
Acolyte: Matt Miller

**February 27th**

Sound: Pam Bush, Tyler Gindlesperger  
Flowers: Larry & Judy McCullen  
Acolyte: Lily Countryman

\*\*Please be advised the altar flowers have increased in cost to \$35 per Sunday.



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

*Pastor: Rev'd Dr. David A. Williams*

*Church Secretary: Pam Bush*

*Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger*

*Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick*

*Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas*

***Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday***

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

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