



Trinity Christian U.C.C.
Skippack, PA
Advent Newsletter 2024

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me one to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Micah 5:2

I don't have a lot of patience for waiting. I am the kind of person who wants to leave for events early and arrive early. If I know I have something to go to later in the day, I set alarms on my phone and with the Alexa to remind me to start getting ready and get out the door. And, if anything (or anyone) causes the plan to be disrupted, I become stressed. If I must wait for someone else to get ready, when I am already ready, I also become stressed. I remember agonizing early in the morning when my brother and sister and I were getting ready to go to the school bus stop – I wanted them to be ready to go and out the door long before it was necessary, to cut back on my anxiety about possibly missing the bus. I don't think we ever missed the bus.

Advent is a whole season of the church year devoted to waiting. The church helps us practice behaviors that are difficult for us...develop more patience for those of us who struggle with waiting. We have four weeks to prepare to welcome the birth of the baby Jesus....four weeks to invite God to forgive us our trespasses and work on getting our acts together. Just as pregnant women are careful about what they eat and make sure they keep active with exercise during their pregnancies, we have four weeks to let go of our past wrongdoings and make healthy choices as we prepare for the birth of the Christ-child.

The Advent anticipation is both a looking back and a looking forward – we remember the birth of the Messiah long ago in Bethlehem and we wait for the return of Jesus in the present day. We enjoy remembering the surprising story of Jesus' birth in a stable, and we anticipate that Jesus will return to earth in unexpected and surprising ways once again.

Waiting is not always fun. Many of us are impatient. Sometimes, we use the busy-ness of the Season to distract us from the anticipation – we get so busy decorating and shopping and baking and wrapping that we forget to slow down and pay attention to God. But, we must remember, Jesus is the reason for the season. And waiting for Jesus is the point of Advent. So, we must take stock of the past year, ask God to forgive the ways we have messed up, work on getting things right moving ahead, and wait for Jesus.

Let us do so with love in our hearts today and all days. Amen.

Pastor Amelie

WORSHIP SERVICES

Our in-person worship services begin at 10:15 a.m. in our sanctuary and are also live-streamed Facebook.

Join us for our Sunday morning hymn sing at

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

We also have a Sunday morning Bible Study in person at 8:30 a.m. in our Education Building's Social Hall.

TRINITY BLOG

Trinity now has a blog where Pastor Amelie is posting notes to the congregation and the text of her sermons. If you would like to read these notes and messages, you can find them at:

www.trinityskippack.blogspot.com

TRINITY'S WEBSITE

Trinity's website is found at www.trinityskippack.org. Check it out to see our church calendar, announcements, newsletters, and sermons.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Pre-K through 6th grade students will continue to go to Sunday School after the children's sermon on Sunday mornings. Our older kids, 7th grade and up, will have their "Confirmation" Sunday School class on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10 am. Everyone is invited to our Sunday morning class, which focuses on the intersection between our Christian faith and current world events. Our class meets 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. in our Education Building's Social Hall.

We are always looking for classroom assistants. If you are interested, please contact Susan Vogl (610) 202-6319.

Lunch Bunch meets weekly!

**Everyone is invited to join us on
Tuesdays at 12 noon.**



Please bring your own lunch. We pray, eat, and discuss the Bible passages we will focus on in worship the following Sunday.

All men are invited. We meet for fellowship, conversation, and a good meal. Our men's breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of the month. We meet at the Energy Station in Harleysville at 8:30 a.m.



It's Time to Order Poinsettias!



If you would like to purchase a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out one of the envelopes on the table in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate, or give it directly to Ned Schillow. Plants are \$8.00 each.

Orders are due no later than Sunday, Dec. 15th. You will be able to take your plants home after the Christmas Eve Service.



Our Women's Breakfast is held on the Fourth Saturday of the Month

**We meet at 8:30 a.m. at the
So Much to Give's Inclusive Café in Cedars.**

Please let Pastor Amelie know if you will be attending so she can add you to the reservation. All women are invited.

Please remember your offerings. If you have the means to contribute to the church, you may drop them off during the Sunday morning service, at the church office, or you may mail it to our address:

Trinity Christian UCC
2009 Church Road
P.O. Box 538
Skippack, PA 19474

Thank you for your faithfulness!





Once again, the Human Services Committee is collecting items for the Christmas gift bags for the 120 seniors that rely on the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry.

If you would like to contribute to this wonderful outreach project for the seniors, the committee will be collecting monetary donations to purchase items so all the items are the same for each senior. Please make your check out to Trinity Christian UCC, and in the memo indicate "holiday senior gifts".

We would also like to provide a dozen homemade cookies to each senior. If you are able to bake, please bag 3-4 cookies, depending on size, by flavor in a Ziploc bag. We need all cookies no later than Sunday, December 1st.

If you would like to help with this holiday outreach project, we will be meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 8:30 AM, to sort the gift bags and cookie tins.

This is an important and worthwhile outreach to our neighbors. Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, please see Nancy Gallagher.

Look for the **CHRISTMAS ANGEL TAGS** on the tree in the Narthex. Each tag lists a gift for a boy or girl that relies on the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry. If you are interested in purchasing that gift, please take the tag. After purchasing the gift, **please place the unwrapped gift under the tree by December 15th.** Please keep in mind that the parents are only able to pick three gifts for each child, so it is better to buy one large gift rather than a lot of small gifts. Each child gets three gifts, large or small. The Food Pantry does not need any more Barbies, games, or crafts; they need teen gifts. The Human Services Committee would like to thank you for your continued support!



**SAVE THE DATE!
CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Friday, December 6

Young & Old, Singers & Non-Singers

Please come join us for Christmas caroling
through the shops and restaurants in Skippack.

We will meet in the Education Building at 6:00 p.m.

Any questions, see Nancy Gallagher.



**Don't Miss our Christmas Program
"While Angels Watched"**



Join us December 15th during
worship. Sing along to your favorite carols. Watch
the angels discover the story of Christ's birth.



Blue Christmas



*We will gather for our Blue Christmas Service on
the 19th of December. This is a service for those
who are struggling with the Christmas season—
those who are grieving, those who are sad, and
those who are lonely. We will gather to pray, to
mourn, and to battle the forces of darkness.*

Please join us at 7 p.m. in our Education Building Hall.



Christmas Eve Service:

Tuesday, December 24

Candlelight Service at 6 p.m.

*The beauty of the season will come alive
once again as we celebrate the Christ
Child in our midst through communion
and singing our praises by candlelight.*



Our Current Needs

Baked beans *	Juice *
Baking needs *	Oatmeal
Boxed potatoes (none)	Pancake mix
Broth *	Pancake Syrup
Canned fruit *	Pasta sauce *
Canned pasta *	Peanut butter *
Canned tomatoes	Rice (none)
Canned veggies *	Shelf stable meat *
Cream soups *	Skillet dinners (none)
Gravy (none)	Stuffing (none)
Jelly *	

*** = critical need**

Thank you for your support!

The Daily Bread Community Food Pantry is open daily from 9 a.m. until noon, Thursday 6-8 p.m., and Saturday 9-11 a.m. to accept donations. You can also use their drop box 24 hours a day for non-perishable food items. Thank you for your support!

**3938 Ridge Pike
Collegeville, PA 19426**



SAVE THE DATE!

HOAGIE SALE

Saturday, February 8

10 a.m. until 1 p.m. (or sellout)

Italian, Turkey, Ham & Cheese

(\$7.00 each)

Preorders are recommended.

Order online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/201836095667161>

or call 610-584-4054. You can also email

the church office at trinityskippacksec2@gmail.com.



December

12/17	Rita Dickey
12/17	Peggy Hood
12/20	Janet Crossgrove
12/20	Christopher Hayes
12/25	Bob Davis
12/27	Aubree Cox
12/27	Penny Walker

January

1/3	Chelsey Cox
1/5	Belle Lopez
1/9	Jennifer Riccitelli
1/12	Pam Morris
1/19	Denise Clark
1/23	Charles Hayes
1/23	Carolyn White
1/26	Elaine Becker
1/27	Ed Harkins
1/28	Laura Parker

February

2/3	Addalea Mace
2/10	Crystal Crossgrove
2/11	Nathan Hayes
2/12	Nancy Gallagher
2/15	Diana Polec
2/17	Kevin Sauerwald
2/17	Dru Schillow
2/19	Becky Sauerwald
2/20	Ella Mae Kalbach
2/23	Keemaya Sharma
2/27	Christine Cassel

Trinity Christian UCC
P.O. Box 538
2009 Church Road
Skippack, Pa 19474



Winter Schedule

Sunday Morning Bible Study on ZOOM and in person 8:30 AM
Children's Sunday School (Pre-K through 6th Grade) During Worship
In-Person Youth Sunday School 9:15 AM
In-Person Worship Service 10:15 AM
Facebook Livestream 10:15 AM (Worship)
Website: www.trinityskippack.org
Pastor: Amelie Sell Castillo
PastorAmelieSell@gmail.com