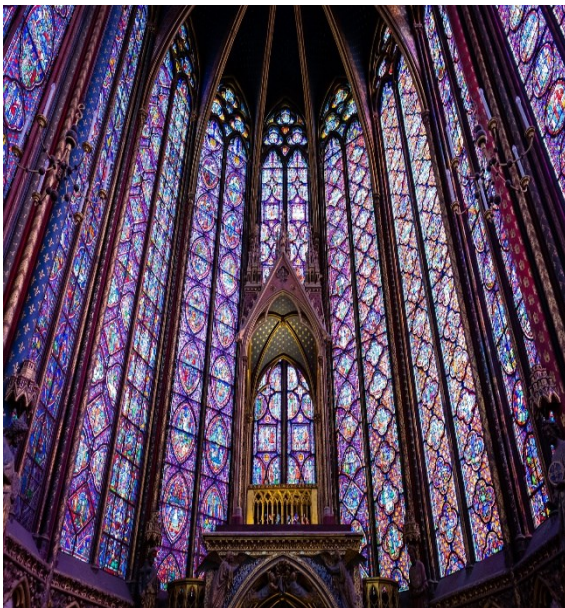


Dear Members & Friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church,

I am writing this Christmas letter to you after listening once again to what I consider to be one of the most beautiful musical compositions produced through what I believe to be the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Himself. Together, as you and I enter the Season of Advent, I always like to take time to renew my acquaintance with *The Messiah* written by George Handel in the year 1741. To me, this magnificent piece of music captures the glory and wonder of the birth and life of the Lord Jesus better than any other musical creation I know. What follows is an outline of the history and structure of Handel's *Messiah* that I share with you in the hope that all of us will take time during the upcoming holidays to enjoy and enrich our lives through the spiritual reservoir *The Messiah* offers to those of us who affirm the reality of the Christ Child who gives us life more abundant . . . *for unto you is born . . . a Savior.* (Luke 2:11)

Christmas & Handel's Messiah



In the two hundred years that have come and gone since *The Messiah* first brought tears to the eyes of its creator and filled him with the vision of heaven and the "Great God Himself," it has perhaps moved and thrilled more music lovers than any other choral work in the repertoire of church choirs the world over. Many, I'm sure, at Trinity Presbyterian Church enjoy listening to this



GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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105 Irem Road

Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612

570-675-3131

Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson

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E-mail: trinitypress@frontiernet.net

Website: www.dallastpc.org

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Trinity Learning Center

570-675-0689

Lisa DeGraba, Director

Website: www.dallastlc.com



December 2022

wonderful piece of musical work each year. To be sure, this work in its entirety, beginning with the message of "Peace on earth to men of goodwill" and the inherent promise of a better world to come, embodied in the text and clothed with the vibrant power and beauty of Handel's art, are as potent today as they were two hundred years ago.

To me it seems that in this statement lies the clue to the attraction it holds today for the ordinary listener like us. It is not so much the music as it is the message! Many of Handel's other works are virtually unknown today simply because they do not carry the same message.

Interestingly, I have learned that Handel was fifty-six years of age when, in 1741, he composed *The Messiah*. The work is massive, requiring about two and one-half hours for a complete performance, and yet its composition took only twenty-four days. Amazing! The text consists of passages from the Bible that were selected and arranged by a clergyman named Pooley. Alas, credit for it was claimed by a friend of Handel by the name of George Jennens, who employed Pooley as a secretary. In the work is found music of both the simplest and complex nature, and very heavy demands are made not only on the solo voices, but on the chorus as well. The average listener, like us, does not become fatigued, however, because the contrast of the aria, recitative, and chorus is carefully worked out to balance the entire work. Church organists are quick to make this aspect of Handel's work known.

What is referred to as the libretto of *The Messiah* is made up of verses and passages quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Scriptures. Again, it of interest to note that there are three divisions in which are presented the central message of the Bible: 1) the prophecy as to the coming of the Savior and the story of His nativity; 2) the life suffering and death of the Savior; 3) the assurance that is the heritage of every believer concerning His resurrection.

The prophecy of Isaiah in chapter 40, where God enable him to see beyond the captivity of Israel to the coming of the Messiah opens the work:

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
saith your God; speak ye comfortably
to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her
Iniquity is pardoned.*

*The voice of Him that crieth in the
wilderness. 'Prepare the way of the
Lord, make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be exalted, and
every mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight, and the rough
places plain.*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be
revealed, and all flesh shall see it
together; for the mouth of the Lord
hath spoken it.'*

Meanwhile, utterances from Haggai and Malachi lead to the rich detail of Isaiah 7:14 “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.” Even the inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s plan of salvation is brought out in the bass solo from Isaiah 60:2,3.

Then there is the naming of the Son: “Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace,” that is followed by a pastoral symphony that I believe is a fitting prelude to the story of the nativity from Luke 2 which it introduces. Listeners like you and I will then note that the first part closes with the invitation of Jesus Christ to: “Come unto Him”.

Next, we come to what is called Part I . . . “for His yoke is easy and His burden is light”. In which the keynote is the injunction in the opening solo to “Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Nine of the twenty-three selections that follow are devoted to the suffering and death of the Lord, over half of these are quotations from Isaiah 53. Moreover, as is characteristic in the Bible record, the death of the Savior is the prelude to His resurrection and ascension. These aspects are prominent in Handel’s work.

Finally, the assurance of the believer that is expressed in Part III is a fitting conclusion, I think, to this sacred oratorio. It exults with Job: “I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth”, and with the Apostle Paul reiterates Christ’s victory over sin and death as set forth in I Corinthians 15. And, from the New Testament’s Romans 8 where one rejoices: “If God be for us, who can be against us?”, and finally it expresses adoration as the angels and the universe shall do one day when all pay allegiance to the Lord: “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor, glory and blessing. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb, forever and ever. Amen.”

It also might interest you to know that this masterpiece is usually presented in two portions. The first part, including the nativity, is most popular at this time of the year when we celebrate Christmas. The last two parts are typically enjoyed at Easter. Thankfully, today it is no longer necessary to request ladies to refrain from wearing hoops and men their swords as was done at the London premiere in 1742 to accommodate a larger audience, but the attraction of the work has not lessened at all! Many, like you and me, listen primarily to the music, but the words are plain and inescapable . . . As I’m sure you can well imagine, it is my prayer during this Advent and Christmas Season that our keen awareness of the message empowers us to introduce those of our friends and neighbors who might not be acquainted with Handel’s *Messiah* to God’s Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Indeed, may the same Lord Jesus fill your hearts with joyful music this Christmas! Wishing all of our Trinity Presbyterian Church family of faith a blessed holiday. Karin and I join with you in the joyful celebration of the Light of the world, the infant Jesus born in Bethlehem.

Peace on Earth and goodwill to all who call upon His blessed name.

Rev. Dr. Murray Joseph Thompson

Women of Trinity

WOMEN OF TRINITY
SANDY PEOPLES,
MODERATOR

Greeting Card Ministry – Betsy Fairchild continues to send cards to members and friends of the church.

Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering – a check for \$100.00 will be sent at the end of the year.

Thank Offering envelopes are available for donations until the end of December. They are located on the table in the hallway.

We have sent monetary donations to five charities totaling \$600.00: Children's Court for pajamas (\$200); St. Jude Children's Hospital, Shriner's Hospital for Children, Dr. Greenwald's prescription assistance for cancer patients, and Ruth's Place. (\$100 each)

Our holiday project: Samaritan's Purse – 12 shoe boxes and \$120 to pay for the shipping at \$10 each. The boxes and check have been sent.

Bakeless Bake Sale will be held in January and February, 2023.

The women will host the Second Sunday reception on December 11th. Our theme will be "Come Home for Christmas."

Our December meeting will be at Allyson Lord's house on Wednesday, December 7th at noon.

The Women of Trinity will not meet in January and February. We will resume our monthly meetings in March 2023.



Thank
You

The Mission Outreach Committee would like to thank all of those who volunteered for our Rise Against Hunger event. It was a great success due to everyone's willingness to help feed hungry people. The committee would also like to thank those who contributed to their Samaritan's Purse project, "Operation Christmas Child." We were able to pack and prepare for shipping, 32 boxes filled with personal items and Christmas surprises for needy children. We sincerely thank everyone for their efforts.



Trinity Presbyterian Church

An Advent Invitation

Trinity Presbyterian Church
105 Irem Road, Dallas, Pennsylvania

Rev. Dr. Murray Joseph Thompson - Pastor

Advent is upon us with its invitation
to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ.

At Trinity Presbyterian Church, we cordially invite you to join with us to help make this season an extra special time during which we will discern God is calling us from darkness to light in a sermon series highlighting: The Word Becomes Flesh Again; The Promise of Complete Joy; For Whom are You Preparing the Way; Living Your Lives in Christ; From Darkness to Light; In the Fullness of Time there's a Special Gathering in Heaven.

All Sunday services during Advent will begin at 10:00 AM featuring special music and anthems provided by the Trinity choir and soloists.

A Trinity Family Program will be offered on December 18th during the morning worship service.

A traditional Candlelight Communion service will be celebrated at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

The good news of Christ's birth is a highlight of the church year. Join us in-person or online as we journey from darkness to light in our retelling of the wonderfully familiar story, sing much beloved Christmas carols, and rejoice in our Savior's birth anew this year.

Everyone is welcome to attend Christmas Services at Trinity Presbyterian Church whether you're a regular or perhaps you've never visited the church before, please feel encouraged to attend.



***All are welcome.
Come as a visitor,
Leave as a friend!***



www.dallastpc.org
Find Us & Share Us on
Facebook and Twitter





Our Deacons hosted a "Thank You For Your Service" reception for our veterans following the worship service. Thank you to the Deacons for their very thoughtful gesture.

From left: Cindy Williams, Beth Davis, Michele Steele, Nancy Thomas, Allyson Lord, Karen Sassaman, Kathy Stevens, Chuck Borland.



Trinity Honors Our Veterans

At the Sunday morning worship service on November 13, several of the veterans at Trinity were recognized and honored for their military service to our country. Through the years, our church has conducted this annual event to express our gratitude and praise to our veterans for a job well done to keep us safe and secure. A reception, hosted by the Deacons, followed the service.

From left: Neil Morrison, Coast Guard; Clarence Givens, Navy; Rev. Doctor Murray Thompson, Army; Ron Pavlick, Army; Windsor Davis, Air Force; Doug Stevens, Navy; Wayne Williams, Navy; Art Peoples, Air Force.

December B-day

12/03 Lewis Baines
 12/06 Sharon Davis
 12/19 Jim Snyder
 12/20 Erin Yurko



January B-Day

1/04 Eleanor Yurko
 1/10 Marianne Williams
 1/11 Thomas Pickett
 1/13 Linda Burkhardt
 1/13 Michele Steele
 1/15 Philip Walter
 1/18 Kimberly Perzia
 1/23 Karen Perzia
 1/23 Abbie Coy
 1/31 Henry Yurko

December Anniversaries

12/28 Wayne & Marianne Williams
 12/30 Larry Rittenhouse & Michele Steele



Meals on Wheels~ If you would like to volunteer for Meals on Wheels on any open dates, please call Meryl Davis @ (570) 310-1556.

December 1, 2022	Beth & Meryl Davis
December 15, 2022	Windsor & Meryl Davis
December 29, 2022	Beth & Meryl Davis

On November 20, 2022, the Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held for Zachary Coy at Trinity Presbyterian Church. He is the 186th Eagle Scout for Boy Scout Troop 281 in Dallas. Congratulations Zachary!



ATTENTION!!! There is a new group forming in the church regarding fund-raising activities that will be starting in January. We would love your feedback, ideas, time and overall good old-fashioned fellowship to get this new group off the ground. To let us know you are interested (we can't have a group without people!), please reach out to Cindy Williams or Karen Perzia.

You can let Cindy or Karen know when in church, or call or text to 570-881-7746 or email aizrep@hotmail.com. Remember "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!"

DEACONS NEWS



Board of Deacons: Cindy Williams, President	
Linda Baines	Chuck Borland
Josh Coy	Beth Davis
Megan Davis	Allyson Lord
Karen Sassaman	Michele Steele
Kathy Stevens	Nancy Thomas

The Deacons will be collecting non-perishable food items starting now and ending December 18th. The food will be donated to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. The following food items are needed: peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, gravy, instant potatoes, canned or bottled juice, rice or rice mixes, cereal, sugar, salt, flour, cake mixes, icing, canned tuna or chicken, coffee, tea, pie filling, canned soup, pudding & Jell-O mixes, spaghetti or tomato sauce, pasta, powdered drink mixes.

LITURGISTS - The Session wishes to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve as Liturgists.

If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist, please check the poster on the bulletin board in the hallway and select a date. Rev. Murray is available to talk to anyone who has never been a liturgist but wants to give it a try.

Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, will send you your material prior to the date you are scheduled to be the Liturgist.

Thank you, Art Peoples, Clerk of Session

December 4, 2022	Barbara Rinker
December 11, 2022	Sherri Newell
December 18, 2022	Josh Coy
December 24, 2022	Barbara Rinker
December 25,	Wayne Williams
January 1, 2023	
January 8, 2023	
January 15, 2023	
January 22, 2023	
January 29, 2023	



Flower Chart There is a flower chart sign-up sheet in hallway for anyone wishing to honor a loved one. The cost is \$50 per week so please plan accordingly.

December 4, 2022		January 1, 2023	
December 11, 2022	Wayne & Marianne	January 8, 2023	
December 18, 2022		January 15, 2023	
December 24, 2022		January 22, 2023	
December 25, 2022		January 29, 2023	

**Session
Highlights**

Session members: Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk of Session

**Mark Chappell
Sharon Davis
Sherri Newell
Barbara Rinker**

**Meryl Davis
Ken Jones
Karen Perzia
Wayne Williams**

The regular meeting of the Session was held on November 21, 2022, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas, PA. The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Session.

1. Karin Thompson was accepted into membership at Trinity Presbyterian Church on October 23, 2022 by Letter of Transfer.
2. Communion service is scheduled for December 24, 2022. Communion is by Plated Communion.
3. **Pastor's Report**: The Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson submitted the following report covering the period October 1 through October 31, 2022:
 - a. Hospital visits: 2
 - b. Member & friends visits: 4
 - c. Contacts: 3
 - d. Funerals: None
 - e. Worship Services: 4
 - f. Correspondence: 4
 - g. Birthday Notes: 9
 - h. Anniversary Cards: 4
 - i. Presbytery – Committee on Ministry – October 12, 2022
4. **Building Committee**: Elder Mark Chappell
 - a. The chimes are now operational and will be played on Sunday prior to the morning worship service.
 - b. Elder Wayne Williams is working with a plumber to bring Trinity in compliance with DAMA regulations for water run-off.
5. **Endowment Committee**: Elder Sandy Peoples
 - a. The Endowment was pleased to sponsor the Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, November 20, 2022.

6. **Mission/Outreach:** Elder Barbara Rinker
 - a. Rise Against Hunger was held on November 12, 2022. The session wishes to thank the members and friends of Trinity for making 10,000 meals.
 - b. Women with Children at Misericordia University– Trinity dropped off the Notebooks donated by members for the children of the women.
 - c. Trunk or Treat was held on October 31, 2022 at Trinity.
 - d. Flu immunization Clinic – Vera Williams Supey, pharmacist from Rite Aid, gave flu shots and Covid Boosters on Sept, 22, 2022 at Trinity.

7. **Nominating:** Elders Sharon Davis & Sherri Newell

The Nominating Committee will submit their recommendations to the congregation for election during the Congregation and Corporation meeting on January 29, 2022. Three Elders and two Deacons will be elected at this meeting. Nominations will be open from the floor prior to the meeting.

8. **Stewardship Committee:** Elder Ken Jones
 - a. The committee wishes to thank everyone who made the luncheon possible. Ken also wishes to thank the following members who delivered the Four Minute for Stewardship message held on the following dates.
 1. October 23, 2022 - Time - Presentation by Michael Williams
 2. October 30, 2022 - Talents - Presentation by Meryl Davis
 3. November 06, 2023 - Treasures - Presentation by Sherri Newell
 4. November 13, 2022 - Summary - Presentation by Sandy Peoples
 5. November 20, 2022 - Grateful Giving - Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson
 - b. The committee reported that as of November 20, 2022, the Stewardship Drive has received \$63, 630.00 in pledges from 27 pledging units representing 40 members. This is a great start.

9. **Trinity Learning Center (TLC):** Elder Sherri Newell
 - a. A gift received from a parent of the Learning Center will be used to replace all the classroom doors and entrance doors with metal security doors. A screen coating will also be placed on all the windows which will prevent anyone from seeing into the classrooms from the outside.

10. **Worship & Sunday School Committee:** Elder Sharon Davis
- a. The following eight classes will be taught to our confirmation students:
 1. Session 1 - Nov. 27 @ 9AM - You Are What You Wear (Rev. Dr. Thompson)
 2. Session 2 - Dec. 11 @ 9AM - How Do You Spell Presbyterian (Karen Perzia)
 3. Session 3 - Jan. 15 @ 9AM – Where Is God When It Hurts (Elder Meryl Davis)
 4. Session 4 - Jan. 29 @ 9AM - Extravagant Love (Elder Wayne Williams)
 5. Session 5 - Feb. 05 @ 9AM - We've Got The Spirit (Sharon Davis)
 6. Session 6 - Feb. 19 @ 9AM - Can You Hear Me Now (Sherri Newell)
 7. Session 7 - Mar. 05 @ 9AM - Going Out (Barbara Rinker)
 8. Session 8 - Mar. 19 @ 9AM - Grace And Gratitude
 - b. The Christmas program will be held on December 18, 2022.
 - c. Rev. Thompson indicated that as part of the Christmas Eve service he will have three readers. The following Elders will assist Rev. Thompson: (1) Meryl Davis, (2) Karen Perzia, and (3) Barbara Rinker.
11. The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation is scheduled for January 29, 2023 following the morning worship service.
12. All annual reports are due from each committee to Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant on or before January 15, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

[Art Peoples](#)

Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk of Session

NOTICE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNUAL REPORTS

On December 11, 2022, A Special Congregation Meeting will be held following the morning Worship Service to elect Elders and Deacons.

On January 8, 2023, newly elected Elders and Deacons will be installed and/or ordained by Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson during the morning worship service.

On January 15, 2023, the Annual Reports are due from all committee and organization chairs of Trinity. The reports should be sent by e-mail or delivered on a thumb drive to Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant. The font type for the Annual Report is Arial.

On January 15, 2023, the Audit Committee will be collecting the financial records from all appropriate committees. Please place your financial records including checkbooks and ledgers in the Administrative Assistant's office. The affected organizations are: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Learning Center, Board of Deacons, Endowment Fund, Women of Trinity, Trinity Men's Club and The Memorial Wall and Garden Committee.

On January 22, 2023, copies of the Annual Report will be made available for members of the Congregation to pick up at the church. The report will also be made available on line.

On January 29, 2023, the Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting will be held following the morning worship service.

Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk of Session

Trinity Presbyterian Church
105 Irem Road
Dallas, PA 18612
November 28, 2022

TO: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Karen Perzia, Treasurer
Trinity Learning Center, Karen Perzia, Treasurer
Board of Deacons, Karen Sassaman, Treasurer
Endowment Committee, Sandy Peoples, Treasurer
Women of Trinity, Sandy Peoples, Treasurer
Trinity Men's Club, Wayne Williams, Treasurer
The Memorial Wall and Garden Committee, Wayne Williams., Treasurer

FROM: Arthur J. Peoples
Clerk of Session

SUBJECT: 2022 Audit of all financial books and records

The Book of Order states that a full financial review of all books and records relating to the finances of the church shall be conducted once each year by a public accountant or public accounting firm or a committee of members versed in accounting procedures. The 2022 Audit Committee is comprised of Debbie Cooper, Chair; Allyson Lord and Karen Sassaman.

This committee has requested that the affected organizations provide their financial books and records to them by January 15, 2023. The books and records should be given to Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, who will ensure that the records are properly secured and delivered to the Audit Team. The records will be reviewed and returned to the office where you can pick them up. The affected organizations are: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Learning Center, Board of Deacons, Endowment Fund, Women of Trinity, Trinity Men's Club and The Memorial Wall and Garden Committee.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Cooper, Chair at 570-675-0069.

Arthur J. Peoples

Arthur J. Peoples
Clerk to the Session

Stewardship - If you have not sent in your 2023 pledge card, please send to Trinity Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 239 Dallas, Pa 18612 @ your convenience.

Offering envelopes for 2023 are here and available for pickup either after church or during office hours. If you need other arrangements, please call the church office 570-675-3131.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members of Trinity:

Al Brown	Rich Burkhardt	Mary Chappell
Betty Handley	Tom Pickett	Jim Snyder
Rev. Murray	Phil & Leona Walter	Shirley Wolfkeil

Friends of Trinity:

Richard & Linda Armbrust
Craig Berlew- Medical/blood pressure issues
John Butler – Cousin of Nancy Thomas – Back operation
Ellie Caruthers – Friend of Ken Jones
Katie DiSimone – Glioblastoma
Rita Groboski
Carol Gumienny- Stroke- eyes & balance- Nancy Thomas's sister
Michael Gusher Jr
Wren Hopper
Barbara Jones – Betty Handley's sister
Del Jones- Betty Handley's son
Jeri Kane – Karin Thompson's sister
Marge Kishbal
Lieutenant General Charles Mahan and his wife, Jamie. Rev Murray's former commander in Crailsheim, Germany.
Gladys Masoner- Michele Steele mother
Bill Morrison – poor health – Neil's brother
Peter Stevens – Doug Stevens's brother – serious health problems
Amy Wert – paralyzed from accident – daughter of Janie Millers co-worker
Jules Williams – Brain Tumor – Allan & Carol Hobbs's son in law
Richard Williams – Nancy Williams's son & Karen Perzia's brother
Nick Yatsko – Rev. Murray and Karin's son in law – massive heart attack
Nick James Yatsko – Rev. Murray & Karin's grandson
Bonnie Zim – Fall- Allyson Lord's sister

