

## ***The Signs of Promise***

Dear Member & Friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church,



*Watchmen, tell us of the night, what signs of promise are. Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, see that glory-beaming star. Watchman, does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell? Traveler, yes, it brings the day, promised day of Israel.*

I am sure that many of you are familiar with the lyrics of this beautiful hymn, *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*, composed by Joseph Parry in 1879 that is often sung during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany time frame in the life of Christ's church. This causes me to think, especially at the outset of the New Year 2023 A.D., that when we come to any milestone such as a birthday, anniversary, or New Year's Day, we harbor in our hearts the deep desire to know *if there are any signs of true promise* regarding the future of the world in which we live.

# GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

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**January 2023**

Sadly, many of us only see signs of gloom and doom. Things like the threat posed by international trade tariffs between our nation and other countries, ever spiraling petroleum prices that upend our national economy, the seemingly unending tension in places like Syria, North Korea, Iran, Ukraine, and elsewhere, and worries concerning the viability of national healthcare along with the ever-growing cost of living. It would be wonderful if things only stabilize, but what if they do not. Oh, it seems that if we could only be secure and stay 39 years of age forever as Jack Benny used to say on late night television. However, we know we cannot; so, we ask the *guard* on the anxious *ancient wall* if there are any signs of promise out there on the horizon.

Perhaps the watchman's response is that there is a star burning brightly. A star more ancient than our planet or the rest of the created universe, and shining brilliantly to point the way to the ultimate new beginning. A star pointing to a child who is the Son of God.

From where I sit, it is because of that star and God's love that I can catch a glimpse of promise for all those who draw their faith from the infant Jesus. I see the hungry being fed; the blind regaining their sight; the paralyzed dancing in the streets; the weak becoming strong; the dead being resurrected; darkness being divided by light.

Thus, it seems to me that in this world of sin, where meek souls receive Him, the dear Christ child enters their lives. In this New Year 2023 A.D., the signs of promise are still being revealed among us that Christ is born. Indeed, as we face the new year together, even with its intrinsic problems and weaknesses, those of us of faith can yet say *Hallelujah* anyway.

Together with me, let us pray the following prayer as we begin a new year living in the true light of the Son of God:

*Eternal God, who makes all things new and, yet, remains forever the same; grant us to begin this new year in faith and to live through it in your grace-filled favor; that, being guided in all our doings and guarded in all our days, we may spend our lives in your service, and at long last, by your grace, attain the glory of everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May His peace be with you and yours in all you do in 2023 A.D.

*Murray*

On behalf of the Mission-Outreach Committee, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who donated and/or participated in our latest project, Samaritan's Purse, *Operation Christmas Child*. We were able to fill and cover the shipping cost of 32 boxes which contained much needed items for the children, not to mention some "fun" items as well. For some children, these boxes will be their only Christmas gift. We are thankful for such kind and giving spirits in our church. With many thanks, Barbara Rinker



## January Birthdays

1/04	Eleanor Yurko
1/10	Marianne Williams
1/11	Thomas Pickett
1/13	Linda Burkhardt
1/13	Michele Steele
1/15	Philip Walter
1/15	Brian Burkhardt
1/18	Kimberly Perzia
1/23	Karen Perzia
1/29	Jeffrey Burkhardt
1/31	Henry Yurko

## February Birthdays

02/08	Kathy Stevens
02/11	Arthur Peoples
02/17	Clarence Givens
02/25	Al Brown
02/25	Carl Sgarlat, Sr.
02/27	Doug Stevens



## February Anniversary

02/28	Phil & Leona Walter
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**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.



January 1, 2023		January 29, 2023	
January 8, 2023	Ken & Cathy Jones	February 5, 2023	
January 15, 2023		February 12, 2023	
January 22, 2023		February 19, 2023	



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

January 12, 2023	Windsor and Meryl Davis
January 26, 2023	Beth and Meryl Davis

**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. Dr. 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

January 1, 2023	Karin Thompson
January 8, 2023	
January 15, 2023	
January 22, 2023	
January 29, 2023	
February 5, 2023	
February 12, 2023	
February 19, 2023	
February 26, 2023	

The Deacons will be undecorating the church 9 am January 14th. Everyone in the congregation is welcome to help. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

*thank you!* A note of thanks from Rev. Murray- Karin and I want to thank everyone for the Christmas cards, wishes and gifts. We are so happy and feel so blessed to be part of the Trinity family. Wishing each of you a very Happy and Blessed New Year in 2023!

**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](mailto:aizrep@hotmail.com). Remember "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!"

**Trinity's next Confirmation Class will be** on Sunday, January 15, 2022 starting at 9:00AM, just prior to our regular Sunday morning worship service.

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.

**2023 Per Capita** - The Per Capita for 2023 has been set at \$42.00 per person. The total is divided among the Presbytery - \$29.75, the Synod of the Trinity - \$2.40, and the General Assembly - \$9.85. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Art Peoples, Clerk of Session

### **NOTICE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNUAL REPORTS**

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

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

### **Members of Trinity:**

Al Brown

Tom Pickett

Phil & Leona Walter

Rich Burkhardt

Jim Snyder

Shirley Wolfkeil

Mary Chappell

Rev. Murray

### **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

Kaytlin Dixon – Karin & Murray's great-niece in bad accident

Sandy Goodwin – Dr. Curt Goodwin's sister

Rita Groboski

Carol Gumienny- Stroke- eyes & balance- Nancy Thomas's sister

Michael Gusher Jr

Barbara Jones – Betty Handley's sister

Del Jones- Betty Handley's son

Jeri Kane – Karin Thompson's sister

Marge Kishbal

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

Richard Zim – Allyson Lord's brother-in-law

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**