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| January-February 2023 Newsletter |
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 Trinity UCC

# WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday @ 10:15 a.m.**

**In Church**

and

**Via Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 875 5390 4135**

**Passcode: MD848e**

and

**Facebook**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

***January 8, 2023***

***Sermon Series***

***Parables of Jesus***

***January 15, 2023***

*Coffee Social*

***January 22, 2023***

*Annual Meeting*

***February 5, 2023***

*Communion*

***February 19, 2023***

*Coffee Social*

***February 22, 2023***

*Ash Wednesday*

***February 26, 2023***

*First Sunday of Lent*

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A Word from Pastor Elsbury

We are entering a new year, 2023, which will present us 365 days that are pure without contamination or wrinkles. This should challenge us to take the time to slow down and inventory our own selves and our lives. Let us begin by looking at ourselves over the past twelve months and honestly take a sincere and deep inventory of our actions, our conversations, our attitudes and reactions to family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, church as well as our own selves. It would be awesome if all of us were faithful to each other and lived a life that was spotless of all unkindness and ill spoken words to all family, friends, neighbors, or coworkers. I am not sure such “perfection” is possible in this world. Therefore, let each of us take a few minutes to face ourselves honestly and admit our failures and confess them first to God asking him to purge and forgive us as well as to others as God or our conscience calls us to do. Let each of us by the grace of God begin this new year with a truly clean slate and let us determine with God’s strength to maintain that through the years by honestly facing our weaknesses, our unkind words or actions and seek to live the holy-unselfish lives we all know God desires us to live.  May God give us that grace and determination to accomplish this worthy goal.

On January 8, I am planning to begin a new sermon series on Jesus’s Parables. According to the list in

A Word from Pastor Elsbury (cont’d)

the Thompson Chain Reference Bible there 39 parables in the Gospels taught by Jesus Christ. Each of these are designed to teach us principles for godly living, instructions on how to treat others and to ministering to them. Of this thirty-nine, six are recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, three in Matthew and Luke and thirty are recorded in just one of the four Gospels.  There are three “sub-themes” stressed in Jesus’ parables: the character of the Kingdom of God, the character of the King and the character of the King’s subject.  I pray we will be challenged by these studies and become more like Christ in our own lives as well as in our relationships with each other.

Pastor Elsbury Chappel

 Trinity’s monthly coffee and fellowship gatherings will be held in the Social Room from **9:30 –10:00 a.m.** on

**January 15**

**February 19**



January Anniversaries

7 Christi and Ken Grandstaff

24 Steve and Nancy Turner

February Anniversary

23 Mary and Bob Matovich

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

February Birthdays

6 Clarabelle Despeaux

7 Christi Grandstaff

10 Russ Delauter

13 Meghan Swain

13 Sarah Tokar

7w2

The Thurmont Ministerium met on zoom, December 15th. The Christmas Gift program was successful again this year. 73 households were provided Christmas gifts by local churches via the Moravian church, and the Catoctin Episcopal parish. Thank you to the Trinity members who contributed to the gift program.

The Clothes Closet, at the Thurmont United Methodist church, had a successful open house on December 5th. They had about 75 families who were served by the Clothes Closet.

The Food Bank gave away 200 frozen turkeys and many frozen chickens during the Thanksgiving holiday season, in addition to other holiday food. The ministerium is continuing with the Emergency Shelter assistance program where they donate funds for temporary housing to those in need. The state and federal food grants that were available during the pandemic, have now ended at the end of 2022. We encourage your donations of food and money to the food bank, to offset the lack of government grants.

Ministerium Report



Corey and Natsumi Ellis

Trinity’s Mission Sponsorship

I wanted to share below is Corey Ellis’ Christmas card and wishes for Trinity.



January 22, 2023

The annual congregational meeting for Trinity United Church of Christ will be held on January 22, 2023, beginning at 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary.

A separate Zoom link will be available to member unable to attend in person.

Please note the congregational notice of a proposed change to the By-Laws to be presented at the annual meeting. Details provided separately herein.

Council News

The church council met on December the 14th to prepare the 2023 budget recommendations for the annual congregational meeting in January. We did not have any monthly business items on the agenda, so there are no updates to report on this. The budget meeting went well, with the review of the past year’s income and expenses, and estimated projections for next year. The negative financial news this year, was the poor performance of the market investments, which affected investments across the country.

We’re happy to report, we went Christmas caroling on Sunday, December the 11th. We met at the church and drove to about 5 shut-in’s homes to sing carols. This is always a fun event, and we had about 8 people join us to go caroling. The shut-ins really enjoy the visit.

We had a nice Christmas Eve service this year. It was very cold that night, but it was warm in the church, in temperature and in spirit. Many thanks to all who participated to make the service special. The music was great. Steve Turner on the piano for the prelude and O Holy Night. Sarah on the organ for the carols and also on guitar with her student, Ella Cook, for Silent Night. Sarah’s grandson, Jordan Bryce, sang The Little Drummer Boy. The pastor had a thoughtful message about the Traditions of Christmas.

Council News (Cont’d)

And, the always meaningful reading of the scriptures of the birth of Christ, from the book of Luke, by Ryan, Lindsay, and Ethan Tokar. We were pleased that 33 people braved the cold to enjoy the service. I heard several people say, that it was that service, more than anything else during the busy season, that reminded us it’s all about the birth of Christ our Savior.

Pastor Chappell visits members and shut-ins every month. Feel free to give him a call for a visit. He enjoys these visits and would love to chat with you.

Happy New Year to you, your family and friends!

Ross Lillard

Creator God, the year turns, and we find ourselves uncertain which way to look…  
Back, at the blessings you have bestowed upon us—  
friends and family,  
wonderful summer weather,  
beautiful music and theatre,  
times for fun and laughter,  
new things learned and old habits put away,  
the gift of your presence,  
celebrations of life and love.  
We give thanks for all that has been.

Or perhaps we look back in another direction, at all we have lost—  
friends we have said goodbye to,  
opportunities missed,  
illness or pain that stole our joy,  
news that hit too close to home,  
worries about livelihoods and about children and about church and about the world.  
We pray for healing of our brokenness,  
for the comfort of your care to smooth the rough places  
and for your light to shine through the cracks.

Or should we look forward, God?  
Behold, you are doing a new thing…  
we anticipate with wonder that the best is yet to be.  
As the old year gives way to the new,  
we long for the peace and justice of your kingdom.  
We pray that children of every place may grow up with enough food and water and love,  
that violence may at last come to an end,  
that our leaders might seek the good of all,  
that this might be the year when light outshines shadows.

Give us courage to trust you,  
to put our hand in yours and walk forward into the unknown with hope.  
As we stand at the gate of the year,  
looking backward and forward,  
remind us also to look inward and outward,  
to seek your kingdom first of all.  
Remind us that we can see your image in every face,  
that you have made us your family, together,  
that this world belongs to you and we are its caretakers,  
and that there is a still more excellent way—the way of love, faith, and hope.  
May this be the year, O God, that all people see your glory together.  
We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

Used by permission from the Liturgy Link as s*ubmitted by Rev. Teri Peterson, St. John’s Church of Scotland*

Pursuant to the By-Laws, the Council of Trinity United Church of Christ is providing notice to its members of a proposed change to the By-Laws relative to the Council’s threshold for discretionary spending. The current By-Laws require the Council to obtain a two-thirds vote of the members present at a duly-called congregational meeting for any expenditure in excess of $2,500. As the costs of goods, services, and repairs has increase substantially over the last several years, the Council is requesting the congregation approve an increase of that discretionary spending threshold to $4,000 before the need for a congregational meeting and approval. The specific language revision is listed below.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO BY-LAWS**

Article VII. Council

8. The Council may not authorize any non-emergency expenditure exceeding the amount of Two ~~Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500.00)~~ Four Thousand Dollars ($4,000.00) without two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present at a duly called church meeting, public announcement of the vote having been made two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

Sermon Series

The Parables of Jesus

Here is a chart of the Parables of Jesus with the accompanying scripture references for your guide as Pastor Elsbury begins this series of sermons. The first 12 will begin on January 8 and carry us up to Easter. A list with dates will be included with each week’s bulletin should there be unanticipated revisions or changes to the schedule. We hope you are looking forward to this new series of familiar and some not so familiar parables.

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|  | Parable | Matthew | Mark | Luke | John |
| 1 | The House Builders | 7:21-29 |  | 6:46-49 |  |
| 2 | The New Cloth & Wine Skins | 9:14-17 | 2:18-22 | 5:33-39 |  |
| 3 | The Two Debtors |  |  | 7:41-43 |  |
| 4 | The Rich Fool |  |  | 12:16-20 |  |
| 5 | The Wedding Banquet |  |  | 12:36-38 |  |
| 6 | The Wise Manager |  | 13:32-37 | 12:42-48 |  |
| 7 | The Barren Fig Tree |  |  | 13:1-9 |  |
| 8 | The Sower | 13:3-9; 18-23 | 4:3-20 | 8:4-15 |  |
| 9 | The Wheat and the Weeds | 13:24-30; 36-43 | 4:31-32 | 13:18-19 |  |
| 10 | The Drag Net | 13:47-51 |  |  |  |
| 11 | The Mustard Seed and Yeast | 13:31-35 | 4:31-34 | 13:18-21 |  |
| 12 | The Hidden Treasure \ Pearl | 13:44-46 |  |  |  |
| 13 | The Unmerciful Servant | 18:21-25 |  |  |  |
| 14 | The Good Samaritan |  |  | 10:25-37 |  |
| 15 | The BAD Samaritan |  |  | 10:25-37 |  |
| 16 | The Friend at Midnight |  |  | 11:5-13 |  |
| 17 | The Good Shepherd |  |  |  | 10:1-8 |
| 18 | The Seats at a Wedding Feast |  |  | 14:1-14 |  |
| 19 | The Great Banquet |  |  | 14:15-24 |  |
| 20 | The Cost of Discipleship |  |  | 14:25-35 |  |
| 21 | The Lost Sheep | 18:10-14 |  | 15:1-7 |  |
| 22 | The Lost Coin |  |  | 15:8-10 |  |
| 23 | The Prodigal Son |  |  | 15:11-24 |  |
| 24 | The Elder Son |  |  | 15:25-32 |  |
| 25 | The Shrewd Manager |  |  | 16:1-13 |  |
| 26 | The Rich Man and Lazarus |  |  | 16:19-31 |  |
| 27 | The Unworthy Slave |  |  | 17:7-10 |  |
| 28 | The Persistent Widow |  |  | 18:1-8 |  |
| 29 | The Pharisee & Tax Collector |  |  | 18:9-14 |  |
| 30 | The Workers in the Vineyard | 20:1-16 |  |  |  |
| 31 | The Two Sons | 21:28-32 |  |  |  |
| 32 | The Wicked Tenants | 21:33-46 | 12:1-9 | 20:9-16 |  |
| 33 | The Wedding Banquet | 22:1-14 |  |  |  |
| 34 | The Ten Virgins | 25:1-13 |  |  |  |
| 35 | The Ten Talents & Ten Minas | 25:14-30 |  | 19:11-27 |  |
| 36 | The Sheep and the Goats | 25:31-46 |  |  |  |
| 37 | The True Vine and Branches |  |  |  | 15:1-11 |