**Trinity United Church of Christ**



***January 2025***

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***Worship: 9:00 AM***

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**Communion: Please pick up your communion wafer and cup as you enter the sanctuary.**

**Offering: Please place your gifts in the offering box as you enter or leave worship.**

**Contact Information**

**Pastor: Mark McDaniel**

**Phone:** 812-583-3508

**Email:** pastormark98@gmail.com

**321 W. 8th Street … Jasper, Indiana 47546**

(Corner of Clay & 8th Street)

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 386 Jasper, 47547

**Office Phone:** 812-482-4090

**Office Email:** ***trinityofficejasper@gmail.com***

**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

9:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm – 3:00pm

**Website:** htps://www.trinityjasperucc.org

**YouTube:** Trinity UCC Jasper IN



**Monthly Calendar**

**W 1 New Year’s Day** –Church office closed

**F 3** 9:30 am Mommy & Me Playgroup

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**SU 8** 9:00 am Worship

**M 6** 1:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive

 6:30 pm Property Mtg (Parsonage)

**W 8** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 10** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**SU 12** 8:45 am Gather & Sing Choir

 9:00 am Worship

 10:15 am Women’s Guild

**M 13** 7:00 pm Church Council

**W 15** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**TH 16** 7:30 am - 3:30 pm Teacher Retreat

**F 17** 7:30 am - 3:30 pm Teacher Retreat

 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**SU 19** 9:00 amWorship

 10:15 am Men’s Fellowship

**M 20 MLK, Jr. Day** – Church office closed

**T 21** 4:00 pm Sunset Extension

**W 22** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 24** 9:30 am Mommy & Me Playgroup

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**SU 26** 8:45 am Gather & Sing Choir

 9:00 am Worship

**W 29** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 31** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

Pastor's Message – December 2024

Every year, about this time, we each find ourselves in the same difficult situation, asking ourselves the same perplexing question - "What should I get (*fill in name of your choice*) for Christmas this year?" We want it to be something nice, but not more expensive that we can afford. We want it to be within our budget, but we don't want to appear cheap. We want it to be useful, but not in a way that might embarrass the person - like a year-long membership to a weight-loss clinic. We would like it to appear that we actually put some thought into the selection.

On top of that, as Christians, we also struggle with the whole issue of the raging consumerism that surrounds the Christmas season. Isn't Christmas supposed to be about Jesus? Do we honor the birth of Jesus by giving someone a five-pound Hershey chocolate bar, or a lamp in the ever-popular Bullwinkle the Moose design? There must be some way to give that still honors Christ.

Some might decide to go the route of making a donation to a favorite charity in the name of the gift recipient. That certainly seems to be more in keeping with Christian generosity and gift-giving. My wife and I have donated chickens and ducks and sheep and goats to Heifer International in the name of our kids. They were appreciative, but there still seemed to be something missing.

I once received an email from a young woman who was struggling with this very issue. She was very concerned about how her gift-giving might negatively reflect on her faith, and her desire to keep Jesus in Christmas. She had found a first edition, hard-covered copy of her husband's favorite novel. It was expensive, but she knew how much he would love it. Just thinking about the joy that it would give him gave her great joy.

I responded to her by saying, "*Doing things for others is what Christianity is all about. Now, if you give gifts only so that you will receive joy, then that is a problem. However, if your joy comes from bringing joy to others, then that is a blessing!*"

Jesus Christ gave of himself freely. He didn't require anything in return, but all who were touched by his love and compassion were filled with a joy which only he could give. I believe that this is the kind of giving that honors Jesus. Give freely, with no thought or desire of a gift in return. Give out of love, respect, or appreciation, but never out of obligation. Let your joy come from the joy experienced by the one you have gifted. That will honor Jesus as we celebrate his birth.

*(And just for clarification, I don't think a 5-pound Hershey candy bar is a silly gift - especially if it is dark chocolate!)*

Blessings, Pastor Mark

Update on Pastor Elisabeth

Many of you know that Pastor Elisabeth was interested in making an offer on a home in Jasper. After searching for the neighborhood she wanted and the price she could afford, and not finding anything, she has asked if the offer still stands for her to live in the parsonage. The Search Team and Council assured her that we would be delighted for her to live there. Currently a plan is being shaped for some cleaning and painting, and some updates to the downstairs bath and kitchen. Pastor Elisabeth wants us to know that she is very grateful for making her feel welcome.

Here is her address if you would like to send her a greeting.

**Rev. Elisabeth Baer**

**580 Ford Rd N.**

**Mt. Vernon, IN 47620**



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**Corrine Clark** *Legacy Living, 1850 IN-56, Rm. #202 (812-482-3482)*

 *Jasper, IN 47546*

**Sherry Malone** *660 Rumbach Ave. Apt. #322 (812-582-2721)*

 *Jasper, IN 47546*

**Claire Rohleder** *Legacy Living, 1850 IN-56, Rm. #137* *(812-482-3185)*

 *Jasper, IN 47546*

**Janice Sunderman** *Legacy Living,**1850 W State Rd 56, Rm. #134* *(812-559-0560)*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Shirlene Dreher** *376 St. Charles Street (812-634-1699)*

 *Jasper, IN 47546*



 **Pray without ceasing…**

* *Pray for ALL in need of healing; may God grant them strength and patience.*
* *Pray for those impacted by the devastations from wind, fire & water.*
* *Pray for those families and communities where the young and elderly have been killed by senseless violence in various places in our country, including children in schools, those getting groceries, and those attending worship.*
* *Pray for our military, first responders and those in law enforcement.*
* *Those confined to their homes and/or receiving ongoing medical treatment.*
* *Families grieving the loss of loved ones, family members and friends.*
* *Those who struggle financially and emotionally because they do not have enough of basic human needs, especially those in this community.*
* *Those who are awaiting answers that can change their lives.*

**If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, please let Taylor know in the church office via email or phone call.**

**![C:\Users\Jane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\K2KY9B0Q\kids-saving-money-on-coin-jars[1].jpg]()** **Mission Alive at Trinity**

**Adopt-A-Family:** We continue to help our Adopt-A-Family each month. Keep up the “change jar” giving and the prayers. Both make a difference!! The family appreciates everything we’ve done to help. Peace and Blessings! Collected **year-to-date: $3,601.25**

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY ACCOUNT**

 Carry-over from 2023 $849.00

 Donations year-to-date\* $1,121.25

 Monthly gifts ($1,417.01)

 Balance as of 12-15-24 $553.24

 \*Donations year-to-date is the total of your

 gifts given into the jar in the Narthex. A larger

 total is often reported in the bulletins which

 includes gifts from an anonymous donor.

 During the year the monthly gifts have been

food cards and help with utilities. The family

is astonished at our generosity.

 Also, thank you to an anonymous donor

 who has supplied funds to pay for many

 months rent and car insurance for this

 family.

**Food Bank**



**January item: Toilet Paper**

**2024 Trinity Women’s Fellowship**

*Thanks to everyone that helped with this year’s Cookie Walk. We had another successful year!*

**January 12, 2025** - A representative from Dove Recovery House will be giving us an update on their program. Please consider donating some of the following items for their use: dish soap, sponges, Magic Erasers, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, Clorox wipes, large and small trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, and razors. Please join us after worship at 10:15am to learn more about their important work.

**February 9, 2025** - Join us after the worship service for coffee, donuts, muffins and other breakfast treats.

**March 7, 2025** - World Day of Prayer at Precious Blood Catholic Church

**March 9, 2025** - To be announced. Watch for more information in the newsletter and bulletin.

The following members are assigned as the “contact” person for the month to reach out to shut-in’s through a visit, card and/or phone call. Please consider also serving in this important ministry.

 January - Visits and Contacts on your own

 February - Heather Goodhue

 March - Mary Ann Schroeder

 April - Judy Hubster

 May - Sylvia Adams

 June - Heather Goodhue

 July - Susan McGovren

 August - Volunteer Needed

 September - Jan Kalb

*(Officers: Heather Goodhue, Judy Hubster, Susan McGovren, Jan Kalb, & Sylvia Adams)*

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 **December Council Highlights**

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| --- |
| **December Council Decisions:** |
| **- Approval was given for:** |
| **-** Motion to amend Call Agreement to include Parsonage as part of the financial package. Motion by David H. and 2nd by John S. Unanimous Approval.- Motion to allocate $250 donation to Trinity from JETT to Outreach’s needs. Motion by Greg S. 2nd by Meghan P. Unanimous Approval. |

**The next Council Meeting will be held on January 13th at 7:00pm.**

**REPORT FROM THE FINANCE SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

A look at our contributions for recent months

August - $7558

September - $17,618

October - $13,600

November - $16,589

Thank you for your thoughtful tithes and offerings.

As of December 15

Giving to date 2024 - $159,471 (Budget is $185,010)

 **Worship Attendance**

** December 1st – 53**

 **December 8th – 64**

 **December 15th – 55**



**Annual Reports are due no later than Monday, January 6th, 2025!**

**You can send them earlier!**

**Reports are needed from the following:**

Council Co-President & Council Decisions *(Pamela Catt)*

Council Co-President & Council Decisions *(Greg Schnarr)*

Secretary *(David Hubster)* Parish Life *(Doreen Lechner)*

Treasurer *(Meghan Premuda)*

Financial Secretary *(John Schnarr)* Music Ministry *(Sarah Sergesketter)*

Christian Education Team *(Meghan Premuda)* Memorial Team *(John Schnarr)*

God’s Home Improvement *(Kurt Vonderheide)* Property Team (*David Peters)*

Women’s Guild *(Heather Goodhue & Judy Hubster)* Worship Team *(Mark Blackgrave)*

Stewardship Team *(John Schnarr)*

*Reports should highlight your ministry in 2024 and give a sneak preview*

*of the ministry joys and challenges coming our way in 2025.*



**Financial Reports**: Submit them as soon as you have reconciled with the bank.

Financial Secretary & Memorial Financial Report *(John Schnarr)*

 Treasurer *(Susan McGovren)* Women’s Guild *(Sylvia Adams)*

**Thanks for your cooperation in preparing & submitting your reports in a timely manner.**

**2024 Year-end Contributions – thank you for your gifts!**

* **We need ALL monies into the church office by Thursday, December 26th.**
* **ALL 2024 bills** need to be in the **church office** no later than **Thursday, December 26th.**

Any monies or bills received after this deadline will go into the 2025 report.

**The Annual Report will be reviewed & approved at the Annual Meeting on February 23rd, 2025. The meeting will begin after the 9:00 AM service.**



**January 2025 - Worship Participants**

**January 5th –**

**Bible Reader:** Karsen Roth

**Organist:** Sarah Sergesketter

**Time with Young Disciples:** PastorMark McDaniel

**Media Producer:** Kurt Vonderheide

**Media:** Kurt Vonderheide

**Usher & Lock-up:** The Roth Family

**Communion Prep:** John & Janis Schnarr

**January 12th –**

**Bible Reader:** Doreen Lechner

**Organist:** Sarah Sergesketter **Special Music:** Gather & Sing Choir

**Time with Young Disciples:** Heather Goodhue

**Media Producer:** Nichole Lechner

**Media:** John Kahle

**Usher & Lock-up:** Rod & Jan Kalb

**January 19th –**

**Bible Reader:** Shelley Patterson

**Organist:** Sarah Sergesketter

**Time with Young Disciples:** Pastor Mark McDaniel

**Media Producer:** Mark Blackgrave

**Media:** Nichole Lechner

**Usher & Lock-up:** John & Janis Schnarr

**January 26th –**

**Bible Reader:** Heather Goodhue

**Organist:** Sarah Sergesketter **Special Music:** Gather & Sing Choir

**Time with Young Disciples:** Heather Goodhue

**Media Producer:** Doreen Lechner

**Media:** Mark Blackgrave

**Ushers & Lock-up:** Judy Hubster

Thank you to Melissa Blackgrave and James Goodhue for the special music in December.  Thank you to all the choir members for giving their time to sing for the services this year.

        ~Sarah Sergesketter

**January Birthdays**

**Name Date**



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sandra | Ferrell | 2 |
| Melissa | Hafele | 4 |
| Jema  | Hafele | 4 |
| Rachael | Lindauer | 4 |
| Connie | Schmitt | 5 |
| John | Bottorff | 7 |
| Philip | Hafele | 10 |
| Jeff | Adams | 13 |
| Lisa | Schmidt | 15 |
| Curt | Brinkman | 16 |
| Kaine | Bressette | 27 |
| Ronan | Bressette | 27 |
| Kevin | Blackgrave | 28 |
| Carol | Ellis | 28 |
| Hazel | Premuda | 28 |



**January Anniversaries**

**Names Date Years**

**Sonia & Rich Klem 1/9/1982 43**

**If your name is not listed on this page and you would like it to be, please let Taylor know in the church office so she can get you added!**