

Celebrate God's love

Nurture relationships with God and one another

Serve our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

Trinity Church is a congregation of The United Methodist Church and is a Reconciling Congregation.

A Note from the Minister...

Learning from the Past, and Looking to the Future

It is the season! Thanksgiving is upon us, and Christmas will soon follow. It will not be long before we start writing 2026! But let's not be in too much of a hurry. There is a Season of Advent that is sandwiched in between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Advent is an opportunity for us to slow down, and to take account of everything that is happening around us.

I want to invite you to reflect on the good things God has been doing in your life and through the ministry of our church. Together we are being built into a beautiful mission station that is reaching out to folks at home and around the world. God has opened some wonderful doors and the Trinity family has been faithful to step into one adventure after another. May God bless you all!

The holiday season also provides us with many different opportunities to serve and to give. I want to encourage your gifts of generosity as you look at so many different ministries in the church that catch your eye and touch your heart. I especially want to invite you to pray about your year end giving to your beloved church. It is a really powerful way to support the growing ministry of the Trinity community and beyond.

Your gifts support our broad outreach ministry that includes The Parkside Pantry, Revitalize Springfield, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and the Crop Walk just to name a few. Your investment also pays dividends with our children, youth, music groups, adult study opportunities, and weekly worship services and so much more. We say thank you!

The year 2025 continues to be a remarkable year. Let's close the year with an outpouring of service and support for the growing ministries of the Trinity United Methodist Church. It will be a blessing to many!

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. David Calhoun



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Trinity's office & building will be closed Thursday, December 25, 2025 in observance of Christmas Day!



Trinity's office will be closed Thursday, January 1, in observance of the New Year!

VISIT US ONLINE AT:
www.trinityspringfield.org



Please Pray for:

James A, Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Natalie B, Mary C, Dominick E, David F, Mark F, Sophia G, Courtney H, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Herb M, Holly Joy P, Les P, Catherine Ann R, Jen R, Carl S, Lynn T, Rev. T, Allie W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

We offer our Christian sympathy to Sue S and family, upon the passing of her husband, Rev. Dr. Henry (Bing) S. Services will take place at a later date. Please keep the entire family in your prayers during this very difficult time.



December Rose Window

Dec. 4 - In loving memory of Pauline, from Judy & Paula.

Dec. 10 - In loving memory of David C, Jr., from his mom, Barbara.

Dec. 14 - Anonymous

Dec. 27 - In loving memory of Ted & Jane C, from Ted & Judy.

Dec. 31 - In honor of her granddaughter, Madison F, on her birthday, with love from Deb M (aka Gigi).



Thank You Notes

Trinity, you have done it again! On November 23, the Parkside Pantry held a special distribution of all the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal for our neighbors in need. Our goal was to give away 60 boxes that were decorated by our Sunday school youngsters, filled by our middle & high school youth, and carried out to peoples' cars by our stalwart team of volunteers. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to meet that ambitious goal and more. The sixty Thanksgiving boxes were given away quickly, and then we were also able to give away additional bags of food from the Pantry along with grocery store gift cards to purchase turkeys at Food Zone and Big Y. Within the space of an hour, more than 100 families were served, a total of 410 individuals of all ages!

Thank you to everyone who donated food, money, and time to make it all happen. The need has been greater than ever this year, and Trinity Church certainly rose to the occasion.

Ginny Blake, Ginger Elliott, Diane Mackie, Nancy Moriarty

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Regular Birthdays Wedding Anniversaries (*Italics*) S - Staff

12/2 Casey W
12/3 Michael J
12/5 Damond K
12/6 Owen C, Nancy H, Alex M
12/7 Chase C
12/8 Julia B, Sarah C, Elizabeth H
12/11 Sandy G, Kathleen H, Diane M
12/12 Raizel B, Virginia Y
12/13 Hannah D, Robert H-R, *Lindsey & Mark C*
12/14 LeeAnn E, *Bruce & Sue Ann F*
12/15 Catherine T, Andrew V
12/16 Holly B, Kelly H, Maliyaah R, Carolyn S
12/17 Jean Marie C, Mary Beth O, *Ray & Donna M*
12/18 Richard B, Roman P
12/19 Killian M, Gborie S, Sarah S
12/20 Doug J
12/22 Abigail F, Johanna Lee S
12/23 Christopher H
12/24 Cathy M, Holly Joy P
12/25 Anthony O'C, Holly R
12/26 James D
12/27 Patricia B
12/28 Evan S
12/29 Susan M-M
12/30 Emma R
12/31 Athena A, Julia (S) B, Madison R



Milestone Birthdays

12/25 John P
12/29 Richard C
12/30 Jess H., Jr. turns



Milestone Anniversaries

12/27 Berney & Shonali B

ANNUAL Stewardship CAMPAIGN

Stewardship Campaign – Personal Stewardship Testimonials from Our “Living Saints”

Caroline Mazzarella shared a heartfelt stewardship testimonial about how Trinity shaped her early life as a youth growing up in the church. Through Trinity’s youth ministry and fellowship, she found opportunities to deepen her faith and to serve with energy and love. Caroline reminded us that being a steward is not always about being front and center. Sometimes stewardship happens quietly, behind the scenes, offered not for recognition, but out of deep love, gratitude, and commitment to the community. Trinity has helped shape who she is—and who she continues to become—and has inspired her to pledge and give back year after year. We also had the privilege of hearing meaningful stewardship messages from Vera Baker and Tom Sheldon. May these testimonials inspire you to support Trinity’s programs, ministries, and missions by submitting a pledge.

As of November 19th, we have received 73 pledges totaling \$259,000. Our goal for a balanced budget is \$455,000. Each of us plays a vital role in the life of our church. As “Living Saints” and stewards of our Methodist tradition, all members are invited to recognize their role in supporting the church’s mission and ministry. **As we approach the end of the Stewardship Campaign, we encourage and welcome you to submit your pledge**—by using the QR

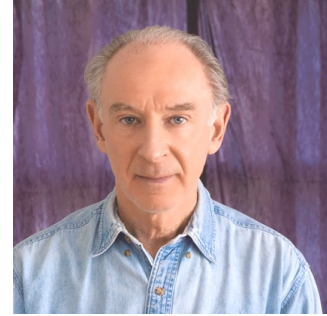


code provided, by pledging through the giving page on the church website, or by completing and returning a pledge card. Together, as Living Saints, we can ensure that Trinity remains a strong and welcoming spiritual home for all.

Stewardship Celebration Sunday Luncheon



To show our appreciation, Trinity invites you to join our Celebration Sunday Luncheon which is the culmination of the Stewardship Drive following worship service on December 14, 2025 in Asbury Hall. Thank you all!



November Gallery Exhibit

Paul Hetzel seriously took up photography in 1994 while on a trek to Mount Everest. The landscapes were inspiring and worthy of preserving. Upon return to Springfield, he constructed a darkroom in the basement and watched as the magic unfolded before his eyes. His early mentors, Jack Holowitz, Steve Sherman and Stan Sherer taught him the basics of light, composition and form. In 1995 he switched to the digital medium which gave him finer control of the final image. Paul is a member of the Pioneer Valley Photo Artists and the Suffield Photographic Group. His images have won awards locally and internationally.

This exhibit, entitled Reflection, contains some of his favorite images, both in color and black and white, over those 30 years.

EASTER EGG HUNT



WANT TO HELP?



Rob is looking for a crew of people who are willing to help (planning and staffing) with the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4, 2026. If you're interested, please email him!



United Women in Faith (UWiF) Christmas Communion Service at West Springfield UMC

All women are invited to 800 Amostown Road, West Springfield, MA 01089 on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. for dessert, followed by a service at 7:00 p.m. of hymns, stories, scriptures, Holy Communion and candlelight. If you have questions please call Barbara at West Springfield UMC: 413-788-0304.

Quote

"December being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think what is to come, ~ Fennel Hudson



Poinsettia Order Forms

**It's Time to Order Your
"Living Memorial"
Christmas Poinsettias!**

The deadline for ordering poinsettias is noon on Wednesday, December 17! The donation for a plant is \$20 this year. Please help beautify our altar this Christmas with Christmas Poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones. **The Poinsettias are in limited supply, so we ask that you only purchase one plant. You may still add additional names on your form.** Forms will be in the back of the sanctuary where you can take one with your bulletin. We have 45 plants.

All plants can be picked up following the Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. service so they can be enjoyed at all the services. If you can't be at that service you can pick them up on Friday, December 26 at Trinity.



Advent & Christmas Eve Offerings

Information about Advent and Christmas Eve at Trinity can be found at:

<https://www.trinityspringfield.org/worship/advent-and-christmas-eve/>



Christmas Eve Services 2025

5:30 p.m. Children & Family Service - Grace Chapel

8:00 p.m. Traditional Candle Lighting Service - Sanctuary

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary

Please join us for these special events. All services will be very unique, so consider attending multiple services to worship in different ways.



Caroling to Shut-Ins

Trinity's adult choir and Chamber choir will carol at the homes of shut-ins on Dec. 21 from 1 - 3 p.m. We will meet in the choir room at 12:45 p.m. on the 21st and car pool to each location. Anyone from the congregation who would like to join us is welcome to come to the choir room on the 21st. This is a great way to take a break from the holiday rush and participate in an act of kindness. For more information, email Dr. Bruce Glenn, Director of Music Ministries, at: music@trinityspringfield.org.

Theme Reflection: Anticipation - Rejoice in Becoming!

We all remember the sweet childhood anticipation of Christmas morning. As kids, we thought it was just the presents, but as adults we know that the magic of Christmas morning centered on the way it brought everyone together into a state of joy.

The lead up to that special day is almost as important - the baking of holiday cookies, the putting up of decorations, the planning and purchasing of gifts. If you've ever worked retail, you know that people are a bit nicer in the weeks before Christmas; everyone seems to rejoice in what is about to happen.

We know that Christmas is just the beginning. The miracle of Christmas is fulfilled on the Cross. That event brings us all together into a state of Divine Grace, and with that Grace, we can then transform this world into something wonderful.

As a church this winter, the Worship Committee asks you to look forward to all that we can become, all the people that we can help, all the joy that we can spread. Let's rejoice in our becoming. Like those children who want to stay awake all night, let's be giddy with the anticipation of how God will work through us to impact the world.

BHf YOUTH SKATING



January 9, 2026

Skate the night away to celebrate the first performance of the Boar's Head Festival! The party starts at 10:00pm and ends at midnight!

10\$

InterSkate 91 South

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES WINTER HIATUS

Chapel Kids, Youth
Fellowship, and LIGHT@9 will
go on break following Sunday,
Dec 21. Programs will resume
on February 1, 2026. Chapel
Kids will resume on February
8, 2026.

QUIET ANTICIPATION



AN ADVENT SILENT RETREAT

GRACE CHAPEL AND SANCTUARY

12.19.2025

4-6 PM

TRUE

God loves all people. We are children of God. We're made in God's image. We learn from God. Jesus has forgiven our sins. The Bible. God. Love. Grace. Gravity.

READING WITH YOUTH

The Trinity Youth helped bring Paul's encouragement in Philippians 4:8 into focus by sitting with the words and thinking about what they mean. Here's what they came up with!

COMMENDABLE

God. Sports and activities. The world. School. Food. This Church. Loved ones. Being housed. Our animals. Nature.

HONORABLE

Doing the right thing. Not expecting a reward. Telling the truth. Being kind. Supporting marginalized people. Admitting your mistakes. Giving thanks. Respecting people. Not overstepping boundaries. Fighting for an important cause.

FINALLY, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHATEVER IS **TRUE**, WHATEVER IS **HONORABLE**, WHATEVER IS **JUST**, WHATEVER IS **PURE**, WHATEVER IS **PLEASING**, WHATEVER IS **COMMENDABLE**, IF THERE IS ANY EXCELLENCE AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING WORTHY OF PRAISE, THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

PLEASING

Good scenery. Writing with the pens Rob has in the youth room. Good food. Music. Movies. The color mint green. Sunsets. Nature. The sound of the ocean. Sharks.

JUST

Doing the right thing. Helping others. Being honest, living truthfully. Being present in a moment. Listening to every detail. Spreading joy. Making good choices. Giving good, honest advice. Thinking about others. Being unbiased.

PURE

Joy in children. Untainted with evil. Pure breed dogs. God's love for you. Parents love for us. Love for our pets. Truthfulness. Lifestyle. Helping others. Freedom.





Boar's Head Festival Cookie Receptions

We need your help with the Receptions following the Boar's Head performances. Please email/text/call Debra Rogers with your availability or use the QR code above to sign up. We also need cookies - lots of them! Drop off for cookie donations will start on Thursday, January 8.

Boar's Head Festival (BHF) Staging

It's that time of year again we need all hands-on deck. It doesn't matter if you are male, female, tall, small, or how strong you are. We need all the help we can get to put up the staging and get ready for the Boar's Head Festival. There will be a job for anyone and everyone. The staging will begin at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 27, in the sanctuary**. Please get the word out to friends, family, and all Trinity Members. Many hands make light work. See you all there.



Angel Tree

Angel Tree gifts are due back in Asbury Hall this **Sunday, December 7. They will be going out for delivery.**

A Program of Prison Fellowship

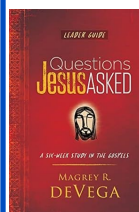


Boar's Head Festival Tickets on Sale to Everyone

There are still excellent seats available for the evening performances - especially Friday and Sunday night. There are also tickets available for afternoon performances. If you need help purchasing tickets, call the helpline at 413-486-0381.

While the Patron Ticket Sale period is over, we still are accepting Patron Contributions for those who would like to support the festival monetarily. To be listed in the program as a Patron, please send your contribution into the church by December 10. No form needed. Just indicate BHF on check memo and include how you wish to be listed in the program.

Questions Jesus Asked Book with Rev. Dr. Calhoun



We are studying the book "Questions Jesus Asked" by Magrey R. DeVaga. All classes are held in the Gallery & Café. We continue Monday, December 8, & 15 at 12-1:30 p.m. We have the books for purchase in the office. Please email Doreen in the church office to sign up and to coordinate purchasing the book at doreen@trinityspringfield.org.



The Maker's Market

The Maker's Market is a mini craft fair designed to showcase the work of some of Trinity's artisans and crafts people. It is also a chance for Trinity members to shop local and avoid some of the commercialism that surrounds Christmas. This year's market will be held on **Sunday, December 7, from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Trinity Community Gallery**. We hope folks will take time after worship to browse and talk with the artisans. This is an ideal opportunity to get to know others in our congregation.

Shoppers will be able to choose from an array of knitted, crocheted, hand woven, quilted, and sewn items. There will also be handmade cards, pictures, and other items produced by the three artists who will be participating. In addition, there will be homemade baked goods and homemade soaps. The intergenerational group of artisans includes two youth, two of our newest members who joined Trinity last Sunday, along with longtime members of the church.

Supporting the Maker's Market also supports Trinity since the artisans will all be donating 10% of their sales to the church.



Trinity's Mitten Tree 2025

Share your warmth this holiday season!

Last year, our Parkside Pantry guests were deeply grateful for the cozy gifts from our Mitten Tree. Let's keep the tradition alive by donating **knitted, purchased, or gently used mittens, hats, and scarves** to help our neighbors stay warm this winter.

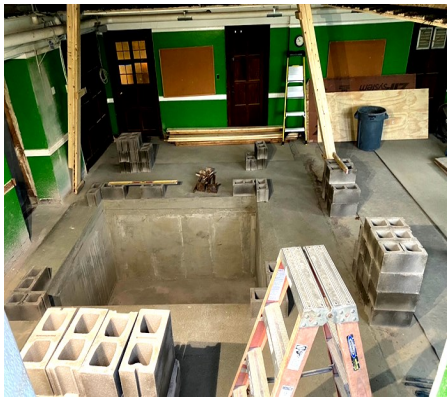
Donations accepted **all December**
Parkside Pantry

Every item makes a difference — thank you for helping us wrap our community in love and warmth this holiday season! ❤️



Trustees' Update: Accessibility Project

Since our last update: The mason is starting construction of the elevator shaft on the completed pit. Concrete has been poured for the footings at the parking lot entry. New vestibule with carpentry for the roof. The concrete foundations for the chapel lift and frame are done. More details are at www.trinityspringfield.org under events.



Please Welcome Our New Members Who Were Received on Sunday, November 23

Steven Engel, whom we receive into this household of faith by profession of Christian faith. Steve grew up and lived in Springfield, Massachusetts, until moving to West Springfield with his partner, Liz, where they are raising their daughter, LeeAnn, and his two older children, Alexis and Brendan. Steve works as a Bindery Machine Operator. When he isn't working, he enjoys bowling, camping, and spending time with family.

Elizabeth P, whom we receive into this household of faith by vows. Liz grew up in East Longmeadow before moving to West Springfield with her partner, Steve, to raise their daughter, LeeAnn. Liz works as the Supply and Demand Coordinator, and she is a Den Leader for LeeAnn's Cub Scout pack. In her free time, she enjoys knitting, crocheting, camping, and spending time with her family.

Lauren L, whom we receive into this household of faith by profession of Christian faith. She was baptized and confirmed Catholic. She was born and raised in Palmer, MA. Lauren has lived in Atlanta, Boston, Denver, and Philadelphia, and now is settled into her forever home in Cozy Corner. When she is not accommodating the needs of her seven-year-old male rescue cat, who insists on being the only child and loyal companion, she spends time with her family and friends. Before her recent spine surgery, she was an avid downhill skier and golfer, and is looking forward to getting back on the slopes and course. She also loves photography, DIY home-improvement projects, live music, professional sports, especially football.

Lyn N, whom we receive into this household of faith by profession of Christian faith. Lyn lives in Forest Park, where she has lived for most of her adult life. She is a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother. She and her husband rescue special needs pets and they have three dogs and three cats. She loves plants - She has over 100 plants in her home! She is retired from social services and volunteers as a docent at the Springfield Museums. Lyn teaches ESL and volunteers at a Zoo. Lyn loves to garden and spending time outside is her favorite thing to do.

Ses N, whom we receive into this household of faith by profession of Christian faith.

Erin R, whom we receive into this household of faith as an Associate member. Erin was born in Nairobi, Kenya, lived in Israel as a young child, and grew up in Chicago, IL and Lafayette, IN. Erin moved to Springfield, Massachusetts in 2023 with her husband Estuardo and daughter Emeline. Erin is a former Early Childhood Educator. At this time, she stays home with Eme and their dog Midnight. Erin enjoys gardening, spending time with friends, and exploring Massachusetts.

Estuardo R, whom we receive into this household of faith by profession of Christian faith. Estuardo grew up in Pasadena California, but has lived in Wisconsin, Indiana, San Francisco and Munich, Germany. Estuardo moved to Springfield, Massachusetts in 2023 with his wife Erin and daughter Eme. Estuardo is an insurance specialist. When he isn't working he enjoys playing silly games with his daughter Eme and their dog Midnight.

Christine R, whom we receive into this household of faith by profession of Christian faith. Christine is an artist. She enjoys reading, dancing (Zumba, etc.), exercise, skiing, spending time with a group of women entrepreneurial friends in CT and friends and family locally in nature. She grew up in Holyoke, then moved to Longmeadow in 2015. She is a retired dental hygienist, clothing designer and manufacturer of military uniforms.



The Carillon

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STAMP



Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church, welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.