



TRINITY TIMES



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December 2025



Advent 2025 - Come Home for Christmas

Advent is an invitation. Unfortunately, for many, it is the invitation to get into that Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration on December 25th. The hectic day of opening gifts, sharing a feast, imbibing in some spirits, and spending time with your family.

But there is a deeper and more profound invitation being offered in the season of Advent. The invitation is to remember that we are heading for home. Or if we're not, if we've forgotten that there is a home toward which to head, it is the invitation to discover the home we call the kin-dom of God. It is where our faith-family resides, where peace resides, where justice abides, and hope will rise. Advent reminds us that we shouldn't be complacent about the way things are – not that we want to be-

come angrily attuned to every perceived failing in those around us or the world at large; but that we want to be a people who look forward to something greater, something more that is just on the horizon. Advent is the call to come home and be welcomed.

This year our Advent Worship Theme is called "Come Home for Christmas". Yes, I know it's not called "Come Home for Advent", but what I pray and hope, during these four weeks of Advent, as we worship and "Draw Near" together for daily Advent devotions, is that this will be a time to slow down and pay attention — not just to Christmas on the horizon, but to Christ's presence with us here and now. It's a season to receive God's invitation from our Sacred Text to "Come Home" to the hope, peace, joy, and love of the One long promised and found in the manger of Bethlehem.

And what this season of waiting and wondering teaches us is that Advent preparation is not all about Christmas, "the holiday"! We aren't about December 25th with all the jingle bells, Christmas presents, and tinsel. We are about the real Christmas, the celebration of the Incarnate One, who is born to remind us that we are not alone, that God is with us. This is a time to be reminded that we are about the longing for the coming kin-dom, where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and love will be the tie that binds us together. That's the home for which we long. That's the invitation this Advent season to your church and the world: to "Come home for Christmas." So, I pray you will draw near to the advent path of hope, peace, joy & love in our journey of coming home!

Rev. Ronnie Osborn

Christmas Joy Offering—December 21

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the annual, special offerings of our denomination. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns.

50% of the Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and 50% develops our future leaders to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Offering envelopes will be available on December 21. Please mark "Joy Gift" on your check. Gifts may also be made online by going to the church website and selecting the "Give" menu option, then choosing "Give Now". Please be sure and note that your donation is for OGHS.



The church offices will be closed
on
December 25 and December 26.

Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path
with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
Pick up a copy of this year's Advent devotional
from the front table in the lobby.

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November/December Worship Schedule

*** Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Kathie Jackson
First Sunday of Advent

*** Sunday, December 7, 2025 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
Second Sunday of Advent

*** Sunday, December 14, 2025 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata

*** Sunday, December 21, 2025 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*** Wednesday, December 24, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
Christmas Eve Service/Communion

*** Sunday, December 28, 2025 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Bill Young
First Sunday of Christmas

♦ In person services, are also live-streamed on Facebook

TO VIEW PAST WORSHIP
SERVICE VIDEOS

go to:

<https://www.trinity-presbyterian.org/archives>



Trinity's vocal choir will present their
2025 Christmas Cantata,
"Let Earth Receive Her King"
on Sunday, December 14

during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.
The Cantata will feature many of your favorite
Christmas hymns interwoven in several
musical medleys.



**Come Join in Singing Cherished
Christmas Carols**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"Joy to the World"

"Silent Night, Holy Night" and others....

Wednesday Evening, December 17

6:30—7:00 p.m. - Carolers meet in the Fellowship Hall for
wassail, cocoa, and Christmas cookies

7:00—9:00p.m. — Carolers carpool to our members
who have difficulty coming to church

**All are ages are welcome to participate and help
share the joy of the Christmas season!**

**Bring a friend and "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord,
All the Earth". (Psalm 100)**

Special Advent Activity



Saturday, December 6
10:00 a.m. to noon

Please join us as we decorate small
Christmas trees and make cards for
some of our very special Trinity mem-
bers.

Let's share joy, creativity, and the
spirit of the season with each other.



Trinity News



Thank you to all who attended the mission presentation about the Opportunity Campus, provided scrumptious soups and accompaniments and helped with the event's production.

The free-will offering gathered \$850 for the Voluntary Action Center! The Opportunity Campus will be a blessing for our unhoused neighbors and for those needing a helping hand.

Trinity PNC Update

Your Pastor Nominating Committee ("PNC") has completed the Ministry Discernment Profile ("MDP"), a big first step in the process of calling a pastor for Trinity. The information requested on the MDP required much thought and discussion in drafting responses that are accurate and reflect the broad range of Trinity's ministries. Trinity's Mission Study Report completed earlier this year was very helpful. Session has approved the MDP and the next step is approval by Missouri Union Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. We anticipate that will occur fairly soon.

The MDP will then be submitted to and posted on the Church Leadership Connection ("CLC"), a denominational service that helps match potential pastor candidates to the congregation seeking a called pastor. This allows interested pastors to inquire and potentially submit their information to Trinity's PNC. The PNC will undertake a training session with Missouri Union Presbytery's Executive Presbyter to prepare committee members for receiving and reviewing information submitted by pastors interested in the Trinity Pastor position.

Please keep the PNC in your prayers as its members do this important work!



Holiday Breakfast Sunday, December 28 9:15 a.m.

Join us in greeting family members (near and far), guests, visitors, and your Trinity family at the Annual Holiday Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring your favorite breakfast casserole, holiday bread or fruit as we celebrate the year end and welcome the coming year of 2026!

Christmas Eve Offering

On this Christmas Eve, we will pass the offering plates to remember Jesus, Mary and Joseph as refugees. They fled Judea into Egypt to escape King Herod's persecution. In remembrance, our gifts will go to Columbia's **City of Refuge** where refugees come to seek a safe place for help, support and a means to survive.

Fiber Fellowship - **Saturday, November 15th** Cancelled for the month of December. (Normally the 4th Saturday of each month) 10 a.m.—noon in the Youth Room

Geocaching - Delbert Botes and Chris Sheriff are contacts.

Dining Out - Cathy and Larry Holder are contacts. Watch for a January outing.



Men's Breakfast - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (**December 10th**) at 8 a.m. at JJ's Café, 1712 N. North Providence Road. All men are invited!

Build connections by joining one of these small groups.



Senior Singles - Arranges activities 6-8 times a year. Contact the church office to be put on the email list.

Mahjong Group - Meets most Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Karen Kennedy is the contact.

Women's Coffee Group - Meets the second Friday of each month (**December 12**) at 9:30 a.m. at Love Coffee on the Business Loop to socialize. All women are invited!

Trinity News

November Session Meeting Highlights

The November stated meeting of Session was held on Tuesday evening, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Rm. 12.

- ♦ Susan Winkelmann was elected to serve as Clerk of Session for 2026.
- ♦ 2026 Session committee chairs and vice-chairs were approved:
Administration and Personnel: Susan Winkelmann (others by position: chairs of CE, Property, Stewardship and Finance Worship)
Christian Education: Cathy Stubbs, Bill Kennedy
Congregational Care: Marge Veum, Ted Groshong
Fellowship: Debbie Newkirk, Cathy Nelson
Property: Elinor Arendt, Larry Holder
Session Retreat Planning: Susan Winkelmann, Debbie Newkirk
Stewardship and Finance: Karen Neely, Brian Griffith
Technology: Michael Fues, Bill Kennedy
Worship: Ted Groshong, Bill Daly
- ♦ Elder Ted Groshong will serve as the chair of the 2026 Nominating Committee; Elder Bill Daly will be the vice-chair.
- ♦ Session approved receiving a special offering on Christmas Eve with the recipient to be determined by the Mission and Outreach Committee.
- ♦ The shingled roof has been replaced at no cost to the church. A warranty claim was filed because the shingles installed in 2023 were not consistent in color. The Property Committee has approved a contract with Socket Fiber for internet service and new phone service. Repairs to the platform lift are covered by the warranty. It should be working again soon.
- ♦ Session approved several minor changes to the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.
- ♦ Session approved a new Gift Acceptance Policy and a Purchasing Policy and Procedures for Trinity.
- ♦ At the request of Stewardship and Finance, Session approved donating \$1,385 in February 15 Fund interest to the Voluntary Action Center for their food pantry.

Prayer List Updates

Bill Daly—continuing to get stronger at home

Baby Grace— efforts are now focused on helping Grace gain weight. Parents are Ryan and Elvera. Elvera is the sister of Ronnie and Margaret Osborn's daughter-in-law.

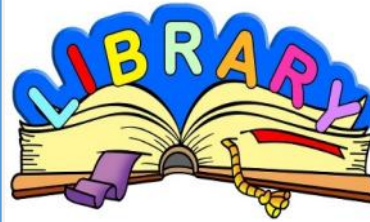
Donna Griffin - suffered a minor stroke and is now at Rusk Rehab for a few weeks

Margaret Guthrie—at home recovering from gall bladder surgery and a second abdominal surgery

Lou Boka—doing well, still has periodic cancer treatments

Paul Conditt—Sarah Humfeld's father, who has health issues.

Esther Muench Plonk - Jim Muench's mother, on hospice



Library Talk

with Marianne Fues,
Trinity Librarian

These are just a few of the titles available for the season!

Memory of a Large Christmas by Lillian Smith

Memories of preparing the 19th to 20th century house and kitchen for Christmas – spreading sheets under the trees to capture nuts that fall from shaking of the trees, hog-killing and the smokehouse. Recipes shared, once with forty-eight convicts at their table, coconut custard pie, Christmas ambrosia and turkey dressing were prepared in a big black iron stove.

Angels We Have Heard On High!: Stories for Christmas by Arthur F. Fogartie

Rev. Fogartie writes a story-sermon each year as a Christmas gift to his congregation. Cake from Fred and Edith – The Work and the ski trip – Dresserville – Christmas Eve with Ivan are all story-sermons.

Kneeling in Bethlehem by Ann Weems Ann Weems has written poetry about Advent, Pilgrimage, The Birth, The Stable, Angels, The Creche, Faith, The World Still Knows, Keeping Christmas, The Message of Christmas, and It Is Not Over.

Check out the **Adult Library** and the **Children's Library**! The three ring binders used for checking out books are available with each collection. Please feel free to ask for help and to recommend books for purchase!



Happy 99th Birthday to Ed Coe!

Yes, Ed is turning **99** on December 7th! That's a big deal!!! Let's help him celebrate by sending him a note or card!

His address is:

206 Heather Ln.
Columbia, MO 65203

Congratulations to **April Muench**, who is graduating from the University of Missouri in December with a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis with emphasis in Higher Education. April completed her master's degree while working full time at the university. She recently started a new position at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment.



Opportunities For Service - God's Work, Our Hands



Holiday Food Drive

Helping the Food Bank Provide

Nourishment for Our Neighbors

ENDS this Sunday,
November 30th

The most needed items are canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, rice, cereal, peanut butter, soup and pasta. (Please no glass containers and homemade items) Please be sure and check expiration dates on food items before donating. Expired items cannot be accepted.) **Donation containers are in the Church Narthex. Monetary donations** can also be given for the Food Bank to purchase fresh, perishable goods. Your checks can be made payable to Trinity with "Food Bank" listed in the memo line



Volunteers needed for child care during worship

Our congregation has been blessed by the addition of young children to our worship services. To enable parents / grandparents to participate in worship, we need 2 volunteers each Sunday to care for the children in the nursery downstairs. We've created a Sign-Up Genius to make scheduling easier. The link to sign up is included in the Friday email. Please join our team of care-givers so we can be sure to have volunteers when we need them. Chris Sheriff can answer any questions you might have.

Voluntary Action Center Family Holiday Program Still Needs Lots of Help

There are still families who need to be adopted for the Holidays. VAC provides a wish list for each family. If you would like to adopt a family or if a group of you would like to adopt a family, the link to sign-up is here: <https://www.vacmo.org/programs/holiday/sponsor-information/>

The gifts need to be delivered to the Broadway Christian Church on Monday December 8 or Tuesday December 9.



Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) Christmas Tree

Our Angel Tree* is renamed, but the Christmas gift is still the same. Bring or send a Christmas Card to Trinity with \$5 (or more) tucked inside. Your Christmas card will be displayed in the lobby and an ornament with your name will be placed on the PCHAS Christmas Tree.

Your donation will be given to the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Examples of services include transitional living for youth in foster care, counseling for children, single parent assistance and foster care management.

*Angel Tree can no longer be used due to trademark issues.



Submissions for Trinity Times

The deadline for the January Trinity Times is December 26, 2025.

Email: newsletter@trinity-presbyterian.org



We are looking forward to serving next on

Thursday, December 11

4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

Please use the link sent out in the Friday emails to sign up to donate food items or to serve. We are always grateful for monetary donations as well.

Donated food items need to be dropped off at Trinity by 2:30 and those helping to serve will need to be at the Ashley Street Center by 3:30 for prep work.

Please call Susan or Bob Winkelmann if you have questions.

The Wardrobe:

Columbia's all
volunteer,
non-profit thrift store



A monthly sign up form for volunteers is on the kiosk in the church narthex, or volunteers can call

Anne Seymour.

Trinity's day to work is
Wednesday, December 17
and volunteers are needed for the
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. shift.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 First Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	1 9:00am PEO Chapter "LM" 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)	2 7:00pm Evening Circle (FH)	3 11:00am Congregational Care Committee 1:00pm Afternoon Circle 6:00pm Yoga Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00pm Worship Committee (Zoom)	5 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	6 10:00am Advent Craft Event hosted by the Fellowship Comm.
7 Second Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time 2:00 pm Jane Austen Book Club (FH) 7:00pm Pastor Nominating Committee	8 12:00pm Garden Club Holiday Tea 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance Comm. (Zoom)	9 2:30pm PEO Chapter "JJ" 7:00pm Christian Educ. Comm. (if needed) 7:00pm Sacred Harp Singers	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast (JJ's Café) 6:00pm Yoga Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 3:30pm Loaves and Fishes- Ashley St. Ctr	12 9:30am Women's Coffee Club (Love Coffee) 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	13 1:15pm AAUW Book Group- Library
14 Third Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Christmas Cantata 11:30am Fellowship Time	15 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 7:00pm Session	17 11:00am The Wardrobe 4:30pm Love Coffee Board Meeting 6:00pm Yoga Group 6:30pm Christmas Caroling	18 3:00pm Property Committee – Rm. 12	19 5:30pm Women in Recovery	20
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	22	23 7:00pm Sacred Harp Singers	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Worship	25 Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 First Sunday of Christmas 9:15am Holiday Breakfast Potluck 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	29	30	31	1	2	3

