



TRINITY TIMES



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January 2026

When Christmas Is Over . . .

The weekend of December 20-21, my husband, Chris, and I traveled to Kansas City to celebrate an early Christmas with our children and grandchildren, since this was an “in-law” year and we would not be with any of them on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. After several hectic weeks of work at Trinity, I was looking forward to the weekend and finally having some time to spend with my family relaxing and experiencing the beauty and joy of the season. Saturday evening we all went out to eat, then enjoyed the Kansas City Symphony’s Holiday Festival performance at the Kauffman Center. Sunday morning, our granddaughters opened our gifts to them, and we shared our family’s traditional, Christmas morning breakfast. On Sunday afternoon, my KC daughter, two of my granddaughters and I ventured out to do some shopping. Our first stop was the nearby Home Goods store. When we walked in the front door, my senses were assaulted not by the expected Christmas décor, scents and gifts but rather by large, fully stocked displays for Valentine’s Day! Christmas had already been replaced with Valentine’s Day trinkets and cards, red boxes of candy, teddy bears with big hearts on them, red candles for romantic lighting, and lots of wooden signs and pillows bearing messages about “Love”. And it was still 4 days until December 25th! What happened to Christmas?

Presbyterian Pastor John Walton writes, “Nothing is as over as Christmas when it’s over. The empty boxes, the pretty paper on the floor, the stray tinsel from the tree with which the cat has played and left abandoned on the sofa, the empty cartons of eggnog stuffed into the trash bag. Life has come back to normal, whatever that is, and it means that the diversion of the past few weeks, the frenzy and fuss, the lights and glitter are packed away once again like the star at the top of the tree; taken down and carefully wrapped, padded and protected in its ample box. And what is left? Wars that still rage around the world, homeless people sleeping in door stoops, hungry people begging for food, worries about health, kids that concern us, jobs that wear us down. We’re back to where we left off before the holiday . . . Like the folks who were left in town after the Lone Ranger had been for a visit, we may ask out loud, “Who was that masked man?” Or better said, “Who was that babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger?”

Over the weeks of Advent we listened to the prophecies of Isaiah. When the Messiah comes, Isaiah said, the world will have light and love and peace and joy. The faithful will sing in delight, for Immanuel, God with us, will be born. And he was born. And the world was forever changed. But what do we do now when the marketers tell us Christmas is over and the candles reminding us of the hope, peace, joy, and love promised by the prophet are packed away until the next Advent?

A recent devotional I read suggests we do these three things: 1) we trust God; 2) we take care of those we love; and 3) we remember the world to whom Christ came and for which he died. The author writes: “Christmas is centered in love. We must strive to keep the loving spirit of Christmas all year long, because the Christmas spirit consists of loving God and loving our neighbor not just one day of the year, but all the year round.”

As I think about it now, perhaps I was a little harsh in my assessment of Home Goods marketing. Maybe I should have seen those red and pink hearts as reminders of the Love for which we were waiting and preparing, the Love that came to us that holy night and abides with us now. Love is the everlasting gift of Christmas that can be celebrated each and every day, regardless of the date on the calendar (or retailers’ displays).

May you know and share Christ’s love in the new year,

Ann Bouchard



Trinity News

January Worship Schedule

- * **Sunday, January 4, 2026 10:30 a.m.**
Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
Sermon: "Come Home for Christmas: Lost and Searching for Home" based on 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 and Luke 2:41-52
- * **Sunday, January 11, 2026 10:30 a.m.**
Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
 Ordination/Installation of New Elders
- * **Sunday, January 18, 2026 10:30 a.m.**
Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
- * **Sunday, January 25, 2026 10:30 a.m.**
Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn
- * In person services, are also live-streamed on Facebook
TO VIEW PAST WORSHIP SERVICE VIDEOS
 go to:
<https://www.trinity-presbyterian.org/archives>

Year-End Financial Contributions

To count as a 2025 charitable contribution to Trinity your gift must be received by **Wednesday, December 31, 2025**; or if mailed to the church, postmarked by December 31. A check not received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, even if back-dated, will be considered a 2026 donation.

2025 Contribution Reports will be mailed by mid-January. If you need information before that time about your 2025 giving, please contact Ann Bouchard at the church office. If you need information about making distributions from IRAs, stock transfers or other types of charitable donations, contact the church office.



Trinity's own Chris Bouchard will be presenting a story about a B-24 crew and their fate after being shot out of the sky over German-occupied France in World War II. The story is based on the actual memoirs of his father, and it is a reminder of what we owe to those who serve their country. Many of us had close relatives who served in World II, but they typically did not talk about their experiences. This is an opportunity to learn about the bravery of those who risked their lives trying to overcome evil. Bring your family and feel free to invite neighbors and friends. A light lunch will be served to those in attendance. Please sign up on the kiosk if you know you'll be attending or email the office.

Prayer List Updates

- Bill Daly**—continuing to get stronger at home
- Don Fues and Jacob Fues**—recovering from the flu. Don is doing much better; Jacob's fever is gone but he is still congested and coughing.
- Sarah Grim**—struggling with continuing vertigo
- Tim Harlan**—at Columbia Post Acute Care recovering from an infection.
- 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



Church offices will be closed for New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1st.



WWII Presentation "A Time Out of Time" Sunday, January 11—Following Worship

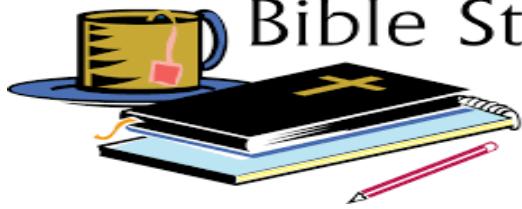
WWII Presentation

"A Time Out of Time"

Sunday, January 11—Following Worship

Trinity News

Women's Bible Study



Evening Circle meets Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Afternoon Circle meets Wednesday, January 7 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 12 on the lower level.

Both groups will study lesson 5 in this year's Bible study book, "The Gift of the Women Who Was Poor".

If you have not been participating in one of the Presbyterian Women's Circles and would like to start, contact either Karen Neely (Evening Circle) or Sue Young (Afternoon Circle).

"Joy in Christ is more than happiness; it can change challenging circumstances into faith-filled, even joyous times."

—Rashell D. Hunter



Ed Coe says his days have been warmed by the love from card showers and emails for his 99th birthday!

Trinity PNC Update

The Trinity Presbyterian Church Pastor Nominating Committee ("PNC") is happy to report that Trinity's Ministry Discernment Profile ("MDP") has been 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. In fact, within a day of posting the MDP with CLC, the PNC received matches through the CLC of potentially interested pastors. The next step is for the PNC to sort through the matches to identify those pastors from whom the PNC requests more information to review and to potentially interview potential applicants.

Please keep the PNC members in your prayers as they go about this important work!

Submissions for *Trinity Times*

The deadline for the February *Trinity Times* is **January 23, 2026**.

Email: newsletter@trinity-presbyterian.org
Kyle Groshong is our editor.

Our Mission and Outreach committee reports that Trinity is making a \$500 donation to Room at the Inn in January. Room at the Inn provides Columbia and Boone County residents a safe place to sleep. This is especially important during the winter months. Each month, the Mission and Outreach Committee disburses approximately \$1,000 to benevolent organizations.

Fiber Fellowship - Saturday, January 24th 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 (January 14th) at 8 a.m. at JJ's Café, 1712 N. North Providence Road. All men are invited!

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 (January 9) at 9:30 a.m. at Love Coffee on the Business Loop to socialize. All women are invited!

Build connections by joining one of these small groups.



Trinity News

December Session Meeting Highlights



- ◆ New elders Brian Griffith, Cathy Nelson, and Marge Veum (Class of 2028) were examined after completing training with Rev. Osborn. Session approved the ordination of Elders Nelson and Veum and the installation of Elders Griffith, Bill Kennedy, and Susan Winkelmann on January 11, 2026. Elders Kennedy and Winkelmann are continuing on Session for one additional year.
- ◆ Session called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, February 1, immediately following worship. The Fellowship Committee will host a luncheon in conjunction with the meeting.
- ◆ Session approved removing from the active roll 18 individuals who no longer meet the criteria for active membership. Several of these individuals no longer reside in or near Columbia. A few other members will be contacted to discern whether they wish to remain on the active roll and to invite them to return to participation in church events.
- ◆ Pastor Nominating Committee member Brian Griffith updated Session on the committee's work. The PNC has received 25 applications through the Church Leadership Connection referral system. The committee is closely reviewing each applicant's information. Additional referrals are expected, and the committee will meet next on December 29.
- ◆ Elder Newkirk reported that eleven small Christmas trees were decorated and delivered to some Trinity members along with handmade Christmas cards the first weekend in December. Recipients have expressed deep gratitude for these gifts.
- ◆ A 2026 Operating Budget of \$422,785 was approved by Session. Next year's budget includes funding for both Rev. Osborn's continuing service to Trinity as well as for a new, installed pastor, including search and moving expenses. Anticipated operating expenses may change depending on when an installed pastor begins his or her ministry here.
- ◆ Elder Neely joyfully reported that Trinity had recently received a \$25,000 gift for the new Legacy Fund. The Stewardship and Finance Committees will be working on a new Memorial Fund Policy and a Financial Review Policy in 2026. The committee also approved taking the full 4% distribution in 2026 from the February 15 Endowment Fund. This will total approximately \$4,000. The Stewardship and Finance Committee will review uses for the February 15 funds.



Trinity has 2 excellent libraries—one for children and one for adults. Check out a book from either or both the next time you're at church. The children's library is adjacent to the sanctuary, and the adult library is across from the kitchen.

THANK
YOU!

Your many prayers were answered, and I am feeling better after surgery. The thoughtful cards cheered me. The small Christmas tree you sent me has a special place in my living room. Thanks to those who decorated it. —Margaret Guthrie

Thank you so much for the beautiful little Christmas tree. I have not had a tree since my husband passed away five years ago, so this one is very special. Special thanks to Cathy (Nelson) who delivered it on such a chill day! Christmas blessings to all of you. —Anne Wagner

Trinity's Brotherhood Fund Provides Financial Help to Others

The Brotherhood Fund was set up by Trinity's elders as the pastor's discretionary fund that is completely confidential. It is dispensed only by the pastor and designed to help out those in our community who may be in the midst of a financial crisis.



Simply make out your check to "Trinity Presbyterian", write in the memo line, "Brotherhood Fund", and mail it to the office or contact Ann Bouchard to determine how to contribute online.



Opportunities For Service - God's Work, Our Hands



Here are some important ways you can share your time and talents at church in the new year:

- ◆ Serve as an usher on Sunday morning for worship;
- ◆ Host after-church refreshments one Sunday. (A sign up chart is on the kiosk in the lobby and a member of the Fellowship Committee will gladly answer your questions.)
- ◆ Learn to be one of our Sunday audio-visual techs—sound, livestream, slides. Training will be provided!
- ◆ Serve as a liturgist for worship once every month or so.
- ◆ Sign up to provide childcare after the Children's Message one Sunday a month. Two volunteers are needed each week.
- ◆ **Volunteer** to join one of our committees—Fellowship, Christian Education, Congregational Care, Mission and Outreach, Stewardship and Finance, Property, Technology. New members and new ideas are always welcome.
- ◆ Cover one of the monthly shifts at The Wardrobe on the third Wednesday of the month (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
- ◆ Provide food for and/or serve at Loaves and Fishes on the second Thursday of the month. Servers work from 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Join the choir! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room, and the choir sings most Sundays September-May during worship.

Contacts:

Ted Groshong, Worship Chair
 Debbie Newkirk, Fellowship Chair
 J. West, Director of Music

Cathy Stubbs, Childcare

Bob & Susan Winkelmann, Loaves & Fishes
 Anne Seymour, Wardrobe Coordinator
 Bill Kennedy or Michael Fues, Technology

Offering your time to do even one of these tasks will make a difference!

Souper Bowl Food Drive

Trinity will be collecting food for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri during their “Souper” Bowl Sunday Food Drive. Collection barrels will be placed in the lobby on Monday, January 26th, for your donations.

Most-needed items include canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, rice, cereal, peanut butter, soup and pasta.

Monetary donations are often the most impactful method of giving, as The Food Bank has incredible bulk-purchasing power. For every \$25 gift, we can provide at least 100 meals! Checks should be made payable to Trinity, please.

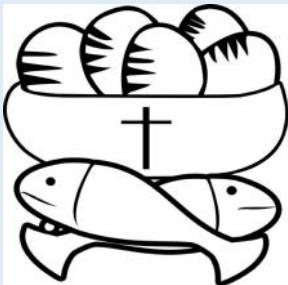


LOAVES AND FISHES

We are looking forward to serving next on:

Thursday, January 8

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, January 21 and volunteers are needed for the 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. shift.



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31 6:00pm Yoga Group	1 Happy New Year! Church Office Closed	2 5:30pm Women in Recovery	3
4 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 9:15am Church School Classes for Youth & Adults 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	5 9:00am PEO Chapter "LM" 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Fellowship Comm. (Zoom) 7:00pm Pastor Nominating Comm.	6 Epiphany of the Lord 9:00am PEO Chapter "LM" 7:00pm Evening Circle-FH	7 1:00pm Afternoon Circle (Rm. 12) 6:00pm Yoga Group	8 3:30pm Loaves and Fishes- Ashley St. Ctr 7:00pm Worship Comm. (Zoom)	9 9:30am Women's Coffee Club 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	10 1:15pm AAUW Book Club (by Zoom in Jan.)
11 Baptism of the Lord 9:15am Church School Classes for Youth & Adults 9:15am New Elder Training 10:30am Worship with Ordination/Installation of Elders 11:45am WWII Presentation and Lunch 2:00pm Jane Austen Book Club 5:30pm Girl Scouts	12 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Pastor Nominating Comm.	13 2:30pm PEO Chapter "JJ" 7:00pm Christian Educ. Committee (Zoom)	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast-JJ's Café 7:00pm Caring Women of COMO 6:00pm Yoga Group	15 3:00pm Property Committee	16 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	17
18 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Church School Classes for Youth & Adults 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time 2:00pm Pastor Nominating Comm.	19 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 7:00pm Session	21 11:00am The Wardrobe 4:30pm Love Coffee Board Meeting 6:00pm Yoga Group	22 7:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee-Zoom	23 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	24 10:00am Fiber Fellowship (Youth Rm.)
25 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15am Church School Classes for Youth & Adults 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	26 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance Comm. (Zoom)	27 11:00am MO Symphony League 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Technology Committee 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Comm.	28 10:00am Congregational Care Committee (Rm. 12) 6:00pm Yoga Group	29	30 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	31