

TRINITY TIDINGS

December 2019

Trinity United Methodist Church
1400 Husson Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177-5464
Phone: 386-325-5272
Pastor: John F. Bennett



From the Pastor

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year in which we reflect once again on the meaning of the incarnation, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus for us. In the season of Advent, we focus on the threefold coming of Jesus Christ to the world in the flesh, in the Word and the Sacraments, and in glory. Or to put it more simply, I believe we, the church, should ask ourselves as we consider the rich meaning of the Christmas story, “Why would the Lord of all the universe care enough about us mortals to take on flesh and share our woes”?

We all learned early on that there is no such thing as a bad question. And while this may be true, it is also true that some questions serve a greater purpose than others. By asking ourselves, during the season of Advent, why God would care enough about us to take our flesh and share our woes, two important purposes are being served.

First, the connection between the manger and cross are brought into closer focus. The manger and the cross are made of the same wood. They are also stained with the sweat and tears of our personal God who cares about his entire creation. His care is shown in his action to send his Son, Jesus and close the gap of distance and separation between him and his children who have forgotten to hear, listen, and obey the good and holy Word of their heavenly Father.

The second purpose such a question is that it leads us to consider *all the ways* in which our God comes to us. Since the season of Advent occurs during the four weeks prior to Christmas Day, it can be easy for us to focus our eyes only on the baby Jesus cradled in the manger. But if we pull back the curtains a little farther, we can bring into view all the ways that God comes to us.

Our God comes down not just during the event that we celebrate on Christmas morning. The purpose of the season of Advent is not so that the church can transport itself back two thousand and pretend to be first century Jews who are waiting for their Messiah to be born. We live in the twenty-first century. So, let us believe more firmly the truth that God has already come to us, is continuing to come to us, and will come back to us.

We certainly take time within our congregation and within our families to celebrate God’s coming to us on Christmas morning. However, *at the same time* we embrace the fact that our God who is beyond time and space comes down to us in time and space every Sunday morning to deliver the fruit of his Son’s crucifixion and resurrection over two thousand years ago through his Word and Sacraments. In these ways we receive, Immanuel, “God with us,” now! We also embrace the promise of Christ to restore his broken creation and to completely “reveal” his victory over suffering and death in his coming again in glory, just as he said.

The truth that God cares enough for us mortals to take on our flesh and share our woes is shown to us in the wonderful Christmas story which we eagerly wait to celebrate. But take comfort now in this truth as it is made known to you now through God’s Word and his Sacraments. As members of his church we should equip ourselves to share this good news with others who are confused, suffering, and are in despair because rest assured that he is coming again soon.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Pastor John

Trinity Happenings for Thanksgiving Week

The week of Thanksgiving saw Trinity busy with activities. We started off with a collection of non-perishable food items for distribution by the Heart of Putnam Food Pantry. Twenty-Five bags of food were collected and taken to the Heart of Putnam Food Pantry. Sunday evening the United Methodist Women hosted a Fellowship Thanksgiving dinner by providing the meat for a covered dish dinner while all who attended brought a covered dish. All participants enjoyed their time of fellowship, a devotional message and food.

On Thursday a group of people from Trinity participated in the Turkey Trot in downtown Palatka. The Trinity Team was well represented and enjoyed the walk and time to create an appetite for the Thanksgiving dinner. The Trinity Local Missions Team also prepared and delivered meals to families who may not have had a dinner unless the team had provided the meal.

Friday night was the Annual Christmas Parade in downtown Palatka. Trinity had a float for the third year and church family rode downtown on the float. Many came on the Saturday before to prepare the float for the parade. Some of our members walked and passed out flyers which detailed Trinity activities and gave candy to those along the parade route.

A big THANK YOU to all who participated and made themselves available. God smiles when we become His hands and feet on this earth. Below are some pictures of the activities.



Most of the group who rode and walked in the Christmas Parade.



Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus



Our float in the Christmas Parade



Part of our team in the Turkey Trot in downtown Palatka Thanksgiving morning

United Methodist Men

*-Christmas Dinner & Entertainment on Saturday
December 14, 2019 5-7 p.m. \$10.00*

United Methodist Women

- Share & Care Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5th 2019*
- Wesley Ann Circle will have Christmas Dinner at The Reef, Monday Dec. 16. Meet at the church 5:30, all ladies are welcome. Call Karen Dutour or Pam Peterson by Dec. 14 for reservations.*
- 1st United Methodist Women of Interlachen are inviting all the Women of Trinity to join us on Wednesday, December 11th at 10:00 a.m. for our annual Christmas party. If you would like to be included in the gift exchange please bring a gift of about \$10.00*

Bible Study

- Bible Study with Alice is in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.*
- Ladies Bible Study with Sandra Collins is in her home on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
(386)-937-6475*

Did You Know???

- *Dec. 4, Kids Klub Advent Workshop*
- *Dec. 08, The children sing during offertory.*
- *Dec. 10, 7:00 p.m. Community Sing at UMC Florahome.*
- *Dec. 11, very special visitor at Kids Klub.*
- *Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m. SPRC Training at 1st UMC Bunnell,*
- *Dec. 14, 5-7 p.m. UMM Christmas Dinner and Entertainment.*
- *Dec. 15, Christmas Cantata by the Chancel Choir, & Reception.*
- *Dec. 18, Kids Klub Christmas Caroling on a hayride.*
- *Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service & Communion.*
- *Dec. 25, Christmas Day*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT (Through 11/24/2019)

Total Budget	\$233,674.00
Estimated needed to date	\$211,205.35
Received to date	\$150,219.89
Percent of "needed to date"	
that has been collected	71.13%
Percent of Year that is Complete	90.38%
Percent of Yearly Contributions that have been received	64.29%

DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

Roof Education Wing - 2018	\$1,140.00
Salary-YthDir&WorshipLdr	\$4,583.26
Cuba Covenant	\$1,600.00
Children's Home	\$1,589.00
Kids' Klub	\$2,507.00
Missions-Local Outreach	\$980.00
Memory of Jean Moore	\$250.00
Memory of Henry Mullis	\$1,755.00
Memory of Rodney Sheffield	\$1,735.00
1st Interlachen Share Salary & Benefits	\$17,696.68
Honor of Teresa Bechanan Birthday	\$50.00
Memory of Ed Griffin	\$675.00
Memory of Teresa Bechanan	\$1,825.00
Memory of Lee West	\$625.00



CIRCLE OF CONCERN – *Those needing our prayers:* Pastor John Bennett; Herb Dutour; Joe Dunn; Carolyn Deel; Carolyn Armstrong; Tia Lingle; Kristin West; Marilyn Reid; Charlene Cole; Debbie Bacon; Carolyn Brown; The Pierce Family; Leslie Lewis; Chris Schmidt Virginia Alexander; Those in the nursing homes and our shut-ins; San Antonio de Rio Blanco Church in Cuba; the persecuted Church; Moseley Elementary School & teachers; Children at the Methodist Children’s Home; our Nation’s leaders & military; your Pastoral family & your church.

KIDS' KLUB CORNER

December Happenings at Kids' Klub:

- December 4th Advent Workshop. All are invited! Please join us as we prepare for Christmas.
- December 8th Singing at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- December 11th Christmas Joy/ There will be a very special visitor. All are welcome
- December 18th Blanket ride and caroling

Kids' Klub will not meet again until January 8th.

May all of you have a very blessed and God filled Christmas Holiday season.

We thank you for all the support that you have given us through your prayers, your time and your monetary donations. God has truly blessed us. We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesdays. Come learn and enjoy all the things that God has blessed us with. God Bless!! The Kids' Klub Team.



Preparing "Praying for you" cards



Creating turkeys made of Oreos and candy



Celebrating Thanksgiving Dinner with Kids' Klub and family



Devotion and singing before dinner



Wish a Happy Birthday:

<i>Virginia Alexander</i>	<i>01</i>
<i>Gary Simpson</i>	<i>07</i>
<i>Kenny Thompson</i>	<i>09</i>
<i>Donald Kennard</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Brandon Underwood</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Shirley Saunders</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Micke Schmidt</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Marta Priester</i>	<i>31</i>



ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Herb & Karen Dutour</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Troy & Cassie Nettles</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>John & Sharon Bennett</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>John & Virginia Alexander</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>David & Gail Cahan</i>	<i>28</i>

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1 st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	2	3 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall with Alice.	4 - 10:00 a.m. Ladies - Bible Study with Sandra Collins in her home. - Kids Klub-Advent Workshop 5-7 - Flame Practice at 6:00p.m. - Choir Practice at 7:00	5 -Share & Care Circle	6	7
8 2 nd Sunday of Advent Children Sing (Offertory)	9	10 Community Sing at Florahome 7:00 p.m.	11 - 10:00 a.m. Ladies - Bible Study with Sandra Collins in her home. - Kids Klub-Santa visits & Christmas Party - Flame Practice at 6:00p.m. - Choir Practice at 7:00	12 -SPRC Training at First UMC Bunnell 7-9 p.m.	13	14 UMM Christmas Dinner, & entertainment 5-7
15 3 rd Sunday of Advent Cantata by The Chancel Choir & reception	16 -Wesley Ann Circle	17 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall with Alice.	18 - 10:00 a.m. Ladies - Bible Study with Sandra Collins in her home. Kids Klub-Caroling on a hayride. - Flame Practice at 6:00p.m. - Choir Practice at 7:00	19	20	21
22 4 th Sunday of Advent	23	24 Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31				<u>Sunday Schedule</u> Sunday School: 9:45 Worship: 11:00 a.m. Flame: 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir: 10:45

Christian Bible Reference Site

<https://www.christianbiblereference.org/>

