

TRINITY TIDINGS DECEMBER 2023

Trinity United Methodist Church
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From the Pastor

As I compose this letter, I'm looking forward to a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with my family. I'm looking forward to turkey and dressing... to real mashed potatoes and gravy... fresh string beans and lots of other delectable treats. Of course by the time you read this, the turkey will be a well picked pile of bones and the leftovers will be fond memories. Pumpkins and scarecrows will have been replaced with candy canes and Santa's.

We've entered the season of Advent; another time of anticipation, because it's the time leading up to Christmas. It's a time that brings joy to many people. It is a time in which we reach out to others, enjoy our family, exchange gifts with those we love, and remember the birth of Jesus.

It's important that our faith takes center stage during this holiday season. Jesus was well known for serving those who were on the perimeter of society, and we are called to do likewise. We should be very careful not to become so wrapped up in our own celebrations and life that we ignore opportunities to bring joy to others. We should be reminded to keep our eyes and ears open for opportunities to extend God's love to those who are less fortunate.

The season of Advent also invites us to be ready and waiting, not only for our celebration of Jesus birth but his triumphant return. This season invites us to share God's love with everyone we meet regardless of their individual beliefs because it is through our acts of grace that others see Christ in us.

The season of Advent which culminates in the coming of the Christ Child is a time that reminds us how much God loves you and me.

Sharon and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Brother in Christ

Pastor John





The United Methodist Men's Christmas Dinner

Saturday December 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Kid's Klub

On Wednesdays 5-7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Kids ages 3 thru 8th grade.

Ladies Bible study with Sandra Black

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in her home. (386) 937-6475

Choir & Flame Practice

*Wednesday's at 7:15 pm.—Chancel Choir Practice in choir room.

*Tuesday's at 6:00 pm.—Flame Practice



Prayer of Concern: Addie Joy; Alayna; Ashton; Austin; Autumn; Barbara; Belinda; Beverly; Byron; Connie; Carolyn; Carol; Casey; Chris; Cheryl; Clint; Cody; Derrick; Dougie; Dustin Zuleger; Donna; Ed & Charlene; Elaine Ludwig; Family of Tameka Proctor; Heather, Cody, & baby Tory; Grace; Helen; Jack; Jayne; Jennifer; Jerry & Laura; Jim; Micke; Johnny Brooks; Joy; Ken & Linda; Kim; Kayla; Kevin; Linda & Bill Gardner; Lowell; Marianne; Mary Keefe; Paul; Ronnie; Rhonda & Randy; Samantha; Izzy; Sandra; Shane; Sharon & John; Susan Carter; Tommy & Tami; Those in the nursing homes and our shut-ins. We pray for our

sister church in San Antonio de Rio Blanco in Cuba; Moseley Elementary School & teachers; Children at the Methodist Children's Home; our national leaders & military; America; The people of Ukraine; Pray for peace in Israel; your Pastoral family & your Church.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT (Through 11/30/2023)

Total Budget	\$201,118.00
Estimated needed to date	\$185,647.38
Received to date. **	\$133,142.87
Amount of Received to date that came from E-giving	\$12,481.55
Percent of "needed to date" that has been collected	71.72%
Percent of Year that is complete	92.31%
Percent of Yearly contributions that have been received	66.20%
<u>DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	
Children's Home	\$2,121.86
United Methodist Men	\$1,700.00
Cuba Covenant	\$1,400.00
Kid's Klub	\$1,645.00
Salary-Worship Leader	\$4,583.26
Memory of Don Kennard	\$200.00
Memory of Herb DuTour	\$100.00
Memory of Karen DuTour	\$275.00
Disaffiliation Fund	\$62,985.00
Memory of Joyce Strickland	\$225.00

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will not have a breakfast meeting in December. We will be sponsoring a Christmas dinner on December 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The food will be provided by Azalea Catering. All are invited to the dinner. Our plan is to have singing and background music provided by Wes Talton. We also will try to have a couple of the men lead some Christmas Carols.

The price for the dinner reservations is \$20.00 per person. Keep the date of December 9, 2023, open so you can be available to attend. The dinner will start at 6:00 pm. If you have not notified Lee Ryals or Gary Simpson, please call one of them or the church office so appropriate plans can be made. We look forward to the dinner and fellowship.

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

We are two-thirds of our \$3,000 goal for the year for the Children's Homes and only one 5th Sunday left - **December 31, 2023**. A special offering will be taken up that week, but you can make a donation at any time by indicating on your check or offering envelope that it is for the Children's Homes.

We are also collecting \$10 Walmart Christmas gift cards for the residents of the homes. These can be turned in to the office or given to Lee Ryals. We will be collecting gift cards through **December 9, 2023**. If you want to purchase more than one gift card, you can also make the card in \$20 denomination. Just mark each card with what the amount is.

Thanking you in advance for your continued generous contributions. Praying all church family has a safe and happy holiday season!

Lee Ryals

Children's Home Representative

Christmas Cantata – *Bethlehem Morning*

Bethlehem, we merely say the name and our minds are flooded with images. We may never have been there, but it's a backdrop for the story of Christmas year after year. The cantata, ***Bethlehem Morning*** tells the miraculous story of Christmas with traditional carols and favorites but also reminds us that God's Love didn't stop there. First John 4:10 says "this is love, not that we love God but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." Jesus came for us when He was born in Bethlehem, and it was for us that He went to Calvary.

Please join us as we bring this timeless message during the worship service on Sunday morning, **December 17** and join us for a reception honoring our music team in the Fellowship Hall immediately after.



Bread Of Life

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to thank you for your generous support for the Bread of Life in Palatka in 2023. Your gifts have enabled us to serve nutritious meals five days a week to people facing the difficult challenge of food insecurity. This year we have been serving 2,150 meals per month. These meals are freshly prepared and served in a welcoming and dignified setting. We help to improve the quality of life in our community by this simple act of generosity that you help provide.

As we express our gratitude, we also invite you to continue to walk alongside us in this humanitarian work. We welcome any "end of the year" gifts our friends and supporters might be able to give, knowing that the new year will present us with distinct challenges and growth opportunities. With your continued support the daily mission of the Bread of Life at 320 N. 5th Street in Palatka will make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Sincerely yours,

Leota Wilkinson
President, Board of Directors
Bread of Life of Putnam County

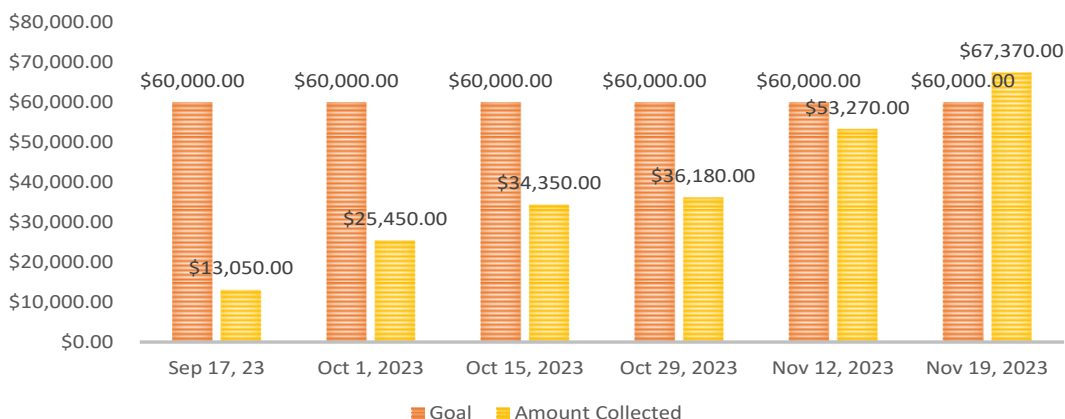
Pause To Thank

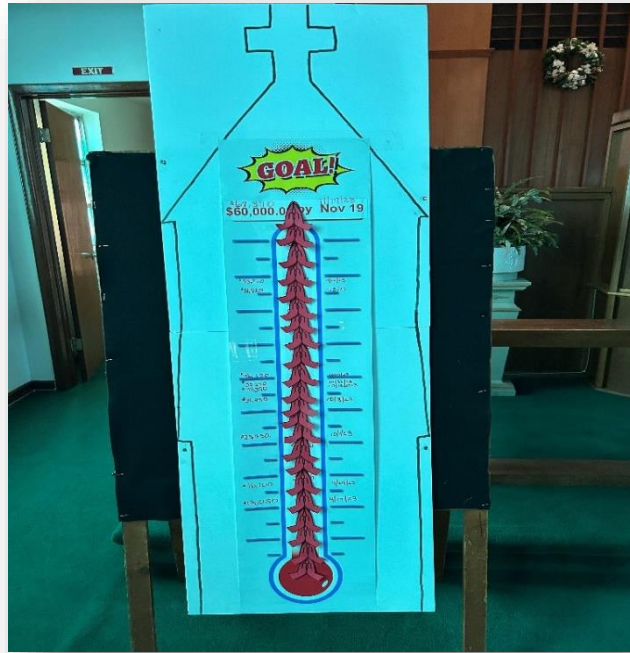
- If we pause to think, we'll have cause to thank.
- Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
- There is no limit to the amount of good people can do if they don't care who gets the credit.
- Faith is not a possession to keep, but a blessing to share, a light to diffuse, and life to communicate.
- How fare that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.
- God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame.
- When we go into a new year, it is like sailing on a ship with sealed orders not to be opened until the voyage has begun.
- Adam was the only man who, when he said a good thing, knew that nobody had said it before.

Final Disaffiliation Balance

The Disaffiliation Fund was created for specific donations to pay the United Methodist Church the portion they are requesting for Trinity to be able to disaffiliate. This is part of the requirements to leave that denomination and seek affiliation with a denomination which aligns with the bible based conservative beliefs of the Trinity congregation. Trinity was blessed to collect \$67,370 in specific donations for the Disaffiliation Fund. That amount represents 112% of the needed amount to meet one of the requirements to disaffiliate. The Leadership Team thanks all who prayed, contributed and sought God's guidance on how to help with this project. We have satisfied all the requirements and have been approved to disaffiliate as of December 15, 2023. Pray that no other requirements will be placed on Trinity and we can begin to do God's work and expand the outreach of Trinity. Thanks again and God Bless You All.

DISAFFILIATION FUND GOAL AND COLLECTIONS





KIDS' KLUB CORNER

November has come and gone, and Kids' Klub has so very much to be thankful for. We thank you for your support in prayers, attendance, and monetary donations. We are very thankful that you have shared your children with us. They are such a blessing and cherished part of our lives. We are so very thankful for all the special gifts you have given the children from candy to mac and cheese to gloves with candy in them. You certainly know how to make us smile. We are very thankful for all the parents and friends of Kids' Klub who came out to enjoy Thanksgiving with us. We are so very thankful for those leaders that share their servant hearts each week. We are thankful for God's presence at Kids' Klub!!

December Happenings at Kids' Klub:

December 6th Stations of the Manger

December 13th Blanket ride and caroling

Kids' Klub will not meet again until January after December 13th.

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

God has truly blessed us. We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday. Come learn and enjoy all the things that God has blessed us with.

God Bless!! The Kids' Klub Team



Learning about Rahab and her faith through making red rope bookmarks and singing.



Learning about the friendship between Ruth and Naomi by making friendship bread and necklaces.



Thanksgiving at Kids' Klub




Wish a Happy Birthday To:

- 04—Troy Nettles
- 07—Gary Simpson
- 14—Trish Murff
- 16—Brandon Underwood
- 20—Shirley Saunders
- 24—Micke Schmidt

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14—Troy & Cassie Nettles
- 16—John & Sharon Bennett
- 28—David & Gail Cahan
- 30—Paul & Jane Moran

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday Schedule Sunday School 9:15 Worship: 10:30					1	2
3 Holy Communion	4	5 Trinity Flame practice 6:00 pm	6 Ladies Bible Study with Sandra at 10:00 am. *Choir Practice @7:15 pm Kid's Klub 5:00-7:00 pm—Fellowship Hall (Stations of the Manger)	7	8	9 UMM Christmas Dinner at 6:00 pm
10	11	12 Trinity Flame practice 6:00 pm	13 Ladies Bible Study with Sandra at 10:00 am *Choir Practice @7:15 p.m. Kid's Klub 5:00-7:00 pm—Fellowship Hall (Hayride & Caroling)	14	15	16
17 Christmas Cantata	18	19	20 (Christmas Vacation) No Kid's Klub until Jan. 5 th 2024	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30
New Year's Eve						
31						

If you have any information for next month's newsletter, the deadline to have it in the Church office is Monday December 28, 2023. Please send an e-mail or drop something off in writing. Thank You!

Christian Bible Reference Site

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

