



Trinity Tower Church

December 2024/  
January 2025

# TIDINGS

TRINITY TOWER  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Volume 24 Issue 10



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February Tidings Deadline  
January 15, 2025

Editor: Patti



**NEW Combined Service**

**10 am**

**Nursery provided**

Trinity Tower Church UMC  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
(412) 793-9000  
trinitytowerchurch@yahoo.com  
www.trinitytowerchurch.org



Twitter - @trinitytowerchurch  
Facebook - Trinity Tower Church

We invite everyone to join us



**Children's Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 7th  
10:00 am - Noon

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
Wednesday, December 11th  
6pm at Mohan's  
Everyone is welcome!!



Contact Donna for reservations or questions.



Competition

Gingerbread House Decorating

Friday, December 13th

6 - 8 pm

**WOW Ugly Christmas  
Sweater Party**  
Saturday, December 14th  
6 pm



**CAROLS AND COCOA CONCERT**  
Saturday, December 21st at 7:00 pm



**Tuesday, December 24th**  
**WORSHIP at TTUMC**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**7:00 PM Family Friendly Service**



**“Happy Holidays”**

“Happy Holidays” in one way or another this sentiment we see and love to share most everywhere we go, and with most everyone we meet. For two months and for days scattered throughout all the rest of the year, we enjoy giving and receiving best wishes for joy and happiness, both theirs and ours. We want there to be peace and joy, contentment and wellbeing, confidence and hope. This spirit is woven into our nature, and it is wonderful.

Part of the wonder is in giving thanks. At Thanksgiving we remember the plight of the pilgrims, their losses, grim determination and perseverance, and though anticipating the hardship of winter, they gathered, rejoiced and gave thanks to God, to new friends, to each other, and they feasted. This year, at Trinity Tower Church, we experienced something similar. On election day, perhaps prompted by our critical financial state, many in our church did something amazing and blessed. They held a bake sale. Everyone knew the polls would be well attended this year. Everyone knew the political tensions and intensity. Many feared and anticipated the possibility of “the worst”. In spite of that, we had a bake sale! People coming to vote, were greeted by church people with warm smiles. After they voted, they were invited to enjoy morning or luncheon sandwiches, and hundreds of amazing, enticing baked goods.

The voters not only returned their smiles, they shared their peace, gratitude and good will. And they donated! Who gives ten dollars for a cookie, or hands over a twenty and says, “Keep the Change”? Our people, in spite of our adversity, gave the grace, and peace, love and joy to the community, we literally gave them a taste of our church! And everyone rejoiced! Priceless!

At Christmas we will make lists, visit shows, decorate our homes, give gifts, share meals, and come together. We will enjoy the music that comforts our spirits, warms our souls, and inspires us to focus not upon the hardships, nor upon the cold, but rather the warmth, the love, the gratitude and memories, and our hope for Christmas day, and for a New Year filled with promise, empowered by our dedication, commitment, perseverance, faith and determination. As we have seen so many times, the holidays empower our living, and renewed faith, love and giving empowers our future. So always and everywhere, let us share our hope, our joy, our love and faith, to everyone saying, “Happy Holidays”, “God bless you!” and “Come visit our Church, where the spirit of warmth, love, and welcome shine all through the year! You will like it here!”

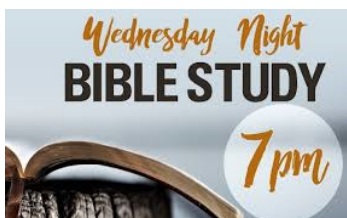


Happy Holidays everyone one, and May God bless you all with a very Happy New Year!

*Pastor Greg*

**2025 Giving Envelopes**

Envelopes will be available soon for 2025. The new envelopes are monthly only. It was less expensive for the church if we use the once a month envelopes, instead of weekly.



**7:00 – 8:00 PM**  
**Wednesdays**  
**ONLINE BIBLE STUDY**

**Monday Nights**  
**on Zoom**  
**7 pm**



**Contact Karen & George to join**

### Praying For Our Church

Trinity Tower Church is in a difficult season, and we will only make it through with God’s help and guidance. We are asking each of you to **covenant** to regularly pray for:

- Our church and our mission in the world.
- God to lead those who lead our church.
- Decisions that reflect God’s will
- Each member to see their role in this process.



Please consider praying for the church on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm. Our Zoom prayer group meets during that time. Join your prayers together with theirs as we seek help from our God.

and search for it as for hidden treasures, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

**Join us as we cover our church in prayer.**



#### NEW - Men’s Brunch/Lunch Group

#### MEN’S GROUP

We are starting a new Men’s Brunch/Lunch group. Our hope is to meet once a month at a local restaurant, just to eat and talk and get to know each other better. If you are interested, please let the office know. We will see what works best (brunch or lunch) for our group and get started in December.

#### Remember to Use iGive As You Shop Online This Christmas Season

TTUMC is a member of the **UMCmarket**, a site that channels money from online shopping to the charity of your choice through **iGive**. By shopping online through [iGive.com](http://iGive.com), a percentage of your purchases goes to our church.

Here’s what to do:



Go to [UMCmarket.org](http://UMCmarket.org)

Join [iGive](http://iGive)

Select *Trinity Tower United Methodist Church* as your charity

Search for participating retailers – and there are many!

Shop through the percent of



iGive link; iGive sends a each sale to TTUMC.

Some of the retailers include: Wal-Mart, Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Target, Amazon, Best Buy, Bed Bath & Beyond, HomeGoods, Ashley Furniture, Shutterfly, JC Penney, Target, HomeGoods, Toms Shoes, Books, Ann Taylor, Holiday Inn, Highlights, 1-800-FLOWERS.COM, etc. etc.

include: Walmart, Ma-JoAnn, Oriental Trad-Gap, Old Navy, Kohls, Dick’s Sporting Michaels, Better World

Check it out today! And invite your family and friends to check it out also!

*“You Shop. Your Charity Gets Money. For Free.”*



#### Our December Spotlight

This year our church has been so active in donating to so many of our missions. We decided to make our December spotlight— **YOU--OUR WONDERFUL CONGREGATION!**

Since our worships have been merged, you may be seeing some people you don’t know. Let’s each of us go up to someone before or after church Thank them for being a part of this Body of Christ. Thank them for supporting our church, for donations they’ve made throughout the year, Thank them for the time they’ve devoted to our church, Thank them for the prayers they’ve lifted in the name of our church. And of course, while you’re at it, introduce yourselves!



### Finding Joy This Holiday Season and Trusting God's Timing

*Psalm 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*  
*Psalm 31: 14-15 "I trust in you, Lord...My times are in your hands."*

I know it's hard to believe, but the holidays are coming. Normally, we think of the holidays as a time of celebration and immense joy. However, many people do not feel joyful this year. The feelings of concern weigh heavy on our hearts and it's hard to find true joy.

Many Americans are worried about the future after our recent elections, and it's hard to be joyful when your heart is filled with concern instead of excitement. The concern our church family faces is financial. There are also the ongoing concerns people have of grief, job loss, as well as family illnesses and disagreements. However, there are some serious worries that we are all facing this holiday season. What should we do when we feel like joy is out of reach?



I woke up the morning of November 5<sup>th</sup> feeling gloomy. I was concerned about the upcoming election and how people would act if their candidate won or lost. Not knowing how it would turn out felt uncomfortable. During my morning devotions, I felt a bit better, but my concern was still there. I knew the Lord would be with me, and I prayed that His will would be done.

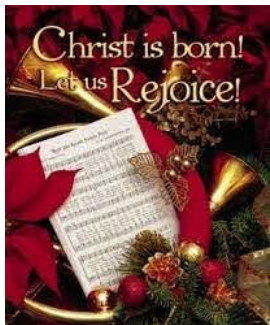
Then, I arrived at church to work at the Bake Sale we were having. Voters were lined up as I entered the room, and I felt "joy" in the room. Joy? Today? When I entered the room with all the "goodies" I felt an incredible peace and joy. Yes! The people who were already there working were laughing, talking, and communicating with the customers who were browsing our many delightful treats. On this election day, when I knew our nation was fractured, the Lord sent me a sense of joy. I knew then that no matter what the result of the election would be, that our Lord was in control. Some will be happy. Some will be sad. And some will even be mad, but.....

Our God has the answer! He doesn't deny that our struggles and concerns are real, but He asks us to draw near to Him and in His presence we will find boundless joy. If you're struggling to find joy during this holiday season, run to your Heavenly Father and give Him your concerns, struggles, heartaches and questions. Joy does not mean you are ALWAYS happy and smiling, but it is trusting that God is with you and will carry you through these tough times. Joy is found in our God, not in our circumstances. Turn to Him this holiday season and He will show you how to find joy!

With Joy,  
Cheryl  
Coordinator of the Shepherds

### MUSIC MINISTRY

#### EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF SINGING!



We invite anyone who would like to participate in the music ministry of our church on a short-term basis to join the choir for the Christmas season. We practice on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. Also, if anyone would like to provide a music number (Instrumental or vocal) for our Christmas concert on December 21, please contact Sylvia Reese.

#### CAROLS AND COCOA CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Celebrate the joy of Christmas by attending our Carols and Cocoa Concert on Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary. The evening will include music by our choir, our bell choir, and our praise team, as well as individual and small group music numbers. Let us embrace the Christmas spirit of peace and love together in song! Invite your friends and family to attend the concert and then enjoy cocoa and snacks downstairs after the concert. The concert will also be live-streamed.

# Trinity Tower Family News



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Melanie S	7
Paul G	11
Kathi B	13
Barbara W	15
Jackie V	15
Win K	16
Debbie P	17
Clara C	18
John M	18
Bill D	20
Kari P	20
Marcie L	21
Alan K	21
Sylvia R	24
Nancy R	25
Jessica J	27
Madalyn P	29
Sandy M	31
April A	31
Steven R	31



## JANUARY 2025 BIRTHDAYS

Payton S	4
Natalie R	9
John L	12
Sarah G	12
Garrett P	13
Mary S	16
Paul W	17
Jacob C	19
Donna S	19
Diane Z	19
Amy A	20
Becky M	20
Alex L	21
John T	24
Dennis K	28
Kari K	31
Leslie C	31
Kendall Grace F	31
Julianna Rose O	31



## Weekly Altar Flowers and Bulletins

### FLOWERS

12/1	Open
12/8	Cheryl
12/15	George & Karen
12/22	Open
12/29	Open

**The new 2025 Altar Flower Calendar is now posted!**

1/5	Open
1/12	Open
1/19	Open
1/26	Open

### BULLETINS

12/1	Open
12/8	Open
12/15	Cheryl
12/22	Open
12/29	Open

**The new 2025 Bulletin Calendar is now posted!**

1/5	Open
1/12	Open
1/19	Open
1/26	Open

Please consider sponsoring flowers or bulletins. Flowers cost \$20 and bulletins are \$10. You may sponsor the bulletins in celebration, honor or memory of a special day or person. The sponsors help reduce the cost of the bulletins and altar flowers for our church.



Ron and Kathy P	6
Chris and Angela O	14
Craig and Mary S	21
Bill and Sally J	27
Conrod & Eileen M	28
Brian and Alyssa M	31



### Angel Tree

This year's Angel Tree recipient will be folks in need of assistance in the Verona area of Penn Hills. The angels on the tree will each list an item (clothing, toy, book, game, etc.) that you can purchase, wrap and bring back to church. The Angel Tree will be in the narthex during the Advent season.



Saturday December 7th from 10am-12pm join us for our annual children's Christmas party! Put on your most festive holiday pajamas or ugly Christmas sweaters and join us for story time, music, crafts, games and more! Children and adults of all ages are welcome! If you are interested in volunteering to help, please see Crystal.



### W.O.W.

### Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14

6 pm at Diane's house

Dinner & games

\$15 gift exchange

All woman are invited to attend

Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater!



### GLOW

Tuesdays from

6:30- 8:00pm

Children in grades K-6 are welcome to join us! We meet weekly on Tuesdays in the fellowship hall. Join us for games, snacks, crafts, and fund Bible lessons! Bring a friend, make some new ones! We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Crystal.

Hello Everyone,

Thank you all for your constant support of my ministry at Urban Impact Foundation. Whether it be through your prayers, financial support, or words of encouragement, you have all been such a blessing to me!

**MATCHING GRANT:** I wanted to let you know that we have once again been blessed with a year-end matching grant - this year it's \$425,000! **THIS IS THE BIGGEST ONE EVER!!** Please keep a lookout for my latest newsletter in the mail that will include more information about this.

If you are already a monthly partner, I ask that you prayerfully consider giving an additional one-time donation during this time. And if you usually give around this time each year, I ask that you prayerfully consider giving once again.



January W.O.W Meeting

Friday, January 17  
7 pm at TTUMC



Learn how to make rolled pizzelle cookies

## FROM MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



### Christmas Giving from the Heart 2024

During the Advent season, the Missions and Outreach committee will be offering our Alternative Giving program once again for those who wish to give a gift that helps those in need.

Our Outreach Christmas Giving program this year includes some organizations we highlighted last year and some new mission agencies that provide much-appreciated help to people in need. Information on these ministries is included below and will be posted on the display in the narthex and will also be in the brochure available at church in December.

This year, consider making a donation to one or more of these worthwhile groups. Donations will be received at the display table in the narthex every Sunday in Advent, which begins on December 1. Checks can be given, made payable to Trinity Tower United Methodist Church, with the name of the mission agency or agencies in the memo line. Checks or cash donations can be put in the offering plate. Checks can also be mailed to the church.

The Outreach Council has chosen the following organizations this year (many of which are projects funded through the United Methodist Advance where 100 % of your donation will go directly to the projects):

#### Local



**Jeremiah's Place**  
Protecting Children. Strengthening Families. Transforming Communities.

**Jeremiah's Place** in Pittsburgh,

[www.jeremiahsplace.org](http://www.jeremiahsplace.org)

Jeremiah's Place provides emergency childcare services for children ages 0-6 for a few hours or days based on the needs of each individual family. All services provided by Jeremiah's Place are free, available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and, most importantly, judgment-free.



**Knead Community Café** in New Kensington,

[www.kneadcommunitycafe.org](http://www.kneadcommunitycafe.org)

The café partners with all their patrons to provide the opportunity to enjoy a wholesome meal in a variety of ways: pay the suggested donation, pay it forward, pay what you can, or volunteer to earn a free meal. The café is a gathering place that nourishes both body and soul. The café also hosts a free supper for the community once a month.

#### National



**Red Bird Mission Schools**, Kentucky,  
UM Advance #773728

[www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)

Red Bird Christian School provides students with opportunities for academic excellence, spiritual growth, Christian leadership development, and service to the community and beyond.

**Red Bird Mission Health Clinic**, Kentucky,  
UM Advance #773724

[www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)

The Red Bird Health Clinic provides, on an annual basis, over 3,000 health education and public health direct services to low-income individuals in a 3-county area. They also have health fairs, do home visits, and have a dental clinic on site. Their Community Health Nurse assists low-income, uninsured individuals with medical needs.

**International**

**HEIFER**® Heifer Project International, worldwide  
INTERNATIONAL UM Advance # 982532

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

Helping poor families around the world in a sustainable way with gifts of livestock and seeds so they can care for themselves and their children, and each generation can improve upon the next. Each gift multiplies because every family that receives a Heifer animal promises to give one or more of the animal's offspring to another family.



**John Wesley Medical Boat, Brazil**  
UM Advance # 14753A

[www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org)

The John Wesley Medical boat reaches thousands of people each year through Brazilian and international volunteers. These work teams travel to specific areas providing medical and dental assistance for villages in the Amazon. The local villagers know when the boat is coming and come by the hundreds to receive help. The villages that the medical boat visits have little access to regular health care.

Thank you! 

Dear Trinity Tower Church Family,

Thank you for all your love and support through my father, Tom Blandford's illness and passing on Oct. 7th. We can't thank you enough for all the prayers, cards, filling in for me to count so I could spend time with him in Florida, filling in for the Tidings Editor, sending sympathy cards, Grief booklets and giving me a grief daily devotional book. I, as well as my family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We couldn't ask for a better support system! You all are a blessing to us!

Love, Patti DiDomenico & The Blandford Family

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING COMPETITION

Friday, December 13th from 6pm-8pm join us in the fellowship hall for a gingerbread house decorating competition. Graham crackers, candy, and icing will be provided. Please feel free to bring any additional decorating items for your family or to share. Everyone is welcome! Bring yourself, your family, children, grandchildren, neighbor, everyone! It's sure to be a great time! We will have hot cocoa and cookies for a special treat. Please register for the event no later than Wednesday November 13th to ensure we have enough supplies. If you're interested in volunteering to help with set up, clean up, cookie donations, or hot cocoa donations, please contact Crystal.



### YOUTH GROUP

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us on Thursdays, bi-monthly for our youth group gatherings. Join us to grow in your faith, develop your spirituality, and grow in yourself. Make new friends, invite old friends along. We meet from 6pm-8pm downstairs in the youth room. If you are interested in volunteering to be a safe sanctuary adult, please see Crystal.

December youth group meetings will be December 5th and 19th.

Youth group Christmas party will take place at our December 19th meeting!



Penn Hills Service Association

December Collection Hand Soap



January Collection Rice



## ZOOM is Easy

Bible Study continues Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. using Zoom technology. If you have not joined us because you are unfamiliar with how Zoom works. WE CAN HELP! Please ask Pastor Greg, George, or Karen for guidance.

**Thank You** for all the snacks sent in for the Military Connections collection.

The snacks were used to stuff Christmas stockings, which were packaged and sent in November to military persons serving overseas. They are sent in November so that these care packages make it to the troops in time for Christmas.



It is the hope that the stockings provide a morale boost for those who won't be home for Christmas.

During this blessed holiday season, please send up a prayer for our troops near and far.



**GET TOGETHERS FOR ALL**

**God Abouts--** The third Saturday of the month a group meets at 10a.m Saturday morning at the Freedom Diner in Verona. The get-together is to share with each other happenings and God moments. Everyone is welcome. Please let Donna Pekarck know if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

**Our new Men's Brunch/Lunch** is underway. Men of the church will be meeting once a month. The time and location will be decided each month. This will be an opportunity for them to share with each other and enjoy a nice meal. George is who you contact if you are interested in attending. All men are invited and welcome.

**W.O.W-** is the gathering of women of the church to share God and fun activities. All women of the church (young and more mature) are invited. Contact Diane Bonnett or the church office if you have any questions.

**As 2024 ends and 2025 begins**

Our church has gone through many changes in 24 with many more to come. Please keep Trinity Tower in your prayers for a successful recovery of our financial and membership concerns. When you need to know what is happening.

Please call the church office. If we don't have the answers we will try to get them for you.

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. till 1:00p.m.

We thank God for all His Blessings this year and for His guidance in the year to come.

**From the Staff at Trinity Tower UMC we thank you for your support and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year!**