



# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

122 Third Street NW, New Philadelphia, OH  
44663

330-339-6439      trinitynp36@outlook.com

Mission Statement:      To proclaim by word and example the faith of Christ crucified and resurrected, through liturgical worship, education, fellowship, and outreach.

**December, 2020**

## Calendar:

### **Worship Schedule**

**December 6:** The Rev. Bill Rinderknecht

Worship Leader: Susan Watkins

**December 13:** The Rev. Bill Rinderknecht

Worship Leader: Jeff Watkins

**December 20:** The Rev. Bill Rinderknecht

Worship Leader: Keith Whiddon

**December 27:** The Rev. Bill Rinderknecht

Worship Leader: Matt Watkins

**Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.**

The Rev. Bill Rinderknecht

If you chose to do the service virtual, the directions to connect are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6318501357?pwd=RHpvZHBwb3JUQWZQVzh5QU83ZGE2QT09>

Meeting ID: 631 850 1357

Passcode: 771783

**OR by telephone, dial:**

1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 631 850 1357

Passcode: 771783

Pastor Bill is available for pastoral care. He may be reached by dialing, 281-433-7704.

***Pastor Bill, the Vestry (Jack, Keith, Jim, Jean, Matt, and Susan), Kathy K, Kathy S, Marilyn, and Heidi wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year !!!!***



### **Trinity Up-Date**

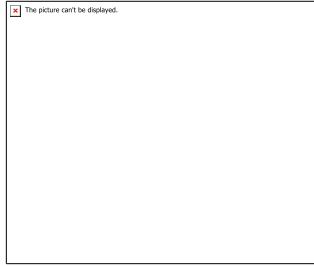
On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Trinity received a letter from Bishop Hollingsworth regarding his concern about the ever-increasing spread of COVID-19 and suggestions as to what we can do in response. “Please be careful and disciplined in your safety as we approach Thanksgiving and Advent, and know of my appreciation and admiration for all you are doing to protect one another and to assure all of God’s love.”

With the holidays and the surge of virus numbers, our vestry and parishioners feel that it is in our best interest to suspend services inside the building and continue live streaming our services from Trinity via zoom until further notice. We need to be patient. My father-in-law (Garrett Kerr) loved to say, “This too shall pass.” We are all tired but we cannot let our guard down. Keep hand washing, wearing masks, and social distancing our number one priority. A vaccination is on the horizon.

### **Reflections and Spiritual Plans for Christmas**

“So, this is Christmas.” That phrase from a 1971 song “Happy Xmas (War is Over)” by John Lennon and Yoko Ono can probably be read many ways. Try out a few: “So, this is Christmas?” or “So, this is Christmas!” or “So, this is Christmas!” We do have a new perspective on Christmas this year due to the pandemic. What emphasis do you put on

Christmas? What joys and/or stresses come up for you? Are you worried about having the proper decorations? Are you stressed in finding the right presents for each person? Are you concerned about making sure you wake up for the 4 am sales rush? Or how you are going to even manage your Christmas shopping this year. Perhaps it is time for us to slow down and reflect on what is important to us this year with the pandemic. Advent is just that time. It is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the mystery of God's deep love for us. Many traditions have been developed over the years to assist us with that reflection and preparation. The lighting of candles in Advent wreaths with devotional readings, Advent calendars, Jesse Trees, etc. How about trying something new this year? Explore some new traditions and incorporate into your Advent/Christmas celebration. Find some way to make this Advent and Christmas fresh and new. Be intentional about making Christmas a spiritual experience once again. We will be observing the lighting of the Advent Star and the candles in the Advent wreath in our worship services. We will focus on a new experience of Christmas this year. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be celebrated virtually on Zoom on December 24 at 7 p.m. (Zoom joining information will be shared later, but it should be the same as we have used for our weekly worship and Tuesday online discussion group. Invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors, Show everyone around you how important your faith is and that the pandemic cannot thwart your Christmas joy. Be able to say, "So, this is **Christmas!**" with a big smile on your face, and love and warmth in your heart.



*Pastor Bill*

### **Note from Marilyn**

In this festive month, we remember three important saints: Nicholas, Ambrose, and Lucia. Let's take a look at these interesting saints.

### **December 6, Nicholas, Bishop of Myra**

The best-known of the three, Nicholas' good deeds and charity to the poor are the inspiration for our modern day Santa Claus. He is celebrated mostly in central Europe. On his feast day, he makes his

appearance in towns and villages, dressed as a bishop and riding a horse. He spends the time between December 6 and 25 traveling the country, distributing gifts and treats. Children in the Netherlands (where he is known as Sinterklaas) leave their shoes by the door to be filled with small gifts. Nicholas is the patron saint of children and sailors.

### **December 7, Ambrose of Milan**

Ambrose was born around 340 AD to a Christian family. He was educated in Rome where he studied law and literature. He became the governor of Milan in 374 AD. When the Bishop of Milan died, there was controversy over who would succeed him. Ambrose stepped in as a peacemaker and did such a good job, that the people demanded that he should be the next bishop. He was still a catechumen and not baptized, but the church council wanted him so badly that he was baptized, confirmed, and consecrated on the same day. Ambrose believed that the people should be able to participate in the liturgy, and he reorganized the services to make this possible. He is responsible for antiphonal chant, in which the congregation repeats a phrase sung by the choir, and he wrote many hymns. A popular legend about Ambrose is that when he was an infant a swarm of bees landed on his face. They did not sting, but left a drop of honey on his lips. As a preacher, he was known as "the honey-tongued orator." He is the patron saint of beekeepers.

### **December 13, Lucia**

Lucia was born to a wealthy family in the early part of the fourth century. At that time, Christians were persecuted and many went into hiding. Lucia, also a Christian, took food to them under cover of darkness. She devised a halo of candles worn on her head so her hands were free to carry more food. Lucia was martyred for her faith; her death was rather graphic, so I won't go into that. Lucia is celebrated in the Scandinavian countries where she is known as the "bringer of light." On December 13, Lucia processions of young girls dressed in white robes and carrying candles visit schools, workplaces and nursing homes, bringing treats and singing traditional songs. Only "Lucia" wears the wreath of candles. Lucia is one of the few saints celebrated by the Lutheran church. I have a Lucia ornament on my tree. She is the patron saint of the blind.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5*

May you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas season, *Marilyn*

### **Trinity's E-Mail Was Compromised**

On Friday evening, November 6, I received telephone call at home from a dear friend whose e-mail address is in Trinity's address book. She said, "I think your computer was hacked." The verbiage was very similar to something that happened to her. My heart just sunk. I started making phone calls to alert our people. Keith helped me on the following day. In the end, we had to call in Tech Support. I am still a "nervous Nellie" and I hope you have not suffered any consequences from this. I would never ask any one for what was written. My sincere apologies and hope no one had any repercussions from this.

### **Celebrating a Special Birthday**

Margaret Folger will be celebrating a milestone on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be 90 candles on her birthday cake! It is disappointing that we can't celebrate with her on this special occasion with a party following worship but we can send her our love until we can be together. Her address is 200 Pinedale Drive, Dover, OH 44622.

### **Diocesan Convention Up-Date**

The 204<sup>th</sup> Diocese of Ohio annual convention took place on November 14<sup>th</sup> virtually. Representing Trinity was Jack Ream, Keith Whiddon, and Jim Greenham and as an observer, Pastor Bill. The men came to the church using the conference room/library sitting social distanced, of course. Keith noted it was a low key meeting, standard business, and ran seamlessly including how they voted. The Diocesan IT team did an outstanding job and are to be congratulated for their creativity. He also stated the "choir" was quite impressive.

### **Vestry Minutes (unapproved)**

**December 2, 2020, 6 p.m. (zoom)**

**Present:** Jack Ream, Keith Whiddon, Jim Greenham, Matt Watkins, Susan Watkins

**Absent:** Jean Kilpatrick

**Opening:** Jack opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Jim to accept the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting as presented; second by Susan; motion passed.

**Finance:** The October financial report was reviewed. Discussion regarding a 751.93 deficit. A

motion was made by Jim to accept the October 2020 Financial Report as presented; second by Susan; motion passed. **2021 Budget:** The budget was mailed to the vestry prior to this meeting so there was time for review. There was a lengthy discussion.

**Sr. Warden:** No report.

**Jr. Warden:** ❶ During the last windstorm, Trinity had shingles come off the roof. Most of the damage was on the side next to the Christian Church with just a "ruffle" on the alley side. D.L. Brown was contacted and they have been replaced. The total cost was \$300.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** ❶ **Worship Services:** Discussion regarding the spike in coronavirus numbers. Motion was made by Susan until further notice Trinity's worship services will take place on zoom starting December 6<sup>th</sup>; second by Matt; motion passed.

❷ **Long Term Supply Priest Proposal:** Pastor Bill presented to the vestry members via e-mail during the vestry meeting his proposal as long-term supply priest. After a lengthy discussion, Matt made a motion to accept Pastor Bill's proposal; Keith seconded. Jim asked to table the motion for time to review the proposal. All vestry members agreed to table this motion until next week.

❸ **Banner:** Pastor Bill and Nancy saw a sign next door at the Christian Church regarding their zoom services. Bill did research to have banner made for Trinity reflective of our services and the cost would be around \$35.00. Motion was made by Jim to have a banner made for Trinity and hang on our front doors; second by Susan; motion passed. Pastor Bill has a sign ready for our prayer garden.

❹ **Ash Wednesday Service:** Jim asked whose turn will it be in 2021 to hold the Ash Wednesday Service. We rotate with Emmanuel Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and Schoenbrunn Moravian. It will be our turn to host. Ash Wednesday falls on February 17, 2021. Jack volunteered to contact the churches to see how they feel about the service while we are still in the midst of pandemic.

❺ **Thank You:** Jim thanked Kathy for the Christmas decorating.

❻ **Postponing Organ Tuning:** There was discussion regarding the postponement of the organ tuning until next spring when we will, hopefully, be back inside the church building.

❼ **Parish:** Jim wants to be sure we keep in touch with parish and it should not fall on just one or two people. We all need to be involved in checking on our

congregation. Jack volunteered to draft a parish letter.

③ Music/Copyright: With music being printed in the bulletins and zooming, Marilyn has received a “special offer” from Christian Copyright Licensing International for one year to have rights to video and print music. Discussion. Motion made by Matt to purchase streaming license for \$116.10; second by Susan; Jim and Keith voted no; tie breaker was Jack and he voted to purchase the license; motion passed.

③ Vestry Members for 2021: In January, Jack will have served two – three year terms as vestry member and will need to step off vestry. Jim made a proposal to keep Jack on vestry during the pandemic. Vestry agreed.

③ Annual Meeting: Annual meeting will take place the fourth Sunday in January (17<sup>th</sup>) and this year it may have to be a zoom meeting.

Adjourn: With no further business before the vestry, the meeting was concluded at 7:14 p.m. Pastor Bill closed with prayer. The vestry will meet again on Wednesday, December 9 at 6 p.m. via zoom.

*Kathy Kerr*, Clerk for the Vestry

### October 2020 Financial Report

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Income:</b>   | <b>2,201.34</b> |
| Year-to-date:    | 34,258.92       |
| <b>Expenses:</b> | <b>2,984.32</b> |
| Year-to-date:    | 35,010.85       |

### Remember in Your Prayers

Judy Harstine, Carey Jeansonne, Jack Ream, Jean Zingg, Cathy Whiddon, Kelly Herrick, Jon Schiller, Carol Greenham, Betty Watkins and Family, Kevin, Chloe, Ashley Brown, Charles Scoggins, April Brooks, Rosella Campbell, Steve Chomiak, Betty Watkins and Family, Don Walters, Scott Levensgood, [Ava, Olivia, and Landon], Patsy Williams, Danielle Morgan, Gary and Mary Rennicker, Tom Yosick, Dennis Collister, Peggy Foutz, Patricia Stevens



All members of our Armed Forces in particular, Cole Householder, Capt. Dan Cowden, and Cecil Freeman Jr.

Nursing Home and Assisted Living: Frances May (Dover Park Village) and Kate Cathcart

### Birthdays



December 01: Jane Krumlauf  
December 09: Danielle Morgan  
December 11: Phil Kerr  
December 13: Margaret Folger

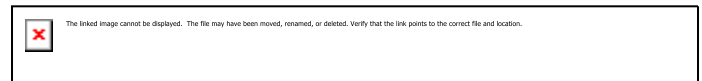
December 28: Pat Jeansonne

### Anniversaries

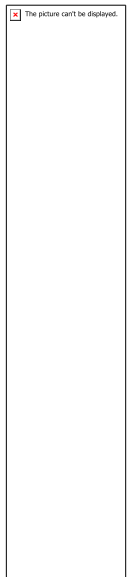
No Anniversaries this month

### Diocesan News

Word was received that Nancy Bowman, widow of The Rt. Rev. David Bowman passed away on December 1<sup>st</sup> at Lake West Hospital in Willoughby, Ohio where she was being treated for complications from recent illnesses. Services will be planned at a later date, after which she will be buried in Rangeley, Maine along side her husband. Please hold the Bowman family in your prayers.



**Christmas Star...**to light up the December sky. On December 21, we can witness something not seen in nearly 800 years. During the upcoming winter solstice, Jupiter and Saturn will line up to create what is known as the “Christmas Star” or “Star of Bethlehem.” These two planets have not appeared this close together from Earth’s vantage point since the Middle Ages. Alignments between these two planets are rather rare occurring once every 20 years but this conjunction is exceptionally rare because of how close the planets will appear to be to one another. Stargazers should turn their heads and telescopes to the southwest portion of the sky about 45 minutes after sunset to see the planets align on December 21.



***Have a very Merry Christmas!***

**Celebrations Coming Up!**