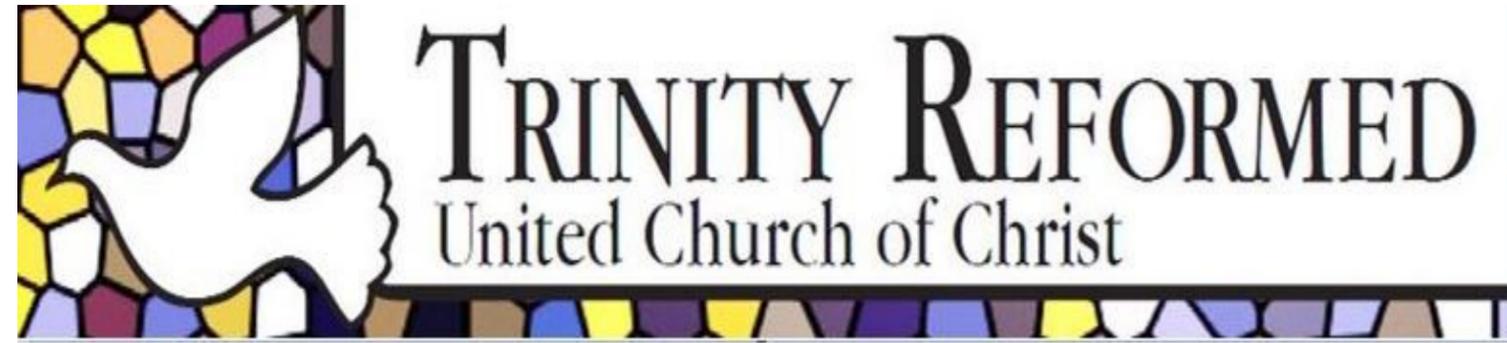




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Monthly Newsletter

December 2019

*Friends,*

*The study of the book: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations may be over, but our Fruitfulness Project has just really begun. The next phase beginning in January will begin putting some of our ideas into action. If you haven't had an opportunity to commit to one or two of the areas, PLEASE contact me to make a choice.*

*Thank you to everyone who joined the small groups, and those of you who prayed alongside the process. I am excited and I hope you are too as we move forward to see what God has in store for us.*

*Peace and blessings,*

*Pastor Patty*

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

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Trinity Reformed United  
Church of Christ  
450 West Main Street  
Mountville, PA 17554

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



**In This Issue:**

- Announcements
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Christmas Eve Service
  - Advent
- Christmas Outreach project
- Arts & Crafts Night
  - Guild News
- The Christmas Fund
- Executive Team Minutes
  - Flower Chart

## Announcements:

**Upcoming Events** Hartman Center Events- January 17-19 **Men's Retreat: Seasons of A Man's Life.** You Can register online at HartmanCenter.com—Click on the "Events" tab. Also mark your calendar for the "**Extravagant Welcome Retreat**" for LGBTQIA+ folks, families, couples and individuals May 29-31

**Volunteer Ministers** - Thank you to all who stepped up to assist with worship and other responsibilities, which are a vital part of our worship and mission. If you have not signed up but are interested please contact Kathy Jones at jonesygirl1227@gmail.com.

**Come help decorate** our church & sanctuary Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 12PM.

**Printed Copies of the Newsletter** are on the table in the narthex.

**Please adorn our Tree of Warmth during Advent Season.** Some suggestions are XL and XXL men's clothing, socks, hats and gloves for men, women and children.

**We are trying to increase our social media presence** - will you help? If you are on Facebook please like our page: MountvilleTRUCC. When items are posted share with your friends! You can also follow us on Instagram.

## Share in the joy of Advent and Christmas Worship:

**Readers are needed** for the lighting of the Advent candles, please see Kathy Jones if you are interested. We are looking for a few individuals to perform short monologues for our Christmas program on December 22. Talk to Pastor Patty or Christine MacReady. Extra bell ringers are needed for a special Christmas Eve piece. Please talk to Dan or any member of the bell choir.

**More Directories** have been printed! Located on the table in the Narthex. If they are gone, you can place a note in Adrienne's mailbox or send her an email at [trucc@mountvilletrinityucc.org](mailto:trucc@mountvilletrinityucc.org) and she can print more.

**Congregational Meeting**— December 29th following the service



## December Birthdays:

Joanne Duke	December 1st
Jenny Hooper	December 1st
Bonnie Crone	December 4th
Jessica Kennedy	December 7th
Ray Bechtold	December 13th
Colton Lehman	December 17th
Tom Duke	December 18th
Mark Cote	December 18th
Mary Ann Price	December 26th
Kathy Jones	December 27th
Hendrix Miller	December 30th

## Anniversaries:

Andy and Amanda Sheaffer	December 1st
Sharon Knerr and Kathy Jones	December 31st

## The 2020 Flower Chart:

The 2020 flower chart is up on the bulletin board ready to be filled in! Please indicate on the chart if flower are in memory of loved one or honoring a special occasion.

Place flower money in an envelope labeled "Flower money" and place in the offering.

If you would like to donate more than one vase on a specific Sunday, when signing up, please write on the flower chart "2 vases" or however many you'd like to donate. If you are just donating one vase you do not need to do this. Simply write your name on the chart and Adrienne will see that 1 vase is ordered.



Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ

November 17, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes Continued...

**New Business:**

- The 2020 Budget will be voted on at the Congregational meeting in December if a quorum is obtained.
- The church brochure needs revamped and a template for the original is currently being searched for
- An Evaluation form for both Adrienne and Dan is being sought in the office files.
- Homework for January meeting-Do behavioral Covenants from book
- A complete list of fundraisers for the upcoming year are forthcoming:
- Blood Drives and Rock/Fossil Shows
- Spaghetti Dinners March 7, 2020 & November 7, 2020
- Chicken BBQ--May, July and September
- Food Truck event during the July 4th fireworks at Mountville-proceeds to benefit

Faith Friendship

The Executive Committee Christmas Meeting will be at the Centerville Diner at 6:30pm.

Pastor will call for reservations.

Motion to adjourn by Eileen and second by Esther.

Minutes respectively submitted by Eileen Scion

**Royal Icing:**

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 Tbsp. plus 2 tsp. water
- 4 1/2 tsp. meringue powder
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar

**Directions:**

1. In a small bowl, combine the confectioners' sugar, water, meringue powder, and cream of tartar; beat on low speed until combined. Beat on high until still peaks form , 4-5 minutes. Tint with food coloring if desired. Keep unused icing covered at all times with a damp cloth. If necessary, beat again on high to restore texture.
2. To decorate, place icing in a pastry bag. For border decorations and dots, use a #3 round pastry tip. Form small detailed decorations, use a #1 or #2 round pastry tip. \*Note: Use of a coupler ring will allow you to easily change pastry tips for different designs.

**Gingerbread Cookies:**

(Makes 5 dozen)

**Ingredients:**

- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp. ground cloves

**Directions:**

1. Cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and molasses. In another bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt and spices; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Divide dough in half; shape each into a disk. Wrap in plastic; refrigerate, covered, until firm enough to roll, 4 hours or overnight.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough to 1/8 inch thickness. Cut 60 gingerbread men using a floured 3 1/2 inch cookie cutter. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake cookies until edges are firm, 8-10 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cook completely. Decorate as desired.

\*We like to decorate these cookies with our special icing (see recipe)



*Come worship with us!*

*There will be candle lighting, singing of carols,  
communion and the telling of the timeless story  
of our Savior's birth.*



• **Outreach for the Holidays include:**

- Gift bags for the Faith Friendship and Hershey Mill residents. Chuck and Bill initially wished to pay for this, however, it was decided to open it up to the congregation.
- Homebound Members will be taken Poinsettias (Eileen Scion to cover cost) and cards.
- The Church's website has been updated and 5 members trained. Cost \$125.00  
Pastor's new email is [Pastor@mountvilletrinityUCC.org](mailto:Pastor@mountvilletrinityUCC.org)
- Those who watch the service broadcast on Facebook find the ambient noise to be too prominent. It was again mentioned we should have Nursery available for folks. There should be an attendant there 15 minutes prior to church and stay for 10 min into the service to be sure of a need.
- Pastor Patty's vacation is 12/26/19-1/2/20 with Christine leading worship 12/29. Also 1/13/20-1/19/20 with preacher TBD.
- We need to do an annual report this year. Needs completed by the end of February. This should include but not limited to Property Accomplishments, Worship and Music highlights a report from Guild etc.

**Property:**

- 2 stoves were purchased and are in place. Everyone is pleased with them.
- Lightbulb in the lobby was fixed
- Chicken BBQ sign was repainted but made generic so it will be multi functional
- It will cost \$750.00 to reline the church parking lot-tabled for now
- Bushes still need trimmed
- Side door is painted on the outside



**Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ**

**November 17, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes**

Esther led the meeting off with a prayer.

- **Minutes** from the last 2 meetings were reviewed. Motion to accept September Minutes was made by Mark and second by Sharon. The October meeting minutes were motioned for acceptance by Eileen and second by Esther. All Approved
- Treasurer's report was tabled until the December meeting for approval due to Kathy's request to be sure it is correct. The 2020 budget will be presented at the December Congregational meeting even though it may be difficult to obtain a quorum due to the holiday. We are still \$5,000.00 to the good. Right now it is recommended to pay Pastor Patty for a 1/2 hour position in addition to her Pension, Insurance and housing.
- Kathy Jones has agreed to remain as Treasurer through 2020
- Pastor's report:
- For Sunday 11/24 Carrie Call will be our guest preacher signaling the end of our Fruitfulness Project meetings. There will be an opportunity for all congregational members to write down a personal or church related frustration that has been problematic in their journey to move forward spiritually. They can place them in a bowl of water and their "problems" will disappear. Patty will also be anointing those who wish so with oil. The anointing is for healing and peace, wisdom and moving from an old to a new vision. We are looking for transformation with thanksgiving and commitment.
- Everyone will choose 2 of the 5 areas we studied, they would like to focus in. In addition then place check marks beside ideas in all categories that stand out to them.
- January will return with meetings in the areas you signed up for and an end to the fruitfulness project.
- Christmas Eve service will begin at 7:00pm

**Advent and Christmas at Trinity**

**December 1 The First Sunday In Advent "Wait"**

Scripture: Matthew 24: 36-44

Theme: Living in anticipation, eager to experience the presence of the holy.

**December 8 The Second Sunday of Advent "Prepare"**

Scripture: Matthew 3: 1-12

Theme: Making a way for life in Christ.

**December 15 The Third Sunday in Advent "Be Glad"**

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25

Theme: Living with joy, because God is with us

**December 22 The Fourth Sunday in Advent "Behold"**

Scripture: Luke 1: 46b-55

Theme: Offering praise for what God is doing





### A Christmas Outreach Project

We will be making Christmas gift bags for our friends at Hershey Mill Home and Faith Friendship Villa. Both are near capacity and we will be making 110 bags.

#### **Here are some items that are needed:**

Travel size items: Tooth paste, lotions, shower gel, Hand sanitizers  
tooth brushes (individually packaged), Band-Aids, Chapstick  
pens, note pads

Puzzle books: Suduko, word searches, crosswords  
calendars

playing cards, Uno cards, puzzles

One size fun/fuzzy Unisex Socks

gum

Tea bags, Coffee singles, Drink singles

Mugs

Magazines

Or you may make a donation toward the items.

**Please place your donation in an envelope and mark: Christmas Gift Bags. All items should be delivered to church by December 15.**

# THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

A CHRISTMAS COLORING BOOK

Story by Christina Villa Illustrations by Ted Dawson



It was Christmas Eve at Lily and Max's house.

\*If you would like a copy of the Pension Board coloring book, send an email to the church office and we can have some printed. You can download a coloring book at [christmasfund.org](http://christmasfund.org).



**“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:5**

★  
**THE CHRISTMAS FUND**  
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for the faithful servants of our church who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need.

We are so grateful for the generosity of churches and individuals who contributed a total of \$2, 539, 471 to the 2018 Offering, enabling us to provide Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, special grants for emergencies, and Christmas “ Thank You” Gift Checks to over 1,000 individuals and families in need.

We will collect the Christmas offering on December 22nd and December 24th.

Through your gifts to the Christmas Fund, you can help ensure that “The Light Shines in the Darkness” for those who have so faithfully served our church.

**Arts & Crafts Night December 12th from 7-9PM**

This month we will be creating gift tags to go with the goodie bags for Faith Friendship Villa and Hershey Mill Home.

Please join us!

Craft night meets the second Thursday of every month. All are welcome to bring your own craft, to learn about making hand-stamped cards, or just for fellowship.

For more information please see Katie Crockett



**TRUCC Guild Christmas Party Potluck Singalong**

**Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019 at 6PM**

**Located in the Fellowship Hall**

**All are welcome! Bring a friend for good food and joyful fun!**

**Sandy Heisey will lead us in a Christian Singalong**

**Please bring donations for the Columbia Foodbank as your Gift**



**The Guild News:**

**Christmas Party Event** December 3rd at 6PM-Covered Dish, entertainment by Sandy Heisey “ Christmas Music Sing Along” \*Please bring a donation to the Food Bank

**January Guild meeting Tuesday 1/7/2020 7:00 pm - Everyone** is welcome to attend the Guild for community, craft and educational events, service, and fundraising events to support our church.

**Next Rummage Sale– January 17&18**

