

The Circuit Rider

OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 40 Issue 11

November 2025

November Calendar



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| 1 Set clocks back tonight! | 12 Trustee meeting at 6:30 |
| 2 All Saints Service | 16 Mexico Brass Concert at 4:30 |
| Freewill Dinner at 4:30 | 17 Bright and Cheerful at noon |
| 8 Charge Conference from | 19 Ad. Council meeting at 6:30 |
| 9:30-11:30 at Fulton First UMC | 22 Turkey Dinner at Fulton First at 11 |
| 11 Veteran's Day | 27 Thanksgiving Day |
| 12 Worship meeting at noon | 30 UM Student Day special offering |

Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, November 8th
at Fulton 1st UMC from 9:30 – 11:30am

AA group meets on Friday evening
Choir rehearsals are 7pm on Thursdays. All are welcome!

All Saints 2025

Each year we remember those who have gone to their final rest in Christ since last November at the annual All Saints service. This year's service is **Sunday, November 2nd at 11am. (Bold type indicates member.)** Our special guest preacher will be our District Superintendent, Rev. Sherri Rood.



Roger Bristol December 19, 2024
Rob Nelson March 22, 2025
Tom Tucker March 23, 2025

Barbara Burritt May 17, 2025
Ruth Stewart Sugg September 15, 2025
Chuck Himes September 27, 2025

Mexico Brass Concert



No, not from the country of Mexico, but several brass players from Mexico, New York. They will perform in our Sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, **November 16th at 4:30 p.m.** A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the Human Concerns Center. Stay tuned for more information!



Christmas Nu2U & Christmas Cookie Sale



Our sale will be **December 6th from 9 to 4.**
Please start baking lots of cookies and saving Christmas items.

Advent Study 2025

Our Advent Study for this year, by Amy Jill Levine is titled. "**A Child is Born**".

"Discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this captivating four-week Advent study. The study delves into the narratives of Isaac and Ishmael, Moses, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless Christmas story in the final chapter. Author Amy-Jill Levine brings her expert knowledge of Scripture and careful consideration of the Christian story to show readers how Scripture's earlier birth stories anticipate the story of Jesus's birth."

All are welcome to join us, either **before church at 9:30 a.m.** or **Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m.** You don't need any prior knowledge to enjoy an informative 12-minute video featuring A.J. Levine, professor emeritus at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Open-ended discussion follows. You may either say a lot, or not say a thing! According to Jesus, listening is valuable and humble! We will begin this four class study on **Wednesday, November 26th** and **Sunday November 30th**. Your choice! Hope to see you there!

Chancel Servants for November

Altar Guild: Pam Hill & Mark Garlock

Communion Steward: Sheila Buske

Anniversaries:

28 Pastor Ruth & Dan Warner



Birthdays:

7	Anna Langlois	22	Sheila Buske, Fred Heagerty
10	Lisa Bartholomew	28	Caylyn Salmonsens
15	James Butler	29	Mary Lou Natoli

If you would like other new dates added, please just send an email to the church office. 😊😊

Daily Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

Parishioners, Friends, and Family:

Those with health concerns: Becky Kandt (Pam's daughter); Pastor Ruth; J.R. Simmons; Dave Wadleigh; Connie LeBoeuf; Mary Seaton and her brothers; Marge Zeller, Nancy Wadleigh; Bea Holliday; Debbie Downs; Judy Lake; Zeke Seymour; Mark Garlock's father-in-law (Bob); Ed Downs; Will Abare; Nancy Sawyer; Wuxin Shen; Gerrick (Brenda's nephew); Betty Holliday; Cindy Abare; Donna (Gail's sister); Kelly and Alana (Nancy Sawyer's nieces). Those in nursing homes: Ann Rockower; Grace Truell; Valerie Palmer; Cheryl Coe DeLoff; Barbara Buske. Please pray for those suffering from cancer; those who are homeless; all caregivers; and the health and safety of our families and friends.

Community and World Concerns:

Please pray for democracy, and leaders to be merciful everywhere. Pray also for all victims of hurricane Melissa in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries. Please pray for those living in fear; especially in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as in our country. Prayers for all those doing God's work in the world; an end to racism, and the coming of world peace! Prayers also for Pastor Sherri Rood and Pastor Ruth in their ministry; and for Alan Kinney, and Pope Leo XIV as they minister to others.



Thanksgiving for Human Concerns



We have recently learned that the Human Concerns Center no longer gives out Thanksgiving baskets. Instead, they provide a turkey and a gift card, so families can purchase what they need.

They are asking for monetary gifts to cover the gift cards. Your donations can be put in the offering plates (labeled Human Concerns), sent to Trinity, or given to Pam. Our annual Thanksgiving offering will also support them.

We will still gladly accept nonperishable food items to replenish their shelves after Thanksgiving. Bless you for your generous donations!



Bright and Cheerful



We will meet on the 17th at noon to enjoy lunch and fellowship, as we write cards to our friends of Trinity. We would love to have more people join this wonderful ministry! ☀



Secret Siblings



Please remember your 'Siblings' with daily prayers, monthly cards, and a small birthday gift!

It's Stewardship Time Again!

Our yearly Stewardship letters were sent out **October 30th**. We are asked to prayerfully consider how we can take a step 'forward' in our giving and our service to our ministries and activities at Trinity. Our pledges of prayer, presence, giving, and service will be received and blessed at our **Thanksgiving Sunday service, November 23rd**. Thank you for your faithful support!!



Thank You!



"We wish to express our gratitude for your recent donation of \$338.00. Thanks to your support, we can continue to provide emergency food for every member of an eligible family on a bi-weekly basis. Together, we are making a significant difference in the fight against hunger."

With sincere gratitude,

Board of Directors, Human Concerns, Inc.

Please, No Plastic



To me, the Bible is clear that God places constraints on how we take from Earth's bounty. Consider the following:

- Earth is the Lord's, not ours (Ps 24:1).
- Our "rule" over creation must image, or mirror, how God rules over creation: In loving kindness (Genesis 1:26; Ezek 34).

Plastic waste is everywhere: In the rain, on the highest mountain peaks, in the (once pristine) Arctic, and even in human blood and brains. When plastic ages, it breaks down into tiny pieces, which the wind, waves and so on distributed far and wide.

By Dr. Andrew Hartley, UMC Creation Care Chair



Pastor's Letter

Trinity Church family,

November is here! We are starting off worship services with a visit from our dear D.S. Sherri Rood, who will be celebrating All Saints Sunday worship with us and bringing the message on Sunday, November 2nd! In addition, our "Attitude of Gratitude" Sermon Series goes out to help us fill up our thankfulness tank on a regular basis.

Consider these as opportunities to share:

1. **District Charge Conference** at Fulton First UMC
Saturday, November 8th at 9:30 am
Conference will be held at the Sanctuary and refreshments will be served.
2. **Bible King Bible Study** continues to gather **Wednesday's at 9:30 am** at the Burger King on Route 104, Oswego.
3. **Meal and a Movie Night** at Fulton First UMC **November 21st at 6pm**
Featuring "Play the Flute" and helping with dinner prep.
4. **Turkey Dinner Fundraiser** at Fulton First UMC **November 22nd**
Donations and Helpers are welcome. Call church office for details or to leave a message at 315-592-7347.

We love and cherish you and your families... Sincerely, *Pastor Ruth*
"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)



September 2025 Current Expense Report

Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$3,174.06
<i>(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS & Medicare taxes, & some insurances)</i>	
Program Expenses	\$328.60
<i>(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshipping community)</i>	
Operations Expenses	\$931.52
<i>(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)</i>	
Conference Billing	\$1,781.00
<i>(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)</i>	
Total September Expenditures	\$6,215.18

Prepared 10/18/25 by Lisa Bartholomew

Reflects September 30 Paychecks

The BibleKing Ladies: A whopper of a Bible study

October 20, 2025 / By UNY Communications

Eight years ago, three women from **Oswego: Trinity United Methodist Church** hesitated to join a traditional Bible study. “They felt that they didn’t know enough,” recalls longtime member and SPRC Chair of Oswego: Trinity UMC, Sheila Buske. “I responded that I would be willing to run a class for just the three of them, so that they would feel comfortable and not intimidated.”

When Sheila asked what they’d like to study, their response surprised her: “The whole Bible.”

So, in 2017, the small group began meeting every Wednesday morning at their local Burger King for breakfast and Bible discussion. They tackled five to seven chapters each week, starting with Genesis 1–6. After seven years of faithful study, the group completed the entire Bible in early 2024. But even then, they weren’t ready to stop.

Now affectionately known around town as “The BibleKing Ladies,” the group continues to meet weekly, diving into topics like Biblical geography, comparative religions, and most recently, Robin Wall Kimmerer’s *The Serviceberry*.

What began as a small, private gathering has become a joyful public ministry. “We’ve grown to five regular attendees,” says Sheila, “and the workers at Burger King treat us like family. Other customers often ask us questions and appear to be learning a bit while eating and listening in.”

Their lighthearted nickname has even caught on beyond the restaurant. “We have matching t-shirts with various sayings and colors,” Sheila adds with a smile. “Many members of our church and neighboring churches have ordered similar t-shirts—but that’s another story entirely!”

For Sheila, who also serves as Oswego Trinity’s Lay Member to Annual Conference and Witness Committee Chair, the BibleKing gatherings are an extension of her calling to teach. “As a retired science teacher, I find teaching—whether it be children’s Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Studies, or our BK classes—very rewarding. I feel that teaching others about God and God’s love for us is what I’ve been called to do.”

Other members echo that sense of purpose and joy.

Pam shares, “I love that we’re meeting in a public space. Sometimes we see customers or staff reading our United Methodist T-shirts or listening in on what we are studying. We’re spreading the Word without really trying! We’ve had wonderful discussions on a wide variety of subjects, like comparing world religions and learning about Native American culture and finding scriptures that mirror them.”

LaDonna sums it up simply: “I think it’s great!!!”

And Connie, who joined as a first-time participant in Bible study, adds, “It’s my first time doing a Bible study. I enjoy going to Burger King—it’s great fellowship!”

From humble beginnings over breakfast sandwiches to becoming a beloved local ministry, the BibleKing Ladies have shown that sacred study can thrive anywhere—even at a corner booth with a cup of coffee and an open Bible. To view the article with photos click this link:

<https://www.unyumc.org/news/article/the-bibleking-ladies-a-whopper-of-a-bible-study>.



N.O.W. Minutes 10/15/2025

Present: Sheila Buske, Pam Hill, Connie LeBoeuf, Diana McKenna, LaDonna Tucker, Marge Zeller.

Excused: Lisa Bartholomew, Barb Downs, Brenda Holliday, Linda Lamond

Bible Verse: Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us worship in song, a joyful offering to the Eternal. Shout! Shout with joy to the rock of our liberation. Come face-to-face with God, and give thanks; with loud and joyful voices, praise Him in songs. For the Eternal is a great God, and a great King, supreme over all gods.

Within His control are the very depths of the earth; the mountaintops too—they all belong to Him. The sea belongs to Him, for He created it—scooped and filled it—with His hands He made the dry land—every valley and mountain. Come, let us worship Him. Everyone bow down;

kneel before the Eternal who made us. For He is our God and we are His people, the flock of His pasture, His sheep protected and nurtured by His hand.

Opening Prayer: *Good and gracious God, you promise to pour out your Spirit upon us; you are the hope of the world. Give us strength, that we might serve you; make us humble, that we might live for your glory alone. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

Glory – “We have no design but to promote the glory of God” – John Wesley

How have you seen God’s love and hope in the natural world recently?

“Vibrant maple leaves, beauty and peace of God’s Creation, cycle of life and flowers reblooming, ...hope!”

Approve Minutes of 8/20/25 –Marge moved – Approved

Nurture

Unfortunately, no Sunday School children have attended during the past two months. But we continue to nurture those on our email list with “Imagine No Racism” prayers each Monday and Thursday. The BibleKing small group continues to meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 at Burger King. Anyone is invited to join us! We are finishing up our book study on “The Serviceberry”, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, with relevant Bible verses. Three members attended a talk at SUNY Oswego by Ms. Kimmerer. It was inspiring! The Spiritual Retreat in Nature at Sterling Nature Center was enjoyed by 10 hearty souls on a cool October day. Copies of the service are available in the chapel for anyone wishing to participate in their own silent retreat.

The BibleKing fieldtrip to the Ska-nonh Haudenosaunee Museum in Liverpool, was postponed to a later date. The upcoming Advent Study by Amy Jill Levine will be offered at two different times during the four weeks of Advent starting on Wednesday, Nov. 26th at 1:00 p.m. Another option is every Sunday morning before church at 9:30 a.m. All are invited! We discussed the possibility of hosting some sort of fellowship/support group which would be open to the public. Perhaps sewing, crafts, book club, or just coffee and conversation??? Any ideas would be welcomed!

Outreach

Our Free-Will Dinner in September hosted 27 guests, and our October Dinner fed 38 eager folks. We could use more helpers for this vital mission! Diana will contact the high school to see about recruiting some students for community service. The Nu 2 U Sale in September, with generous donations from the community provided inexpensive clothing and household goods for our neighbors, while netting \$1,702.00. Human Concerns was given a donation of \$338.00. Our October 11th Winter-Wear Giveaway provided warm coats, boots, and clothing for the 65 people who dropped by. Leftover items were donated to “Second Chances”. Many thanks to friends who purchased and donated new coats to the cause! Marge volunteered to write a “Thank You” letter for submission at the Pal-Times. For our thanksgiving mission, instead of providing meals to individual families, we will take up a collection for Human Concerns to assist them in providing family food baskets. Stay tuned for information about providing dinners, hats, mittens, and money to the Salvation Army for needy families at Christmas.

Witness

This summer we ordered 26 new t-shirts and sweatshirts, proudly sharing our Love for God and Neighbor, John Wesley's Three Simple Rules, and the good news that Love Breaks Down Walls! About half of those were ordered by our neighbors at Fulton First UMC. We were noticed at Sterling Nature Center while wearing our UMC shirts! "Imagine No Racism" prayers continue to be sent every Monday and Thursday, to give us hope during these trying times.

The outdoor Prayer Box, contains Bible verses, spiritual books, and copies of "The Upper Room" for anyone in the neighborhood, and many of our neighbors leave a prayer or two on occasion. The "Jesus said" sayings on the outdoor sign board continue to be posted for all to see! Be sure to check out the various commandments every few weeks or so! We again discussed doing something creative, like maybe painted prayer rocks that could be weatherproofed and left around the edge of the flowerbed. Those walking by could take one and they could be replenished over time. Another thought is to use the side of the ramp for some type of weatherproofed banner or artwork that could be changed seasonally, perhaps highlighting the church's activities, its history, "Jesus said" quotes, or our T-shirt sayings. If you would be willing to share your talents to help create some of these, please let us know!

The Worship Committee met on October 8th to plan for the future, and streamline bulletin production. Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood, our District Superintendent, will preach on Sunday, November 2nd here at Trinity. Let's all turn out to give her a warm welcome! An upcoming meeting, of knowledgeable people will check out our sound system, and hopefully make some adjustments to help folks in various parts of the sanctuary hear more clearly. Pastor Ruth invited "Mexico Brass" to offer a concert on Sunday, November 16th at 4:30 p.m. Christmas eve Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. this year. The Worship Committee will meet next on Wednesday, November 12th at noon.

Closing Prayer: *What greater joy can we know that to go home justified because of our humility before God who redeems? Let us leave this place to live as we came in – openly and desiring to praise God and witness to a saving love. Go in humble grace. In Christ's name. Amen.* Rev. Derek Weber

Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 17th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.



Giving Thanks for All Things

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

Remembering The Saints

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter "To all God's beloved ... who are called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God's beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are "called to be saints."

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.



Trinity United Methodist Church
45 East Utica Street
Oswego, NY 13126



2025

Worship and Church School: 11:00 a.m. Sundays
315-343-1715

***“Know the Love of God, Grow as Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Go
into the World With the Power of the Holy Spirit.”***

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