

The Circuit Rider

OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 40 Issue 12

December 2025



December Calendar



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 Piano Tuning at 9am | 17 N.O.W. meeting at 6:30pm |
| 6 Nu2U and Cookie Sale 9-4 | 24 Christmas Eve Service at 7:30pm |
| 7 Freewill Dinner at 4:30pm | 25 Have a Blessed Christmas! |
| United Methodist Student Day offering | 31 New Year's Eve Dinner and Game |
| 10 Trustee Meeting at 6:30pm | Night at 6pm |
| 13 Christmas Crafts 1-3pm | |
| 15 Bright and Cheerful at noon | |

Advent Study runs Sundays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 1pm, starting November 30th
AA group meets on Friday evenings
Choir rehearsals are 7pm on Thursdays. All are welcome!

Chancel Servants for December

Altar Guild: Diana McKenna, Pam Hill, Sheila Buske

Communion Stewards: Diana McKenna, Connie LeBoeuf



Christmas Nu 2 U and Christmas Cookie Sale



Our annual Nu 2 U Christmas Sale and Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale will be **Saturday, December 6th from 9 to 4.** We will again be selling cookies and candy by the pound. Please have your cookies there on **Friday, December 5th by noon** if possible or bring them in **Saturday, December 6th by 8:30.** Part of the proceeds will be used for the Christmas Baskets.

Christmas Baskets

This year we are adopting 4 families from the Salvation Army, and providing Christmas dinners, hats, and mittens. Mission money from the Christmas sale, and monetary donations will also be given for Christmas gifts and donations can be given to Diana. Sheets will be out soon for the dinners. Thanks for helping bring joy to these families!



Christmas Eve Service



Please join us **December 24th at 7:30pm** for our traditional Christmas Eve service as we celebrate with lessons and carols. Have a blessed Christmas!

🎉🎉🎉 New Year's Eve Party 🎉🎉🎉

We would love to see you at our annual New Year's Eve (Dec. 31st) potluck dinner at **6pm**. Bring a dish to pass and a game to share during this



All-Church Potluck

celebration of friends and togetherness. Family and friends are welcome 😊! 🎉

Christmas Crafts

There will be a Christmas Craft class on **Sat., Dec. 13th from 1 to 3pm** for ages 8 and up. The class is free, donations are accepted for supplies. These crafts would make a great Christmas gift. Come and join the fun!



Bright and Cheerful

At our meeting on **December 15th**, we will write out Christmas cards to all our Trinity family. If you have cards that you won't be using and would like to donate them, please bring them to church and give them to Pam. If you'd like to join us at noon that day to help with cards, a special lunch will be provided!

Birthdays:

3	Danny Mulcahey	19	Mike Lund, Christopher Tucker
4	Linda Costello	23	Beatrice Holliday
9	Connie Taylor	25	Tammy Pittenger
12	Al Downs	31	Mary Turner
17	Abby Mulcahey		

Anniversaries:

6 Wuxin Shen & Jiancheng Huang

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



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES**



Daily Prayers

*Our condolences to Barb and Al Downs and family
on the death of their daughter, Debbie, on Nov. 17th.*

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

Parishioners, Friends, and Family:

Those with health concerns: Becky Kandt (Pam's daughter); Carrie Simmons and Family; J.R. Simmons; Dave Wadleigh; Mary Seaton and her brothers; Nancy Wadleigh; Bea Holliday; Paula Nelson (Marge Zeller's sister-in-law); 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 assisted living: Ann Rockower; Grace Truell; Judy Lake; Valerie Palmer; Cheryl Coe DeLoff; Barbara Buske; Zeke Seymour. 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. 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 for Pastor Ruth in her ministry; and for Alan Kinney, and Pope Leo XIV as they minister to others.



Secret Siblings 📺



Please remember your new Secret Siblings with prayers, cards, and a Christmas gift!



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.** Your choice! 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 **Sunday November 30th**. Hope to see you there!

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Christmas Prayer: The True Gift

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



Pastor's Letter

Beloved Trinity Church family,

I was glad when they said unto me: "Let us go to the House of the Lord!" The season of Advent bring great joy and excitement, as we prepare to receive our Lord, Jesus Christ – God incarnate! I pray you and your family are well and send love and peace your way.

As we get into the Advent and Christmas seasons, we are looking forward to collaborating during Sunday Worship by having some of you reading parts of the Advent Candle liturgy. Please, let Pam H. or Sheila B. know if you are interested!

I am especially looking forward to our Bible study "A Child is Born". Hope you add your name to the sign-up sheet and join us Wednesdays or Sundays after church.

This month, messages will be focused on the Christmas Carol movie theme and promise to equip us all with tools to recognize the depth of our God's love and how we can apply the lessons from our past to grow in the present, developing Christ's character and preparing for the future!

Feel free to call or text me if you would like us to meet or for me to come visit you – making arrangements as needed because I am allergic to cats and want to see you!

You and your family members are in our hearts and prayer and we LOVE YOU!

Sincerely, *Pastor Ruth*

October 2025 Current Expense Report

Staff Salaries & Benefits \$3,440.03

(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS & Medicare taxes, & some insurances)

Program Expenses \$55.97

(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshiping community)

Operations Expenses \$866.53

(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)

Conference Billing \$1,781.00

(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)

Total October Expenditures **\$6,143.53**

Prepared 11/01/25 by Lisa Bartholomew

Reflects October 30 Paychecks

Administrative Council Minutes

November 19, 2025

Present: Pastor Ruth Rosa Warner, Marge Zeller, Sheila Buske, Mike Lund, Pam Hill, Diana McKenna, Connie LeBoeuf.

Excused: LaDonna Tucker, Lisa Bartholomew.

Marge opened the meeting with scripture (James 2:21-22) and prayer at 6:40pm. The minutes from September 23rd were reviewed. Mike moved to accept, approved.

Current Expense Report through October 31st:

Income:

- Received for budget: \$57,207.00
- Local mission: \$907.00
- Conference mission: \$5,332.00
- Total income: \$63,446.00
- Checking acct. balance: \$44,537.67

Expenses:

- Personnel: \$32,938.86
- Program: \$502.46
- Operations: \$12,390.61
- Conference: \$13,521.92
- Total expenses: \$59,353.85

Connie moved to accept, approved.

Trustee treasurer report through October 31st:

- Trustee income: \$5,591.00

••Restoration income: \$15,426.00
••Memorial/misc. income: \$560.00
••Total income: \$21,577.00
••Total expenses: \$673.88
••Balance of all accts: \$145,263.09

Pam moved to accept, approved.

Thanks to our treasurers: Lisa, Mike, and Sheila!

Trustee Report

Phoenix Welding will take another couple weeks to fix the floor grate.

John Rabine has submitted his snowblowing bid of \$3200, same as last year. He also cleaned up all the gardens and leaves.

Dave Burger will get a bid for snowplowing to us soon.

Mike will try Art Jones again tomorrow about the basement work, and Pam will call Scott Brennan about the broken glass door panels.

Lisa is now a Trustee check signer, and Tom Tucker and Ann Rockower were removed.

Trustees will transfer funds from the Memorial fund to pay the church insurance bill next month.

Mike will contact Cass Appliances about the ovens, and will go to the County Bldg. to get paperwork to complete the Cadaret Grant transfer.

Pam will check into insulation contractors about free energy audits.

Pastor Report

Pastor Ruth has drafted a letter of introduction to be sent to our church people, listing possible ways she can enrich our lives at Trinity. She is preparing a new congregant for membership, and is mentoring others, and planning local lay servant classes with other local churches.

Nurture

10 Trinity friends enjoyed a spiritual retreat at Sterling Nature Center on October 11th, led by Sheila.

Bible King has finished studying "The Serviceberry", by Robin Wall Kimmerer, and 3 heard her speak at the college on September 24th.

Bright and Cheerful will again send out Christmas cards to our church family in December.

Donations of cards are welcome!

LaDonna Tucker has provided visitor bags for newcomers.

Sheila will lead the Advent study, "A Child is Born", by Amy Jill Levine, starting November 30th at 9:30, and will offer another time.

Marge will lead a greeter/usher training class.

Shana Corey is interested in leading craft classes for the community at church.

Outreach Report

38 people were fed at the October freewill dinner, and 57 at the November turkey dinner. A generous donation of food from their dinner was donated by Christ the Good Shepherd church, so everyone had enough and could enjoy takeout.

19 guests enjoyed the concert by the Mexico Brass, and the freewill donation of \$272 was given to the Human Concerns Center.

65 people were able to find warm clothing at our Winterwear giveaway, and extra clothing was given to Second Chances for their giveaway. Extra homemade hats will be given to the schools.

Marge will again find families from Salvation Army for our Christmas Baskets.

Witness Report

Suggestions for witnessing to the community include: continuing 'Jesus Says' messages on the signboard, hanging banners on the ramp or painting messages on the ramp wall, painting rocks and placing them around the area, and wearing our UM shirts.

The Worship Committee met on November 12th to plan for Advent.

Finance

The amended budget was presented, and discussion was held about freewill dinner money protocol. A set amount of money will be set aside for purchases, and records will be kept on purchases and donations. Menus will be written down for future cooks.

Sheila moved to approve the budget, Diana seconded, approved.

SPPRC

Charge Conference was held on November 8th at Fulton 1st UMC, and was attended by 17 neighboring UM churches. Trinity was represented by 7 members plus Pastor Ruth. Dr Sherri Rood presided.

NEW BUSINESS

Shana Corey, a new BK member, has offered to lead craft classes at Trinity, for congregants and the community. The Witness budget would fund startup supplies, and participants would donate. Sheila moved to allow Shana to lead classes, Pam seconded, approved.

George Valentine is asking to hold a baby shower on a Friday (January 30th or February 6th). Since AA meets Friday evenings in the chapel, they would need to be downstairs. Pam will check back about date and time, and will send out a building use form. The committee approved. The Shineman Foundation has offered to fund a community garden on our property, but the consensus is that, unfortunately, we don't have room.

We will order new offering envelopes, with just CE, Trustee, and Other as giving lines.

Next meeting is January 20, 2026 at 6:30. Meeting was closed in prayer at 8:20pm.

“Rejoice Forever in Creation”

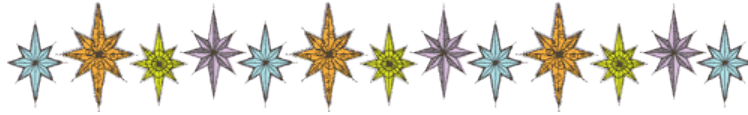
“Rejoice Forever in Creation” elicits a host of natural images and creation-based words and invitations. Stewardship of our natural resources needs attention all year. It might be worth spending time on these issues. Perhaps we here at Trinity could form a new “Creation Care Team” which could promote and act upon tips on how to rejoice in creation by caring for our carbon footprints or the environment around the church building? The text from **Isaiah 65:17-25** ends with some beautiful images of creation living in harmony and upending the predator and prey hierarchy so prevalent in our world.

Yet, in the middle of the text, the images are not so much the wilderness or grandeur of the environment, but rather the human habitation that is now claimed as a part of creation. The city of Jerusalem as a joy, houses and vineyards, sustainable farming, or farm-to-table partnerships feature in our text. There is something about health care, infant mortality, and elder care. Through it all, there is a sense of community about the grief we face and the struggles we live through as we care for one another in deep and profound ways.

Rejoicing in creation could include how we care and are cared for. We might give thanks for those in the medical community, honoring those who made a career out of health care. Or we might pray for caregivers on many levels, from those tending to aging parents to those raising children or providing childcare in their homes or businesses.

Rejoicing is the key word. There will always be struggles and issues to resolve. There will always be a need for confession and repentance, for reconciliation and forgiveness. But, we can focus on gratitude and hope. We can lift up the possibilities in both the natural world and the human-created environment of caring and community. Let's focus on the vision of what could be, or even what is promised, and then do our best to live into that reality with a call to live a life rejoicing in creation.

This article is based on writings by Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, who served churches in Indiana and Arkansas and the British Methodist Church. His PhD is from University of Edinburgh in preaching and media. He has taught preaching in seminary and conference settings for more than 20 years.



Christmas Altar Plants

If you wish to have flowers on the altar for the Christmas Eve service, please bring them to the church by Thursday, **December 18th**. If you would like *us* to purchase poinsettias, any color, please submit names and \$8 per plant, to Pam Hill or the church office by **December 14th**.

In Memory

In Honor

In Celebration of:

Given By: _____

Flower color: _____



Memory Tree

We will again set up a Christmas tree that is dark and without lights. You are asked to give one dollar (\$1.00) for a light in memory, honor or celebration of someone special. Then on Christmas Eve, we will list those names for whom the tree is lit. Please place your list and money in the offering plate or return it to Pam Hill by **December 14th**.

In Memory

In Honor

In Celebration of: _____

Given By: _____





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.”***

<https://www.facebook.com/OswegoNYTrinityUMC/>
<https://trinityumcoswego.org/>