

# The Circuit Rider

## OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 41 Issue 1

January 2026

### January Calendar

4	Freewill Dinner at 4:30pm	18	Human Relations offering
14	Trustee meeting at 6:30pm	19	Bright and Cheerful at noon
17	Secret Sibling Reveal at 1pm	21	Ad. Council at 6:30

**Haven of Hope meets Mon.-Fri. 7:30-3**

**AA group meets on Friday evenings**

**Choir rehearsals are 7pm on Thursdays. All are welcome!**

### Chancel Servants for January

**Altar Guild:** Pam Hill and Carrie Simmons

**Communion Stewards:** Pam Hill and Marge Zeller

### Secret Siblings Reveal

We are planning our Secret Sibling reveal for January 17th at 1 PM -3 PM. If you are a Secret Sibling or would like to join us, please come for a fun afternoon. We have activities planned as well as finger-food to enjoy. There is wonderful fellowship and tasty snacks. We will exchange small gifts and reveal who our Secret Sibling was for the last year.

You will be able to sign up for 2026. If you aren't familiar with the concept, you will draw a name from a hat (?) and each month send a card, promise to keep that person in your prayers, and give a small gift on their birthday and Christmas. 😊

### Bright and Cheerful

Bright and Cheerful will meet on the 19th at noon. Please bring a lunch and join in writing cards to our Trinity family. We always welcome new people to our fellowship!

### Christmas Nu 2 U and Christmas Cookie Sale Results

Our Christmas Nu2U and Christmas cookie sale was very successful! We made \$1,124.00, with \$112.00 from the sale to be donated to Salvation Army. In addition, \$120.00 has been donated toward the purchase of food and gifts for four families through the Salvation Army for Christmas. We received numerous handmade hats and mittens, which were given to the Salvation Army, local schools, and nursery care programs. Thank you to all the bakers and workers!

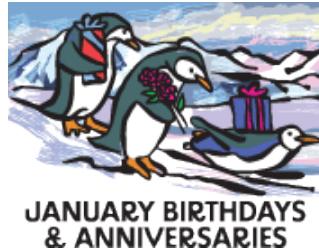


## January Birthdays

- 4 Cindy Fuller
- 5 Zoe Lisk
- 12 Rebecca Kandt, Kevin Heft
- 14 Clara Holliday
- 15 Mackenzie Mulcahey
- 20 Gloria Mazzoli
- 27 LaDonna Tucker
- 28 Eva Kandt
- 29 Lisa Langlois

## January Anniversaries

- 6 Steven & Gail Eddy
- 11 Al & Barb Downs



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES

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: Nancy Nixdorf, (Kathaleen's neighbor, and former Fulton 1st UMC Secretary, just suffered a broken hip ) J.R. Simmons; Mary's brother John Seaton; Marge's sister Phyllis; Becky Kandt (Pam's daughter); Carrie Simmons and Family; Dave Wadleigh; Mary Seaton and her brothers; Nancy Wadleigh; Leah (Rebecca's sister); Bea Holliday; Paula Nelson (Marge Zeller's sister-in-law); Bob (Mark Garlock's father-in-law); 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 Megan Snelling to find a new home; all 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. We ask for forgiveness for the murderous actions taken by the United States across the world, both in withdrawing humanitarian aid which has caused the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent children, and in the unlawful attacks on Venezuela. Prayers that this genocide, and the elected officials who cause it will stop. Please pray for those living in fear; especially in Venezuela, 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. Also, please pray for "Haven of Hope", as they reach out to the homeless in our neighborhood.

## Needed...Food for our Neighbors

The Human Concerns food pantry is in need of non-perishable food items, especially tuna, peanut butter, and boxed mac and cheese. Just bring your items to church, and they will be delivered. Thanks!!

## **Faith in Action**

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ's compassion in us, they're drawn closer to Him.

## **Pastor's Letter**

Welcome to 2026, everyone,

There is great joy in my heart recalling the growth and beautiful experience we lived during 2025! Now I ask, are you ready for this year's journey? Let me invite you to a season of discovery and preparation, as we engage in 40 Days of Prayer before Ash Wednesday. Starting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, I will be sending emails focusing on Pastor Mark Batterson's book entitled "Draw the Circle" in which we will focus on stories and events that molded the lives of many and enabled them to deepen their trust in the power of God's might while seeing God's hand at work, even as they waited! Please, plan to join me and engage, so that God's power can also be at work in our community!

In addition, the Oswego Methodist Pastors are collaborating to offer **online courses every Wednesday 6 pm – 9 pm, to prepare new Lay Servants**. Lay Servants can support the church serving home-bound parishioners, in hospitals, in nursing homes, or during regular Sunday Worship services. The Basic Training class begins on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and will be held until the end of the month. Other courses will be offered at the same time until the end of the year, with the intention of completing the course of study and certifying as many participants as possible. Please, let me know if you desire more information and join in to get the tools for the Lord to use you for His glory in whatever capacity, and setting, He is calling you to serve.

Lastly, we will be hosting this year's **Ash Wednesday** service on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Journey of Faith UMC, the Oswego First UMC and the Minetto UMC will be gathering together, here at Trinity UMC, to celebrate Ash Wednesday together! Please, stay connected, as more details about this event will be posted and let us continue to be in prayer for one another.

Remember that my desire is to walk alongside you and your family, serving you with love and care. Do not hesitate to call or email me, if there is any way I can be of service to you or your family! My home number is 315-297-4085 and my email is PastorRuthRLW@gmail.com

**This year's focus is Let Us BE Intentional.... "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you" Matthew 7:33**

Blessings, *Pastor Ruth*

## **Some Words of Inspiration**

From our sexton: "A hundred years from now the children and the grandchildren...of those you have given food for their stomachs, and faith for their souls...will be celebrating Christmas.

You'll be sitting on the front porch of heaven, cheering on those that have followed in your footsteps.

You wear kindness on your shoulders...it's really something to see."

*Mike*

From dearly departed friend, *Stan Gosek*:

"Savor Every Moment...the good ones and the not-so-good ones. The difficult moments are blessings in disguise. They teach us, strengthen us in ways we never thought possible, and make the good moments in our lives even more meaningful.

Be Connected to Nature. It is extremely important that we recognize our connection to nature. We are not separate from nature; we are part of it. We breathe because the trees are here, and the trees breathe because we are here. So no matter the season, warm or cold; get outside, connect with nature, and breathe."

## **For A Child Has Been Born For Us**

Christmas calls us to place our faith not in power or false gospels,  
but in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace

Every Christmas, I find myself returning to Isaiah's promise of the coming Christ. Isaiah's words never fail to stir my emotions about the birth of the Jesus Child, but this year feels especially alive. They speak to the moment we are living in with urgency, clarity, and most importantly, hope. Here is what Isaiah says:

*For a child has been born for us, A son is given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders; And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah goes on to describe the kingdom this child will bring: "He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forever more."

Jesus Christ came for us. He came to save the human race, not by domination or fear, but through love and self-giving. And he comes not only *to us*, but to be *with us*. He calls us to participate in the work of righteousness and peace. That conviction always grounds me at Christmas time. But this time, I feel it even more deeply.

The language of kings and kingdoms may feel antiquated to modern ears. But the concept of power has never disappeared. As my wife, Rev. Joy Carroll, has preached in the past, "put Herod back into Christmas." The ruling King Herod represented the Roman Empire and was actually responsible for Mary and Joseph traveling to a manger in Bethlehem for the birth of the baby Jesus. Alternative "kings" always rise, claiming authority that belongs to God alone. These false kings demand loyalty and obedience and enforce their power through fear. They promise security while grasping for total control, like we are witnessing now.

To those rulers who seek absolute power, I say this December 25th and every day, that I believe in Jesus Christ and I submit my life to his authority above any and all others.

To those who preach false gospels that sanctify domination and excuse injustice, I say that I will celebrate the coming of Christ and the true teachings of Jesus instead.

And to the loved ones I hold close this Christmas week, I will point them to the one Isaiah foretold—the child born for us, whose reign is marked not by force, but by justice, righteousness, and peace.

May Jesus Christ come among us, again and again, especially now.

### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

~ Jim Wallis

## **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land."

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.

## Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

**H**old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)  
**A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)  
**P**ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)  
**P**ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)  
**Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**N**eglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)  
**E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)  
**W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**Y**ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)  
**E**xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)  
**A**im at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)  
**R**edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)  
— *Gus Nichols*

## Faith in Action

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ's compassion in us, they're drawn closer to Him.

### November 2025 Current Expense Report

<b>Staff Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	\$3,703.19
<i>(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS &amp; Medicare taxes, &amp; some insurances)</i>	
<b>Program Expenses</b>	\$18.60
<i>(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshiping community)</i>	
<b>Operations Expenses</b>	\$4,235.67
<i>(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)</i>	
<b>Conference Billing</b>	\$1,781.00
<i>(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)</i>	
<b>Total November Expenditures</b>	<b>\$9,738.46</b>

*Prepared 12/06/25 by Lisa Bartholomew*

*Reflects November 28 Paychecks*

## His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- **Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
- **Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
- **Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.
- **Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

**N.O.W. Minutes 12/17/2025**

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

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

### Luke 1:46-50

*Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God."*

### Opening Prayer

*Loving God, our spirits do rejoice in all your gracious acts towards us, most of all, the event we so look forward to—the wonderful and precious gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the willingness of Mary to believe that the impossible could and would happen. Help us to have a similar faith. Open our hearts and minds to believe that your promises can come to surprising fulfillment. Show us how we can best serve you with mercy and in humility, empowering people to live lives of dignity and worth.*

*In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

(Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies)

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

How have you seen God's glory in the world recently?

"Marge's sister Phyllis is home and healing, wonderful Bible studies, the blessings of having AA and Haven of Hope using our building to minister to God's children."

Approve Minutes of 10/15/25 –Pam moved, Diana seconded – Approved

### Nurture

Sunday School continues to be offered, but no children have attended during the past two months. 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 using the “Disciplines” program to discuss weekly devotions. Thank you to the Bright and Cheerful Circle for writing and mailing 70 Christmas cards to our Trinity family! The Advent Study, “A Child is Born”, by Amy Jill Levine is being enjoyed by seven participants. Shana Cory graciously led a Christmas Craft Class on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> with five Trinity people and two guests. A Valentine craft will be offered by Shana in early February. Stay tuned for more information!

## Outreach

Our Free-Will Dinner in November hosted 59 guests with 12 workers, and our December Dinner fed 11 guests and 6 workers. The Christmas Nu 2 U Sale in early December, netted \$1,124.00, with \$112.00 from the sale to be donated to Salvation Army. In addition, \$120.00 has been donated toward the purchase of food and gifts for four families through the Salvation Army for Christmas. Other donated hats and mittens will be given to local schools and nursery care programs. Connie LeBoeuf has graciously agreed to become our new Outreach Chair for 2026. Thank you, Connie, and many thanks to Diana McKenna for chairing the Outreach Committee and serving the community for many years!

## Witness

In addition to our 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, the “Jesus said” sayings on the outdoor sign board continue to be posted for all to see! In fact, we have gained a wonderful new member after she read, “Jesus said, “I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” Thanks be to God! The Worship Committee met on November 12<sup>th</sup> to plan for Advent, and Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood, our District Superintendent, blessed us with her presence and sermon on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. She even blessed us with a carload of Nu-2-U donations!!! The “Mexico Brass” group presented a concert on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and donated the \$242.00 collected from the 19 attendees to Human Concerns. Going forward into 2026, we are pleased and blessed to continue hosting “AA” and “Haven of Hope” groups in our building. AA, led by Joe Buske, meets every Friday evening; and Haven of Hope, led by Rachel Hendricks, provides singing, crafts, Bible study, and lunch to the homeless every weekday from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. They are very grateful for our hospitality, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to serve our God and neighbors in such a meaningful way!

**Closing Prayer:** *Gracious and Loving God, we give you thanks for the awaited gift of your Son, the baby Jesus. We have hope that You will show favor on us, Your church. We praise you for Your unending love for us, and the redeeming grace you have offered through the sacrifice of Your Son. Help us to offer Your mercy to all of Your children in need, and forgive us when we fail to do Your work in this world. With all our hearts we glorify You. Amen.*

**Next Meeting** – Wednesday, February 11th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

## **A Purposeful New Year**



The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better. — *C. Neil Strait*

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



**2026**

**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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<https://trinityumcoswego.org/>**