



The Chimes

We are all thinking human beings. As such, we are concerned with human existence and with life beyond death. Just as we take care of our bodies with food, clothing, medical care, etc...there is also a deep spiritual concern among human beings about whether or not there is life beyond death. In the afterlife the human body acquires an extrasensory form, without matter; so there is a skepticism that questions the reality of what is inexplicable from the science field.

The two schools of philosophical thought that have maintained a historical discussion through the course of all centuries are the materialist and the idealist. The materialist school of thought is based on the scientific method, through which an area within the social sciences is studied to measure and discover what is investigated through the scientific method, coming to propose a hypothesis about the phenomena of its investigation. The proof that something existed in the past, or that it exists in the present must be demonstrated through concrete evidence according to science. Thus, science carries with it the current based on what it can measure through the scientific method.

On the other hand, the idealistic school points out that the idea precedes the matter. In other words, before the existence of matter, the idea existed from the beginning. It can be said that there was always a creator who made everything that exists in the universe. Therefore, idealist philosophy believes that the spirit came first and that the matter is the result of a higher being who designed and made that which exists...visible or invisible.

In this area, we have two diametrically opposed concepts; one opposes the other. Some bet on science; on what can be measured, observed, studied, evaluated, and defined as an object of study. The other adds to the inexplicable element of faith. You have to believe in what goes beyond the logical explanation of science.

The big problem is that, science seeks to explain the unknown through the systematic study of things that can be observed, but the truth is that science does not have concrete evidence to explain all the phenomena that exist in the universe. Can we explain the law of gravity logically? Can we see the law that pulls objects toward the center of the earth? Both science and religion lack the necessary tools to explain paranormal phenomena. In other words, neither science nor faith can concretely demonstrate the inexplicable phenomena that occur in our universe through scientific methods.

Selfishness, together with the ambition for power and domination of material things, makes many human beings incapable of caring for life on planet earth in all its dimensions. Instead of ensuring the lives of the most impoverished, huge astronomical sums are invested to build atomic bombs capable of destroying life on planet earth. On the other hand, for those who do collaborate to help those most in need, the monetary number is very small in comparison and have very few resources. While many of

Pastor Rey's Message Continued....

those who have great fortunes are more concerned with living luxuriously to satisfy their insatiable appetite to enjoy the delights of life, without any concern for those close by who are in physical need, or for their own life in the hereafter.

Faith in God is dedicated to the preservation of life, proclaiming the gospel, peaceful coexistence among all human beings, collaboration to eliminate malaria, cancer, poverty, the use of non-medically controlled drugs, and to see that wealth be equitably distributed so that there no people who die of hunger, nor entire families that lack daily bread. The God we serve and preach of is the Creator of human life. He is the God who cares for all His children and as the children of God, we must also take care of the needs of all equally.

God the Creator and Giver of Life, plants, animals, and everything that exists, had the vision that all human beings have what is necessary for a dignified life. There is no doubt that some human beings have greater abilities than other people to work, save money and accumulate wealth. This reality does not exempt all of us, however, from being good stewards of resources created by God to be used in helping those in need. Definitely, those resources that we enjoy not only belong to God, but we will all need to give an account to Him on what we have done with them, be it good or bad.

During these Christmas holidays be generous with all people, whether they are part of your family or not. Remember the words of the Lord who said, "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, tight, shaken and overflowing will give into our lap; because with the same measure with which you measure, they will measure you again." (Luke 6: 38)

The Christian faith guides human beings to believe in God, the Creator of Life, who ordered all His children to emphasize faith above false science. He also invites us to be generous. Faith in God transforms the soul, changes the worldview of the universe in us, and highlights the power and greatness of God.

May this Advent season be filled for you with Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace! Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Rey Díaz, Pastor

Sunday School News



A big thank you to all who helped make Hanging of the Greens a success. The sanctuary and narthex look beautiful. The kids had a great time making and decorating their tree in the back of the church.

The children have been working hard on the upcoming Christmas Program Sunday, on December 11th during the worship service. Stephanie Perkins and Allison Ewing are spearheading the program this year.

I encourage everyone to attend and show their support to the Sunday School Children and Teens.

Make sure to pick up one of the Christmas Ornaments the children have made. Coffee hour will be provided after the service and served by the Senior High Class. See you there.

Barb Shannon

Sunday School Superintendent

Mission Focus and Special Sundays 2022

| MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2022 | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Special Sundays in Italics | |
| December | SALVATION ARMY |

December's Project
see below
For details



SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army Mission Statement - 1865

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Salvation Army meets human need wherever, whenever, and however they can.

The iconic Salvation Army red kettle campaign began in 1891 by Captain Joseph McFee, a Salvation Army officer who was looking for a way to cover the cost of the Community Christmas meal. Recalling his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England, he recreated the "Simpson's Pot", an iron pot where charitable donations were placed by passerby. Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing, at the foot of Market Street where it could be seen by all those going to and from the ferry boats. By 1895 the "kettles" was used by 30 locations along the west coast and by 1897 the campaign was making its mark in east.

That year, the kettle effort in Boston and other locations nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy. The tradition continues still today. sharing your donation at Christmastime helps The Salvation Army care for homeless and needy families, but also helps serve 30 million people through a myriad of other services all year long. These include:

- Religious Services
- Disaster Response Services
- Social Service Programs
- Youth Services
- Senior Centers
- Christmas Programs
- Human and Sexual Trafficking Advocacy
- Veterans Services
- Prison Services

All the money raised in the red kettle campaign during the Christmas season stays in Richland County. Would you please consider donating to The Salvation Army this Holiday Season?

By asking you to support Trinity Missions' Projects, we also ask that you first consider your support of the general fund, which is what keeps our church doors open. Then please prayerfully consider your support of this month's Mission Focus. Thank you.

Celebrations and More.....



POINSETTIAS for Christmas

Poinsettias have been ordered for our Sunday services on December 11, 18, and our Christmas Eve candlelight service. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please call the church office or use the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Please indicate if you would like to donate the plant in someone's honor or memory. The plants this season are \$20.00 each.

Poinsettias may be taken home following the December 24 service or left for the remainder of the season.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Shirley Steiner | 12/4 | Sally (Hodge) McCollum | 12/24 |
| Teige Perkins | 12/4 | Tammy (Goodyear) Fritz | 12/25 |
| Gary Mott | 12/5 | Paul Turgasen | 12/26 |
| Amelia Shannon | 12/18 | Carrie Richardson | 12/29 |
| Benjamin Otto | 12/19 | Tom Richardson | 12/29 |
| Oakley Schneider | 12/20 | Ayden Ewing | 12/31 |
| Joan Bethke | 12/22 | Destiny Shannon | 12/31 |
| Jerod McCollum | 12/22 | Lee Steinmetz | 12/31 |
| Nicholas Bastian | 12/24 | Dennis Tracy | 12/31 |
| | | James Steinmetz | 12/31 |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Fuzz & Nancy McCauley 12/30



The Women's Tuesday Morning Bible study will meet on Tuesdays, December 6th and 13th. They will then not meet until February. We will let you know when they plan to start again next year.

2022 Harvest Auction Updates.....



Ellie & Ben Otto



HARVEST AUCTION GOAL REACHED

On the evening of Wednesday, October 19th, those who were able to attend the annual Harvest Auction enjoyed an evening of fellowship and spirited bidding while raising \$1,779.50 to fulfill our covenant with David Makobo, a United Methodist missionary based in Senegal, Africa. \$1,000, the amount of Trinity's covenant, will support David and his wife, Solange, and their ministry in Senegal, Africa. The remaining \$779.50 will support David Makobo's agricultural projects. David is a university trained agricultural specialist who teaches sustainable agricultural practices to help people raise the best crops for their climate and to increase their yields by using best practices.

A heartfelt thank-you to those who donated items to the auction, attended the auction, and purchased the auctioned items. Special thanks Kurt Monson, who always keeps us laughing as we take part in the lively bidding; auction assistants Joan Bethke and Jim Weber; our energetic runners, Ellie and Ben Otto; clerk Diane Cox, and cashier Chris Storer. Behind the scenes, Bill Twining set up Schmitt Hall just the way the Missions' Committee requested, and Joan Wheeler used her considerable skills to help publicize this event. We give thanks to God for blessing our cooperative efforts!

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| January | Love Fund |
| | Human Relations - #1005 - 15th |
| February | Memorial Ministry |
| March | UMCOR Sunday - #1015 - 19th |
| April | Conference Gathering Kits |
| May | Golden Cross Sunday - 1070 - 7th |
| | Native American Sunday - 1025 - 21st |
| June | Ice Cream Social |
| | Peace with Justice - #1035 - 4th |

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| July | Food Pantry |
| August | Memorial Ministry Wish List |
| September | Passages |
| October | World Communion Sunday - 2nd |
| | Harvest Auction |
| November | Veterans Project |
| | UM Student Sunday - #1055 - 26th |
| December | Salvation Army |

Memorial Ministry Corner



December Memorial Ministry Corner



“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.” - - Isaiah 9:6

Thank You, One & All! - - All Saints’ Day 2022

Thank you, very much, to all the following people who helped to make our Sunday, November 06, 2022, All Saints’ Day service a success from beginning to end: Pastor Rey Díaz; Administrative Assistant Joan Wheeler; Custodian Bill Twining; Pianist/Organist Jennifer Hall; Acolyte Ayden Ewing; Ushers Carl Bethke, Rick Orsburn, Jim Weber; Communion Servers Jerry Bower & Russ Shannon; Coffee Hour Server Joan Bethke; Photographer/Special Music Louise Murphey; all Memorial Ministry team members; and, of course, all who attended the service as members, friends, & guests. Mark your calendars now for the 2023 service scheduled for Sunday, November 05, 2023.

- - - Paul Murphey, Memorial Ministry Chair - - -

Trinity UMC Scholarship 2023+

Hard to believe that it is time to look ahead to our 2023 Trinity scholarship. **The application period for our scholarship will be Thursday, December 01, 2022, through Friday, March 31, 2023.** Paper or electronic copies of our scholarship will be available starting Sunday, November 27, 2022, and can be obtained from the literature table in the narthex, contacting the *church office*, or contacting **Memorial Ministry Chair Paul Murphey** at 269 South Park Street, Richland Center, WI, 53581-2303 (or) 608.647.6439 (or) pmurphey@mwt.net.

In addition to honor gifts from our members & friends, our scholarship is partially funded in memory of Marilyn Joan Anderson; Wayne Braithwaite; Jerry Cooper; Alberta Chellevold-Couey; Marilyn Rose Creasey, Nancy Edwards; Hilda Heidenreich; Eloise Herbeck; Dean, Kirk, & Roger Jewell; James & Lucille Johnston; Ralph & Helen Monteith; Ruth Moser; Ileen Shannon; Eleanor Strang; and Julia “Jane” Taylor. To date, our current scholarship fund balance, invested at Capital Wealth Advisory Group - Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, is

\$ 11,981.49.

Memorial Ministry Corner *(continued)*

Thank You Trinity United Methodist Church,

Thank you for all the hard work you put into confirmation and all the wonderful gifts.
- Annabeth Sprecher

Trinity UMC Wish List Update Time

Memorial Ministry is in the process of reviewing our current Trinity “Wish List” and is seeking your help for items, projects, services, etc., that you would like to see listed. As you move around the church in all your different capacities, please take note of what needs to be done, purchased, removed, or added.

Suggestions can be directed to Memorial Ministry Chair Paul Murphey by contacting him directly (269 South Park Street, Richland Center, WI, 53581-2303 or 608-647-6439 or pmurphey@mwt.net) or by contacting the church office for a forward message to Paul. Deadline for your ideas would be February 01, 2023, as the Memorial Ministry team will be updating the “wish list” at its Tuesday, February 14, 2023, meeting.

Memorial Ministry offers a sincere thank you for all the active prayer & financial support you have shown us during 2022. We wish you all a wonderful, peaceful, & safe holiday season. - Merry Christmas from Trinity’s Memorial Ministry team.



Church Membership Notes



Trinity Paper Directory Update Time

YES, the membership team needs to update our Trinity paper directory, as we are long overdue with many, many changes. If you have had any type of contact (name change, address, phone, email, etc.) change in the last two years, please check with the church office to make sure we have recorded the proper information before we go to the work to update our directory. Deadline: January 01, 2023. We will announce when the new directory has been completed for pick-up or mailing. Thank You!

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” -- 1 Corinthians 12:27

Sunday School Christmas Program – December 11th

Trinity UMC
Sunday School Presents:



The 12 Days of Christmas
Sunday, December 11, 2022



Trinity UMC Sunday School
Program

Children's Christmas
Program

The 12 Days of
Christmas

Cast Members:

Clara Shannon

Amelia Shannon

Gabriella /Shannon

Tora Perkins

Teige Perkins

Tate Perkins

Ayden Ewing

Austin Ewing

Directors: Allison Ewing and
Stephanie Perkins

Please help yourself to one of the
beautiful Christmas ornaments
the children made.

Missions Project: Kwik Trip Card Program

CHANGES TO THE KWIK TRIP CARD PROGRAM

The Missions' Committee recently received a letter from Kwik Trip regarding changes in the Kwik Trip Fundraising Card Program. The information was received too late to be included in the November Chimes, although the changes are now in effect.

Effective November 1st, the Kwik Trip Fundraising Card Program will have the following changes:

- Kwik Trip will no longer be offering a 10% rebate for eligible in-store items purchased with the Gas & Gift Cards you purchased through Trinity. In the past, Trinity received a monthly check for 10% of purchases that were made in the Kwik Trip store (not fuel). Instead, Trinity is receiving an upfront base discount of 15% when cards are ordered.
- Kwik Trip is offering a new Grocery Only/In-Store card that will be available to Trinity at a 15% base discount. This card can be used for in-store items and will be valid for the same items that earned Trinity the 10% rebate. Items not eligible to be purchased with this card include fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gift cards, lottery/lotto, and stamps.
- In addition, Fuel Only gift cards will still be available to Trinity at a 5% base discount. The Grocery Only/In-Store cards CANNOT be used for fuel purchases.
- Cards purchased on the previous program will continue to receive the 10% rebate for in-store purchases until further notice. "Kwik Trip reserves the right to discontinue the rebate program at any time." It might be wise to use these "older" cards soon to be sure that Trinity gets the 10% rebate.

The Missions' Committee has ordered 30 Fundraising Cards, 15 Grocery/In-Store cards, and 15 Fuel Only cards. The face value of all cards is \$25.00, the same as in the old program. Keep in mind that you will not be able to purchase fuel with the Grocery Only/In-Store card. We'll use these 30 cards as a "test run" to see if one card is more popular than the other. We'll base future orders on these results.

Thank you for continuing to support the Kwik Trip Fundraising Card Program. The Missions' Committee has raised well over \$2,000 from the card sales. \$1,000 was sent to the church in Honduras through which we arranged a medical mission trip. The donation was to help with restoration after a devastating hurricane. \$1,000 was given to the Sierra Leone Water Development Project and Ministry, which is overseen by Lee Weaver. This donation was to help fund new and replacement wells for the Ebert Kakua School of the Deaf, which consists of a primary and secondary school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathy Bastian, Missions' Committee Chair, or any member of the Missions' Committee.

Thank You!



Thank You!

To all our Trinity members!!
We so appreciate everything
you do for us here at Trinity
UMC. It takes a lot of time and
effort to keep a church
going.....and we couldn't do it
without each one of you!



Pastor Rey Díaz

Joan Wheeler

Monica Eernisse

Bill Twining

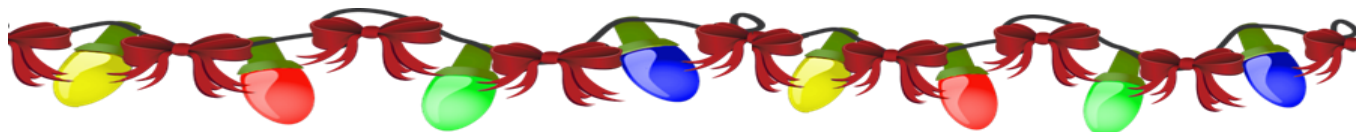


The Poinsettia

In the United States, the flower most symbolic of the Christmas season is the poinsettia. It was brought to this country in 1828 by Dr. Joel Poinsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico who discovered it there and for whom the flower is named. A Mexican legend tells that many years ago in the certain village there was the custom each Christmas Eve of placing gifts before the crèche in the church. A small boy having nothing to give knelt to pray in the snow outside. When he arose he found in the spot where he knelt a beautiful plant with scarlet leaves and a yellow flower in the center. He picked the stalk and presented it as his gift to the Christ Child. The Mexicans call it "Flower of the Holy Night" and think it resembles the star of

Under most Christmas trees on December 25, there will be many gifts. On Calvary's tree there was only one gift but it included all others -- God's gift of his only begotten Son.

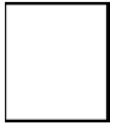
Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the hearts of people.



DECEMBER MINISTRY 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
|  The Chimes deadline is Wednesday, December 21, at Noon | | | | 1 No Revivalist Prayer Group | 2 The Office is closed | 3 |
| 4 9:30 A.M. Worship 9:45 Sunday School | 5 Trustees Mtg 4:00 P.M. PEO Christmas Social 6:00 P.M. | 6 Women's Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Missions 4:30 P.M. | 7 Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | 8 Revivalist Prayer Group 4:00 P.M. At Trinity | 9 The Office is closed | 10 |
| 11 9:30 A.M. Worship 9:45 Sunday School | 12 | 13 Women's Bible Study 10:00 A.M. | 14 Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | 15 Revivalist Prayer Group 4:00 P.M. at Grace Community | 16 The Office is closed | 17 |
| 18 9:30 A.M. Worship 9:45 Sunday School | 19 | 20 | 21 The Chimes Deadline Noon Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | 22 Revivalist Prayer Group 4:00 P.M. at New House | 23 The Office is closed | 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M. at Peace |
| 25 No Worship Service Merry Christmas | 26 The Office is closed for Christmas | 27 | 28 | 29 Revivalist Prayer Group 4:00 P.M. at Peace | 30 The Office is closed | 31 |

Trinity United Methodist Church
400 East Seminary Street
Richland Center, WI 53581



**Please join us for our
Christmas Eve Worship
Service
on December 24th at
7:00 p.m.**



Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rey Díaz

Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-604-3094

Pastor's email: rreydiaz1952@gmail.com

Or zoolaar@live.com

Trinity Church Office

Hours: Monday through Thursday /1pm – 4pm

Trinity UMC Office: (608) 647-3203

Trinity's email: trinityumc@mwt.net

Websites: www.umchurchrc.org & www.trinity.umchurchrc.org

Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse

Custodian: Bill Twining