



Peace to You The CHIMES

A Holiday Message From the Pastor...

Advent has arrived! We are hanging greens, choosing carols, and checking our supply of hand-held candles. And, since this is my first holiday season in Richland Center, I am looking forward to experiencing all the beautiful and beloved traditions of this community. This is the season for sharing our warmest wishes and memories as we are each visited by our own friendly “ghosts of Christmas past.”

At the same time, in the back of our minds we also know 2023 is coming to a close. We are reminded that this special season isn’t just about reliving the past. As we look forward to the coming of the Christ child during Advent, we know that as Christians, God’s plan, though informed by the past, is always looking ahead and intended for the future. Each year, when we come again to this special season, we are reminded that we are the living link between the hard-won lessons of the past and the brightest hope for the future. Everything we do as we celebrate helps to keep the past alive so that we can pass it forward to the next generations. That is how we keep the beauty and the wisdom of our traditions vital and relevant.

We may love looking back, but Christians are ultimately a forward-facing people. As we all look ahead to this Christmas where Trinity and Peace will be remembering their pasts and rejoicing in their rich and vibrant histories as two churches, we also know that a New Year is on its way. It will be a new chapter where new blessings and new challenges await us all, as together we become the new, unified United Methodist Church in Richland Center. And while this might be an unsettling prospect, our past and our faith have shown us, time and time again, that Christ lives, and he will be with us. If we continue to show up faithfully and open our hearts to his love and his guidance, we will be back here next year telling tales of our miraculous adventures as old traditions and new joys find each other and are carried forward into God’s bright plan for ages and the people yet to come.

With all my gratitude and every warm and wonderful blessing for Advent, Christmas and the New Year.

Pastor Rachel Olson

Celebrate the Light

Bursting through December nights
that could be long and cold,
our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy
with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,
and from trees both small and tall,
the lights cry out, "We have good news!
We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,
the sorrow, war and fear;
but God has sent his Son for all,
to show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.
Christ's with us day by day,
illuminating paths so we
can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.
Make your world shine clear and bright.
God's love surrounds and blesses us.
Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell

End of Year Information

Each year the churches are presented with the problem of when to tell people we are closing our books for the year. That means contributions need to be at that time.

Year-End Giving at Trinity

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to let you know that all giving received by Trinity through Sunday, Dec. 31st, will be credited to giving for 2023. I will be sending out giving statements the first week of January.

Monica Eernisse

Year-End Giving at Peace

Peace has set their deadline for Sunday, December 24, as their deadline to give Joan time to get everything in order before we close. Vic will also work to get everything closed as well.

However, any donations that come in after the 24th and up till through the 31st will be credited to your account. I plan to mail out donation statements the first week of January.

Joan Wheeler

Sunday School News



Barb Shannon
Education Chair
647-6522



Children's Christmas Program will be presented on Sunday, December 10, during our worship service. Allison Ewing and Stephanie Perkins are working very hard with our young people to bring you a very nice and meaningful Christmas Program.



Mission Focus and Special Sundays 2022

HARVEST AUCTION GOAL REACHED

On a crisp fall evening, an enthusiastic group gathered at Trinity's Annual Harvest Auction for an evening of fellowship and fundraising. With your generous participation, we reached and then exceeded our goal of \$1,000 to support our United Methodist covenant missionary, David Makobo, who, along with his wife, Solange, is based in Senegal, Africa. \$2,150 was raised at the auction, and another \$50 was received in the offering plate the following Sunday, for a record-setting total of \$2,200. \$1,000 will fulfill our pledge to David Makobo, and the remainder will support David's agricultural projects as he works with people in Senegal to improve crop yields and help support self-sufficiency in this impoverished country.

It took many willing hands and a spirit of cooperation to plan and carry out this event. Thanks to all who donated items for the auction and to those who bid on and purchased those items. Special thanks to Auctioneer Kurt Monson, whose skill had us laughing while we emptied our wallets. Our intrepid clerk, Dianne Monson, kept the purchases in order, and cashier, Chris Storer, kept the finances in order. Our energetic auction helpers, Jim Weber and Joan Bethke, displayed auction items and kept things moving right along. Our energetic young runners, Ellie and Ben Otto, made sure the purchases went to the correct buyers. The Missions Committee (Chris Storer, Joan Bethke, Diane Cox, and Kathy Bastian) supplied food, beverages, and fall décor. Rosie Steinmetz provided the lovely vase of flowers for the food table. Thanks also to those who helped behind the scenes: Joan Wheeler for printed publicity and signage, and Bill Twining for handling the heavy work of set-up and take-down. Paul Murphey always makes sure that the kitchen was well-supplied, which makes organizing events so much easier.

We ask that you continue to keep David and Solange Makobo and their various ministries in your prayers.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” – Hebrews 13:16 (ESV)

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2023

Special Sundays in Italics

December

SALVATION ARMY

More pictures on page 4



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.

Harvest Auction Pictures



Poinsettias for Christmas



At Trinity: Poinsettias have been ordered for our Sunday service on December 17 and our Christmas Eve services. 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 our Christmas services, or left for the remainder of the season.



At Peace: Please bring in your poinsettias if you wish. Anything left over after the 31st will be taken to local nursing homes for them to enjoy.

Notes of Thanks

Dear Trinity United Methodist Church

Thank you so much for your generous donation. If it wasn't for our churches, the Family Thrift Shop would not have been able to reopen. God bless you!
Candace McGrath
Amy Butteris
Debbie Lord
Pam Banke
Sherri Rohn

Members of Peace United Methodist,

Thank you so much for thinking of us with the school needs. Sometimes we run out of supplies and this lessens the burden on the teachers and school.

We appreciate you and keep you in our prayers.
The staff and students of St. Mary School

Mission Project For December – 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.

Programs of Assistance in Richland County:

Homeless Shelter: A Child’s Place opened in May, 2007
Food
Clothing
Shelter – Motels, rent, and mortgage
Utilities
Medical emergency, such as prescription medication
Camp in New Berlin
Pool Passes
Band instrument rental
Sport shoes
Drug/alcohol treatment (in Milwaukee area)
School supplies
Employment-related needs, such as special shoes
Disaster Assistance
GED test payment
Other miscellaneous areas



If interested in bell ringing, please call Jay B. Mueller at 608-647-3169 or e-mail at mulrcats@hotmail.com.

All the money raised in the red kettle campaign during the Christmas season stays in Richland County.

Memorial Ministry Corner



December Memorial Ministry Corner



In Memory of Lynette Ellen Schwichtenberg
January 10, 1941 – October 19, 2023

Lynette has been a devoted Trinity UMC Professing Member since March 26, 1972.

Complete Obituary Appears at the *Pratt Funeral & Cremation Service, Richland Center, WI*,
Website: <https://tinyurl.com/28mhvhjb>

Visitation & services were held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at the Pratt Memorial Chapel, Richland Center.

Cards of condolence may be sent to Lynette's daughter & son-in-law at the following:

Jaleen (Schwichtenberg) & Jeff Ambrose
478 South Church Street
Richland Center, WI 53581
608.647.3510 (Landline) or 608.604.8959 (Cell)

In Memory of Lila Spangler
August 01, 1924 – October 28, 2023

Lila was a dedicated Trinity UMC Professing Member Since May 14, 1967.

Complete Obituary Appears at the *Pratt Funeral & Cremation Website*:
<https://tinyurl.com/mtd3wdjx>

Visitation and Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Pratt Memorial Chapel with Burial Following in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Bloom Township.

Cards of Condolence May be Sent to Lila's Son & Daughter-in-Law at the Following:

Scott A. & Susan Spangler
W276n2763 Trillium Lane
Pewaukee, WI 53072
262.617.1447

In Memory of Diane Lynette (Wanless) Dalberg
October 04, 1951 – November 02, 2023

Complete Obituary Appears at the *Pratt Funeral & Cremation Service, Richland Center, WI*,
Website: <https://tinyurl.com/bdd8umfj>

Visitation & services were held on Thursday & Friday, November 09 & 10, 2023, at the Pratt Memorial Chapel, Richland Center, followed by a burial at the Basswood Cemetery.

Cards of condolence may be sent to Diane's sister (Cheryl) & stepsister (Rosie) at the following:

Cheryl M. Stanley
314 North Central Avenue
Richland Center, WI 53581
608.604.1715

Rosie & Ron Steinmetz
29144 County Highway TB
Richland Center, WI 53581
608.647.4247



"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
(Matthew 5:4)



Thank You, One & All! - - All Saints' Day 2023

Thank you, very much, to all the following people who helped to make our Sunday, November 05, 2023, All Saints' Day service a success from beginning to end: Pastor Rachel K. Olson; Administrative Assistant Joan Wheeler; Custodian Bill Twining; Pianist/Organist Jennifer Hall; Acolyte Barb Shannon; Ushers Carl Bethke, Rick Orsburn, Jim Weber; Communion Servers Diane Cox & Russ Shannon; Communion Steward Joan Bethke; Photographer/Special Music/Coffee Hour Server 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 2024 service scheduled for Sunday, November 03, 2024. And, yes, the 2024 planning has already begun! - - - *Paul Murphey, Memorial Ministry Chair* -

Memorial Ministry offers a sincere thank you for all the active prayer & financial support you have shown us during 2023. We wish you all a wonderful, peaceful, & safe holiday season. - *Merry Christmas from Trinity's Memorial Ministry team.*



Photo: Courtesy of Joan Bethke

All Saints' Day – Sunday, November 05, 2023

All Saints' Day: A day of remembrance.

In their absence, we remember.

The saints' legacy lives on in our hearts.

All Saints' Day: A time to remember our heavenly guides.



Church Membership Notes



Congratulations, Morgan (Goodyear) Crotsenberg



Morgan was named the September 2023 “Kudos of the Month” recipient for outstanding service at Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Community. She was recognized on multiple occasions for covering an open shift last minute, helping HR with new employee physicals and TB tests, and for being a great nurse by helping the CNAs on her shift. Morgan has been employed several years at Schmitt within the Nursing Department and has both CNA & LPN degrees and is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in nursing at Herzing University, Madison, WI. Morgan is currently a Trinity “Baptized” member and is the grand-daughter of the late Lynette Ellen Schwichtenberg.

“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

A Little Bit of This and That



Thank You!!

To all our Peace and Trinity members!!

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

Especially now that we are moving forward in our ministry.



Pastor Rachel Olson

Joan Wheeler



Monica Eernisse

Victor Vlasak

Bill Twining

Meaning and Symbolism of the Poinsettia Flower

Apart from their legendary history, poinsettias have gained significance across cultures and regions. Here are some of their symbolic meanings:

- **Good Cheer and Merriment** – It's safe to assume that these flowers have become associated with holidays because of their festive colors and shape. In Peru, they're called as the Crown of the Andes, while in Spain they're the Flor de Pascua or the Easter flower.
- **A Symbol of Purity** – For some, the brilliant color of poinsettias makes them a representation of purity. For the Aztecs, these blooms were sacred, and their nectar was even drunk in hopes of gaining immortality. In the past, it also represented the new life of warriors who died in battle.
- **Love and Good Wishes** – Poinsettias are sometimes seen as the representation of good wishes, since Joel Poinsett, the ambassador who discovered the plant, initially shared them with his family, friends and other plant growers. This makes it a perfect gift to give at Christmas.
- In some cultures, the plant represents the Star of Bethlehem, due to its star shape. They're called the La Flor de la Nochebuena that translates to the Flower of the Holy Night, referring to the Christmas Eve.

Celebrations and More



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

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

December Birthdays

Lois Anderson	12/3
Connie Frye	12/5
Jill Tjossem	12/8
Dean Braithwaite	12/13
Jay Kanable	12/18
Barb Borton	12/20

December Anniversaries

Larry & Cheryl Winger	12/6
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December Anniversaries

Fuzz & Nancy McCauley	12/30
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GENERAL FUND – OCTOBER

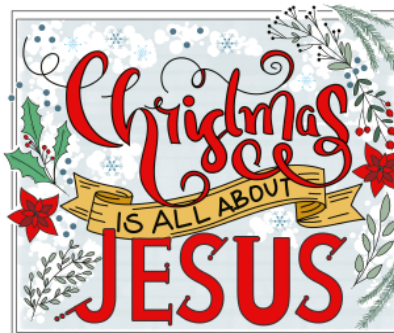
\$ -13,525.84 – 2022 Ending Balance
 65.699.58 – January – October Revenue
 -80,753.18 – January – October Expenses
 \$ -28,579.44 – Balance as of 10-31-2023

Special Dates:

- First Sunday of Advent, December 3
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 10
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 17
- First day of winter, December 21
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31

Attention Peace Members

If you have keys to the church, please make sure to return them by December 31st to either Terry Nimocks or Joan Wheeler.
Thank you.



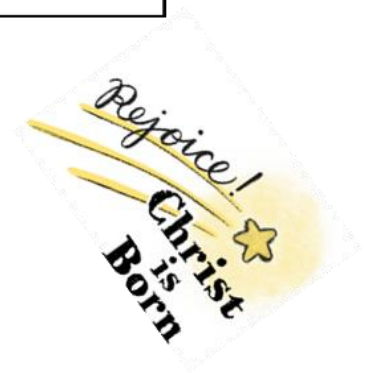
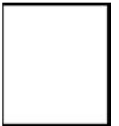
DECEMBER MINISTRY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 The Office is closed	2
3 Worship: Trinity 9:00 a.m. Peace 10:45 a.m.	4 PEO 6:00 p.m. Schmitt Fellowship Hall	5 Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	6 Dance Class 4:00 p.m.	7 Al Anon Peace Noon	8 The Office is closed	9
10 Worship: Trinity 9:00 a.m. Peace 10:45 a.m.	11	12 Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	13 Dance Class 4:00 p.m.	14 Al Anon Peace Noon	15 The Office is closed	16
17 Worship: Trinity 9:00 a.m. Peace 10:45 a.m.	18	19	20 Newsletter deadline Noon Dance Class 4:00 p.m.	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice) Al Anon Peace Noon	22 The Office is closed	23
24 Worship: Trinity 9:00 a.m. Peace 10:45 a.m. Trinity 7:00 p.m.	25 Christmas The Office is closed. 	26	27 Dance Class 4:00 p.m.	28 Al Anon Peace Noon	29 The Office is closed	30
31 Worship: Trinity 9:00 a.m. Peace 10:45 a.m.	Peace and Trinity will hold a joint Candle light worship services on Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.					

Trinity United Methodist Church
400 E. Seminary St
Richland Center, WI 53581



peace
on
earth



Peace United Methodist Church

Pastor Rachel K. Olson
265 North Church Street
Richland Center, WI 53581
Pastor's Cell: 608-373-4027
Pastor's E-mail: rkolson123@gmail.com

Peace Church Office
Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Peace UMC Office: (608) 647-4559
Peace E-mail: peaceumc.rc@gmail.com
Website: www.umchurchrc.org or
www.peace.churchumc.org

Office Manager: Joan Wheeler
rer: Victor Vlasak

Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rachel K. Olson
Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-373-4027
Pastor's email: rkolson123@gmail.com

Trinity Church Office
Hours: Monday - Thursday
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
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