



DECEMBER 2024

THE COMPASS

A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FORT DODGE

TRINITY UMC MISSION – TO SEEK & TO SAVE THE LOST. JOHN 10:11

A PLACE TO... BELONG. BELIEVE. BECOME.

Trinity Women's Missions

Trinity Women's Missions (TWM) Planning group met November 5th, 2024. Christmas Brunch plans were discussed for Saturday, December 7th, 9:30 a.m. with a 'Cocoa and Carols' theme.

All church members, family and friends are invited. Circles met on November 20th. Mary's Circle is Co-Chaired by Karen Hilpiper and Zelda Farmer. The circle will meet on the third Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in April, May, Sept., Oct. and Nov. for 2025. Ruth's and Rachel's Circle is Co-Chaired by Carol Etzel and Peggy Barkhaus. The circle shall meet on the fourth Wednesdays at 9:15 am in April, May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct. and third Wednesday in Nov. for 2025.

Additional (tentative) meeting dates were set for 2025 as follows: May 6th Spring Planning Meeting 10:00 a.m.; June 10th Salad Luncheon 11:30 a.m.; November 4th Fall Planning Meeting 10:00 a.m.; and December 6th Christmas Brunch 9:30 a.m. A TWM booklet with meeting dates, member names, contact information and scriptures will be updated and provided.

Thanks to all women who planned, supported and served the funeral luncheons in 2024.

TWM finances were reviewed, discussed and approved for the following donations in 2024: TUMC Youth Camp Scholarships \$1,200; AFES Athletics for Education and Success \$500; AFES Christmas \$400; Lord's Cupboard \$500; Lotus Community Project \$500; D/SAOC Domestic/Sexual Abuse Outreach Center \$500; and SALT Shining A Light Together \$1,000. These do not include individual Circle donations. Pledging will continue and is encouraged for 2025. Pledge amounts may be provided at any time throughout the year to provide funds for TUMC Youth and local women and children charities. We look forward to another blessed year in 2025.

On behalf of TWM and with His Love, always, *Peggy Barkhaus*

Saturday Worship– **5:30p**

Sunday Worship– **9:30a**

Sunday Livestream on

[Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

Visit trinityumcfd.org

Published monthly by:

Trinity United Methodist

Church of Fort Dodge

838 N. 25th St.

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9a-3p

Phone: (515) 573-3519

Rev. Bobbie Maltas

Bobbie.maltas@iaumc.net

Laura Stover

laurastover21@gmail.com

(515) 570-2609

Administrative Assistant:

Madeline Havlik

office@trinityumcfd.org

Website: trinityumcfd.org

Facebook: Trinity UMC Fort Dodge

YouTube: [trinityumcfd](http://trinityumcfd.org)

Iowa Conference: iaumc.org

Christmas Cantata

December 7, 5:30pm  December 8, 9:30am

Trinity Women's Missions Christmas Brunch

Cocoa and Carols

**Saturday, December 7th, 9:30 AM
in the Fellowship Hall**

Hosted by TWM

**All Church Members, Friends,
and Family are invited!**



Christmas Eve Worship Times

December 24

4:00 PM: Especially for
Families with Children.

7:00PM: Carols,
Candlelight, and
Communion.

*Everyone is Welcome
at both Services!*

INSIDE

Prayer List,
Birthdays,
Anniversaries, 2
Finance,
Missions

Youth News 3

Lay Leader,
Message from 4
Pastor Bobbie

Calendar 5

Bible Reading Plan 6

PRAYER LIST

Ed & Joanne Becker
 Don & Elaine Cassady
 Ralph Ewing
 Terry Lee
 Lois Martin
 Katrina O'Brien
 Linda Pingel
 Steve Roe
 Ilene Smith
 Bill Cunningham brother of
 Jean Warg
 Joann Whittington
 Gary Winkler

Sharon Perkins
 Nick Salmon
 Martina Hanselman
 Bill Messerly
 Norma Hughett
 Ryan Bernie

Please let the office know if you want to be added or removed from this prayer list. We want to respect your privacy, but let our prayer warriors know that you desire inclusion.



December Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Rose Dopita | 17 Jace Campbell |
| 1 Addison Roe | 18 Emma Ebelsheiser |
| 1 Jaxyn Stewart | 18 Chris O'Brien |
| 2 Niikia Lacina | 19 Owen Breeser |
| 2 Debby Roe | 19 Jerry Chada |
| 3 Gail Galbraith | 19 David Messerly |
| 3 Jerrik Richman | 19 Wanda Shelton |
| 4 Lane Hansen | 19 Jacob Totten |
| 4 Harvey Hilpipre | 20 Susan Peters |
| 6 Emersen Paukert | 21 Angela Garraway |
| 7 Mike Shelton | 21 Jane Stewart |
| 8 Cordelia Kintigh | 21 Jackie Surlis |
| 9 Jeff Lohmeier | 22 Deb Shelton |
| 10 Barbara Humphrey | 25 Rhiannon Patterson |
| 11 Daryl Beall | 25 Kendall Seil |
| 11 Makenzie Fuller | 26 Jeanne Herrington |
| 11 DeLoy Koester | 26 Peg Trevino |
| 12 Pat Conklin | 28 Katie Thompson |
| 14 Jason Beckman | 29 Nick Corey |
| 14 Wendy Kay Larson | 29 Dean Fryar |
| 14 Ramona Peterson | 29 Justin Patterson |
| 15 Jean Warg | 30 Lois Marin |
| 16 Jeff Becker | 30 Brady O'Brien |
| 16 Elizabeth Patterson | 31 Mason O'Brien |



December Anniversaries

- 1 Richard & Brenda Shroyer
 5 Bill & Mickie Messerly
 9 Sean & Josephine Alstott
 16 Mike & Peggy Barkhaus
 18 Jared & Karine Feddersen
 20 Bill & Diane McIntyre
 26 Phil & Jill Hansen
 28 Mark & Ruth Babbitt
 29 Doug & Jamie Kilian

Finance Committee:

As we approach the advent season, we hope that the church will be worshipping with pews filled with our congregation, family, and friends! This is a time to reflect on the ultimate gift of Jesus Christ and to emulate his generosity by giving generously to those in need and to where we can share all of Gods possessions back with our church, community, and around the world. Reflect on the blessings that you do have and share those blessings with others as well. This time of year, with longer nights, can be a time of loneliness so reach out to others, greet them, ask them to come to a service – share your blessings of belonging to our congregation. Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Kraig Barber

Missions Committee:

We want to thank all of our volunteers that helped on Ingathering Day. It was a busy morning but all went smoothly. Churches from around our district brought their kits and extra items so we were able to completely fill a very large trailer with items to help people in need. The trailer then was driven to the Midwest Missions facility in Pawnee, Illinois for distribution.

During November, our giving tree has help ornaments and envelopes for warm hats, mittens, and gloves to give to the kids at Duncombe School. Also, a donation came in to provide snowpants to kids who need them at Cooper School.

In December, we will be collecting socks and other items for the men at the Beacon of Hope Shelter.

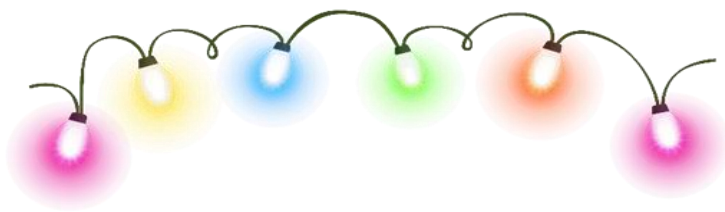
There is a table in the church hallway with information and donation envelopes for the Heifer International project. The quarter tubes are there as well, waiting to be filled with all kinds of change (not just quarters!) Donations will be taken through December.

Again, the JAM kids will help decide what animals we will choose for the Heifer project.

We've recently finished our 27th sleeping mat. Besides our usual Monday & Friday weaving, everyone is invited to join us Thursday, December 5th from 5-7pm.

Jayne Cassidy





MERRY THANKMUS from Laura

Recently, it was my joy to spend a weekend in Washington DC attending National Community Church pastored by Rev. Mark Batterson, author of *Draw the Circle*, *A 40 Day Prayer Challenge* and 2 dozen more books. The trip was a mini sabbatical with a dear friend who is seeking a miracle of healing. Our desire was to be open to the Spirit's leading thru worship, the Word and prayer. This time away did NOT disappoint! Pastor Batterson's newest book, "A Million Little Miracles" officially was released on November 19th and all church members and friends were gifted an early release copy. What a wonderful blessing! The time spent in worship and prayer was powerful. Our faith knowledge grew so much that we experienced brain cramps which is fatigue from overstimulation of the brain. The "aha" moments came at us fast and furious. There is **NO LIMIT** to what God can do. Every healing is unique and specific. We must be open to declare and receive the power of the Holy Spirit working inside of us, acknowledging that God is able to do all things! Proverbs 3:5-6, reminds us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean **NOT ON YOUR OWN** understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge God, and He will make your paths straight" In this Advent season as we wait for the Messiah, pray with purpose and patience to see what God reveals.

Laura

JAM (Jesus and Me) NEWS

JAM kids have met three more famous children in the Bible during November; Samuel, David and Josiah, each with a specific "call" from God. Josiah became king of Judah at the age of eight after his father was killed. Josiah was a godly king who followed the ways of his ancestor David. A highlight of his 31-year reign was the rediscovery of the Law of the Lord. Pictured above, Alice's team solved the scavenger hunt clues to find the hidden scroll in a treasure chest. Inside the chest were new Bibles for JAM kids in 3rd & 4th grade and Kindergarten. The kids also designed their own edible crown. Braylon tries his on for size. JAM will meet



December 4th, 11th and 18th.



A short Christmas program will be presented at 5 p.m. on December 18th in the sanctuary with a Soup and Cinnamon Rolls to follow in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to come.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

ADVENT begins the weekend of November 30 & December 1, 2024. Confirmation students and their families are invited to sign up for one Saturday or Sunday church service to read a litany about the meaning of Advent and light the appropriate candle. Contact Laura or Pastor Bobbie for more information.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS!! to Hannah Tolle on graduating from High School early. She completed the needed credits during the first trimester at FDSH. She is working full time at

Friendship Haven and plans to pursue a nursing degree beginning next Fall.

Also, in November the youth successfully completed 2 Rake - n- Run projects, attended a Brandon Heath concert and made a surprise visit to pray with a teacher battling cancer. A Lock Out/In event is in the planning stages, along with the **4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY on Sunday, December 15th from 6 to 8 p.m.** If you dare come dressed as someone in a favorite Christmas movie like The Grinch, Elf, Home Alone, or even Charlie Brown! Prizes awarded! You can bring a \$5 gift to exchange. Friends are always welcome!

Bible study for high school students continues on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. through December 18th.

All Wednesday youth activities and the Stop and Go Supper will take a break on Christmas and New Year's Day, resuming sometime in January.

A Prayer for Today
Help me to withdraw for a while from the flight of time.

Contain the retreat of the hours and days from the grasp of frantic life.

Let me learn to pause, if only for this day.

Let me find peace on this day.

Let me enter into a quiet world this day.

On this day, Shabbat, abide.

From the Jewish Book of Worship

Lay Leader:

Pastor Bobbie and I attended our Circuit Meeting, held in Webster City on October 22, 2024. Pastor Mike Fillmore, Luke's father, presented and shared insights on discipleship and building relationships with God in them. Pastor Bobbie and I will revisit what we learned, and share more with the Admin Council to consider for 2025 planning. At that meeting, the Clergy challenged each church to provide at least 5 flood buckets for UM Missions. Pastor Bobbie and I went to work to get it going with our Mission Team. She offered herself to undergo an Ice Bucket challenge and it worked! We thank this church for the outpouring of love and gracious giving. The next Circuit meeting is Dec. 3rd, 5:30 pm in Manson and you're welcome to attend!

*Laity weekend Worship Services were held on November 23rd and 24th. Pastor Bobbie, Roger Netz, Jared Feddersen, Deb Shelton and I led the worship to acknowledge, thank and celebrate the wonderful Laity at TUMC. We are a very blessed church with so many disciples of Jesus, doing God's work for Trinity UMC's mission and beyond!

* Pastor Bobbie and I will be leading the program for the Trinity Women's Missions Christmas Brunch, Cocoa and Carols, being held Saturday, December 7th, 9:30 am We hope to see you there!

* Still on the calendar: February 27th-March 2nd, I am attending an Upper Room sponsored *Walk to Emmaus* adaptation program called *Face-to-Face* in WDM – for Seniors. It includes 8 journey sessions and a course on Christianity, covering topics on discipleship, mission, grief and end-of-life issues. I am looking forward to the inspiration!

With His Love, always, **Peggy Barkhaus**

Dear Beloveds,

There's a lot of buzz around the church lately regarding spiritual gifts tests. I wrote about this topic in July, and our lay leader, Peggy Barkhaus, mentioned it in her sermon during Laity Weekend. Many people have asked what happens if they don't do well on the test, how to take the test, and why anyone would want to take a spiritual gifts test in the first place.

To ensure we are all on the same page regarding the definition of spiritual gifts, let's look to scripture for clarity. In First Corinthians, the Apostle Paul explains that these special abilities are granted by the Holy Spirit to all Christians. It's important to note that we don't choose which gifts we receive; this is determined entirely by the Holy Spirit. And everyone has spiritual gifts, even if they choose not to use them.

Spiritual gifts are different than skills and talents. They are gifts that are the result of the Holy Spirit's work in and through us as we grow in grace and faith in Jesus Christ. We're to use them for ministry and for building up the Body of Christ.

We can identify our spiritual gifts by using an assessment tool, such as a spiritual gifts inventory. By answering a series of questions and tallying our responses, we can discover the gifts that the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon us. It's important to note that there is no failing involved—it's not a test!

The first time I conducted a gifts inventory, I was surprised by the results. The gifts I thought I possessed didn't align with how I saw myself. Over time, I learned that this experience is common. Often, we don't recognize how God is growing and using us in ministry until we look for the right evidence. Now, I understand that taking the inventory was just the first step in a rewarding journey.

To answer the question, "Why would someone want to participate in a spiritual gifts inventory?" the first reason is this: Learning about our spiritual gifts and focusing on them provides us with a deep sense of satisfaction. When we understand and utilize our gifts, we can experience greater fulfillment in our lives. A second reason is that we discover what we excel in ministry, making it enjoyable.

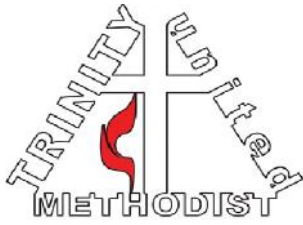
The first disciples were not extraordinary in many ways, except for one crucial aspect—they responded to Jesus with a resounding "yes." They said, "Yes, Jesus, I'll follow you. I'll trust you." In return, what did Jesus do? He taught and mentored them, helping them discover gifts they never knew they possessed. Are you ready to uncover your spiritual gifts? Follow this link and share your results with me! I would love to celebrate with you.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

Grace and Peace, **Pastor Bobbie Maltas**

December 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Advent 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 11:00am Potluck	9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 12:00pm RSP Luncheon 6:30pm Bible Study	9:00am Trinity Quilters	Accountant Here 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm High School Bible Study	8:30am Trinity Bible Study 1:00pm RSYVP Base Fitness 5:00pm Missions Loom 6:30pm Bible Study	9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	9:30am TWM Christmas Brunch 5:30pm Worship - Cantata
8	9:30am Worship - Cantata / Livestream	9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSYVP BASE Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	9:00am Trinity Quilters 5:30pm FD Quilters Guild	10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm High School Bible Study	8:30am Trinity Bible Study 1:00pm RSYVP Base Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	5:30pm Worship - Casual
15	9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 10:30am Christmas Cookie Exchange	9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSYVP BASE Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	9:00am Trinity Quilters 5:45pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:45pm Administrative Council	Accountant Here 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm JAM Christmas Program 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm High School Bible Study	8:30am Trinity Bible Study 1:00pm RSYVP Base Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	Newsletter Articles Due 9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	First Day of Winter 5:30pm Worship - Casual
22	9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream	9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSYVP BASE Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	9:00am Trinity Quilters 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	Christmas Day Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	5:30pm Worship - Casual
29	9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream	Office Closed	Office Closed	New Year's Day Office Closed	8:30am Trinity Bible Study 1:00pm RSYVP Base	9:00am RSYVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	5:30pm Worship - Casual



838 N 25TH ST
 FORT DODGE IA 50501-2849
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER

2024 Bible Reading Plan

	Epistles	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Gospels
Wk.	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
48	1 John 1-3	Deut 20-22	Neh 1-4	Ps 137-139	Eccl 11-12	Malachi	Acts 19-20
49	1 John 4-5	Deut 23-25	Neh 5-9	Ps 140-142	Song 1-2	Rev 1-6	Acts 21-22
50	2 John	Deut 26-28	Neh 10-13	Ps 143-145	Song 3-4	Rev 7-11	Acts 23-24
51	3 John	Deut 29-31	Esther 1-5	Ps 146-148	Song 5-6	Rev 12-17	Acts 25-26
52	Jude	Deut 32-34	Esther 6-10	Ps 149-150	Song 7-8	Rev 18-22	Acts 27-28