

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

HOLY GHOST/TRINITY UCC

PASTOR TARRAH VAUPEL

Advent Worship Series



Join us this Advent season as we prepare our hearts and minds to “grow three sizes”! We will examine how that endearing green, grinchy fellow actually **WELCOMED** Christmas into his *seemingly* frosty heart!

Sunday, December 3rd: Hope and the darkness of Mt. Crumpit

Sunday, December 10th: Peace in the midst of chaos

Sunday, December 17th: The Joy of the Who’s

Sunday, December 24th: The Greatest of these is **Love**

Book Club Dates

Our Book Club is finishing up “The Grilling Season” by Diane Mott Davidson. Our next book club meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31st at 6pm. A title hasn’t been chosen yet, but please stay tuned for more information to come after the holiday season!

Men’s Fellowship



Pastor Tarrah has been working with Pastor Bob Koch (St. John’s, New Athens) and Pastor Brett Palmer (Friedens, Marissa) to develop some new fellowship opportunities for the men of our congregations. If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please let Pastor Tarrah know as soon as possible. Stay tuned for more information about the group starting up **AFTER** the holiday season. 😊

Combined Choir

If you are interested in being a part of the choir, please join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30am prior to the beginning of worship.

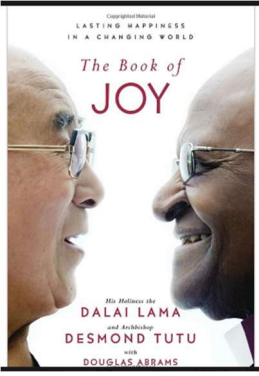
Special Music Offerings

Are you interested in providing special music for one of our upcoming services? Do you know someone or a group that you think would be a terrific addition to one of our upcoming services? Please reach out to Pastor Tarrah so we can get you/them on the worship schedule. Thank you!!

Scripture Readers

Scripture readers are always encouraged and welcomed to take part in our worship services. Please sign-up to be a reader of our sacred scriptures on any given Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table. Thank you!!

The Book of Joy Study Group



The Book of Joy adult study group is underway! The book narrates a weeklong gathering between the 14th Dalai Lama and the Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

If you are interested in participating in the group, please pick up a copy of the book from the book seller of your choice and save these dates on your calendar 😊

Session 8: Wednesday, December 6th; The Eight Pillars of Joy: Perspective and Humility (pre-reading pages 193-213)

Session 9: Wednesday, January 3rd; The Eight Pillars of Joy: Humor and Acceptance (pre-reading pages 215-228)

Session 10: Wednesday, January 17th; The Eight Pillars of Joy: Forgiveness and Gratitude (pre-reading pages 229-249)

Session 11: Wednesday, February 7th; The Eight of Pillars of Joy: Compassion and Generosity (pre-reading pages 251-275)

Session 12: Wednesday, February 21st; Meditation, Celebration and Departure (pre-reading pages 277-305)

Poinsettia Dedications

We will once again be honoring our loved ones through the gift of poinsettia's that will adorn our sanctuary spaces this Advent season. Please speak with Jan Dietrich to purchase one of these beautiful, traditional plants in memory or in honor of a loved one that is near and dear to your heart. Jan will also be collecting the dedication information to be printed in our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service bulletin. Each poinsettia costs \$7.50 and the proceeds support the Marissa FFA.



Christmas Cantata 2023



Save the date for our combined Christmas Cantata 2023! On Saturday, December 16th we shall gather at Holy Ghost Darmstadt at 2pm to join our voices with singers from neighboring congregations to present, "O Holy Light: A Christmas Cantata." Combined rehearsals for the Cantata are underway but it is NEVER too late to join! We practice each Wednesday at 5pm through December 13th. There is STILL TIME for you to prayerfully consider joining us!

Mission of the month

A basket is on the sharing table at each church.

This month our mission project is:

Hoyleton

"For it is in giving that we receive."

-St. Francis



PRAYER LIST (long term)

Richard Juenger, Les Erb, Dorothy Herzog, Vicki Black,
Larry Wagner, Bradley Funk,
Lucas (4-year-old with leukemia in Darmstadt),
Almira Kinzel, Rick Schaeffer, and Skip Horton.

PRAYER LIST (short term)

People of Ukraine, Jeanette Funk, People of Maui, Elgene Lickenbrock,
Lindsey & Family (Pastor Tarrah's sister), People of Israel and Palestine, Wayne Jetter,
Victims and Families of shooting in Lewiston, Maine,
Ruby Tinsley (Sue Triefenbach's sister), Jane Kish (Friend of Cathy Harms),
Jean Carmean, Sue Lehde (Friend of Nancy Shubert), and Almira Kinzel.

Please contact Pastor Tarrah, Kim Weekley, or Frieda Feig if you wish to add someone to our prayer list. If you have a private prayer request, please contact Pastor Tarrah directly.



First Sunday of Advent: Hope – Sunday, December 3rd, 9am worship at Trinity
Congregational Christmas Party – Friday, December 8th at 6pm at Holy Ghost
Second Sunday of Advent: Peace – Sunday, December 10th, 9am worship at Trinity
Christmas Cantata with Cocoa and Cookies reception –
Saturday, December 16th, 2pm at Holy Ghost
Third Sunday of Advent: Joy – Sunday, December 17th during 9am worship
Blue Christmas Service followed by outing to the 'Way of Lights' –
Thursday, December 21st at 5pm (Trinity Biddleborn)
Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love –
Sunday, December 24th, 9am worship at Holy Ghost
Special offering for Christmas Fund
Christmas Eve Candlelight service – Sunday, December 24th at 5pm at Trinity
New Year's Eve Service of hope and reflection –
Sunday, December 31st at 9am at Holy Ghost
Epiphany Sunday -January 7, 2024 at Trinity 9 am

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES THIS ADVENT SEASON



1

Adorn our kindercottage tree - bring some undies and socks (any sizes) for the Kindercottage children by Sunday, December 17th

2

Embracing the little ones - we have been blessed to receive the names of TWO Kindercottage children to love extravagantly thru giving this season. Please bring your wrapped gifts no later than Sunday, December 3rd.

Brooklyn Cole - girl, 6-9 month clothing, size 3 Pampers

Zaire Edwards - boy, 5T clothing; Zaire is one of their Autistic children and he loves animals

3

The Christmas Fund- this special offering is collected during 9am worship on Christmas Eve to support retired UCC Clergy and their families

JANUARY 7TH, 2024

☆ EPIPHANY SUNDAY ☆

Celebrate and join us for 9am worship at our Trinity Biddleborn location to receive your very own "Star Gift" to help guide you through 2024!



2024

New Year's Eve Worship

Join us for a unique service of reflection, hope, and visioning on Sunday, December 31st, 2023, 9am, at our Holy Ghost Darmstadt location.

Confirmation Dates for December 2023 and January 2024

December 3 -Confirmation Class at Trinity

December 16 -Christmas Cantata with Cookies and Cocoa Reception; Confirmands attend and work (Service Project)

December 17 -Confirmation Class at Holy Ghost

December 24 -Christmas Eve Candlelight service

January 7- Confirmation Class at Trinity

January 21 - Confirmation Class at Holy Ghost with Faith Partners

December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 2- Lee Harms
- 2 -Brad Triefenbach
- 3 -Jeffrey Steinheimer
- 3 -Mary Trentman
- 3 -Czesslawa (Czessie) Wojtkowski
- 4 -Jeremy Shubert
- 5 -Gene Shifferdecker
- 5 -Larry Wagner
- 9 -Brian Prest
- 11 -Jolene Wallis
- 13-DrewFeig
- 15- Meigha Segelhorst
- 18- Bryleigh Prest
- 24-Brooke Trentman
- 29-Michael Shubert
- 30-Barbara Schwartz

Anniversaries

- 12- Brittany and William Segelhorst

January Birthdays



Birthdays

- 3- Logan Jones
- 6- Verleen Bollmeier
- 7 -John Schwartz
- 9 -Sue Triefenbach
- 9 -Michael Triefenbach
- 9-Eddie Mesch
- 10 -Michael Feig
- 11 -Patricia Pflasterer
- 19 -Mitch Prosis
- 19 -Jeanette Funk
- 23-Andrew Wagner
- 24 -Samantha Triefenbach
- 25 -Scott Shubert
- 28 -Kim Weekley
- 29 -David Bollmeier
- 30 -Elaine Bugger
- 31 -Tanner Rhodes

FUN DATES IN DECEMBER

- 1st-National Christmas Lights Day
- 2nd -National Mutt Day
- 4th -National Cookie Day
- 5th -International Volunteer Day
- 6th -St. Nicholas Day
- 7th -Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 8th -National Brownie Day
- 9th -Christmas Card Day
- 10th -Human Rights Day
- 12th -Gingerbread House Day and National Poinsettia Day
- 13th -National Cocoa Day
- 15th -National Ugly Sweater Day
- 17th -National Maple Syrup Day
- 21st- National Short Girl Appreciation Day and Look on the Bright Side Day
- 22nd -National Short Person Day and National Cookie Exchange Day
- 28th -National Card Playing Day
- 30th -National Bacon Day



FUN DATES IN January

- 4th -National Trivia Day and National Spaghetti Day
- 5th -National Bird Day
- 6th -National Bean Day
- 8th -National Bubble Bath Day
- 9th -Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- 10th -National Houseplant Appreciation Day
- 11th -National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and National Clean Off Your Desk Day
- 15th -National Bagel Day and National Strawberry Ice Cream Day
- 19th -National Pop Corn Day
- 20th -National Cheese Lovers Day and Penguin Awareness Day
- 21st -National Hugging Day and World Snow Day
- 22nd -National Blonde Brownie Day
- 23rd -National Pie Day
- 24th -National Compliment Day and National Peanut Butter Day
- 25th -Opposite Day
- 27th -National Chocolate Cake Day
- 28th -National Lego Day
- 29th -National Puzzle Day
- 30th -National Croissant Day

