

December 2016

Trinity Press



Sunday Worship Services

10:00 am English

12:00 pm Spanish

Child care at all Worship Services

Nursery & Preschool

Room 7

Sunday School Classes

Grades K—6 Room 3

Communion Sunday

Sunday, December 4

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

Spanish Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Sundays at 11:15 am

Out-of-the-Box Food Packing

Sunday, December 11, at 11:45 am

Out-of-the-Box Food Distribution

Thursday, December 16, at 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services

7:00 pm Traditional Service

Christmas Services

As regularly scheduled



Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is barely over and already we are into the church season called Advent! Beginning November 27th this year, Advent is traditionally a time of “expectant waiting,” a time of preparing and waiting to see what God will do next. It is a time of longing for our Savior. It’s a time to reflect upon God’s movement in our lives and in our world as God brings new life. It’s a time to prepare and watch for God to birth something new and to remember that Emmanuel – God With Us – has come.

I have to admit that, as I write this, I am still surprised by the early darkness of our days. Most likely, as soon as I am used to it, things will reverse and the daylight will start lasting a little longer each day! Every year I marvel at the fact that the time of the year we consider the darkest (end of December and January) is actually when each day has more light than the day before. Could this not be a metaphor for our lives of faith and something to remember? Could it really be true that just when we think things are at their worst, that that is precisely when God is working to bring more light into our lives? I believe so!

During the season of Advent we light one more candle each week to remind us of the coming of light, the coming of Love, Peace and Joy and the presence of Hope. We light the candles to celebrate the coming of the One who is called the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, Son of God.

In these weeks leading to Christmas, and most especially during your darkest days, light a candle and let the light shine before you, helping you to remember the love God has for you. May you know, not just in your mind, but also in your heart, that Jesus, the Light of the World, is sent for you, too.

May the Peace of Christ be yours,

Peggy

Eight practices for home and family during Advent and Christmas

Here are some practices that can become a part of family life and assist in keeping the focus of the season on the birth of the holy baby.

1. Let an Advent wreath serve as the center of your dining table

This wreath may be as simple as four purple candles and candle holders arranged in a circle surrounded by greenery with a white candle placed in the center. Or it may be an elaborate wreath you have purchased.

Regardless of the type of wreath used, let it serve as a reminder of the waiting we do during the season of Advent for Christ's birth. Light one additional candle each week of Advent and read Scripture, share a devotional, tell stories, and pray.

2. Include an Advent calendar as part of your family worship experience

Take time to gather around a family Advent calendar that contains Scripture and illustrations related to the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many stores sell calendars that contain windows whose numbers correspond to the number of days of Advent, but families can also make their

own. Family members may use Scripture verses to make small illustrations that can then be covered with a large piece of poster board. Windows can be cut over each picture; the family members "open" the window and read the Scripture, one each day during Advent.

3. Use a crèche to depict the story of Christ's birth

Put a crèche, or nativity scene, in a prominent place in your home. If young children are present, be sure it is one that can be played with rather than one that is too fragile or sentimental to be touched. Instead of putting out all of the figures on one day, make their arrival to the stable gradual, demonstrating that the characters did not arrive all at once.

Save and add baby Jesus to the scene on Christmas Eve and keep the Magi out of the scene until Epiphany (January 6). You may also consider inviting each family member to add a piece of hay to the manger for each action in that family member's life that demonstrates God's love. By the time the baby is added to the manger, it should be full of hay.

4. Share stories while decorating for the season

Find a time when family members can be present to help decorate the Christmas tree

or other areas of the home. While unpacking ornaments and decorations, recall aloud the stories about those treasured items. You may also consider purchasing or making a new ornament or decoration that symbolizes the family that year (special vacation, rite of passage, or certain occasion) and adding it to the festivities. Consider making your decorating a gradual process through the season as you practice the discipline of waiting.

5. Decorate and share cookies

While this time of year is joyous for many, others find it a sad and lonely time. Use your joy to help those who may be less fortunate or may not have family with whom to celebrate. Make and decorate cookies and, as a family, deliver them to these folks. Create festive plates of goodies and include a note from your family about how glad you are that they are members of your family through Christ.

6. Downplay Santa Claus

By looking at any store window, street corner, or television show, it is clear that eliminating Santa Claus from Christmas is not possible. Instead, consider downplaying the role of the gift-giving Santa in this season. If your family uses stockings and gives gifts from the jolly old elf, fill children's stockings with small gifts (little toys and candy canes) and designate larger

gifts from the giver. Children are then able to appreciate and thank the giver while Santa plays only a secondary role.

7. Take turns opening gifts

The celebration of Christmas mornings in many households is a brief activity as family members rip through gifts and move on to the rest of the day. If your family opens gifts together, make this time more significant by taking turns. Find a pattern that works for your family, such as youngest to oldest or vice versa, and wait until each person has had a chance to open one gift before moving on to the next person. Givers are then able to share in the joy of the receiver while the receiver is able to acknowledge and appreciate the giver.

8. Make a birthday cake for Jesus

As a part of Christmas Day activities, join in baking and/or decorating a birthday cake. Family members of any age are able to participate in such an activity and can be reminded that this day is the Christian celebration of a uniquely special birth. Then, of course, join in singing to Jesus and enjoy eating the cake as a family.

Reprint of an article by Martha H. Miller, associate for educator certification and vocation.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and->

December Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

Steve Watson	6
Corrine Hamby	12
Wilbur Curtis	17
Gloria Curtis	19
Amelia Blunk	22
Pete Martinez	23

Deacons Coat Drive Recap

Congratulations church! We collected and distributed approximately 50 coats, sweatshirts and hoodies. Distribution was held the same night as our Out-of-the-Box Distribution. We handed out coats, jackets and hoodies. Special thanks are extended to Toni Sullivan for her many hours of help.



AMAZON

Deacons' Goody Bags

Christmas Goody Bags...Once again we will be packing some everyday essential items, such as toiletries and soap, into reusable cloth bags for 100 people in our area who are without permanent homes. The West Sacramento Christmas Basket Project will then distribute them during the first week of December. If you wish to contribute to the project, please make your checks to Trinity with "Goody Bags" noted on the

memo line. Thank you Trinity Threads Together for sewing the great bags!!!



Christmas Carols, and have fun as we help to retell the story of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Please join your friends and neighbors at Trinity Presbyterian Church for these Christmas celebrations!

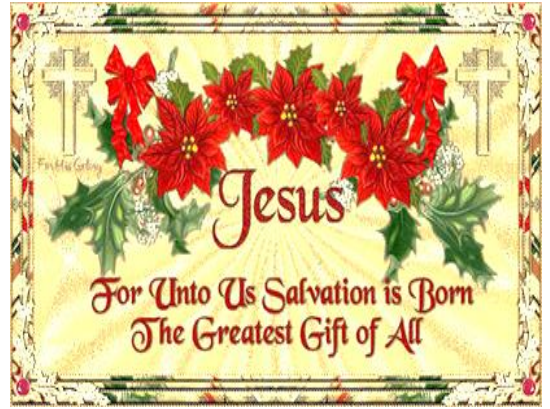
Remember, Christmas Eve service is at 7:00pm and Christmas Day service is at 10:00am

Celebrate Christmas Twice!

Come join us for two celebrations of Christmas – one on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas morning - that will uplift your spirit, warm your heart and bring you and your family closer to Christ!

First, you're invited to worship with us at **7pm, Christmas Eve, December 24th**, as we celebrate by singing many favorite Christmas Carols and hearing the stories of the prophets' promises and the birth of Jesus. Be blessed by our choir's special music, and by each of us lighting our own candle in a candlelight closing.

Then, on **Christmas Morning, December 25th**, starting at **10:00am**, we'll celebrate the birth of Jesus, sing many more favorite



Southport Elementary Food Drive

We had our first food drive for the 2016/2017 school year this past Thursday. Hats off to Southport Elementary! The children and their families collected approximately 2500 items.

Sunday, November 13, 2016, we packed grocery bags and used about half of the donated items. We will use the remainder of the items for future packing, but we anticipate the majority of it will be used to pack December's bags.



Worship on New Year's Day

– YES! We will have an opportunity to worship together as we rejoice in the arrival of a new calendar year! We will also have a special guest preacher that day: the Rev. Rick Hull. Hope you will join us!

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

As we begin a new year you are invited to reaffirm the vows you (or your parents speaking for you) took at the time of your baptism. This will take place during our worship service on Sunday, January 8, 2017.

While we Presbyterians believe that we only need to be baptized once in our lives, many of us benefit from the opportunity to recommit ourselves and to reaffirm those vows. This is a natural part of our faith development. As we grow in faith and age it is wonderful to have various opportunities to answer these questions again. This is especially helpful when we have had experiences that have caused us to question or struggle anew with our relationship with God. It is often out of these experiences that we emerge with a new and deeper understanding of God, ourselves, and our relationship with one another.

The renewal of our Baptismal vows is one way in which we can again say YES to God. Please be sure to mark Jan 8, 2017, on your calendar!

E-Waste Program

You can donate your unwanted electronics to Trinity Presbyterian Church. Go on-line to www.ewaste4good.com. You can arrange to have your items picked up at your residence. Enter "Trinity Presbyterian Church" as the non-profit to receive the funds for your contribution. Or, you can call Tri-Valley Recycling, at 1-800-317-3112 to arrange a scheduled pickup and let them know that you want Trinity Presbyterian Church to receive the proceeds. They weigh all donated items, and, based on a predetermined pay scale, provide a contribution to us. Your contributions will be used for building costs.

Some of the many items accepted for E-recycling are listed below.

All Televisions	Video Games
Computer Monitors	Computers
Fax Machines	Calculators
Desktop Copiers	Cell Phones
Telephones	Printers
Vacuum Cleaners	Speakers
Keyboards	Scanners
Mice	Laptops

Misc Wires & Cords	Small Appliances
Household Phones	Stereo Systems
Medical Equipment	Power Tools
Networking Equipment	
And many other items	

For additional information, or to schedule a pickup, please call Tri-Valley Recycling at 1-800-317-3112.

Trinity no longer accepts electronic waste due to lack of adequate space to store items. Please call Tri-Valley Recycling directly and let them know you want Trinity Presbyterian Church in West Sacramento to get credit for the donated items. Thank you for your understanding and continued participation.

Cookie Palooza



Calling all bakers: men, women, teens and children!

We are preparing for our annual Cookie Palooza. We need 200 dozen cookies. These fabulous homemade cookies will be added to our Out-of-the-Box December grocery bags. No matter what your specialty is, we would love your freshly baked cookies: gingerbread, chocolate chip, snickerdoodle, sugar, oatmeal, etc., etc., etc.

How about hosting a fun day of baking in your home as you and a few friends gather for a friendly bake-off and then donate all the cookies to Out-of-the-Box? As far as Out-of-the-Box is concerned, there are no runners up, only winners!

Or do you want to judge some cookies; maybe your culinary skills are limited, but you have a discerning palate. Why not agree to help pay for the ingredients and be

the taste tester as others bake their specialties?

Or, do you know a bakery that does a wonderful job on a specific cookie and you would like to buy a dozen and donate them? We will gladly accept those cookies as well.

So, go ahead, grab some ingredients, some friends, a warm oven and bake to your heart's content.

Go one step further and bake at least three types of cookies, package them as assorted dozens and deliver them to church ready for distribution.

All cookies are due at church no later than Sunday, December 11, at 10:00 am. Stay a while and help us sort and package the cookies!



The Magic
of Christmas is not
in the presents...

But in
His
Presence



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And Many, Many Volunteers

Trinity's Mission Statement:

The mission of Trinity Presbyterian Church is to invite people into the family of God to share the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

