

Trinity World Newsletter
Welcome A New Year 2024
January 2024



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

1. We would like your suggestions about a building upkeep project we need to do next spring. The paint on the exterior wall at the back of the church (near the back door) is peeling, again. Rather than just scraping and repainting it, we're considering putting some sort of siding on that wall. That would be a more permanent fix, compared to repainting every couple years. We would love to hear any thoughts or suggestions you have !! (product, color, feasibility, etc.)
2. Our church has awarded college scholarships to Danyell Coccia and Olivia Potter for successfully completing their fall semesters...Danyell in nursing, Olivia in chiropractic medicine. So proud of you both!
3. A new 65 inch television has been purchased for the lounge, replacing the very old one that was there. This will be wonderful for viewing the series "The Chosen", starting on January 7th after worship and coffee time.
4. The Council did not meet in December, except through emails. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 21st at 11:15.

Thank you for your continued support and ideas! Your Council: Kathy Wood,

Sue Gatley, Sarah Barcomb, Gerry Nelson, May Klepadlo, Danyell Coccia, Dick Kekis

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beginning

January 7,

After our Sunday morning service we will be showing the series **Chosen**. This series, adapted from the four books of the Bible known as the Gospels, tells the story of the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ through the varying viewpoints of their writers. This will be shown in the lounge. We will be showing the series through March in the lounge immediately after the morning service. Watch for the schedule since this will not be every Sunday.

January 14

Tacos and Tubing will be held immediately after the morning service. We will have tacos before heading to Woods Valley. **Mel will need to make reservations for the tubing and will need to know who will be attending by January 1st.**

January 21 – Youth Group will meet at 5:00PM, at First Presbyterian Church, for food, devotions, crafts and games.

January 28 – The next episode of Chosen will be shown in the lounge after the morning service.

February 4 – The next episode of Chosen will be shown in the lounge after the morning service.

February 11

– Join us for Fastnacht with food and a concert by our own Aaron Browka as we begin Lent.

-Youth Group will be held at, at Trinity Church, 5:00pm with food, devotions, crafts and games.

March 3

The next episode of Chosen will be shown in the lounge after the morning service

March 10

Pizza will be served following the morning service, then we are off to bowling at King Pin Lanes. I have to reserve alleys and need a count of who will be joining us by March 1.

Youth Group will be held at 5:00pm with food, devotions, crafts and games. Location to be announced.

March 17

St. Patrick's day celebration, where everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Join us for an Irish lunch, music, games and fun following our morning service. Don't forget to wear your green!!!

March 24

The next episode of Chosen will be shown in the lounge after the morning service.

March 31

Happy Easter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trinity Church recently hosted two fundraisers in an effort to generate funds for future church events and activities. The first of these events, was a Fall Penny Party, which was held on November 26th, and proved to be a resounding success, with a profit of \$500.

Furthermore, a raffle of a framed print of a painting by artist Linda Fenigan-Hale, which she generously donated to the Church. The winner of this framed print was Sandy Graichen, this helped to raise an additional \$400.

Looking ahead, there are plans to organize another penny party in the Spring of 2024, with a date yet to be determined. This upcoming event, along with the continued support and generosity of the church community, promises to further contribute to the success and growth of Trinity Church.



Sympathy to the family of Jack Brownell, he was pastor here at Trinity Church from 1987 to 1996. He passed away on November 26, 2023, in Bangor, Maine.

Past Events

Getting Ready for Christmas



Brinley Barcomb and Madelyn
Colosimo



Elsa Kiepert, Vicki Williams and Cooper
Colosimo, doing some Christmas Crafting.



Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas



Sharing a light lunch,
after the decorating.

Past Events



Photos from the December Youth Group. Making Christmas decorations for the Fellowship Hall tree.



Kathy Wood, Brinley Barcomb, and Vincent Klepadlo celebrating Birthday Cakes for Jesus.



Sanctuary for the "Longest Night Service", on December 21st, in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church. Service in remembrance of loved ones who have passed

Past Events

Baptism of Ellie Marie Bombaci on November 19th



Ellie being held
by her sister
Viviana



Ellie, Edward
and Victoria
Bombaci



Ellie and Victoria
Bombaci,
with Pastor Karen
Marshall

Trinity Tidbits

The Kekis Family and the World-Famous Turkey Joints

This month Tidbits looks at the Kekis family and a fact many of you may not know about them.

Most people in the Mohawk Valley, particularly, Rome, are familiar with the world-famous Turkey Joints which are made here in Rome, but some members of Trinity Church have an even closer connection with the candy through the Kekis family.

Alice Wittenburg, born in 1910, moved to Rome from Dayton, Ohio in the 1920's as a young adult with her family. Their family became members of our little German Church, which in 1928 became Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church.

I remember Alice being very devoted to her spiritual beliefs, always a smile on her face and deeply involved in the life of our church. She served as secretary of the Church Council, Sunday School teacher, Stewardship chairwoman and president of the local and state churches' Women's Group. She also served as president of the Bureau of Employment and Relief, which later evolved into the Rome Bureau of Family Services and was an active member of the Board of Trustees of the Women's General Study Club, which later merged with the YMCA,

A lifetime member of the Birch Twig, she served as its president and was secretary of the General Twig, a member of Wednesday Morning Club and past president of Rome Trading Post, Trinity Home Bureau and Church Women United. She was secretary of the Rome Inter-faith Study Group and was a volunteer at the Christian Bookshop at Zion Church. In addition, she was actively involved in the American Red Cross, served as Canteen aide and was a member of the Esther Wiebe Circle of the Senior Citizens Council serving on the board. She also served as a Grey Lady which were American Red Cross volunteers who worked in American hospitals, other health-care facilities, and private homes, notable during World War 1 and World War II.

On June 26, 1929 Dmitri K. (Jimmy) Kekis who was born December 31, 1898 in Athens, Greece married Alice Wittenburg at Trinity Evangelical and Reformed church.

Jimmy had lived in Glens Falls, moved to Syracuse where he worked in a candy store and then moved to Rome where he worked at Royal Sweets Candy Shop, located at 101 West Dominick St. They offered candy, ice cream, lunches and many sweet treats.

He developed the process of making Turkey Joints, a delicacy, made with a sweet silvery candy coating surrounding a delicious chocolate nugget featuring hazelnuts or Brazil nuts, The candy was originally called "Turkey Bones" for the first few years until the name was changed to "Turkey Joints". The name is derived from the knobs formed from the nuts in the candy.

In 1921 he, along with two partners, opened Candyland Restaurant and was secretary of the Candyland Restaurant Corporation which was located at 130 West Dominick St.

The following letter was written in 1941:

From the Turkey Joint Candy MFG. Co., Rome, NY

To the Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt

President of the United States

The White House

Washington, D.C.

Dear President Roosevelt,

Under separate cover we are sending you, with our deepest respect and the holiday greetings, a box of Original Turkey Joints, which we have been manufacturing for a number of years with considerable success. We hope and trust you will enjoy these delicious Turkey Joints as much as we enjoy the privilege and pleasure of sending them to you. We make these candies exclusively in Rome and believe that there is nothing like it on the market. We receive orders from all parts of our great country and feel that we have a unique industry here in this industrial city of Rome.

With our best wishes to you and members of your family, and praying that the Thanksgiving season and the years to come will bless you with continued good health and success, we beg to remain.

Respectfully yours,

The Turkey Joint Candy MFG. Co

By D. Kekis

A reply was mailed as follows on Nov. 24, 1941

My Dear Mr. Kekis;

Thank you ever so much, in the President's behalf for the candy to which you refer in your letter of November eighteenth. He appreciates your Thanksgiving greeting and has asked me to tell you how gratifying it is to him to know that he has your friendly thoughts and your prayers during these trying day.

Very Sincerely Yours

Grace G. Tully

Mr. Kekis attended Trinity Church with his wife, Alice, and their four children, Diane, Dick, Jim and John. Dick continues to regularly attend service and events at Trinity.

Elsa Kiepert recalls each Christmas Eve he would bring a small jar of hard candy for all the children and On Easter morning Mr. Kekis brought each child at Sunday School a small solid chocolate bunny.

Elsa also remembers the delicious food served at Candyland along with the best ice cream in town. Their specialty was a Spanish Tango. This was chocolate ice cream, chocolate syrup, not hot fudge, Spanish peanuts, and a cherry on top. I still enjoy a Spanish Tango and remember that delicious treat.

The staff at the restaurant were all very accommodating to their steady customers, some of who were members of the church, especially the Hoffmans who ate there every night. The restaurant closed in 1972 due to urban renewal throughout the downtown.

Mr. Kekis in addition to being a member of Trinity, was a member of the Roman Lodge, F&AM, and the Ziyara Shrine.

He passed away August 29, 1967.

Alice remarried in 1972 and continued being active at the church with husband Bob Bidwell until he passed in 1985. Alice moved to Bethany House, a health-related facility, and passed away in 1999.

To this day Turkey Joints remain a unique candy made and sold only here in Rome and can be purchase along with many other sweets and treats at Nora's Candy Shop at 321 N. Doxtator St. in Rome.

Melody Kiepert Milewski



Pastor Karen's Korner for January 2024

A few short days ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus and now here we are getting ready to celebrate the new year. This is a time when we may tend to make new years resolutions. To vow to maybe eat better, to become more physically fit, to read more and watch TV less, well maybe when there is not a football game or basketball game on. It is a time when we may plan on cleaning out rooms and giving away things we do not need. Christmas may be a faint memory of gifts opened, and decorations that will be coming down soon. As I thought about this I found a poem by Ann Weems that I want to share with you.

"It is Not Over". Ann Weems

It is not over,
This birthing
There are always newer skies
Into which
God can throw stars
When we begin to think
That we can predict the Advent of God,
That we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem
That's just the time
That God will be born
In a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
Watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
Listening
Always listening
For angel words.

The day of Christmas may be over, but the gift of the birth continues into our lives, continues with us as we go through our lives in this new year. There are always newer skies as Ann Weems writes in her poem and stars may appear at any time. Please look for them with your hearts.

May we as we make our new years resolutions make promises to continue to thank God for the birth of the Savior who came to save us, to help others as Jesus has taught us and to continue to rejoice.

I hope that your New Year will be a blessed one, filled with joy, and may the love of God be with you.

Pastor Karen

Happy New Year

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JANUARY

4th- Eileen McCaa
14th-Travis Dancy
16th-Gibert Revette
21st- Rich Runice
22nd–Vicki Williams
26th-Lennox Louise Hawley
29th- Ron Blackall

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