



Trinity  
World  
Newsletter  
December  
2025

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## Community Events

**December 21st @3pm, Zion's Annual Messiah Sing.**

**December 18th-  
Longest Night Ecumenical Service  
First Baptist Church @ 7pm**



This service will be a collaborative endeavor between Trinity Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Methodist Church, and First Baptist Church. A service of healing and hope for all who grieve this Christmas Season.

## Cookie Exchange

Trinity is pleased to announce an exciting new event scheduled for December. On Sunday, December 21, 2025, we will set up a cookie exchange during the morning coffee hour following the 10:00 am service.

From November 30 until December 14, 2025, please contact me if you would like to participate in this event. Each participant will be responsible for bringing one dozen cookies of their choice, packaged individually for each person who has signed up for the exchange. These cookies can be a favorite of yours, a family recipe, or even something new you would like to make. They do not need to be elaborate cookies.

All participants will be contacted by December 15 with the number of packages required for the exchange.

Please contact me at 315-832-2009 or at the church on any Sunday if you would like to participate.  
Looking forward to this new event.

*Melody Kiepert Milewski*

## Trinity Tidbits

New Year's Eve, December 31st, is the final day of the Gregorian calendar year.

Celebrations vary globally but often include parties, special foods, watching fireworks, and making New Year's resolutions. It is seen as a time to say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new one, often accompanied by a sense of reflection and hope for the future.

At midnight, people often cheer, toast with champagne, kiss loved ones and sing "Auld Lang Syne". While the Gregorian calendar is standard in many parts of the world, other cultures celebrate their own New Year on different dates according to their own calendars.

New year's Eve, is connected to the church through the feast day of Saint Sylvester I, a 4th century Pope who died on December 31st and celebrate through the tradition of Watch Night services. Many churches hold these services, which can include worship, prayer and fellowship, hold vigils to reflect on the past year and pray for the new one with much contemplation, often culminating at midnight.

Pope Sylvester served from 314 to 335AD and presided during Emperor Constantine's conversion. His papacy was a key period for the Church marked by events like the First Council of Nicaea.

The practice of holding a vigil on New Year's Eve began with the Moravian church in the 18th century.

The transition of the calendar year is seen as a spiritual opportunity to embrace the idea of being a "new creation" through Christ, as mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5 – 17.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!**

*Melody Kiepert Milewski*



## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

1. This year the Council again approved sponsoring 3 Christmas families from the Rome Rescue Mission. The specific gifts requested by the 6 children (2 from each family) will be purchased by the church. We are asking congregation members to donate food items, as well as gloves, hats, and scarves for kids and adults at the Mission. There will be a table by our front coat racks for the collections until December 21st. Thank you in advance for your generosity !!

2. On Sunday, November 16th, the congregation unanimously approved the proposed 2026 Budget. If you were not able to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the Budget, please contact the church office.

3. Following the Budget meeting we all enjoyed our traditional Harvest Dinner...sauerbraten, ham, German Potato salad, green bean casserole, squash, applesauce, noodles...all deliciously prepared by Sue Gatley and her family, along with Mel Milewski and Cindy Lucas. We also appreciate Paula and Al Witt for taking on the huge task of washing all the dishes used !! Thank you so much for your skill and efforts...we all gave rave reviews !! Fellowship Hall was filled with our members, as well as 12 guests from the 1st Presbyterian Church, enjoying wonderful food and conversation.

4. At 1:30 we returned to the sanctuary for an ecumenical Thanksgiving service which involved Pastor Karen, Rev. Edwina from 1st Presbyterian, and Pastor Robbin from the Methodist Church. We loved the music provided by a combined choir of 26 voices, directed by Kim Nethaway and accompanied by Aaron Browka. There was Blessing of Bread, collection of food items, and we decorated a tree branch with paper leaves on which we wrote what we are thankful for. Many stayed afterwards for coffee and dessert.

A beautiful ending to a wonderful day of combined fellowship !!

5. We look forward to seeing you all in December for our many upcoming activities...please note them on the Calendar and watch for reminder emails.

As always, please contact any Council member with questions or suggestions:

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

Mission of the Month for December  
Retired Minister's Fund



Donation Boxes located at Trinity Church



Photos from the Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service held on, November 16th.

During the service, donations of food were accepted, and a blessing of bread was performed. All food donations were subsequently distributed to the Rome Rescue Mission. Additionally, a total of \$283 was collected from the collection plate and donated to the Connected Community Schools.

The service was conducted by Pastor Karen Marshall, Reverend Edwina Landry, and Pastor Robbin Harris, in collaboration with a combined choir from Trinity, First Presbyterian, and First Methodist churches. The choir was directed by Kim Nethaway of First Presbyterian Church, and the piano was played by Aaron Browka, the Music Director at Trinity Church.

## Pastor Karen's Korner for December 2025

I would like to begin my article for this month with a wonderful poem by Ann Weems.

### The Coming of God

Our God is the One who comes to us  
    in a burning bush,  
    in an angel's song  
    in a newborn child.  
Our God is the One who cannot be found  
    locked in a church  
    not even in the sanctuary.  
Our God lives where our God lives,  
    with no constraints,  
    no predictability.  
Our God lives where our God lives,  
    and destruction has no power  
    and even death cannot stop  
    the living.  
Our God will be born where God will be born,  
    but there is no place to look for the One  
    who comes to us,  
When God is ready  
    God will come  
    even to a godforsaken place  
    like a stable in Bethlehem.  
Watch...  
    for you know nor when  
    God comes.  
Watch, that you might be found  
    whenever  
    wherever  
    God comes.

Advent is a time for watching and waiting patiently. We're filled with wonder and excitement about the arrival of Christ. Even though we're filled with joy and anticipation, we might also feel stressed. We've all been stressed about getting the perfect tree, gift, and decorations, but this year, the stress might be due to other things happening around us. With the rising cost of food and other essentials, many people, including ourselves, might decide to change how we celebrate Christmas. It could be a simpler Christmas, focusing more on family and togetherness. Even though things might be tough, spending less and being together could actually make us stronger. As I say this, I'm not forgetting those who have little to eat and feed their families.

This is definitely a time for us who have enough to open our hands and hearts to those in need.

December is a super busy month for us, with all the exciting events coming up. Check out the calendar in the newsletter for everything happening this month. We've got the Birthday Cake for Jesus, the cookie exchange, the Longest Night service at the Baptist Church (with participation from four churches this year!), Christmas Eve service, and more. We'd love for you to join us! In the front of the church, there are two wooden boxes. One contains books for people to take and read, while the other holds mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for those in need. If you are a knitter or crocheter, please consider contributing to these efforts by bringing some items to church and placing them in a box in the large hall.

To conclude, I would like to share a book I found in a newspaper titled "The Best of Fish Wrapper," which was gifted to me by Mel. I extend my best wishes for a joyous Christmas and New Year.



## 1 Corinthians 13, Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I am just another decorator.  
If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, I profit nothing.  
If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend myriad holiday parties and sing in the choir but do not focus on Christ I have missed the mark.  
Love stops the cooking to hug the child.  
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.  
Love is kind, though harried and tired.  
Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.  
Love never fails.

(This is not the entire thing and if you want to see the whole thing please contact me)

*Blessings, Pastor Karen*



On November 2nd, during our service, we honored the departed loved ones by members of the congregation placing a flower on this wooden cross. We express our gratitude to Bruce Groff for crafting this exquisite cross.

**Annual Holiday Penny Party**  
took place on November 23rd  
This event raised \$783.



Pastor Karen speaking with the young disciples





## Benefit for DeeAmbra.

DeeAmbra recently got a diagnosis of Wilson's disease, a rare genetic liver condition that needs a liver transplant. Danielle Coccia and the Trinity Church community came together to organize a fundraising event to help raise funds for this medical need. They had themed baskets for raffle, a 50/50 raffle, and ticket sales. DeeAmbra and her family have been staying near the hospital in Westchester, New York, during this time. The goal of this benefit was to help cover their medical expenses and travel costs. Thanks to all that attended the benefit to support the family and organized the event. Through your support, we were able to raise over \$2,700 for DeeAmbra and her family.



## Annual Harvest Dinner Photos

