

Trinity United Methodist Church
808 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Permit #81

December 2022



Coming Up:

Saturday, December 17, 2:00 Christmas Concert Friends and families are invited to enjoy Christmas music in our Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 18, after Worship: Appreciation Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Come to the table with your Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 and 8:00, Saturday, 12/24.

All are welcome to join us. Facebook Live will also be available.

Christmas Day Worship 10:30 a.m. In-person and Facebook Live. Come in your pajamas if you want!

New Years Day Worship 10:30 a.m. To everything, there is a season!



Trinity Times

Sharing God's love with those who hunger.

imtrinityumc@gmail.com

December 2022

www.imtrinity.org

"They Shall Name Him



**Which Means,
God Is With Us."**

**Facebook Live Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/imtrinityumc>**

Trinity United Methodist Church, 808 Carpenter Ave., Iron Mountain, MI 49801 (906)774-2545
Church cell (906)282-3740 www.imtrinity.org imtrinityumc@gmail.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/imtrinityumc](https://www.facebook.com/imtrinityumc) **Pastor Geri Hamlen** **Secretary: Sally Verley**

Engaging Worship, December 2022
Advent—God's Unimaginable Surprises
Are You Ready to Wait?



Advent Worship is always extra special with all kinds of familiar and beloved traditions. The decorations are beautiful. The music is heart-warming. The Advent wreath is lit each week with special words. The children are excited. The Scriptures are familiar and illuminating as we consider how this past year has prepared us for new insights.

This year we are even going back to having weekly bulletins to help people follow along with the rituals and ceremonies. Do come and see. Come and hear. Come and worship with us!

Here is a listing of Scriptures and Themes

November 27 Matthew 24: 36 – 44 ‘What Exactly Are We Waiting For?’

Advent Candle of Hope Willa and Grant Hodgins’ Baptism

December 4 Matthew 3: 1 – 12 ‘Hope after Hope’

Advent Candle of Peace Sacrament of Communion

December 11 Matthew 11: 2 – 11 ‘The Unimaginable Surprise of Joy’

Advent Candle of Joy Noisy Offering for Mission of the Month

December 18 Matthew 1:18 – 25 ‘A Love Story for the Ages’

Advent Candle of Joy Appreciation Dinner after Church

December 24 Luke 2:1-14,15-20 ‘Christmas Eve—New All Over Again’

Saturday at 4:00 and 8:00 Silent Night Candle Lighting

December 25 John 1: 1 – 14 ‘Christmas Day--In the Beginning...’

Bring your favorite gift! Wear your pajamas if you want to!

January 1 Ecclesiastes 3: 1- 8 ‘New Years Day—To Everything...’

We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, the most necessary surprise of all is that we are not alone. Thanks be to the Holy One who makes us whole, renewed, a community, a family bonded in peace by faith, hope, love, and joy.

Pastor's Ponderings

The Season of Advent starts four weeks before Christmas. This year Advent starts on Sunday, Nov. 27, and ends on Sunday, Dec. 18. Have you noticed that Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, is on Saturday this year? So Christmas Day will be on a Sunday! That's kind of surprising, but it does happen like that periodically.

As we prepare for the celebration of the Christ child, God born into our world in the baby Jesus, there may be other surprises for us as well. That's the way God is. As hard as we try to plan, predict, strategize, the Holy Spirit of God has a way of showing up when we least expect it. Maybe your surprise will be a card or phone call from someone you haven't even thought about in a long time. Maybe it will be a tear in your eye as you hear a beautiful song that touches you deeply. Maybe you will be caught by surprise laughing...at a kitten, one squirrel chasing another, a child making a snow angel. That's how God works sometimes.

I invite you to be open to unexpected, even unimaginable surprises this Advent. Maybe they won't all be easy to see or accept. But maybe God is just waiting to surprise you with refreshing springs in the driest of places of your life. Or maybe you will be caught by surprise when God allows light to break into our world which so often looks and feels so dark. Perhaps you will be surprised by a moment of mercy and forgiveness that you didn't even dare to hope would ever happen.

I offer you this Advent Prayer written by Professor Thomas Long in his book of Advent devotions: A Surprising God, cowritten with Donyelle C. McCray.

O God, you come to us in ways we could never have expected or imagined. Do not let us become so complacent, so ready to manage the reality of our lives, that we miss the surprises of grace and redemption that you bring to us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Peace. Amen.

A blessed, surprising, joy-filled Christmas to all.

Pastor Geri



Nurturing Community—con't



Dickinson County Community Chorus presents ‘Sounds of Christmas’ on Monday, November 28 and Tuesday, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. at Kingsford High School auditorium.

College Student Outreach—We would like to let our college students know we continue to think about them and encourage them! We send small packages of treats a few times during the school year. It can be a lonely time, and knowing their church family is thinking of them can be a blessing. Here is the list of our students’ addresses and their birthdays, in case you’d like to send them a card. – Moira Cowling

Bruce A. Bilgreen (June 20), Campus Box 4152, 3312 Walter Way, Green Bay, WI 54311

Emma Bilgreen (Sept. 23), Baits 11, 1440 Hubbard Rd., 3403 Coman Annex, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Kane Driscoll (June 6), 300 W. Bellows St. #1005, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Daunte Fortner (Aug. 9), 594 E. Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Hunter Fortner (Aug. 15), 311 Birch West, Marquette, MI 49855

Reece Fortner (Sept. 20), 1250 Cleveland Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

Madison Koski (Sept. 5), 1603 Lincoln Ave. Apt. 8, Marquette, MI 49855

Lizzy Ryan (Mar. 9), 610 S. Jenison Ave., Lansing, MI 48915

Mary Slagle (April 10), 303 North 11th St., La Crosse, WI 54601

Victoria Sorensen (April 16), 1240 Norwood #7, Marquette, MI 49855

Maggie Strehlow (Sept. 16), 1413 S. State St., Ward Hall, Room 123, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Piper Strehlow (Aug. 25), 1012 Northland Dr., Marquette, MI 49855

Lillian Wilcox (April 8), Merrill Hall, Room 314, 101 W. Ojibway Ct., Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

In the Military Service...

Luke Ruble (May 9), RCT Ruble Luke, 1st RTBN Charlie PLT 1050, 40002 Midway Ave., San Diego, CA 92140-5680

Nurturing Community

The weekend before Christmas is coming alive with special activities at church. Make room on your calendars. Come and enjoy the season!

- **Saturday, December 17, 2:00 p.m.:** Community Christmas Music 'Strings and Sings' by GMT² A String Quartet with Pastor Geri, Miriam, Trish, and Tammi in the Sanctuary. Carol singing, too!
- **Sunday, December 18, after worship:** Appreciation Dinner in the Fellowship Hall for the congregation

December Birthdays & Anniversaries *(Please pray for them on their special day.)*

- Dec. 1 Bob Bowman
2 Hope Ann Blagec, Casey Hansley, Heidi Harwell, Arieana Paupore, Joyce Trevillian
4 Gracie Hilyard
5 Lucy Shampo
6 Delaney Fortner, Chloe Weinert
7 Deb Saul
8 Kim Mashak
12 Kassidy Schaut
13 Mary Yeadon
14 Dayna Hodgins, Carol LaFave, Adam Ryan
15 Rev. Geri Hamlen
17 Jim & Bonnie Talerico
19 Lauren Smart, Frank Trumbell
21 Celeste Bancroft, Daniel Kuder, Jerry & Heidi Harwell
22 Holland Maki
23 Noelle Champagne, Jon Harry, Mary Rowell
27 Don Richards, Jr.
28 Logan Ryan
29 Sophia Hayes, Paul & Kim Mariucci
30 Riley Gauthier, Kim Wilcox



A new leaf is on the Living Tree in the Gathering Room, and is engraved, “Betty Hosking, Loving and Loved, 1923-2022.”



Meaningful Service

Feeding America Mobile Pantry, November 3, 2022

Trinity UMC, Cornerstone Community Church, and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church all partnered to bring a West Michigan Feeding America Mobile Pantry to Iron Mountain on Thursday, November 3. It was a glorious day with lots of eager volunteers. Fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, and Chex Mix were served to 306 families made up of 696 individuals. Those people included 292 seniors, 133 children and 57 veterans.

In addition, there were six non-profit agencies in this area who were able to help with the leftovers...so that they wouldn't go to waste.

We can give thanks for the funding that made this possible and for the generous and caring hearts that provided the hands and feet of Jesus to this special mission of feeding God's people. Hallelujah and praise the Lord!

After many years of helping with these trucks, Trinity UMC is now stepping down as a sponsoring agency. If you are interested in helping more Mobile Pantries come to Iron Mountain, please talk to Pastor Geri, who can help you help make that happen.

Thanks to all of you who have helped in so many ways for so long to make this happen. It's a wonderful mission that will live on in our memories with gratitude for the opportunity to be of meaningful service in our community.

“PJ's for People had an early Christmas. The Engaged Ministry Team authorized the purchase of a new sewing machine. No more hauling our heavy machines from home. Praise God. PJ's received a very large donation of high quality quilter's flannel. Our cup runneth over. Praise God. Caring House received a hundred PJ's. They will use some for client Christmas presents. Praise God. Oh, oh. Let's not forget the new professional dressmaker's scissors. It cuts through fabric like it was butter. Praise God.” –Mary Yeadon

December's Mission of the Month is Global Reconciliation Center/India

Hi, Pastor Geri, Good morning and blessings from GCR family in India. We are going Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) for mission caste reconciliation through the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ among this shepherd community. God has planned us a three-day journey in Aligarh, November 11-13. I hope the Lord uses us these three days for his kingdom among with Shepherd community. There I will meet many social activists, students. There is an old disciple center there where there used to be Bible study, education, skill development activities. She was running last 12 years, but some of lack of compulsion just closed it. We will meet with her and try to reopen. For that your prayers needed.

I would like to give thanks all the people who are supporting me in this journey. This work would not have been possible without your donations and prayers. Please pray for GCR team. God bless you. Yours faithfully. Smohan, Vice President, GCR ministry

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation’.” Mark 16 15.



Noisy Offerings are collected the second Sunday of each month. Your coins are welcome and go toward the Mission of the Month. Thanks for your generosity!

“Thank you for your partnership in ministry with Wesley Kalamazoo! We are grateful for your heart to save emerging adults! Blessings and peace!” –Rev. Jeremy M. Simpson
(This was our December 2021 Mission of the Month.)



Financial Stability

Goal: The current congregation provides offerings sufficient to meet current costs/expenses.

Thank you for continuing to turn in cash register tapes from Tadych's Market Place and Super One Foods. Money that we receive for the tapes goes to the General Fund. A collection box is on the bulletin board by the west door to the Sanctuary.

Gratitude for YOU! Thank you to those who have already been generous in your response to Trinity's Year End Giving Requests. It's never too late to give to your Church: Paper Poinsettias, Lights of Love Luminaries, 13th Month giving opportunities are still open to help us grow in our financial stability. It's a gift and a privilege to support and encourage God's people through this Trinity UMC. God bless us all.

Gratitude is the state of mind of thankfulness. As it is cultivated, we experience an increase in our sympathetic joy, our happiness at another's happiness. Stephen Levine

If you'd like your offering listed on your 2022 statement, please be sure it's at the church by Wednesday, December 28.

2023 offering envelopes will be in the Gathering Room in late December.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Finance Committee, Thursday, December 8, 6:30 p.m., ZOOM

Trustees, Monday, December 12, 6:00 p.m., in person

Engaged Ministry Team, Tuesday, December 13, 5:00 p.m., ZOOM

Church Council, Monday, December 19, 6:30 p.m., ZOOM