



*Disciples of Jesus Christ called to bring God's light into the world: through worship, serving, learning and sharing the Good News!*

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### Welcome to 2021 - New Year, New Opportunities

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".* Jeremiah 29:11

No one can argue that 2020 was a year of many challenges. But as a fresh, new year comes to us, we can draw strength from our faith in God's goodness. In what ways did faith carry you through the year we just finished? How is God calling you to shape 2021? Maybe this is the year you start a new devotional habit, or work prayer into your busy days more successfully. As the church finds new ways to worship both within and outside of our conventional building, what new opportunities does that bring? Is it time to serve on the TLC Church Council, become involved in Faith Formation, Worship and Music, or lend a hand to the Property Committee? Let's be excited together to discover what God has in store for us in 2021! He has plans for us to prosper and have hope. Together, we can follow His lead.

### The Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> ("snow day" in case of technology issues is Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.) **Watch your mail for a letter with more detailed information coming early in January.**

This will be a Zoom meeting and we encourage all to attend. The Annual Meeting is an important time to guide the focus of Trinity's mission in Christ into the future. We will vote on the annual budget, elect Council members and discuss our plans for 2021. The meeting will begin at 11:30, shortly after the Zoom Church Service on that day.

### Church Council - The Leadership Body of TLC

How is the work of the church organized? Who keeps track of the business details of running the church? What does our church constitution say and why? The TLC Church Council, a body of nine congregation members and the "pastor of record", handle this work on behalf of the congregation. Council members typically serve a three year term. Members of the Council are listed with contact information in the Tidings, and meet monthly to conduct business. During 2020, many meetings have been done virtually. New Council members are elected at the Annual Meeting and the Nominating Committee is seeking four congregation members to stand for election. This year, there are three full term (three years) seats to fill, and one two year term. Ann Maher (315-717-4257) and Gary Manning (315-717-4830) are serving on the Nominating Committee. Please be encouraged to talk with either of them if you feel the Spirit calling you to become involved.

### Trinity's Office is Now Staffed...

Cassie Becker can be reached by calling 315-866-6474 or emailing [cbecker@trinityherkimer.org](mailto:cbecker@trinityherkimer.org). Cassie is currently working from 10-1 Monday through Wednesday in the church office, with the rest of her hours varying throughout the week.

Date	Worship Leader	Format
January 3	Deacon David Grindle	Zoom/Facebook
January 10	Pastor Edwina Landry	Zoom/Facebook
January 17*	Dean Gail	Zoom/Facebook
January 24	Pastor Edwina Landry	Zoom/Facebook
January 31	Dean Gail	Zoom/Facebook

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\*ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

**Update to Trinity’s Safe Use of Space Policy**

**Trinity’s Council met recently** to review and update our Covid Safety Procedures for the church building. **If a person has any symptom of illness, that individual should not enter the church building.** The latest CDC information indicates that the virus can remain airborne for many hours. Therefore, wearing a **face covering** is **MANDATORY IN ALL PARTS OF THE BUILDING**, even if you are ALONE! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Use the hand sanitizer. Please sign in on the form at the bottom of the stairs. Don't touch your face. If you are with other people, maintain social distance. Since we don't clean the building after each person exits, compliance with safe practices is important.

**Sharing and Serving**

Mission outreach and helping our community continue to be important ways we share Christ’s love. We are grateful for all the efforts of the Serving and Sharing Committee! Ongoing donations for the Food Pantry are delivered weekly; the “Feed My Sheep” program sends frozen meals to individuals in need; the monthly meal we call “S.A. Cafe” is provided at the Salvation Army. “God’s Work, Our Hands” - being lived out by the work of our volunteers. Want to become more involved? Contact JoAnn Blaise, Cathy Mayton-Collins, or any member of the Serving and Sharing Team. The next project underway is called...

**A Box for Socks!**

One of the ministries at The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) is called "Worship Without Walls". Through this ministry, they offer resources, food, and a listening ear to anyone who needs it, and that often includes people who are homeless or living in marginal circumstances. FUMC has adequate donated clothing to share with people in need, but one clothing item often requested is socks. Our Serving and Sharing Team suggests that TLC begin a "Box for Socks" donation project. A collection box will be available on the parsonage porch, just like for Food Pantry donations, and anyone who wants to provide new, warm socks of any size, style or color can add them to the box. JoAnn Blaise will deliver them to FUMC as a supply accumulates. Another way to help our neighbors!

**Faith Formation/Learning**

**BOOK GROUP**

It’s great to know that Book Group members are keeping in touch by phone, email and text. We are all reading our way through the seasons - for some of us, being home so much has actually increased the opportunity for enjoyment of books, magazines, and other media formats. No meeting is scheduled for January - we will hope that February may be a time we can gather safely again. Call a friend and share reading experiences! It’s a great way to spend the winter months.

## Worship, Music and Prayer

### **BLESSINGS of PRAYER:**

"The Lord hears the prayers of the righteous". (Proverbs 15:29b)

### PRAYER NOTES:

A message from God (Abba) to us in the form of a letter titled "I love to hear your prayer." Have a dialogue with Me!

My Child,

How glad I was to meet you in your prayer today.


Are you aware of My gladness? You, who are so faithful to intercede, so sincere in your praises and petitions? I admire your commitment. Your persistence pleases Me. But I want you to grasp much more about these moments we spend together in prayer, specifically more about the ONE you spend time

with. May I open MY  heart to you?

These moments together were My idea. They began at creation when I, Father, Son and Holy Spirit said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness." (Genesis 1:26). Only man, of all creation, was made in the image of God. So the divine conversation that has always, from eternity, been going on between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit was widened to include you, and I saw that it was very, very good.

Prayer is My idea, but it remains your choice. How precious to Me, then, is the open door of your heart!!!!

My Grace and Peace be with you, ABBA

Prayer is a conversation of faith, a spiritual communion between Jesus and us in which we share our hearts  and our minds at a deep level of understanding and trust. It is a personal relationship like none other!!! How awesome is that!

In HIS Service,  
Prayer Ministry

## Volunteer Schedule

As needed, the following have volunteered as counters:

- January 3rd & 10th - Wendy Catera and Judy Sadlon
- January 17th & January 24th - Ann Maher and Phillis Becker
- January 31st and February 7th - Cathy Mayton-Collins and JoAnn Blaise

Additional counters are welcome. If you would like more information please contact Wendy DeLuca.

## Stewardship

Thanks to everyone who has continued to mail offerings to church (443 Henry Street, Herkimer, NY 13350) or continue to use Simply Giving. The mission of the church continues throughout the pandemic. If you wish to receive more information about giving directly to Trinity through the Thrivent Simply Giving Program, please contact Wendy DeLuca at [wdeluca@trinityherkimer.org](mailto:wdeluca@trinityherkimer.org).

## Our Church Family

**God's children in need of prayer and support:** Ali, Steve, John, Yvonne, Rose, Judy, Peter, Mike, Loren Jr., Ann, Charlie, Jan, Wayne, Norm, Jennifer, Abby, Alyx, Rich, Irene, Felix, Gary, all those touched by the COVID virus, and all those on Trinity's prayer chain.

**Our prayers** are with the families of Norm Glista, Deacon Patsy Glista's husband, and Wayne Pollak, brother of Deke Pollak, who passed peacefully from this life to be with our Lord recently. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." May all who mourn be lifted up by the powerful presence of the Lord with them and the promise of life eternal in Christ Jesus.

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal/family matters, please call Phillis Becker at 315-866-2379.

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Gabrielle Griffin  
Cindy Manning  
Christine Stegeman  
Myrtle Irons  
Colt Nemecek  
Rebecca Shaut  
Zachary Snow  
Carol Obermann  
Jonah Levi  
Kali René Fical

Maria Schroeder  
Shane Kucerak  
Daniel Pollak  
Kendall Guccione  
Kathy Schrader  
Miranda Meinzer  
Rebecca Walrath  
Carol Farrington  
JoAnn Blaise  
Timothy Marusic

John Wilcox  
Jenna Macri  
Joanne Mencer  
Arnold A. Schrader  
Connor Griffin  
Victoria Bunn

### **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Maria & Jerome Madden  
Rebecca & Michael Marusic

Kathy & Frank Kapusta  
Kathy & Donald Schrader

You can send news for the upcoming issue to [Tidings@trinityherkimer.org](mailto:Tidings@trinityherkimer.org). Justina, Cassie and Ann will all receive that email. We appreciate feedback and ideas to improve our newsletter too!

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