



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

### *News from the Council*

Hello all:

We, as a Council, and as a Congregation, would like to express our gratitude to Ann Maher, who stepped down from Council after documents were prepared in December for the Tidings & Annual Meeting in January. Both personally & as a group, I want to thank Ann for her many years of service on the Council, including time serving as President & as Secretary.

Ann has also been an integral part of the Tidings & Weekly Announcements teams, Trinity-Zion Think Tank, MSP Task Force, Women of Faith groups, among others. We value all of your efforts, and will continue to keep you in our prayers.

Thank you to all who helped run the Annual meeting in my absence due to my illness. The Budget was passed, the incumbent Council & Endowment Committee members were re-elected, however the open seats were not filled on either. The Council can Appoint to fill the vacancies, if someone is willing to serve. Pastor Gail Wolling announced that she will step down from being our "Pastor of Record" after the conclusion of the 2/07/2024 Council meeting, & the next Pastor of Record has not been solidified yet. Thank You to Pastor Gail for your 5+ years of guiding us!

Since we weren't ready to vote on financial expenditures for the Parsonage & church building roofs at the January meeting, we will have to hold a Special meeting in the future for a Congregational vote.

May you stay warm & safe this winter season!  
Amy Manning, Council Member

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Communion</b>
February 4	Rev. Gail Wolling	In House/Virtual	Yes
February 11	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Virtual	Yes
February 14 - Ash Wed	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Virtual	Yes
February 18	Rev. Gail Wolling	In House/Virtual	Yes
February 25	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Recorded	Yes

To virtually participate in Sunday Service, please join us at 10am on either Zoom, Facebook or the website.

Zoom Phone: 1 646 558 8656      Meeting ID: 3158666474      Password: 13350

### **Lent News**

Rev. Victor McKusick will start our forty-day journey towards Easter with a day of repentance.

He will lead an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 14 at Trinity at 3 p.m. There will be the imposition of ashes as well as dispensation of communion. The service will also be available through the internet.

The season of Lent has three great disciplines - fasting, prayer and works of love. Starting with our first Sunday in Lent, February 18, our worship service will include an opportunity to help you in your prayer life. Small stones will be made available for use during the worship service.

During the prayers of intercession, we suggest that you hold that small smooth stone in your hands and silently offer up a prayer to God. After communion or upon departing worship service, place your stone in the baptismal font. We will watch from week to week as those prayers multiply. This will also serve as a reminder that during Lent we pray to God to make our hearts clean, as we look forward to the baptismal waters of Easter and a spiritual rebirth.

Did You Know: Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and remind us of our mortality.

### **Vitality Survey**

The Congregational Vitality Survey is a tool, provided to us by Synod, to help congregational participants assess where they see themselves as a congregation. Our Council has completed a “leadership” version of the survey which will help us to see if the congregation and council share similar perceptions.. All results are confidential and will provide insights and help generate conversations about the ministry of our church.

For those who receive the Tidings digitally, you may [click here](#) to complete the Vitality Survey. Paper copies can be found in the sanctuary. Completed paper surveys should be left on the glass table in the folder labeled “surveys”. Please be sure your survey is completed by February 15th.

### **The Souperbowl Of Caring 2024**

This is a brief Public Service Announcement: The Souperbowl of Caring will be held, coinciding with the NFL’s Super Bowl on 2/11/2024, and we’re collecting monetary donations and food for the local Food Pantry housed at The Herkimer Salvation Army. Please look for locations in the church building for non-perishable food, and a Soup Kettle to collect cash for the Food Pantry.

Sunday, February 4th following worship service we will be serving soup and chili for eat-in or take-out. Please plan to join us and bring food donations or a monetary donation to support this fundraiser!

Let’s honor Jesus by Tackling Hunger!

### **Women Of Faith**

Thank you to all who participated in our planning meeting in January. Our next topic for bible study will be Do Justice Now, and we will meet on Zoom on February 12th and March 11th at 7pm. Links for the handouts and Zoom links can be found in the Weekly Announcements or by contacting the office.

### **Baby Bottle Campaign**

Join us in a new adventure of giving! We will have baby bottles in the Narthex for the month of February. Our goal is to fill the bottles with change to go to Willow Network.

### **Lenten Luncheons**

Mohawk Valley Council of Churches will be holding worship and lunch on Wednesday afternoons. Please see the last page of the Tidings for more information and the schedule.

## **Serving and Sharing**

There are many new changes this year, some good, some not so good. We who live through change survive and thrive. We would like to continue our programs we are doing, and maybe start some new ones. Have you wondered what our current outreach is?

- In 2023, we made and delivered more than 372 meals from our Feed My Sheep program.
- Each month for the Salvation Army: 70 meals are prepared
- Highway clean-up will resume in the spring, along with the garden, which we are hopeful that Faith Alive will help us with.

Coffee hours will resume with the Souper Bowl of Caring lunch! We will be serving soup and chili for eat-in and or take-out, on February 4th after church service.

Food bank items will be soup or dollars toward the Souper Bowl collection, for the month of February.

Our newest idea is a Games and Craft afternoon on February 20th at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring games, cards, knitting, crocheting, snacks, and smiles to help us cheer up during a Upstate New York winter.

We are thinking of a mystery ride, progressive dinner, and don't forget our great summer picnic with the other churches.

We would like to start collecting loose change for the Willow Network, formerly Care Net, in Ilion. For more details please talk with JoAnn Blaise.

Blessings from The Committee

## **Learning**

### **FAITH ALIVE**

Confident in God's love, our journey together will be joyful!! COME AND SEE!!!

"I will, Joyfully, sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever: I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth" (Psalm 89:1)

Hello everyone!! Faith Alive is exploding as Jesus leads. I can hardly keep up. Join us if you want a unique experience of our Lord, who is full of surprises. What a relief of peace knowing that we are in the will of God. GOD HAPPENINGS JUST KEEP POPPING UP! The big word is PRAISE GOD!!!!!!!

Join us for Faith Alive in February, the 4th and the 18th. All ages united in fellowship in the name of Jesus. As a special treat, experiencing Ron Snow's cookies, which are absolutely delicious, WOW ! Thank you Ron, so appreciated!

Johnson Park Center is a safe place of shelter for many who just might need a little help. They are constantly in need of prayer, helping hands and resources for their residents. After visiting JPC, we at FA, inspired by the Holy Spirit, see a mission field, right here in our own backyard.

A confirmation from the Lord!

Recently I met a very nice woman at a restaurant in Fort Plain. We spoke for a while and connected so easily. Finding out we were both Christians, then further on in our conversation (A GOD HAPPENING, WOW). I mentioned FA and Johnson Park Center as our mission and she explained to me her mission.

Making hats, laptop blankets, scarves, etc. of various sizes to give away freely. Sandy was looking for a place to distribute them. And Jesus appeared and said "Johnson Park"!!!!!!!

COMMUNION: As a parent or guardian would you like your baptized child to learn about why we as God's children are instructed by Jesus Christ to remember Him through the bread and wine offered at communion. If so, then bring them to Faith Alive where they will learn, in an environment of love and hands on, the beauty of communion. Please speak to Phillis Becker if the timing is difficult due to various reasons. I would be happy to make different arrangements for you and your child. Blessings!

CONFIRMATION: Thank you for your patience and understanding. Our youth are precious to all of us at Trinity. Our goal is teaching them to grow in their Faith in a unique way, both spiritually and righteously, even after classes are over. To realize that our God is a banner over us/them with LOVE. In other words, being active in spreading God's love to all in a hurting world through WORD and ACTION. Please call Phillis 315-866-2379 with thoughts/questions you might have. Blessings!!

### **Worship, Music, and Prayer**

BLESSINGS OF PRAYER:

"Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us "  
( Psalm 62:8 )

PRAYER NOTES:

THE GIFT OF PRAYER ----- Central to any relationship is communication. It's true on a human level; what kind of relationship do two people have who never talk with each other? In a far greater way, our relationship with God involves communication---not just an occasional brief chat, but a deep sharing of ourselves and our concerns with God. Because Jesus Christ has opened Heaven's door for us, the Bible says, we should " approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"-(Hebrews 4:16).

In the Bible God speaks to us; in prayer we speak to God. Both are essential --and both are gifts God has given us so we can know each other. Prayer is a gift from God's hand just as much as the Bible, and He has given us the privilege of prayer because He loves us and wants our fellowship.

A PERSON OF PRAYER

Jesus demonstrated the importance of prayer by His own example. His whole ministry was saturated with prayer. -Mark 1:35, Luke 11:1, 22:44, 23:46 - If prayer was this important to the Son of God during His journey on earth, shouldn't it be important to us?

PRAYER AND PRAISE-----

If all we do is ask God for things we want, our prayers quickly become selfish. But God is far greater than this. Remember: God isn't our servant; we are His servants. True prayer begins by seeing God as He really is --and that is why PRAISE should be a regular part of our prayers. When we PRAISE God, our focus is on Him, not on ourselves. PRAISE includes the JOY of sharing our lives with God and the JOY Jesus gets for being present in our lives!!

In His Service,  
Prayer Ministry

## Volunteer Schedule

	2/4	2/11	2/14	2/18	2/25
Counter 1	Bona Starring	Bona Starring	N/A	Amy Manning	Amy Manning
Counter 2	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Cathy Mayton-Collins	N/A	Judy Sadlon	Judy Sadlon
Reader	Sue Harkins	Bona Starring	Phillis Becker	Amy Manning	Bona Starring
Unlock Door	JoAnn Blaise	Phillis Becker	JoAnn Blaise	Phillis Becker	JoAnn Blaise
Singer	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon	TBD	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon
Altar	Amy Manning	Judy Sadlon	Amy Manning	Judy Sadlon	Amy Manning
Ventilation	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser

Please email [info@trinityherkimer.org](mailto:info@trinityherkimer.org) with any changes.

### Stewardship

Monthly giving needed to fund the approved budget of \$103,607 is \$8,633.92.

#### December Information

Actual Offerings Received for the month: 7,057.28

Actual Expenses Paid for the month: 7,291.97

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Income is short by 234.69

Paid by using excess Fund Balance from prior years

Designated Funds received monthly **are not included** in the amount above. Examples: Local Charities, Food Pantry, Memorial Funds, etc.

Interested in donating online? You can visit our website and use the donate tab in the top menu. Contact [finance@trinityherkimer.org](mailto:finance@trinityherkimer.org) with any questions.

**Did You Know:** John and Judy Sadlon upgraded the church's sanctuary Christmas tree with their donation of a lovely tree in time for Advent. Thank You!

February 2024								
←	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	→
					<b>1</b> Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> Faith Alive Worship Service SOUPer Bowl of Caring Lunch	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Council meeting via ZOOM	<b>8</b> Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>		
<b>11</b> Worship Service	<b>12</b> WOF Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday Worship Service	<b>15</b> Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>		
<b>18</b> Faith Alive Worship Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Games and Crafts	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>		
<b>25</b> Worship Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Bible Study				

## **Our Church Family**

God's children in need of support through Prayer, phone call or maybe a card or visit: Ann, Peter, Irene, Jim, Judy, Jeff, John, Levi, Jason, Gary, Harry, Joe, Charlene, Barbara, Richard, Arnold, Billy, Paul, Charlie, Andra, Mike, Michelle, Skyben, Niel, Linda, Tom, Donna, Patti, Carol, Sandy, Mindy, Jeannette, Tanya, Tiffany, Gale, Julia

There is never too much prayer, actually there is never enough. Jesus Christ just loves to hear from us, I believe it puts a smile on His face. The line is open 24/7, what a great God we serve!!! God's promised word, of absolute truth, instructs us to "humble ourselves, call on His Name, seek His face, repent, and He will forgive our sins and heal our land" WOW, what a promise from our Lord! Open your Bible and read it for yourself (2 Chronicles 7:14). Consider memorizing this verse and pray it through. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Our sister in Christ, Hope Ruff, went peacefully home to be in the loving arms of Jesus, Wed 1/17/24, with her loving family by her side. Please keep in your prayers her family and friends for God's perfect comfort and peace. God's blessings of His Love and Grace be upon all.

### **SHARING GOD'S GIFTS AND BLESSINGS:**

Praise God and a blessed congratulations to the Fredlund family for the gift of new life. A beautiful healthy baby girl, Lydia Fredlund was born December 20, 2023 during much prayer. Praise God and again congratulations to the happy mom and dad, Molly & Will Fredlund, & Grandparents Richard & Pamela Fredlund. In Christian love, from your church family!!!!

PRAYERFULLY consider joining Trinity's Prayer Chain. Guaranteed you will be blessed along with those you pray for. Jesus calls it Full Circle WOW! need I say more!!!

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal family matters, which are kept in confidence, please speak to Phillis or call 315-866-2379.

If someone has been inadvertently omitted please bring it to our attention. Thank you!

### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Benjamin Manning	Ron Snow	Jennifer Lipczynski
Andy Schrader	Kristen Burger	Mason Pawelek
Christopher Skibinski	Stephanie Gee	Sara Lilly Manning
Wendy DeLuca	Judy Grande	John Kane
Camryn Knoblauch	Daniel Kornutiak	Lorie Schrader
Kim Engert-Torres	Brenda Briggs	Joanne Belcourt
Matt Stewart	Richard L. Becker	Macade Knoblauch
Patricia Glogowski	Kelly Merena	Thomas Manning

### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Jody & Travis Kirk	Jodi & Dan Rivers
Rose & Ron Snow	Cathy & Tim Marquissee

**If you spot an error or omission, please notify the office. We will be happy to update this list!**

**Council Contact Information**

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Wendy Catera	315-360-7447	wcatera@trinityherkimer.org
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**Worship With Us  
From Anywhere!  
Call on your landline  
phone, use your computer,  
receive a DVD, or receive  
a printed copy of the  
sermon! See Worship  
Schedule for details.**

If you would like to receive a copy of finalized Council meeting minutes please contact the office.

**Helpful Resources:**

- Church Calendar: [trinityherkimer.org/calendar](http://trinityherkimer.org/calendar)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchHerkimer](https://facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchHerkimer)
- SYNOD website: [upstatensynod.org](http://upstatensynod.org)



The Mohawk Valley Council of Churches  
invites you to

# Lenten Luncheons

Come enjoy worship and lunch at 12 noon  
throughout the Lenten Season.  
A free will donation will be taken.  
Join us at the following locations:

**FEBRUARY 21**  
ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ILION

**FEBRUARY 28**  
MORNING STAR METHODIST CHURCH, FRANKFORT

**MARCH 6**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ILION

**MARCH 13**  
TBD

**MARCH 20**  
TBD