Sunday, December 1, marks the first Sunday in Advent. The word Advent, comes from the Latin word adventus meaning “coming” or “visit.” During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by His first coming.

Luke’s gospel shows us a picture of a young woman’s encounter with the One who would satisfy all her longings:

Mary said, “With all my heart I glorify the Lord! ...
He has shown strength with his arm.
He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.”—Luke 1:46, 51-53 CEB

During Advent, it can be easy to lose focus on what is most important. There is often a tendency to think more about what we want for Christmas, than what we already have in Jesus.

Last year, Amazon.com released its first-ever, print, toy catalog for Christmas titled “A Holiday Of Play.” It even included a “wish list” that children could fill out and stickers to help family members highlight the items they most wanted under the tree on Christmas morning. For the on-line retail giant, this was a huge marketing deal.

We sometimes come to the Advent and Christmas season from a place of lack. We ask our kids what they want for Christmas and make wish lists of our own. We worry about having enough money to get everyone the gifts we’ve imagined they so desperately want.

We do all of this in celebration of the first arrival of Jesus who, for all of His life, owned nothing. His entrance happened in a rented barn; His
burial in a borrowed tomb. Yet we proclaim this child to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Clearly there is more to Christmas than the gifts we exchange. The *more* of Christmas is the gift we receive in Jesus Christ.

The Baby with “nothing” is the hope of the world.

The One who was destined for a life of sacrifice and service, became a model of ministry for each of us.

The promised Messiah of the Jews, became the Savior of the world.

So what do you really want for Christmas? Is there a sense of lack in your life? No matter if it is a print catalogue or an on-line ad, the fact of the matter is that the true desire of our hearts has already been given to each of us. It won’t be found wrapped in paper under a tree, but was wrapped in cloths 2,000 years ago and placed in a feed box in Bethlehem. This Advent, let’s refocus our attention on the peace, love, hope and joy that is only found in Jesus Christ.

Peace, Pastor John

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**Trinity Children & Youth Newz**

December means many great things happen in our Children and Youth Ministries to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Our **Children's Craft night** is on **December 17** from 5:30-7 during Awana. Join us as we create Christmas decorations and gifts. We are in need of individuals to provide a craft for the children. See Pastor Dan.

**Youth group Christmas Party** is on December 15th at Lee Old Homestead. Join us from 6-8 for a special time of fellowship, and don’t forget to bring a White Elephant Gift.

Save the date! Our **Awana Bible Quiz** is scheduled for February 28th for Awana kids grades 3-6. This year Trinity is hosting.

Our **youth group winter retreat to Monadnock** scheduled for **January 24-26**. This year we will be discussing the grind. It’s your everyday slog of work, expectations, and hustles – you know it well. But do you also know that God is right there with you? He’s there helping, guiding, and giving you strength to persevere and never give in, never give up. God is in The Grind with you. He uses it to refine you and craft you into a brilliant work, just as he did with His Son, Jesus. We are not to be defined by our failures or successes of any given day. Sparks will fly this winter. Come learn how to see God in The Grind. This is open to anyone grades 6-12. **Medical forms and $100 are due by December 22**. Don’t miss out, See Pastor Dan for more info.

**Get Connected!**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/TrinityMYF

**Pastor Daniel Lee,**
Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries
860-688-9245 x 109
Email medanlee@gmail.com

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**Trinity Church** 180 Park Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095, 860 688-9245, office@tumcwindsor.org,
**Editor:** Sharon LaFrancis, **Pastor:** John R. Gerlach. **Deadline for copy:** The fifteenth day of the month prior to publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. ©2019
In Case of Inclement Weather - Information

In the event of a winter storm requiring us to close the church or cancel worship on Sunday morning, we will post information on two local TV Stations:

**WFSB:** website (www.wfsb.com) and their On-Air list on Eyewitness News Channel 3. We will be listed as Trinity Ch–Windsor

**NBC CT:** website (www.nbcconnecticut.com) and their On-Air list (check local listing). We will be listed as Trinity Church–Windsor.

Hope’s Solid Foundation

As he neared death, the atheistic philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre tried — but failed — to resist despair. “I know I shall die in hope,” he wrote. “But that hope needs a foundation.”

For Christians, that foundation is Jesus, our sure hope amid life’s uncertainties. While Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting, it also represents the fulfillment of Jesus’ promised birth and the certainty of his promised return. Jesus — the hope of nations — says he’s preparing a place for us and coming back for us (see John 14:2-3).

Because our hope’s foundation is guaranteed “according to the Lord’s word” (1 Thessalonians 4:15), we don’t have to live like people “who have no hope” (verse 13). Praise God!

Operation Christmas Child Update: 308 Shoe Boxes Delivered & Sent

We delivered 308 Shoe Boxes to the local distribution center on Sunday November 24th. Great job Trinity Church!! Thank you to Peter & Mary Ellen Scott for taking the lead on OCC this year and Pastor Dan for involving all our children in this ministry outreach.

2019 Bushnell Park Lunches/Feeding the Hungry in Bushnell Park/Church Street Eats/Church By the Pond

These are some of the names for this program, which provides lunches to the homeless on Saturday afternoon in Bushnell Park. This program is affiliated with Hands-on Hartford serving needy and homeless people throughout the city.

If you would like to take a part, there are many ways to help:

1) Come to Trinity at 1 PM to help make sandwiches and assemble lunches.
2) Make desserts for the lunches - usually cookies, brownies or bars.
3) Travel into Hartford with the group to hand out lunches; we're back at church by 3:45 or 4:00 PM.

Our remaining date for 2019 is:

**December 28.**

If you’re interested in serving, but have questions, please let Kelly Caruso or Donna Myers know. If you would like to join us on a particular day, please call Donna at 860-688-7230.

Trinity Men’s Christmas Dinner
With Youth Challenge
Wednesday, December 4, 2019
@ 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Carve out some time to enjoy a great evening of food and sharing with the men from Youth challenge. Dads, bring your sons.

Please sign up on the Men’s Ministry Bulletin Board. We will also be giving presents to the men for Christmas. A list will be available soon!
Need Groceries? Geissler's cards are available in the church office to benefit Trinity Christian Preschool. You pay face value, the Preschool makes a small profit - everyone wins!

Make Checks Payable to:
TUMC

Holy Days

Dec. 1 First Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Worship Service & Coffee Fellowship

Dec. 8 Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Worship Service & Coffee Fellowship

Dec. 15 Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Worship Service & Coffee Fellowship

Dec. 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Worship Service

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
5 PM & 8 PM Candlelight Worship Services

Dec. 25 Christmas Day (no Worship Service)
Dec. 29 9:30 AM Worship Service & Coffee Fellowship

To the members of Trinity Church,

Barbara and I wish to send our thanks for the wonderful and caring letters, cards and comforting wishes on the passing of Barbara’s brother Frank Bill. I also want to thank our Church Family for the prayers and cards as I had my heart procedures, and recuperation therapy.

God has blessed us with a wonderful Church and Church Family.

Thank You,
Jon & Barbara Sasportas

“I will not leave you orphaned; I will come to you….Because I live, you will live also.”
~John 14: 18-19

Thank you very much, Barb Anderson, for stepping into the church office in my absence so I could support my husband, Michael’s, healing from his recent hip fractures! Praise the Lord, he’s healing and moving around very well.

During that time of uncertainty, God provided us support in many ways. The numerous thoughtful cards/notes and kind phone calls we received warmed our hearts.

We are blessed to be part of this caring and loving community!

Thank you!
Sharon & Michael LaFrancis
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES!

12/01 Ava Peters
12/03 Rick Boissonneault
12/04 Melody Chapman, Claudette Johnson
12/05 Dona Mackey
12/06 Nancy Hensley
12/07 Brad Wells
12/08 Jan Masterman, Lola Reynolds, Alex Stechschulte
12/11 Mary Ellen Scott
12/13 Karen Pennant, Wanda Siemiatkoski
12/14 Lori Mgrdichian
12/16 Steven Peck, Jeremy White
12/17 John Hinckley, Norman Rawlins
12/18 Alex Carpenter
12/20 Rachel Capone
12/21 Leona Pandolfo
12/22 Dorothy Carlson, Melinda Peck
12/23 Lynn LeMire
12/24 Marie Kinkead, Dyana Little
12/25 David Billings
12/26 Bob Gilbert, Jane Reinsch
12/27 Lara Bailey, Tim Carmon, Hadley King
12/28 Parker Krusch, Daniel S. Lee
12/29 Doris Cheney
12/30 Lisa Price, Tom Wilhelm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WISHES!

12/05 Marcia Pedersen & Philip Dvorak
12/19 Jack & Pam Gregory
12/21 John & Ginny Hinckley
12/27 Kevin & Nancy Searles
12/28 Dennis & Marjorie Mitchell
12/30 Jon & Barbara Sasportas

HOW DO I GIVE FLOWERS?

The flowers that grace our Worship each Sunday under the cross are given in memory of loved ones who have died or in honor of loved ones for special occasions. When births occur, you are invited to place a rose on the altar in honor of your newest family member.

Sign up on the Flower Chart located in the Narthex—call Jordan Florists at 860-683-0680 and a staff person will be happy to take your order. In the case of a rose to celebrate a birth, just call Jordan Florists and they will take care of your request. Please let the church office know so we are able to place an announcement in the bulletin.

The 2020 Flower chart will soon be available on the wall of the Narthex for those who would like to secure a specific date for this year’s flowers.

We have a special agreed upon price for an arrangement; more elaborate arrangements will be priced higher. Please pay Jordan’s directly. Sign up soon.

Perfect As Is

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life. - Corrie ten Boom
NEW ADDRESS:
Sheila and Jonathan Hodges
143 Railtree Hill Road
Woodbury, CT 06798-2604

Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.

What you need:
• Unlined white notecards
• Hot glue (and adult help)
• Yellow tissue paper
• Mini muffin liners
• Clothespins

What you do:
1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a “candle” tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper “flame” in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.

Symbols of the season

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.

shepherd’s staff _______ _______ _______
tree that keeps its leaves _______ _______
shines to lead the way _______
green for eternal life, _______ &
red for Jesus’ blood _______ _______
sounds to announce _______
good news _______
has no beginning or end _______ _______

Thanks to God for is indesc____ba____le gif____!

2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

Answer found on bottom of page 3.
The Methodist is published 11 times/year by Trinity Church, 180 Park Avenue, Windsor Connecticut 06095.

Postmaster—Send address changes to: The Methodist, 180 Park Avenue, Windsor, Connecticut 06095

December, 2019

Trinity Church—Windsor, CT

The Methodist

www.tumcwindsor.org
office@tumcwindsor.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. John R. Gerlach

Gathered in 1790

We believe the Holy Spirit calls us to gather to worship God, be equipped and be sent out to make disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world

Sunday Schedule:
Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School All Ages: 8:30 AM
Infant & Toddler Care Available
During Worship Services

“That’s why I say, ‘Fleece Navidad’!”