



# TRINITY & NORTH UNION NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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## November Sermon Titles

November 5-"What Is Your God Story?"  
(Joshua 4:19-24)

November 12-"Being Responsible to God"  
(Matthew 25:14-30)

November 19-"Faithfulness and Thankfulness"  
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

November 26-"The King and Judge"  
(Matthew 25:31-46)

*November*

## Service Times:

### Sundays

8:00 Trinity Worship in The Gate (Room 20)

9:15 Trinity Worship in the Sanctuary and Online Worship

10:45 North Union Worship in the Sanctuary

419-238-9541



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## Global Methodists Do Annual Conference Differently

By John Lomperis

History was made last weekend (October 13-14) as pastors and lay members from hundreds of Global Methodist congregations convened for the inaugural session of the Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference, encompassing Ohio plus the western third of Pennsylvania. "So many have been working and yearning for this day for years," enthused the Rev. Dr. Jessica LaGrone, Asbury Theological Seminary's Dean of the Chapel. This Global Methodist annual conference triumphantly concluded with reportedly the largest group of Methodist ministers ever ordained in North America, and perhaps the world.

The October 12-14 Global Methodist annual conference session, held at Reynoldsburg Community Church outside of Columbus, Ohio, was unlike any official United Methodist conference I have ever attended.

Such feelings were widely shared. I asked several pastors to compare their experience of this inaugural meeting of this Global Methodist annual conference and its clergy session to their experience of similar conferences in the United Methodist Church. With overwhelming enthusiasm, they consistently told me this was refreshingly different. Here are quotes and paraphrases of what they told me:

- "You can't compare them!"
- "Night and day!"
- "I couldn't believe that this was annual conference," when it is "not painful" and "I don't have to have my guard up."
- This was "the first time in ten years that I actually looked forward to going to conference."
- There were no undercurrents of agendas or division.
- You don't have fellow conference members refusing to even greet you because of your outspoken support for historic Methodist doctrinal and moral standards.
- Until a few years ago, I could be heard, though not agreed with, in sharing my evangelical perspective in my United Methodist annual conference. But more recently, I lost even that.
- Clergy session participants felt a movement of God, with safety to weep in front of each other. This was "totally unlike" how in United Methodist clergy sessions, "business was tedious and decisions were based on inside information known only to the board," while there was "tension in the room" due to "mistrust and simmering divisions among the clergy."

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Greenway, the conference's President Pro-Tempore, noted, "Not everything in our former connection was bad," and so cautioned, "don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Yet participants were driven by a hunger to go deeper than what they often experienced in mainline United Methodism. As Greenway put it, the main goal was never disaffiliation, but rather "to move forward as a movement of like-minded, warm-hearted, Spirit-filled, Jesus-loving, evangelical, orthodox, Wesleyan Christians committed to offering the whole Gospel to the whole world," to be "a movement of disciples who make disciples who make disciples!" Other speakers highlighted the importance of recovering Methodist theology of sanctification and related practices of highly accountable small groups. LaGrone declared that in the GMC, "we have no desire to play church," merely "going through the motions" while failing to fully access the treasure God has given us. The Rev. Dr. David Watson, Academic Dean at the UMC's United Theological Seminary, recalled growing up very mainline, in a church culture that did not expect much to happen during worship or as a result of our prayers, before he encountered different streams of charismatic Christians, who "believe that God actually does stuff."



# Pastor's Pen

## Several factors made this a very different sort of Methodist conference.

**First**, there was clear unity on core doctrine. David Watson realized that Global Methodists will disagree about secondary issues, but said, "I don't think we're going to debate basic doctrine." Greenway celebrated how "none of us have our fingers crossed behind our backs" in reciting the Apostles' Creed.

When the ordination class stood before the conference to answer to John Wesley's historic questions for would-be Methodist preachers, Bishop Mark Webb stopped after the question about ministers not being "in debt so as to embarrass you in your work," to stress the importance of honesty in these vows, explaining that sincerity for this question really calls for congregations to step up to relieve ministers from burdensome debt. While these same questions have long been asked of United Methodist ordination candidates, this episode highlighted the new denominational culture of ministers actually meaning what they say in their ordination vows.

I only recall two, very brief mentions in plenary sessions of anything about homosexuality. Bishop Emeritus Mike Lowry preached that intra-Methodist disagreements over such matters were "just the tip of the iceberg," and that "the issue that brings the Global Methodist Church together" is the basic creed, "Jesus is Lord." LaGrone made clear that the GMC is "a church that does not hate or exclude LGBTQ persons," but rather offers them the same welcome into repentance and new life as the church offers everyone else, which provoked enthusiastic applause.

**Secondly**, this Global Methodist annual conference has a much leaner bureaucracy, with a shift to focusing on empowering local congregations as the center of mission. Webb spoke of the need for accountability as a two-way street between bishops and congregations.

Within each of its circuits (intentionally smaller versions of what United Methodists call districts) this Global Methodist annual conference is planning to soon have all congregations jointly support one international mission partnership, one national mission, one local mission, and one new church plant.

Speakers explained that the GMC practices "a modified appointment system," in which there are "no forced marriages," which have caused such pain in the UMC. In Global Methodism, both pastors and congregations have the right to say "no" to a suggested match, although "there's not an unlimited number of NO's." The Rev. Leah Hidde-Gregory, the pioneering President Pro Tempore of the Mid-Texas Global Methodist Annual Conference, encouraged fellow clergy sisters to trust the system. She cited a recent example of a Global Methodist clergywoman in her annual conference who was the first choice of three different congregations seeking a new pastor.

With less bureaucracy, there was less administrative business to conduct. The business session was extraordinarily brief. Greenway invited participants to discuss the short business agenda presented for approval. But apparently no one was interested in offering debate or floor speeches, which showed a new level of trust.

**Thirdly**, the break-out workshops were solidly biblically and theologically grounded, and should actually make a major, positive difference in how congregations approach their ministries.

Hidde-Gregory led an interactive workshop on renewing and revitalizing existing congregations, covering such topics as re-focusing on discipleship, welcoming demographically diverse visitors, and overcoming such roadblocks as a "scarcity mentality."



# Pastor's Pen

Church-planting pioneer Steve Cordle led a workshop encouraging every congregation to help plant new congregations, for the sake of better reaching new disciples, providing new leadership opportunities for members, and re-energizing the parent congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson, Director of Academic Growth at Formation at Asbury Seminary (no relation to David), stressed the importance of having spiritual fathers and mothers in congregations, who can mentor spiritually younger believers as they grow and face inevitable crises of faith on the journey to becoming fully devoted.

David Watson's workshop outlined "the consensual tradition" of historic Christian orthodoxy, refuted popular misconceptions, and taught how Global Methodists' thinking about contemporary issues must be shaped by this firmer foundation than emotivist, relativist, shallow, or fad-chasing mindsets. He lamented how, despite early Methodism's strong rules forbidding any member from owning slaves, within 60 years of John Wesley's death, Methodists had their first slave-owning bishop. David Watson warned that the GMC was at risk of losing its rich, faithful Methodist heritage if it was not intentional about preserving it, including by recovering key characteristics of Methodism that have become abandoned or distorted in the UMC. Among other things, the New Testament professor explained how John Wesley's promotion of "social holiness" meant communal discipleship—in contrast to how United Methodist leaders have long misrepresented this phrase as dragging the church into divisive, left-wing social-justice causes—and noted that Methodism's founder only used this particular phrase once in his entire writings.

LaGrone conceded that not everyone would want what this new expression of Methodism offers. But for those eager to be part of this new movement, she summarized, "Welcome to the Global Methodist Church, where":

- "Annual conferences look less like rules and reports, and more like holy conferencing and prayer and renewal";
- Bishops contend for integrity and faithfulness;
- Pastors can move on from a congregation, trusting their denominational system to ensure both that their successor in their former congregation will build on the same biblical theological foundation, and that their new church will have already had the same faithful foundation laid;
- Small- and medium-sized congregations (which she called "normal churches") enjoy similar privileges to those long enjoyed by large United Methodist congregations of having greater input in the selection of their pastors.

Speakers compassionately addressed the wounds almost everyone there had brought with them, and offered assurances of the GMC's commitment to not repeat the United Methodist Church's mistakes.

"I know for you all to come here was difficult," Lowry acknowledged, and "required trusting God." He urged facing our own grief from the losses—including lost friendships and feeling that years of self-sacrificial service to the UMC "have gone down the drain." "It must be faced, and not denied!," Lowry preached.

Lowry pivoted to noting that "true healing cannot take place without confession," declaring "it's past time to confess our own complicity" in unfaithfulness.

But while healing our wounds is essential, Global Methodists must ultimately, as Greenway exhorted, "look forward" and "not keep looking back." Kevin Watson recalled Joshua preparing to finally lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, urging this Global Methodist annual conference to focus on God's exciting new future rather than the wounds and wrongs of the past.



# Pastor's Pen

Speakers emphasized that we are not just saved in isolation, but into community. And what a wondrously large community this Global Methodist annual conference is! The Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference has received 539 congregations, with more incoming, and already has nine new church starts. This makes it larger than the majority of American United Methodist annual conferences, and the largest Global Methodist annual conference. A repeated proverb of Greenway's was to "be gentle with those who come early and gracious with those who come late."

With such growth, now almost anywhere you go in Ohio or western Pennsylvania (except for the city of Pittsburgh), there is probably a Global Methodist congregation within a half-hour drive.

Those gathered last weekend still face serious current and upcoming challenges.

Lowry warned, "make no mistake: the road ahead will be difficult." Global Methodists must beware "that disease of cultural Christianity" which is presently "crashing down around us."

Other speakers underscored that the conference's congregations need a deeper change than merely changing the denominational affiliation on their signs. Hidde-Gregory urged tackling the problem of how the membership of many congregations who have recently emerged from the UMC is much older and whiter than those who live around the church building. She insisted on the urgency of Global Methodists abandoning the culture of "just checking the box of one hour on Sunday," because "God is calling us to be an army that goes out and makes disciples."

Greenway admitted that the GMC will have its own internal problems and disagreements, but implored conference members to not indulge the devil's desire that they turn against each other.

Since church members will die, move away, or walk away, Cordle stressed the necessity of the GMC continually bringing in new people, especially through aggressive church planting, in order to even maintain its numbers, let alone grow. "We don't need another shrinking denomination" in America, he said.

But Lowry reminded us, "it doesn't all depend on us—thanks be to God!"

Greenway preached that Paul himself may have felt tempted to water down his message to avoid offense. But instead, wherever he went, the apostle both named sin and offered grace, provoking violent opposition, but also seeing great fruit, as the Jesus movement grew from 120 followers to tens of thousands, in just a few decades.

As Greenway put it, "Serving God in a fallen world is not for the faint of heart—but we are not the faint of heart, we are the church of Jesus Christ!"

The Global Methodist annual conference session joyfully concluded with the ordination of a whopping 149 clergy set apart to lead the church serving God in this fallen world. This included some who were changing their category of clergy status, from licensed local pastor to deacon or elder, and from deacon to elder.

~Pastor David~

**Pastor David To**  
**419-306-5509**  
**[pastordavidto@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavidto@gmail.com)**



# Kid's Ministry News

## November Nursery Helpers at Trinity:

### November 5th-

8:30am: Phil & Robin Farris  
9:15am: Deb Knodel & Kathy Neal

### November 12th-

8:30am: Diane Webb  
9:15am: Diane Webb & Rachelle Bagley

### November 19th-

8:30am: Nursery Not Open  
9:15am: Michelle Miller & Gracie Price

### November 26th-

8:30am: Gracie Price  
9:15am: Gracie Price & Aryn Procter

## Children's Sunday School at Trinity:

All little ones 2 and under are welcome to stay in the nursery during the Sunday School time so that their parents can go to class more easily. Thank you to the Next Level & Sojourner's Classes for providing the volunteers so that we can do this!

All children in preschool through 4th grade are welcome to join us in Sunday School at Trinity as we continue to grow our faith and friendships.

Children's Sunday School is a continuation of what the kids are learning during Children's Church. Each week, they will read the bible story together using a book or a Children's Story Bible. They will also do a craft or activity.

The Children's Sunday School Class is led by a rotation of teachers.

### November's leaders are:

November 5-**Rachelle Bagley**  
November 12-**Doreen Krugh**  
November 19-**Ruth To**  
November 26-**Marie Markward**

## "It's More Than Just a Story"

### Children's Christmas Program

All Children in preschool-grade 5 are invited to participate in our annual Children's Christmas Program. This year's program will be **December 10th** at Trinity during the 9:15 service. This will be the only service that day for both churches.

Rehearsals will be during Children's Church (at both churches) in November. Children are encouraged to be there as often as possible to learn the songs.

### Here are some dates to remember:

- Sunday, December 3-Joint Rehearsal (including North Union kids) during Children's Church at the 9:15 service at Trinity.
- Saturday, December 9-Dress Rehearsal at 10:00 am at Trinity
- Sunday, December 10-Performance-9:15 service at Trinity





# Kid's Ministry News

## Trinity's Children's Church:

### November's Memory Verses:

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." ~Romans 8:28~*  
*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." ~Psalm 136:1~*

**Focuses of this Month:** Joseph & Thanksgiving

November 5-

**Bible Story:** Joseph, The Forgiving Tracker-1

**Leaders:** Nancy Eberle & Marie Markward

November 12th -

**Bible Story:** Joseph, The Forgiving Tracker-2

**Leaders:** Nancy Eberle & Gracie Price

November 19-

**Bible Story:** From Canaan to Egypt

**Leaders:** Amy Prichard & Malinda Mackie

November 26th -

**Bible Story:** Israel, the Thankful Trackers

**Leaders:** Amy Prichard & Robin Farris

## North Union's Children's Church:

### November's Memory Verse:

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." ~Psalm 136:1~*  
North Union's Children's Church is using *Top 50 Bible Lessons with God's Amazing Animals*.  
Each lesson uses animals to teach bible stories and truths in the bible.

November 5th-

**Communion Sunday-**Children stay in service  
with Activity Bags

November 12th -

**Bible Story:** "The Lion of Judah"  
(Genesis 49:1-28)

**Leader:** Vicky Racster

November 19th-

**Bible Story:** "Thanksgiving Lesson"

**Leader:** Kelly Bartz

November 26th -

**Bible Story:** "Dogs at the Table"  
(Matthew 15:21-28)

**Leader:** Nancy Eberle

### During this transition between Children's Ministry Directors:

For any questions about  
the Children's Programs,  
please contact  
Nancy Eberle  
in the church office.





# Youth Ministry News

**Trinity and North Union Global Methodist Churches**

## **Youth Schedule**

### **November 2023**

**November 1st – 6:30-8:00 pm at Trinity**

Dessert Challenge Night

**November 8th – 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Trinity**

Game Night

**November 15th – 6:30 to 8:00pm at Trinity**

Chocolate Night

**November 22nd–5:30-6:45 pm at Mi Ranchito**

Thanksgiving at Mi Ranchito

Meal is covered-bring a friend!

(Notice earlier time)

**November 29th – 6:30 to 8:00pm at Trinity**

Christmas Kick-Off!

For any questions about the Youth Programs, please continue to contact  
Ruth To, 614-607-3533, ruthto14@gmail.com

## **Financial Reports**

**North Union  
Finance Report  
October 2023**

Offering: \$3665.00

**Trinity  
Finance Report  
(September 10-October 10)**

Income: \$24,691.66  
Expenses: \$21,671.40





# Trinity & North Union Information, Reminders, & Upcoming Events



## APPLE FESTIVAL:

Thank You!!!!

Food donators  
Apple Dumpling Makers  
Workers  
Prayer Warriors

Total Profit: \$8,337.27



*Happy Thanksgiving*

The church office will be  
**CLOSED** on  
Thursday, November 23!



## PACK A SHOEBOX!


Boxes are due by Nov. 12

Boxes and More Information in the Lobby



[samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ)

Boxes and information are in the lobbies of both churches. Boxes are due to either church by November 12.



*"Hanging of the Greens"*

**Trinity**  
Sunday, November 26 after 9:15 service  
Lunch provided

**North Union**  
Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30pm





# Poinsettia Information and Order Form



## 2023 POINSETTIAS

Orders must be in by November 26



**POINSETTIAS**  
6 1/2" Pot \$12.00



6 1/2" pot (\$12.00) How many?	Color	If desired, indicate "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" with name or description
	Red	
	White	
	Red Glitter <i>(formerly Jingle Bell)</i>	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ All flowers may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_ Please place this form along with your cash or check (in the memo section of the check please write poinsettias) in an envelope labeled **POINSETTIAS**. You can either place the envelope in the offering box at church or drop it off at the office (M-Th 8:00-4:30).



# Prayer Concerns

## Our members and friends who are home-bound:

Ruth Frysinger   Jane Harter   Joe Sheldon  
Janet & Dale Schaad

## Our members and friends who are in Hearth and Home:

Richard & Carolyn Good   Wendy Howell

## Our members and friends who are in Van Crest:

Helen Bowersock   Cindy Jones  
Dean Froelich   Joan Adams

## Our members and friends who are in Homestead at Towne Center:

Margaret Evans   Dolores Keysor

## Our members and friends who are in Country Inn Enhanced Living Center:

Lois Schoonover

## Those Serving Around the World:

Brooks Ludwig-Marines

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Our thoughts and prayers are with the Racster family at the death of **Peggy Racster** (Vicky's Mother-in-law).

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### To add prayer concerns to our list:

- Contact the church office
- Write it on a Yellow Cards in the pew and put it in the yellow box on "Welcome Table" or Offering Box
- Contact Pastor David

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**To be added to the Prayer Chain Text List, please contact the church office at the number or emails below.**

## Recent Prayer Concerns:

**Linda Kramer**-hip surgery & other health issues

**Gamma Perez**-Visa issues for his returning to the United States

**Tom Wise**-surgery

**Delores Myer's Son-In-Law-Bill**-Stroke

**Bella Hurless**-Cerebral Palsy & seizures

**Clara Eberle**-knee surgery

**Jim Jordan's wife**-Parkinson's Disease (friend of Linda Bagley)

**Darcie Price's sister-Gay**-Intestinal Cancer

**Darcie Price's brother-Anthony**-being deployed

**Misty Bennet's roommate**-Job search & money issues

## Prayer Concern Updates:

- **Linda Kramer**-is doing much better after her recent health concerns

## Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Bob Harter-cancer

Joel Frysinger-Health Issues

Ruth Frysinger-Health Issues

Noah Girod

Ed Schlenker-Health Issues

Rick & Clara Eberle-Health Issues

Tom Short-Healing

Delores Myers-Healing

Anna Dunlap-Healing



## Nancy Eberle

Church Office Administrator

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[northunionchurchofvanwert@gmail.com](mailto:northunionchurchofvanwert@gmail.com)



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## November Birthdays:

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> -Spencer Short    | <b>15</b> -Jim Price          |
| <b>2</b> -Ella Burkhart    | Bev Boroff                    |
| Jackson Spieles            | Fisher Speelman               |
| <b>3</b> -Allison Youtsey  | <b>16</b> -Marlin Miller      |
| Jimmie Benavidez           | <b>17</b> -Dolores Emans      |
| Betty Myers                | <b>18</b> -Cary Proffitt      |
| <b>4</b> -Joan Giessler    | <b>20</b> -Jean Endsley       |
| <b>5</b> -Michele Lichtle  | Ryland McLachlan              |
| Tammy Nihiser              | <b>21</b> -Christopher Joseph |
| <b>6</b> -Betty Snyder     | <b>22</b> -Nancy Crawford     |
| <b>7</b> -Warren Kramer    | David Walker                  |
| <b>8</b> -Kay Bevington    | Gary Nihiser                  |
| <b>9</b> -Gavin Evans      | <b>24</b> -Brent Swander      |
| Kelly Bartz                | <b>25</b> -Tim Jurczyk        |
| Tom Short                  | <b>26</b> -Deagan Schlemmer   |
| <b>10</b> -Nancy Eberle    | Levi Schlemmer                |
| Nick Workman               | Warren Harter                 |
| <b>11</b> -Grace Spieles   | Daniel Perry                  |
| <b>12</b> -Dennis Kiracofe | Brad Ream                     |
| Robin Workman              | <b>27</b> -Jane Schaadt       |
| Alexandria Short           | Lydia Mendenhall              |
| Rosalyn Speelman           | <b>28</b> -Linda Bagley       |
| Barb Stanley               | Donna Bracken                 |
| <b>13</b> -Malinda Mackie  | <b>30</b> -Sabrina Barnhart   |
| Lea Marie Hirschy          |                               |



## November Anniversaries:

- 2**-Bob & Jane Harter
- 6**-Josh & Jamie Evans
- Frank & Shirley Lichty
- 8**-Don & Susan Mosier
- 11**-Rodney & Kay Bevington
- Tom & Sharon Short
- 19**-Jerry & Shirley Beard
- 26**-Gary & Paula Miller



Please contact the church office if you know of a birthday or anniversary that needs added, deleted, or edited on our list. We love sharing the good news of weddings, babies & grandbabies. Please let us know so we can share your good news.

## ***Congratulations to:***

Kayla & Braeden Booher  
 who were married at Trinity  
 on October 21, 2023



# Mission News

## Trinity's Food Pantry Focus

### ***Thank you for your donations in October!***

There will be no food pantry focus for November because we are going to be doing our annual collection for the Salvation Army (more information below).

However, even though there is no focus this month, any monetary donations, other items, and plastic bags will still be appreciated.

## November is a Food Pantry Month at North Union

### **This Month's Needs are:**

Shampoo, Laundry Detergent, and Kid's Cereal



## Salvation Army Christmas Meal for Need Family



Each year, we collect an item to help the Salvation Army provide a nice Christmas meal for needy families. This year, we have been asked to collect boxes of brown mix.

The goal is to collect **400 boxes** between both churches by the end of November.

**At Trinity:** Put your donations of brownie boxes on the table near the Mission Center (where you usually put items for the food pantry)

**At North Union:** Put your donations of brownie boxes in the marked container under the table for the food pantry donations (in the entry way)

*The individual boxes of brownie mix will then be placed in larger boxes to be taken to the Salvation Army.*

*We will keep you updated each week as to where we are at towards our goal.*

## Cooperative Ministries Pickle Sales



If you didn't get a chance to support the Van Wert Cooperative Ministries by buying Sechler's products at the Apple Festival, a selection of products is now available at the Mission Center at Trinity. Jars of pickles, relish, salsa, and apple butter are available. See Mary Collins to make your purchase. Anyone from North Union who wants to buy some, should talk to Del Free or call the church office.

## North Union's Collection for "Christmas with the Kids"



On October 29, the kids at North Union went through the congregation with pumpkin buckets collecting coins and bills for the Sheriff Auxiliary's "Christmas with the Kids". All together the kids collected \$233.00 Thanks to all who donated!



## Coats for Pine Ridge Reservation



Earlier this year, when people had gently used coats that they no longer needed or found new coats on clearance, we collected them to contribute to “Warm Up the Ridge,” a project sponsored by the Wassenberg Art Center. We ended up with 61 coats, which will soon be taken to the reservation in South Dakota. Thank you for your donations!

## Operation Christmas Child



If you are filling shoe boxes for this outreach, they need to be brought to church (either church) by **Sunday, November 12**. Please remember to attach the shoebox label and to pay the suggested \$10 donation to help with processing expenses. You can do this in one of the following ways:

- Include your donation in your shoebox gift (it will be collected during processing).
- If you have a copy of the How to Pack a Shoebox brochure, you can use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to mail a check directly to Samaritan’s Purse.
- You can go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/ways-to-give](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/ways-to-give) and pay with a credit/debit card, E-check, or PayPal.
- You can scan the QR code on your box label or enter the 9-digit number next to the code at [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/activation](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/activation) to pay and also be able to track your box to its final destination.

## Vatroslav Zupancic Global Methodist Church-Croatia



Pastor Vatroslav Zupancic was a guest at the first Global Methodist Church Allegheny West Conference, and he has been speaking at various churches while he is in the U.S. We were privileged to have him speak at Trinity on Monday, October 23. He shared how he is involved in the current movement to connect conservative European Methodist Churches and specifically how his congregation is growing-so much that they had to buy a larger place to meet and are currently renovating it. In order to complete the work and furnish the space by the end of this year, he shared that they need around \$25,000. On behalf of Trinity’s congregation, Phil Farris presented him with a check for \$1,000. A love offering was also taken, and some of those who attended took information to consider further support.

## PLC Health Clinic Langdyn House Fundraising Campaign



Inspired by long-time PLC supporter Glendene Vanlandingham, who celebrated her 100th birthday on August 11, the PLC decided to seek 100 individuals/groups willing to use their time/talents to raise \$1000 each. This giving campaign would last 100 days – until November 17. On Sunday, October 29, Jody Wannemacher, Executive Director, shared with Trinity’s congregation the vision for the Langdyn House. A love offering of \$2,795 was received! Thank you to all who contributed to this total!



## Jane Wise

### Nuru Ya Mapendo (Love's Light) – DR of the Congo



We were blessed by Jane's message, "Radical Reliance" on October 15. She used the story of Elijah and the widow (1 Kings 17:7-16) to illustrate that when we obey and do what God commands us to do, He will provide the means to accomplish the task. She related this to a personal command that she received from God – to build a school to educate children that had been crowded into a local church. When she said "yes" to God's leading, she was amazed at how quickly the necessary funds became available (\$70,000 in only four weeks) and how quickly the building was completed (in only eight months – two months sooner than normal). The last window pane was placed on August 19, 2023, and school began on September 5! The 280 students of today will grow to over 400 students as secondary classes are added next year. What a wonderful gift to this community – the students being educated, the staff being employed, and the families being introduced to Jesus through their children's religion classes! Jane was very humbled by the generous love offering from Trinity and North Union (\$922), which will be used for future ministry projects. If you feel led to give additional support, you can always do that through your mission offering.

## Lori McFall

### One Mission Society/HOPE61 – Greenwood, IN



A co-worker, Tonya, and I recently traveled to Colombia to conduct several events associated with human trafficking prevention. Our first big assignment was to conduct four workshops at a convention. In those workshops, we shared about HOPE61 and what we do, but we also learned as much as we shared. When we asked the question, "Do any of these four types of trafficking happen in Colombia...in your community?" the answer was a resounding "Yes! All of these happen...sex trafficking, labor trafficking, organ trafficking, and child soldiering." We heard stories about all of these that were hard to fathom, but we know they are true. Multiple people, over the course of the convention, asked when their churches could go through the ENGAGE training (a one-day workshop that equips churches to prevent human trafficking in their communities) because they know what an impact it could have for them. The second big event was an ENGAGE training that we facilitated with nearly 100 people from around Colombia in attendance. It was well received and understood, and people asked when they could have the training at their individual churches. We are still amazed at how God worked throughout our time there and how, in His perfect timing, HOPE61 ministry is moving forward in Colombia.

## Chad and Andi Irwin

### Mission Aviation Fellowship – Nampa, ID



As many of you remember, part of the reason our family left Ecuador was because MAF was nationalizing the program. After many years of working alongside the Ecuadorian team in this transition, they recently asked to come back under MAF's leadership. Our executive leadership team has agreed and is in the process of evaluating areas that need improvement and training. One area of needed help is flight training. So, that means I have been busy working to get my Ecuadorian licenses renewed and back to the MAF standard. I'll save you the trouble of asking the next question... We're still not sure what our role in Ecuador looks like in the future, so we're praying that God would make that clear.



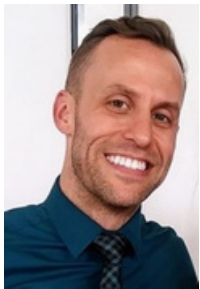
# Mission News

## **Jeff and Shauna Spence World Partners - Taiwan**



Jeff had a good trip to Mongolia in September. Now a part-time Executive Director for JCS (Joint Christian Services, a consortium of international Christian organizations that works with the people of Mongolia to achieve their full God-given potential through development and relief while encouraging the planting, growth, development, and unity of indigenous churches), he was able to meet with almost all of the foreigners who are volunteering and doing different projects throughout Mongolia. He is working about 1 day a week from Taiwan for JCS, and the response has been great as projects have been renewed and extended. From after school programs, directly teaching students, translating Christian material, starting businesses, and mentoring young people, JCS continues to transform individuals, families, and communities. Jeff also continues to work with the pastor of our local Taiwanese church. We are now exploring what we need to do to continue the recent steady growth and to be more strategic in making disciples throughout the church. Shauna is busy with her first full-time teaching position, and the children are all busy with school and their extra-curricular activities.

## **Matt Burden New Ministry - Findlay, OH**



Thank you, Trinity, for your prayers and support over the years. I'm excited to share my recent news that God has opened a new door for me in life and ministry. After serving nearly two years with the Methodist Church in Cuba, and finishing seminary last summer, I've returned to Ohio to serve in pastoral ministry. My new ministry is at St. Paul's Church (formerly UMC) in Findlay under the senior pastor, Scott Fleming, whom many of you may know. Without a doubt, I will continue leading churches, including my own, to Cuba and other nations with FSGM (Father Son Gospel Mission), the mission agency my dad and I formed years ago. As you probably know, Dad is retired but still very active in missions in Cuba, Mexico, and other countries, and he accesses FSGM support to help with his mission trips.

All that said, since I now am serving full-time in Findlay, I won't need to continue receiving missionary support. However, if anyone would like to continue supporting FSGM, we would definitely appreciate it as we remain active in missions. The only difference would be to simply send support to the FSGM General account, instead of for me specifically.

## **Jessica Hall Cru/Bridges International - Michigan State University**



Though there have been many encouraging things and answers to prayer, it has also been a challenging semester for me. We had nearly 200 girls fill out interest forms at our various tables at the beginning of the semester, but it has been very difficult to get a response from the girls we've reached out to. A team member recently retired - I will miss regular interaction with her, and another team member hasn't been able to be on campus much due to some significant life challenges. I feel the weight of these situations. Please pray that my heart would be encouraged and that I'd continue to see glimpses of how God is moving, even when I have a limited point of view.





# NOVEMBER 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Youth Group- 6:30-8:00 pm @ Trinity	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> <u>Trinity:</u> 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Sunday School for all other classes  <u>North Union:</u> 10:45 Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:45 am Trinity Worship & Music Meeting 3:45-5:00 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>8</b> Youth Group- 6:30-8:00 pm @ Trinity	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <u>Trinity:</u> 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Sunday School for all other classes  <u>North Union:</u> 10:45 Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 3:45-5:00 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>15</b> Youth Group- 6:30-8:00 pm @ Trinity	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <u>Trinity:</u> 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Sunday School for all other classes  <u>North Union:</u> 10:45 Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>22</b> Youth Group- 5:30-6:45pm @ Mi Ranchito	<b>23</b> <b>Happy            Thanksgiving!</b>  Church office closed	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <u>Trinity:</u> 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Hanging of the Greens @ Trinity-NO Sunday School  <u>North Union:</u> 10:45 Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 3:45-5:00 pm Kids' Club 6:30 pm Hanging of the Greens at North Union 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>29</b> Youth Group- 6:30-8:00 pm @ Trinity	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity		

Trinity & North Union  
Churches  
220 S. Walnut St.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

***MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO WORSHIP  
PASSIONATELY, LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESS BOLDLY.***

### **Our Staff**

Senior Pastor	Rev. David To
Office Administrator	Nancy Eberle
Financial Accounts Manager	Whitney Sealscott
Trinity Custodian	Terri Schlenker
North Union Custodian	Brenda DeLong
Trinity Worship Coordinator	Amanda Block
Trinity Sound Technician	Matt Saunier
Trinity Choir & Handbell Director	Erica Clay
Trinity Piano Coordinator	Melissa Clay

### **Contact Us**

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### **Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00

Friday-CLOSED