

# TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## DECEMBER TRINITY VIEW



### Luke 2:10-12

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Sunday

Choir Practice: 9:15 am  
Worship Service: 10:00 am  
Social Hour: 11:15 am  
Sandlot Bridge: 11:30 am

#### Monday

Knitting etc. Group: 2:00 pm  
Literacy for Life: 7:00 pm

#### Tuesday

Tuesday Work Crew: 9:00 am  
Food Box Distribution: 10-noon  
AA Meeting: 12:00 pm  
Home Church: 3:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Prayer & Care Group: 11:30 am  
AA Meeting 12:00 pm  
AA Meeting: 7:00 pm  
Trinity Ringers: 6:00 pm  
Chancel Choir: 7:30 pm

#### Thursday

AA Meeting: 12:00 pm  
Literacy for Life: 7:00 pm

#### Friday

Food Box Distribution: 10-noon

### MEETINGS

No meetings are scheduled for December, please enjoy a little vacation!

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **Mondays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22**

Advent Study with Pastor Les  
5:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall

#### **Saturday, December 14**

10:00 am Los Osos Christmas  
Parade

#### **Sunday, December 21,**

Music Sunday

#### **Wednesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
7:00 pm

#### **Sunday, December 28**

Pick up Tamale Pie Casserole Pans  
for Community Dinner on  
Wednesday, December 31.





## The Door

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears the Lord's voice and opens the door, I come in to be with you and your family and eat with you and talk with you.

Have you ever come across a half-open door? What do you do? Are you brave enough to open it all the way and see what's behind the door? Or have you ever been in a place where you weren't expecting anyone, and then they loudly bang on the door?

You don't open the door because you feel that life is good and believe you are content with how things are. You have everything you need, or at least you think you do. Your outer life is going smoothly, and you're feeling satisfied, but what about your spiritual life?

Suddenly, there's a knock on the door, and this knock feels like an invasion—whether to open it or not. If you choose not to open it, are you honestly saying deep down that everything around you is okay, and that you've done all you can to be an instrument of joy, hope, peace, and love during this Advent season and beyond? Or do you look inward and wonder if you might need to open the door to see who it is and what they need from you, or what wisdom they might have for you?

Opening the door is accepting Abba's invitation to go deeper into your spiritual life and to take time for introspection of what you have done or haven't done. It's the moment in time when you do self-reflection.

When sharing a meal with the All in All, it is a time of deep, personal work with God. You might say, 'God, please guide me and lead me through whatever I am going through.' It can be a moment where you have a conversation with God or simply sit in silent meditation, reflecting on how blessed you are to have a caring and understanding God who walks with you through all the joys and sorrows of life.

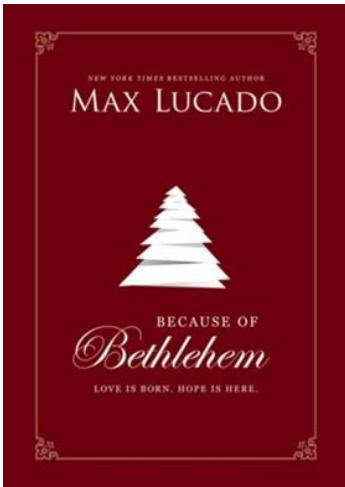
Opening the door also involves a moment when you need to genuinely unload and inform the ONE about all the events and actions you've participated in that haven't helped demonstrate the love of Christ and offering to others, or it's not genuine. It's that moment when Christ enters through the door that gives you a chance to say, "I want to be different, I want to work on changing who you are, and I want to understand what I don't already understand so I can be someone who shows that hope exists within sadness and pain."

Advent is a time of waiting for joy to enter our lives, but sometimes joy is missing. It's missing because we have lost people we love. Joy is missing because someone or something has taken away your joy. Advent is an invitation to open the door; ask the Lord, can you please bring relief from what you're carrying, but first, you must open the door—and then you might need to wait for the guidance of the ONE who loves all for who they are and where they are. Still, the choice is up to you whether you open that door. Opening the door can and will be intimidating, so ask yourself whether I want to open the door.

This Advent season, pray, meditate, and reflect on what it truly means to open the door. Recognize that opening it can provide new insights into how you want to grow in your spiritual life. It is also a time for the church to consider where it is headed in the future, and whether opening the door is the right choice for the fellowship or to ignore the knock and just keep doing what the fellowship is doing.

Advent is a time of waiting, and as we all wait, may the knock on the door lead us to open it, listen, pray, and truly reflect on where we need to be, both as individuals and as a church.

Sarvodaya  
Les



Pastor Les will begin an **Advent study class** in December.

The four-week Monday class will begin on December 1 at 5:30 pm and continue through Monday, December 22, in the Social Hall.

## Holiday Hours...



### **TUMC Office will be closed:**

Wednesday, December 24 office closes at noon,  
Office closed: Thursday, December 25 & Friday,  
December 26.

Wednesday, December 31 office closes at noon.  
Office closed: Thursday, January 1 & Friday, January 2.



**We will not be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias**, this year. In the past years, we have struggled to keep the poinsettias alive during the holiday season. We're not sure if it was because of the temperature in the sanctuary or what, but this year we will forego the wilting, near death experiences with the poinsettias. They were always so pretty when they arrived, but unfortunately, they didn't last long!



## **MUSIC SUNDAY**

**Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 am**

Trinity United Methodist Church worships through music.

The Chancel Choir, Trinity Ringers, along with guest musicians will celebrate the joy of Christmas on Music Sunday. You won't want to miss this special worship service.

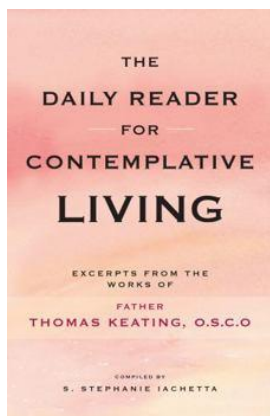


## **All Church Christmas Card**

We **will** be having our annual "Christmas Card" this year. Watch for the "All Church Christmas Card" to appear in the narthex, beginning in December.

Christmas blessing to you all!





Come join Cathy Bonnett on a year long journey exploring Centering Prayer. There is a daily short study that we will do individually and then meet as a group once a month to discuss the month's theme. More information to come! This starts January 1, 2026, with the first meeting at **the end of the month**. Please email Cathy at [lovetoteardrop@gmail.com](mailto:lovetoteardrop@gmail.com), and let her know if you would be interested in attending her Fellowship Study in January.



## Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets 2025

Every year TUMC Missions and Food Pantry makes Thanksgiving dinner kits including everything needed (except the beverages) for a full thanksgiving dinner. A team of 13 volunteers assembled the kits (less frozen meat) on Thursday morning 20 November. We distributed the food boxes at the church on the following day. The Food Bank sold us some of the items at a low price, but the majority of the items came from local markets.

Last year we gave out 33 kits: This year we anticipated a greater demand and so we made 50 kits.

We had time to do some comparison shopping this year; and we were able to get the cost down to about \$37 each. Donations from the congregation, UWF, and Bay-Osos Kiwanis totaled \$2,658.

Thanks to all for your donations of time and treasure to make this event meaningful for us and the community we served.

Mike Lindsay, Missions Chair



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF will be holding their annual **Sock Drive** during the month of December.

Please donate new (or very gently used) men's, women's, or children's socks.

Please drop them in the **narthex** in the box labeled "Sock Drive"  
*Socks collected will be donated to a local organization.*



## SAVE THIS DATE!

Plan on joining us for our Annual Women's Retreat, Saturday, February 28, 2026, here at Trinity. Our theme this year is "New Thoughts on an Ancient Tradition."

Our speaker is Pastor Kathi McShane from Paso Robles UM Church. We enjoyed Pastor Kathi so much last year we are thrilled to have her return!

We will start taking registrations in January. Pre-reading suggestions (not required) are *Daily Meditations* from the Center for Action and Contemplation. Go to their website <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations> and have their free daily meditations sent to you to reflect upon, pray with, and contemplate. Another suggestion is to read one of Richard Rohr's books: *Falling Upward* or *Everything Belongs*. We hope you'll plan on joining us and invite a friend.

## Budget Update



*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.  
Luke 12/34*

When we went over the budget at the Church Council Meeting with a record number of congregants attending, it was abundantly clear where our hearts are... with our staff and our music. You saw our budget needs, and you shared even more of your treasures. In 2026 all staff positions will be funded at the 2025 level. As we are near the end of November, our deficit for 2025 is dropping as predicted. Many thanks to all of you who invested your time to learn about the budget and give input, and all of you who pledged more to address the deficit predicted for 2026. Once again Trinity United Methodist Church came together and showed it has a big heart.

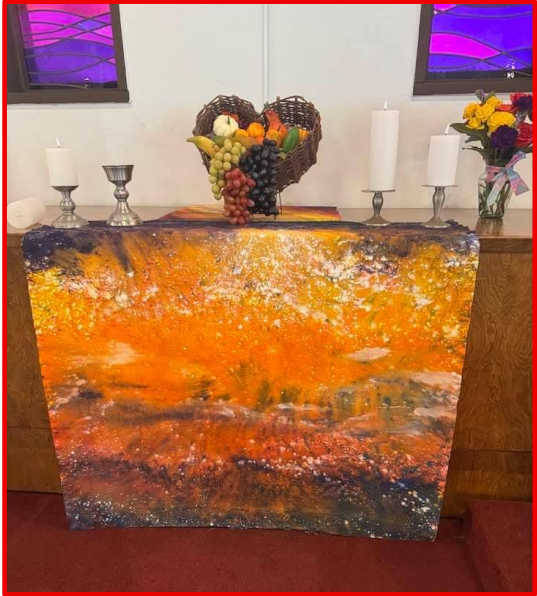
Debbie Livingston  
TUMC Treasurer



Wednesday, December 31 will be Trinity's turn to provide the Community Dinner. Beth is unavailable on that day, so she is asking that someone else step up and take the lead for the dinner.

Beth will have the Tamale Pie Casserole pans with most of the ingredients and the recipe, set out in the Social Hall on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Please take a pan home, assemble it and bring it **to the church kitchen, by 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

If you would like to take over the lead for the evening, please contact Beth or the office.



In November, Trinity Sunday School participants were treated to a special art lesson, provided by Rebecca Ellis. They created this beautiful altar piece, while practicing their paint throwing and splattering. Isn't it lovely!

Photo credits: Emily Rodenhi



Just the Tuesday Crew, taking a well-deserved break during a Tuesday in November. What would we do without these guys!! We are grateful for their hard work each and every Tuesday.



Please take a moment to admire the new Advent Banner, displayed on the pulpit.

Advent Banner Artist Statement

Title: **Joyfully We Wait!**

This banner represents the season of advent as we wait for the birth of Jesus. The low contrast peaceful colors signify a period of contemplation and reflection on the true meaning of Christmas.

*Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift. 2 Corinthians 9:15*

Lisa Duncan-Purcell





## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS - DECEMBER 2025

Another month has come around and this time it is December's turn. In looking back over our activities of this past year, we have been diligent about fulfilling UWF's' Purpose to know God, to develop a creative supportive community and to expand concepts of mission both locally and beyond in our meetings and activities.

One of the highlights of the past year was the layette drive and the speaker from the organization who receives the items. This month we are conducting the annual sock drive to be distributed by People Helping People. In addition, we provided the opportunity for others to contribute dormitory items for former foster children going to college. In October, we invited UWF units at Arroyo Grande and Morro Bay to attend a luncheon meeting with two invited North District UWF officers.

The weather impacted the attendance at the November 15 bazaar. We are grateful to those who provided crafts, knitted and crocheted items, baked goods, etc. for us to sell. In spite of the low attendance, we will still be able to use the proceeds and other donations to meet our next year's pledges to missions and donations to various local programs.

The annual sock drive begins November 30 and will remain until December 21. We are requesting new or *very gently used socks* for all ages and genders - children, youth and adults. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Our only meeting this month will be the Board Meeting on Thursday, December 4 at 1:00 in the social hall.

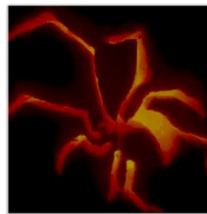
In these times of natural disasters, unrest and division in our country and the world, it helps to take a deep breath and think about the positives in our lives. Let us relax and enjoy the Reason for the Season, the birth of baby Jesus who brought love, joy and peace to an aching world.

Wishing you blessings of the Advent Season and a Joyful Christmas,  
Alta Hall



## FAIRBANKS NEWS NOVEMBER 2025

We had a trick-or-treater in her mid-30s. She was petite with Down's Syndrome and in costume she looked like a 7th grader. We recognized each other, she was one of Carole's students. She asked about Carole, and I asked if she would like to see her, "Yes." I invited her in; she gave Carole a big hug and Carole reciprocated.



*I missed some things in my October article. One being the jack-o'-lantern I carved for Halloween. This shows it lit, (photo by our son Bill.)*

We had heard via the grapevine that her mother's cancer is serious, so the hugging seemed appropriate.

Also, in October we heard Bill Awbrey's amazing story at the Fall Senior Lunch. He spoke about how in 1975 he flew a military cargo plane. He had received orders diverting his destination to Saigon airport and was told it would be the last flight from Saigon. His "cargo" were orphan children, including many newborns plus some American nurses. The evacuees were not what he expected, nor was his plane what they expected! The newborns, that were too young to turn over, were put on their backs on blankets by the sides of the fuselage. Older children and the nurses sprawled on the cargo space. Bill's orders were to take them to Guam, but the nurses said if he flew to Guam, six of the newborns wouldn't survive the journey. Bill was told he couldn't land at a closer airport because it was too crowded. He told them to clear the runway because, "I'm coming in." He landed safely and the wives of the servicemen were there waiting and received all of the children.

In late October Carole started up the steep narrow steps beside our garage, she got halfway, decided she couldn't go any further, so turned around and began scooting down. With only two steps to go I told her not to go any further, because even with my help she wouldn't be able to stand up. Our neighbor Scott Baksic and Suzanne Dean, who was visiting someone in our neighborhood, heard us and came over to help. They got Carole upright and continued up the stairs in front of our house, which are wider with less rise. Suzanne identified herself as Elizabeth's Clover's daughter. Good neighbors and friends are a blessing!

San Luis Chamber Orchestra Fall performed three works of Beethoven: Fidelio Overture, Symphony No. 5, and Piano Concerto No.4, at Trinity on November 2. The pieces fit well together, and it was certainly one of the best music programs Carole and I had ever attended.

During Sandlot Bridge on November 9, Glen Graham made a grand slam. Ken Graham and I tried our best to prevent it, but try as we might, we couldn't prevent him from taking all 13 tricks. Grand slams in bridge are similar to "holes in one" in golf, they occur but are rare.

Our daughter Judy, her husband Rick, Carole and I attended MBHS's "The Play That Goes Wrong" on the 15th, a high energy comedy where everything imaginable goes wrong. Holly Holtz walked by and spoke to me, but due to the background noise, even with my hearing aids, I didn't hear her. When she took her seat, we made eye contact and waved to each other. If you have any questions about the play, please ask Holly as her hearing is better than mine.

Mary Anne wants these in by November which leaves a lot of November to go, and what is somewhat unusual is that I am getting this in before her deadline.

Bill and Carole Fairbanks



**Prayer List Asking for your continued support in prayer for those in need.**

*If you or someone you know needs to be included on the prayer list, please fill out a prayer request located in the pen. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless otherwise requested. To be removed from the list, please contact the church office, 805-528-1649.*

John Bonnett	Sharilyn Hamilton
Dot Brandt	Gary & Pam Held
Ben Eggleston	Family of Cleo Holz
Carole Fairbanks	Brian Jensen
Family of Jean Gandy	Sharon Kraff
Family of Phyllis Harwell	Joan Landis
Clytis Pitzer	Marge
Rachel Stones	Scott Mace
Linda Wagner	Family of Linda Mayfield
	Dianna McFarland
	Kim Brown-Montenegro
Arden Beavers	Ian Paige
John Brandt	Sally Peters
George Case	Marliss Peterson
Dani Cobb	Mary Price
Evelyn Ellis	Dana Roske
Victor Feliciano	Nancy Schneider
Gail	Penny & Karl Schwartz
Robert Gale	Randy Spears
Gail	Steinnar Svennugsen
June Grillo	Meg Syfan
	Carrie Trujillo

Please pray for the following North District Churches during the month of December:

12/7	Scott UMC
	Santa Maria First UMC
12/14	First UMC of Ventura
12/21	Korean UMC of Oxnard
	Chatsworth West UMC
12/28	First UMC of Lompoc
	Saint Andrew UMC



**Happy Anniversary**

**12/13** Wendy and John Porter

**12/18** Robert and Karen Johnson

**12/18** Ted & Janet Oliver



12/2 Kasey P. Lindsay  
12/2 Brooke Riffle  
12/5 Lisa Purcell  
12/7 Dorothy Upton  
12/12 Holly Holz  
12/18 Bruce Powers  
12/18 Kirk Sidener  
12/19 Bob Robertson  
12/21 Beth Crizer  
12/21 Rosemary Hollis  
12/30 Wyatt Wittman

## CONTACT US

Church email: [church@trinitylososos.org](mailto:church@trinitylososos.org) Phone: 805-528-1649 Pastor's email: [pastor@trinitylososos.org](mailto:pastor@trinitylososos.org)  
Website: [www.trinitylososos.org](http://www.trinitylososos.org) or follow us on Facebook: Trinity United Methodist Church, Los Osos, CA  
Bishop: The Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank District Superintendent: The Rev. Garth Gilliam  
Pastor: The Rev. Les Lungren Director of Church Administration: Mary Anne Meyer  
Director of Music Ministries: Sarah Jane Scott Bell Choir Director: Rich Bolin  
Director of Media Ministries: Kasey P. Lindsay Lay Leader: Beth Crizer  
V.C.C. Director: Bonnie Luther

*Please contact the church office at 805-528-1649 if you wish to be removed from our mailing list*



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We acknowledge with gratitude the yak tityu tityu yak tilhini (ytt) / the Northern Chumash People, and the Salinan Tribe / the T'epot'aha'l, "People of the Oaks," on whose ancestral homelands we gather, and whose vibrant culture continues today.*

*May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world.*

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