



Trinity United Methodist Church

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101

703-356-3312 | umtrinity.org | info@umtrinity.org

December 31, 2023

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

We ask that everyone complete an attendance card found in the pew rack or scan the QR code on page 12 with your phone's camera and click the link to register your attendance today. Don't forget to include **each** family member present.

Prelude	<i>How Brightly Shines the Morning Star</i> (Callahan)	Jerry Rich
Welcome and Announcements		Clergy
* Call to Worship		Taehwan Roh
Alleluia! Christ is born Alleluia! Grace is in our midst; love is among us! Let us live in the light of the Holy Child. Alleluia! Let us worship in the spirit of Christ. Alleluia!		
* Gathering Hymn	<i>The First Noel</i>	UMH 245
Children's Message		Laurie Strollo
Prayers of the People		Taehwan Roh
Offering		Neil Hough
This morning's offering will be received as we pass the offering plates. You may also give online at http://umtrinity.org/give and through our app. On the website, scroll down and click on SET UP ONLINE GIVING.		
Offertory	<i>How Far Is It to Bethlehem</i> (arr. Schoenfeld)	Joey Wilson
Scripture	Matthew 2:1-12	Taehwan Roh
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '		
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.		
Message	<i>A New Year is Dawning</i>	Neil Hough
* Closing Hymn	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	UMH 251 Click on Full Text
* Benediction		Neil Hough
* Closing Music	<i>Rigaudon</i> (Campra)	Jerry Rich

* Please stand as you are able.

Grow — Pray — Study

Things I'd like to remember from today's message:

Monday, January 1 — Matthew 2:13-23

Happy New Year. Matthew's account of Jesus' birth and early years includes the escape and return from Egypt. This passage describes the kind of world into which Jesus was born. We see the contrast between the way God works and the way the world works. We also see God's guiding hand in Joseph, Mary, and Jesus' life. We see God directing Joseph through angels (messengers) who appear in his dreams. (See also Matthew 1:20.) The good news is that God still guides and directs our lives in a variety of ways.

- How has God been guiding your life recently? Are you open to God's guidance?
- Prayer: *Eternal God, I confess that I too often make plans for my life and ask you to bless them. Help me learn to seek and trust your guidance. Help me learn to listen. Amen.*

Tuesday, January 2 — Genesis 28:10-22

There are close to 150 references to dreams in the Bible. God's people often encountered God in their dreams and learned to look for and interpret the messages they heard. This does not mean that everything we dream is from God. But it does mean that God wants to communicate with us and uses a wide variety of means of communication. The challenge for us is to pay attention and discern God's messages. Over time, we can learn to hear God's voice amid the cacophony of the other voices we hear.

- What helps you listen for God's voice in our "noisy" world?
- Prayer: *Loving God, thank you for continuing to find ways to communicate with me. Open my ears to hear the message you need me to hear today. Amen.*

Wednesday, January 3 — Genesis 37:1-11

In many editions of the Bible, the heading for today's reading is, *Joseph Dreams of Greatness*. The entire story of Joseph's life (Genesis 37-50) is a story of greatness. The point of Genesis 37 is not that Joseph dreamed of greatness for himself, but that God dreamed of greatness for Joseph — according to God's wisdom and plan for God's people. This is an important distinction. All too often, we are focused on our dreams, not on God's dreams for us.

- As the New Year begins, ask God to reveal *God's dreams* for you for 2024. Be open to the possibility that God wants to do something new in your life this year.
- Prayer: *God of Hope, thank you for bringing me through the previous year. Thank you for fresh possibilities in the year to come. Give me the courage I need to trust you fully. Amen.*

Thursday, January 4 — 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

In the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God changes everything. We may struggle to understand how God changes our lives and the world around us, but the transformation God desires begins when we dare to believe that, *"if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). As we begin a new year, we have an opportunity to let the old pass away so that God can do something new in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

- How might you let *"everything old"* pass away and look for signs that *"everything has become new"*?
- Prayer: *God of New Creations, forgive me for failing to trust in your promises. Help me believe that in Christ, I am a new creation. Make everything new in 2024. Amen.*

Friday, January 5 — Jeremiah 31:31-34

The new covenant promised in Jeremiah 31 has deep meaning for us and is worthy of our attention as a new year begins. It reminds us that God makes and keeps covenants. The terms of God's covenant are simple. God says, *"I will be your God; you will be my people"* (Jeremiah 31:33). It also reminds us that God is a forgiving God, even when we fail to live up to our side of the covenant. We can always start all over with God. That's good news for any time of the year.

- Let this be one of your theme verses this year. *"For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."* (Psalm 100:5).
- Prayer: *Forgiving God, create in me a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within me. Close the gap between the person I am and the person I need to be. Amen.*

Saturday, January 6 — Matthew 2:1-12

Today is Epiphany, the day most Christians commemorate the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family. It brings the Christmas season to a close. Our reading from Matthew 2 makes several points about the meaning of Jesus' birth, but most importantly, it reminds us that the story of Jesus is driven and directed by God. While we may not follow a star like the Magi, we can trust in God's presence and God's guidance in our lives. The challenge is to pay attention and to trust in God's promises.

- When and where do you have the most intimate experiences of God's presence? How might you cultivate your sense of God's presence and seek God's guidance for 2024 (and beyond)?
- Prayer: *Ever-Present God, thank you for guiding my life. Help me learn to pay attention to you at all times. Increase my awareness of your presence in my life this week. Amen.*

Nursery on Sundays

The Nursery is staffed during both Sunday worship services for children 3 years old and under.

This Week on Zoom

Password 1205

Prayer Group

Wednesday at 9 a.m. Meeting ID: 875 6105 5580

Confirmation Kick-off

The kick-off for this year's Confirmation Class is on Sunday, January 7, 2024, from 4 - 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All youth, with at least one parent, and all faith friends should attend this meeting as it will cover a lot of important information about the confirmation process. Parents, please bring with you any known Sunday dates that your youth will not be able to attend class. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Anne at eaehough@gmail.com. Confirmation Sunday will be Pentecost Sunday, May 19. To register, please visit the youth webpage: umtrinity.org/education/youth. Scan the QR code for registration.



Our Prayer List

Adam, Alan, Alice, Amanda & David, Amber & Brianna, Andrea, Andrew, Anne, Annie Ruth, Arnold, Audrey, Barb, Barry & Diane, Betty, Bill & Maddie, Brett, Brian, Bruce, Bud, Catherine, Carol & Rich, Carolina, Caroline, Carrie, Cathy, Chris, Christopher, Claudia, Currie family, Daniel, Danny, Dara, Dave & Gail, Davey, David & Carol, Darlene & Steve, Desarae, Di Letti family, Donnie, Doris, Doris & Joe, Dudley & Susan, Easley family, Ed, Elaine, Eileen, Ellie, Emmett, Eric, Erica & Roberto, Erik, Evans family, Fran & Tom, Frank, Gabe, Gabrielle, Gary & Linnie, Glenda, Geoff, Gray, Greg, Gregg, Hammer family, Harriet, Harris family, Harry, Heather, Hefferon family, Hemingway family, Henry, Holmes family, Hong family, Jack, Jackie, Jan, Janice, Jason, Jean, Jeanette, Jeanne, Jeff, Jenna, Jenny & Michael, Jessica, Jimmy, Joan, Joe & Marie, John, Jomer, Josie, Judi, Judy, June, Karen, Kathy, Kay & John, Kenny family, Krista, Kobi, Lajoie family, Landaverde family, Laura, Lejoy family, Leslie, Linda, Lindstedt family, Lisa, Liz & David, Lon, London family, Long family, Lori, Luana, Lynne, Mack, Macy, Marcia, Marciene, Marilyn, Maher family, Mark, Mary, Matt, Matthias, Michael, Michelle, Mickey & Ruth, Mike, Moore family, Nancy, Nell, Nina, Niro, Norma, Norman, Olivia, Pat, Patty, Paul, Pauline & Merlin, Pearl family, Peg & Dick, Peter, Peter & Laura, Powers family, Prissilla, Rebecca, Sabbagh family, Sally, Sash, Sandra, Scott, Sheila, Spencer, Skyard family, Stephanie, Stephen, Steve, Sue, Susan, Teresa, Tim, Tom, Tony, Vanna, Vinnie, Wayne, Williams family, and Yancey, travelers, those who mourn, Longfellow Middle School community, the homeless, racial reconciliation in our country, those affected by the opioid epidemic and those working to end it, victims of famine and war, peace and more empathy in the world, protection from gun violence in the world and for its victims and families, those living in war zones, hostages, those living with cancer.



Story

WINTER RETREAT 2024

Youth, mark your calendars for our winter retreat, February 23-25 at the Skycroft Conference Center! Along with youth groups from Chesterbrook and Cherrydale we will spend a spiritual weekend exploring *Our Story*, getting to know each other, and having loads of fun!

Cost of retreat- \$195 per person includes, room, meals, and facilities.

Questions? Contact- Catherine

Highlights from E-News

If you're not receiving our Friday e-mail, please send your email address to info@umtrinity.org

Book Chat

Meets Tuesday, **January 9** at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. New readers are always welcome: <http://umtrinity.org/education/adults>.

Children's Ministries

Children's Worship Folders are available during worship services and are categorized by age and reading ability. Please return your folder to the used bin so it can be replenished.

Children's Worship (ages 4 - 4th grade) and **Club 56** (grades 5 & 6) meet during the 10:30 service following the Children's Message.

Fellowship

To provide snacks during Fellowship, sign up on the white board on the coffee bar. Contact Alesha Luxon, alesha.luxon@gmail.com.

Martha's Table

Martha's Table is on the first Sunday after both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. It involves packaging trail mix at Trinity and delivering it to Martha's Table ministry, which supports unhoused in Washington, DC. All are welcome to participate in this fellowship/volunteer opportunity. While there is gratitude for those filling trail mix bags, volunteers are also needed for delivering the packed trail mix to Martha's Table. If you are interested in serving as a delivery driver, please sign up online (<http://umtrinity.org/marthat>), on the Fellowship Lobby sign-up sheet, or contact William Liu at williamliu@att.net /703-389-2253.

Mission Trip: March 2024

Exciting news! Join our team on a trip to The Leadership Center in rural Honduras from March 2 to March 7, 2024, supporting 55 young women in education and spirituality. You'll join Chris and Dan Moore, who will be serving there for three weeks. For details, contact Chris Moore (christinecmoore@gmail.com, 571-215-2948) or Dan Moore (703-980-5050, danmoore53@gmail.com).

Preschool Enrollment Open

Enrollment for 2024-25 opens to church members and existing preschool families on Jan. 2. For details, please visit umtrinity.org/preschool.

Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed each Sunday. If you would like to volunteer please sign up at umtrinity.org/ushers.

Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

January 7, 4:30 - 6 p.m.: Youth Group Resumes, Confirmation Kick off Dinner (youth, confirmands, faith friends and parents are invited, RSVP to Catherine)

February 3, 12:30-2:30: Laser Tag at Trinity

February 23-25: Youth Retreat at Skycroft Conference Center

Contact Catherine Wethington, umtrinityyouth@gmail.com. Scan the QR code at the right to register for 2023-24 youth activities.



Coming Up

January

- 1 Office Closed
- 5 *Spire* deadline
- 7 Martha's Table
- 7 Confirmation Kick-off
- 7 Youth Group Resumes
- 9 Book Chat
- 15 Office Closed
- 16 *Spire* assembly
- 20 Christ House

February

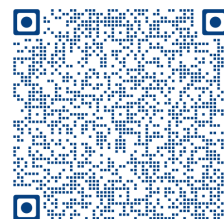
- 4 Martha's Table
- 5 Crafts for a Cause
- 13 Book Chat
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 17 Christ House
- 19 Office Closed
- 19 Crafts for a Cause
- 23-25 Youth Retreat

March

- 2-7 Mission Trip to Honduras

Attendance: Please complete a pew rack attendance card or scan the QR code with your phone's camera and click the link.

Don't forget to include the first name of each family member present as well as surname.



Today's Call to Worship is from the worship resources blog, *Unfolding Light* by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

Trinity Church Staff

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Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Worship is live streamed on Sundays from the Chapel at 8:30 a.m. and from the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on YouTube: youtube.com/UMTrinity. The Celtic Service can be seen on the last Sunday of the month at 5 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook.