



# Trinity UMC DECEMBER 2021



“Together we LIVE to see our lives, our community, and our world transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

## The Ten Commandments and The season of Advent

Though it is seldom to see or hear the followers of Jesus Christ taking time out to either teach or recite the Ten Commandments in their homes and churches, it is not a jury verdict saying we are not living according to the commandments of our God. But as we gather in the next three Sundays anticipating the coming of our Jesus Christ, it might be helpful to take a moment to reflect on the Ten Commandments to self-assess how we are doing concerning God’s will and purpose for us. The Lord spoke these words to the children of Israel, and God is still speaking these words to us during this season of Advent saying:

1. *I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other Gods before me*
2. *You shall not make for yourselves an idol*
3. *You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy*
5. *Honor your father and your mother*
6. *You shall not murder*
7. *You shall not commit adultery*
8. *You shall not steal*
9. *You shall not give false testimony*
10. *You shall not covet*

REV. JOHN MEANDE

Pastor

pastor1@tumcsa.net

Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.

In the sanctuary  
(we encourage you to  
wear your mask even if  
you are fully vaccinated),

FB live, YouTube

New Seekers Faith Mtg.  
Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.  
Zoom room

Pastor-led Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays  
Zoom room

Church office phone  
210-684-0261

Mondays—Thursdays  
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
(or call for an  
appointment)

e-mail:

ofcadmin@tumcsa.net

6800 Wurzbach Road,  
San Antonio, Texas  
78240



2021 Missions **DECEMBER**

“ABOVE AND BEYOND “  
SUNDAY Offering

PROVIDENCE PLACE (YOUTH)



When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings—especially the joy of making a difference in someone’s life.

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It is divinely certain that the Lord will be here on Christmas day; and as I rehearse these commandments, it seems I can discern Christ's speaking to my soul to reflect on the year and on the bench mark of a passable grade. Yes! I think Trinity should be on the honor roll and not passable, looking at our love and services to the Lord, to one another and to our surrounding community in the midst of the most horrible earthly pandemic since the Spanish flu of 1918.

The commandments reminded us of our best practices of ministry by focusing our worship to God, by becoming more inclusive, deeper in the word of God, engaging in congregational singing, increasing hospitality, introducing our splendid musical service and congregational discipleship when groups took turns in leading worship services.

I am confident that the Lord's name was not misused, but did we keep the Sabbath Holy? Did we honor our parents, or, let me say, did we honor one another? O commandment number six! We all "A"s it right? What about number seven, eight, nine and ten? Are these commandments we take seriously, or just an old saying by Moses?

As a family, we have experienced the evolution of the service of the sacrament of the Holy Communion and our approach to worship over these seventeen months. From safe distance, prepacked cups set a distance away to now celebrating and participating by intinction. We have been honoring our Fathers and Mothers in ways that are uniquely divine. Our outreach program brought in grandparents taking care of grandkids, well-med with resources for better care and donations for food, water, milk, clothes and shoes.

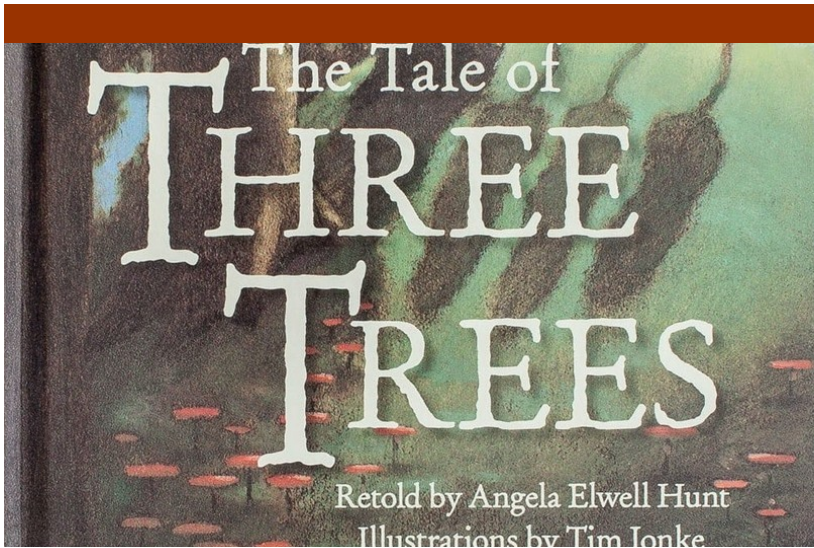
Being part of the organization and an attendee of the thanksgiving meal with my family was one of the many great treasures I have experienced at Trinity. The food was excellent; the connection was superb; the fellowship, the joy in the faces of believers kept reminding me of our future in heaven. In all of these, by God's grace, the Holy Spirit has been helping us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling-keeping us far from covetousness, bearing false witness and ushering us into the holy presence of the Lord our God.

At Trinity United Methodist Church, we will be gathering to make preparations to receiving the Lord Jesus Christ on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, with our splendid, classical Christmas cantata. I can't wait.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Rev. John N. Meande*





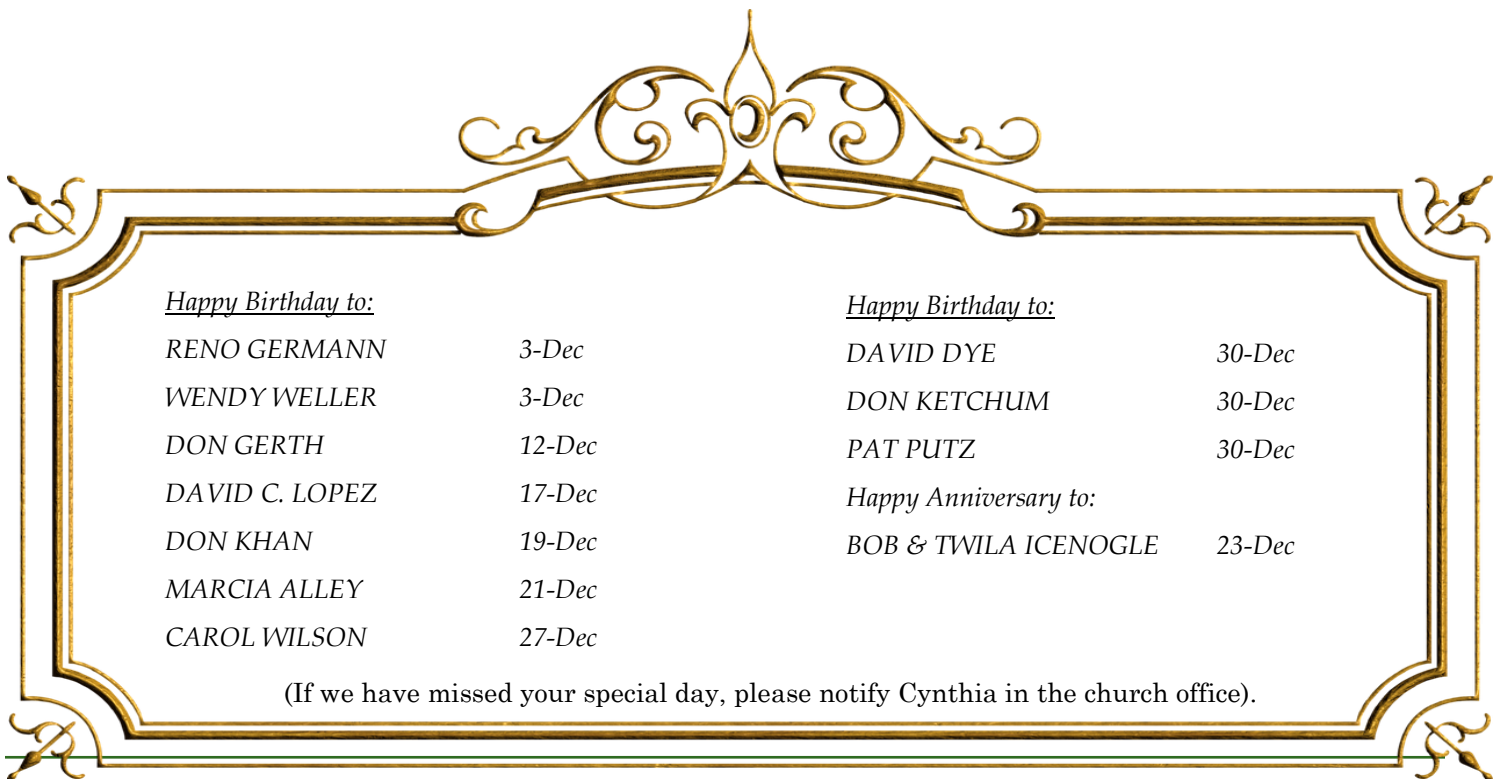
Oh, how this story brings tears to my eyes! Its powerful imagery is a good reminder throughout the year, but its relation to the Nativity Story is why it made this list.

Three trees have big dreams. One wants to become a treasure box. Another desires to be made into a large sailing ship.

The third dreams of remaining planted, growing tall enough to reach heaven. But just like our lives, their dreams aren't always what God has planned for us.

The first tree doesn't become a treasure box, per se, but it ends up holding the Greatest Treasure of all when it becomes a manger which cradles the newborn Savior ([Luke 2:7,12](#)). Instead of a mighty ship, the second becomes a meager fishing boat that totes Jesus as He calms the waters ([Matthew 8:23-27](#)). The third becomes the cross that bore Jesus at His death ([Mark 15:37](#)).

Not only does this story teach us about Christ, but it reminds us our dreams are in good Hands. He "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" ([Ephesians 3:20](#)).



<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>		<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	
RENO GERMANN	3-Dec	DAVID DYE	30-Dec
WENDY WELLER	3-Dec	DON KETCHUM	30-Dec
DON GERTH	12-Dec	PAT PUTZ	30-Dec
DAVID C. LOPEZ	17-Dec	<u>Happy Anniversary to:</u>	
DON KHAN	19-Dec	BOB & TWILA ICENOGLA	23-Dec
MARCIA ALLEY	21-Dec		
CAROL WILSON	27-Dec		

(If we have missed your special day, please notify Cynthia in the church office).



Christmas  
Worship  
SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH @ 6:30 p.m.

Please bring cookies to share as we fellowship for Christmas eve (after worship service).

Thank you!

\*Just a friendly reminder to please turn in your pledge cards if you have not done so yet. Thank you for your usual generosity.\*

*“Life is why we give”*



**H**ello brothers and sisters in Christ!

I love December. We get to celebrate the greatest gift ever given to us this month. I

am going to remember the reason for the season and focus on giving to God vs. worrying over what cookies to bake or when I am going to get my shopping done. It's not about the latter; it should be all about celebrating Jesus' birthday.

If I have learned anything over the last year, it's that most of us (including me) spend money on materialistic items we don't need. So I have decided this season I plan to give back to God above and beyond what I committed to for the year because the best Christmas memories I have are the ones when my family helped out someone that was not as fortunate as we were. I pray others will do the same.

Trinity supports so many awesome things around the world and here close to home through our church and our apportionments. None of it could happen without our generous, giving congregation. If your estimate of giving is behind for the year, would you please consider bringing it current before the end of the year? One way you could do this is if you want to give a gift to someone that has everything materialistic, give a gift to Trinity in their honor and the blessings will come to the giver, the honoree, and most of all, the person that is helped with that gift.

Our church needs help to finish paying our apportionments this year; and since our apportionments fund our ability to bless others with help, please consider helping us fulfill that commitment.

Yours in Christ,

**Bonnie Smith**, TUMC Treasurer

# What Do You Want For Christmas?

Have you noticed that the older we get, the more likely we are to ask for intangibles than tangibles? A child nearly always asks for the newest, most exciting toy (or several of them!). A teenager will probably ask for a really expensive item, like a game system, a bicycle, or, if he's old enough, a car! A college student will probably ask for money, or maybe a trip to somewhere far away from his home. Newly-married people usually want things for their houses. As we become parents, we start to become less selfish; we want to make sure our children have everything they want. The older we get, the more likely we are to ask for good health for ourselves and others, for family get-togethers, or for safety for all our family and friends.

Still, there are many people, even children, who ask for things for others before themselves. There are children who start campaigns to raise money or to collect items or food for others. Of course, there are many adults who do the same thing, but even they are in the minority.

What are we lacking when we know exactly what WE want for Christmas, but haven't really considered what anyone else wants? Are we lacking maturity, security, thoughtfulness, or just love?

Christmas is supposed to be a time of hope, peace, joy, and love. We who have even a sense of what those feelings are need to pass them along to others. Do you know anyone who will probably be alone during the Christmas holidays? What is the BEST gift you can give that person? Do you think dropping off a pretty package with something nice in it is the best gift you can give, OR do you think that spending time with him or her or inviting him or her to your home for Christmas would be more appreciated. (Of course, a tangible gift that shows them that they are not forgotten is a great gift). I have heard for many years that the Christmas season is the time of the most suicides!! Is there something YOU can do to lower that number?

God gave us His most precious gift that first Christmas so long ago. THAT is the tradition we need to pass along! I am not saying that we don't need to give tangible gifts. Those DO say, "I love you," or "I care about you." However, I hope we can look at the bigger picture to see what is really needed and wished for. I promise you will get a palpable reward when you give what the recipient wants most! Most of these gifts don't cost ANY money! Have you seen any of those videos when a child sees his parent suddenly show up from serving overseas? Did you notice that none of them brought a physical gift, and, yet, the children were thrilled beyond belief? Clearly, receiving that parent was the gift they wanted most!

I pray that all of you will receive (and give) the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love for Christmas! 'Tis the season!

Merry Christmas!

*Harriet Phillips*, Lay Leader

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Hello everyone!

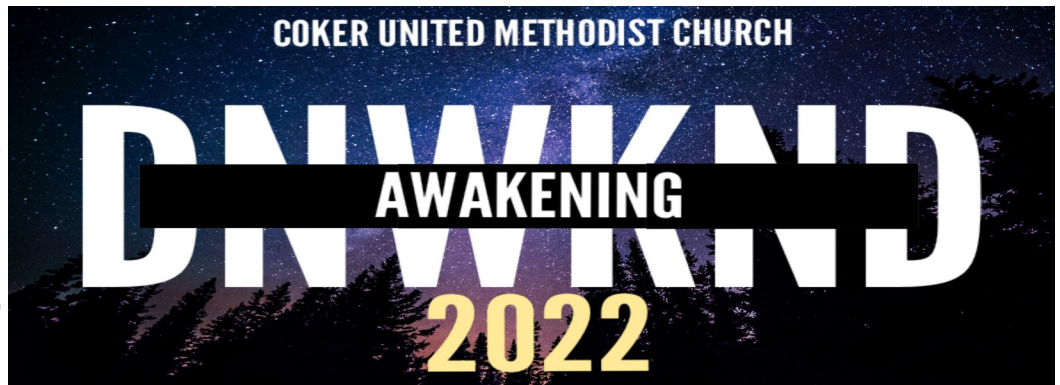
My name is **Adrian**, and I'm the Youth Director at Coker UMC here in San Antonio. I am reaching out to you today to personally invite your youth to our community-wide Youth D-Now

retreat on January 28-29. The cost is \$30 per person. We will have a speaker, worship team, breakout sessions, large group games and prizes, giveaways, and so much more!

Lunch from Chick-fil-A will be provided Saturday.

Our registration deadline is January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me directly with any other questions.

We look forward to having you join us for this event and can't wait to see God move in the youth of our community.



**D-NOW AWAKENING 2022**

**JAN 28-29**  
COST: \$30

**COKER UMC**  
231 E. NORTH LOOP RD  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78216

**6-12TH GRADE!**

**DEADLINE**  
1/4/22

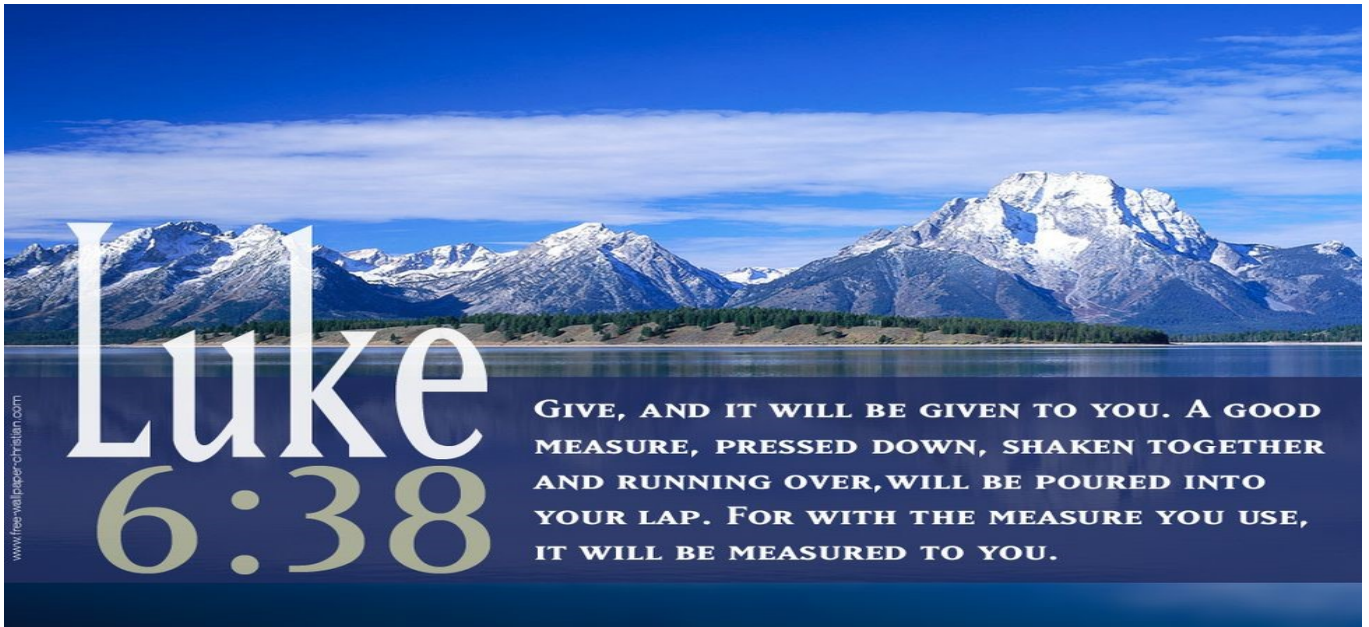
**CALL ADRIAN**  
956-330-2420  
OR EMAIL ADRIAN.LUCIO@COKER.ORG

**WORSHIP**  
**LARGE GROUP GAMES**  
**BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**  
**GIVE AWAYS**  
**AND MORE!**

*Thank you for joining the*

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

You are always welcome here. Our staff is here to help you. Our ministers are every member of the congregation.



## Trinity is asking for volunteers to:

- Usher on Sundays at our worship services.
- Broadcast our worship service live on Facebook (on rotation).
- Help with the Family Life Committee.
  - ⇒ Family Life Committee is responsible for our social activities, e.g. July 4th luncheon and sing-along, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving luncheon, and Super Chili Bowl Cook-off.

*If you are led to serve, please contact Cynthia in the church office or Harriet Phillips.*

## WORK DAY!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAD OR LEAD A WORK DAY? LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW. WHEN? CHURCH GROUNDS? BUILDING INTERIOR DEEP CLEANING? ORGANIZING SHELVES, CUPBOARDS, CLOSETS? LET US KNOW!**

**210-684-0261 or email: [ofcadmin@tumcsa.net](mailto:ofcadmin@tumcsa.net)**

