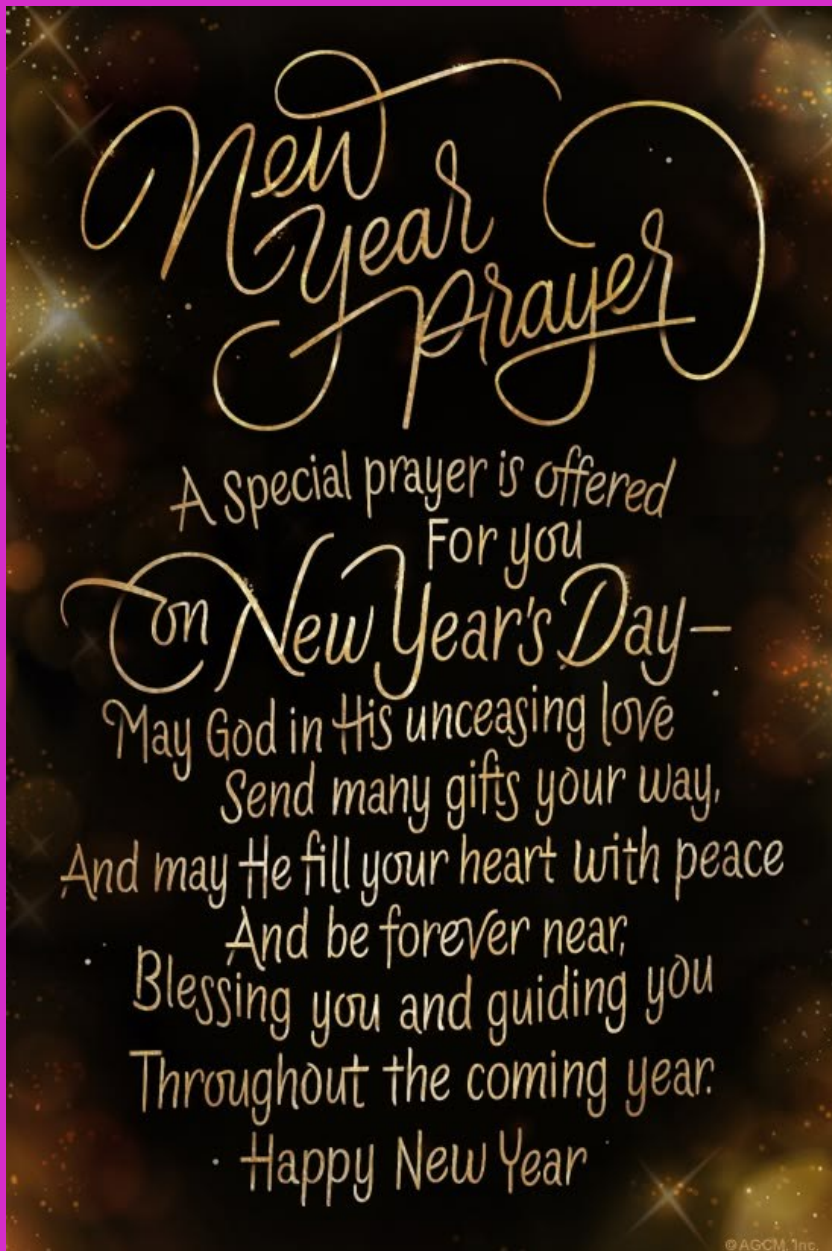


# The Trinity Times

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

## Welcome!



## JANUARY 2026

"DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN IN ALL THE  
PLACES YOU CAN"

- JOHN WESLEY

"SERVE EACH OTHER ACCORDING TO THE  
GIFT EACH PERSON HAS  
RECEIVED, AS GOOD MANAGERS OF GOD'S  
DIVERSE GIFTS"

- 1 PETER 4:10



## Trinity United Methodist Church

**Rev. David Cervantez**  
Pastor

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m.  
In Person —  
You may wear your mask as  
you feel comfortable.

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m. is also available on  
Facebook Live, &  
[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)

**Prayer Meetings:**  
- Wednesdays via zoom at  
2:15 p.m.

Church office phone  
210-684-0261  
Business office hours:  
**Mondays—Thursdays**  
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
or **call for an appointment**

e-mail:  
[TrinityUMCoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityUMCoffice1@gmail.com)  
6800 Wurzbach Road,  
San Antonio, Texas 78240  
[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)



## DECEMBER 2025

### ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

#### IN THE SANCTUARY [IN-PERSON]

NOVEMBER 30	34
DECEMBER 7	37
DECEMBER 14	47
DECEMBER 21	41
DECEMBER 24/28	76

#### FACEBOOK LIVE — [VIEWS]

NOVEMBER 30	80
DECEMBER 7	114
DECEMBER 14	115
DECEMBER 21	67
DECEMBER 24/28	150

#### \*TITHES & OFFERINGS

NOVEMBER 30	\$3,189
DECEMBER 7	\$5,539
DECEMBER 14	\$13,160
DECEMBER 21	\$2,752
DECEMBER 24/28	\$3,243

**[\*Tithes & Offerings report taken  
from ONLY the Sunday counters;  
online and text giving NOT  
Included].**

YARD SALE/FLEA MARKET SPOTS:  
Free spots for vendors this month



### DONATE ONLINE

Simply scan this  
image using your  
phone's camera  
(or QR code  
reader).



You may also go  
to:

[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)

then click on the  
"Donate" button.

### DONATE FROM

#### YOUR

### SMARTPHONE.

You may also **text**  
giving to:

**844-210-1179**

(Type in the  
amount you wish  
to donate, then  
hit send).



#### Happy Birthday to

CONNIEGERMANN	6-Jan	JOESMITH	21-Jan
JAKOBBENTON	11-Jan	JULIEVINCENT	23-Jan
JOSEPHMONTALVO	14-Jan	ALLYSENDYE	27-Jan
LORRAINERALLS	15-Jan	RICKYLANDERS	29-Jan
BYRONBURGE	16-Jan	Happy Anniversary to	
TARADYE	18-Jan	DON&CINDYGERTH	12-Jan

**May God shower blessings  
on you today and forever.**

*If we have missed your  
special day, please notify  
Cynthia in the church office.  
Thank you!*

## Trinity UMC Prayer Team †



“God, help me navigate whatever challenges I encounter this day. Be my comfort and my rock. Guide me to do Your will and be an instrument of Your peace today and each day. Amen.”

*Prayer team meets every Wednesday at 2:15pm via Zoom.*

*Please call the office (210-684-0261) for Zoom links.*

*Please join us or send us your prayer request at [www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)*



**FREE FOOD!** every **3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

**JANUARY 17, 2026 — FROM 10 AM—12 NOON**

**THE ARBUTUS PLACE AT TRINITY'S PARKING LOT FACING NEWCOME STREET**

## FLEA MARKET/YARD SALE/POP-UP MARKET

- ◆ Bring your tables.
- ◆ The cost is \$15.00 per space.
- ◆ You may bring your canopy and chairs.
- ◆ Invite your friends, and come and have a picnic.
- ◆ Either prepay at the church office (Mon-Thurs) between 11 am and 2 pm or bring in the day of → CASH Only and the exact amount.
- ◆ Great visibility on Wurzbach. Will advertise on social media and the church's electronic marquee.



**JANUARY 10 | 9 am-2 pm | EVERY 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

Trinity United Methodist Church

6800 Wurzbach Road, 78240. 210-684-0261 church office.

GOOD LOCATION! PROMISE ☺



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## CARE PACKAGE PARTNERSHIPS

Jesus never sat on a couch in his mother's basement, waiting for people to stop by. He met people where they were. We do too.

This year, the Good Lord blessed Trinity's outreach ministry with many wonderful partners as we created more than 8,000 care packages for those in need. We've been teaming with organizations to support the most vulnerable among us and build a stronger community. Thank you to everyone who has participated. We're making a difference. Special thanks to everyone who visited patients in hospitals and assisted living for the Easter and Christmas holidays – what an amazing new ministry!

Here's a summary of how our partners supported our 2025 activities. We are most grateful!

*Continued next page ...*

No.	Care Package Partner	2025 Programs
1	Arbutis Place	Distributed food each month to hundreds of neighborhood families
2	Unicorn Center	Packed/delivered weekly sack lunches for Dixon and Wesley Clinic patients, Made/delivered Christmas cards
3	Arc of San Antonio	Packed/delivered weekly sack lunches for the homeless through Travis Park Church, Packed school supplies and cold weather backpacks, Made/delivered Christmas cards
4	San Antonio Clubhouse	Boiled eggs each week for homeless people downtown
5	Wesley Health and Wellness Center	Distributed sack lunches to hungry patients
6	Dixon Health and Wellness Center	Distributed sack lunches to hungry patients
7	Travis Park Church	Distributed sack lunches and eggs to homeless people, distributed Cold Weather Backpacks
8	Health Careers High School	Honor society filled care packages for refugee families, created Easter baskets for IDD clients, made/delivered Christmas cards for hospital patients
9	University Methodist Church/ Helping Hands	Made/delivered Christmas cards for seniors in assisted living facilities
10	St Marks UMC	Made/delivered Christmas cards for seniors
11	Center for Refugee Services	Distributed care packages to struggling families
12	Texas Inmate Families Association	Distributed school supply backpacks to children in need
13	Girls on the Run	Made/delivered Christmas cards
14	Excel Above the Rest	Distributed Christmas gifts to struggling families
15	United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)	Funded grant supporting care packages with household goods for refugee families, distributed flood buckets to families in need
16	Methodist Healthcare Ministry	Funded grant supporting sack lunches for clinic patients
17	Northside Lions Club	Funded grant supporting care package programs
18	Morningside Manor Landon Ridge Villa Assisted Living Patriot Heights Heights on Huebner New Forest	Assisted living centers that allowed us to visit their seniors at Easter and Christmas

# USUAL NEW YEAR OR HAPPY NEW YEAR?

How much can you control in this question? What is that saying? If you do what you've always done you'll get what you've always gotten; right? So can you change what you've always done? Yes, I believe we can! The real question is how much do you want this year to be different? Do you complain that you can't lose weight? Have you tried any diets - and for how long? Do you exercise every day - and for 5 minutes or for 30 minutes? Do you complain that you wish you knew more about the Bible? Do you read your Bible every day - one verse, one chapter, one book? How much is needed to get the desired result?

God has given us all the same number of hours in any given day. How do you plan to use them? Of course, I realize that some of us need more sleep than others do, but, surely no one needs more than 9 hours a day. That still leaves 15 hours to do whatever you see as important in your life. If I get 7 hours per night, I have had an especially good night's sleep! It usually is much less than that. For the month of December, it seems that I have been especially busy and have had to simply leave some chores left undone. I hope and expect that January and beyond will be much less busy.

What we must do is decide what is important and what is simply a habit that we can easily break to fill with other activities that we really want to do. I do believe that God will help us to achieve our goals as long as we put in the effort, ourselves. Don't be the school kid who prays for a good grade on a test but doesn't spend any time studying! Don't be the person who already knows how long it takes to get from your house to the church, but leaves too late to have that amount of time available - and still prays that God will get you there on time! God doesn't work like that!



Edgar Cayce was able to sleep on a book and know its contents when he awoke. I seriously doubt that any of us can do that! We must put in the time and effort to get our goals accomplished. Michael J. Fox could simply read over his script one time for the next day's rehearsal and know it by heart! If you can do that - or something comparable - more power to you. However, if you need to put in a reasonable amount of effort to get what you want accomplished, know that you will have to put in the right amount of effort to get that done.

There are things we all want, but some of them we want more than others. Some of them we just don't want enough to spend the time and effort on. We also can't do everything, so we must decide what is most important and apply ourselves to that goal. Each of us gets 365 days in 2026. How will you use those days? No complaining if you have not put in the effort!

Happy and Productive New Year!

Harriet Phillips  
Lay Leader

# THIS KIND OF NEW YEAR'S "PROMISE"



*Sure*, I used “promise”! I desire to stay committed. I heard the best way to predict the future is to invent it. Our actions speak of our character. No one can control our choices but us. We have the free will to make or break.

*I tell my people...* please... You cannot blame anyone, not even the enemy, for the choices you make. Every day when you wake up, you can choose the person you want to be. But, the Word clearly states we are accountable... yes, at the end of the day... we are 100% accountable for all the choices and decisions we make... period! No one can make you... unless you approve, allow, or give ‘permiso’ (permission).

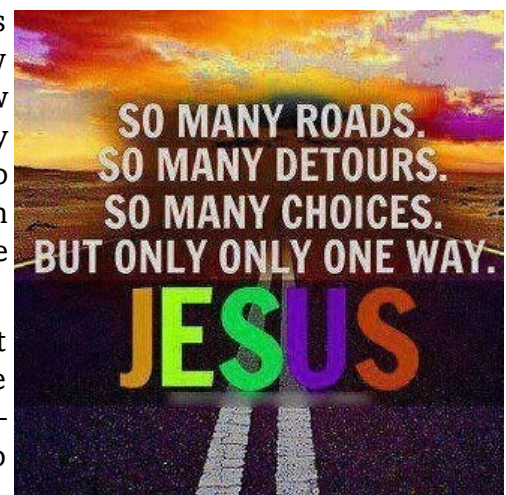
*I read* an article to help us with this challenge. I know that every new year we are caught up in a whirlwind of well-intentioned resolutions. Resolutions for impending lifestyle changes, impossible diets, and hard discipline. “Is all this fervor really necessary?” Maybe. After all, shouldn’t we at all times and in all seasons seek to live wisely and obediently? Okay, this very last sentence gave us the ultimate clue. Wisely and obediently... hmmm... humanly possible? How? This calls for God’s grace! At times, I am not sensible enough to realize that I am unable to do anything without God’s help and His grace. The Word of God not only gives us permission to make resolutions but also provides good reasons for doing so.

*Firstly*, we must be sensible and reasonable in making resolutions, yes? Not based on emotions and “feels”. If so, it is likely that we will not merely fail in our attempt to keep such promises; we will likely be less inclined to make any further resolutions for similar desired ends. We must pray, genuine prayer and thorough study of God’s Word. Our resolutions must be in accordance with God’s character. Our perspective changes when we place God at the center.

*Secondly*, we must be sensible enough to really, really know the simple truth that every resolution must be made in dependence on God. Oh yeah. We must understand that being able to do all things through Christ, who strengthens us, means that we must depend on His strength continuously in order to do all things and to keep all our promises.

*Thirdly*, can we please not be arrogant? As if God owes us something... smh (*shaking my head*). As if God must now love and bless us more because we have decided to follow Him more. In reality, the Lord, in His providence, may decide to discipline us even more so that we might more so detest our sin and return to Him. We must approach Him in humble reliance on His grace as we seek not merely the blessings but the one who blesses.

*And lastly*, the whole matter of making this change is not just about goal-setting so that we might have happier lives. We are called by God to live according to His will, not our own—for Christ’s sake, not our own—for it is not unto us but unto Him that all glory belongs. Amen? Yes...Amen!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

your sister-in-Christ, <><

Cynthia Galang

# STEWARDSHIP: MORE THAN MONEY, IT'S A WAY OF LIFE

When you hear the word "stewardship," what comes to mind? For many, it's about finances, giving to the church, or perhaps a once-a-year donation drive. While financial giving is a vital part of stewardship, it's only one piece of a much richer, more comprehensive picture of how we live as followers of Christ.

## *What is True Stewardship?*

At its heart, stewardship is recognizing that everything we have—our time, abilities, possessions, and even the Earth itself—is a gift from God. Our role isn't just to consume or hoard, but to manage these blessings responsibly, faithfully, and generously, reflecting God's own love and care.

## *The Threefold Call:*

Time, Talent, Treasure Christian traditions often highlight three key areas of stewardship: Treasure (Finances): How we earn, save, spend, and give reflects our values and trust in God.

Talent (Abilities): Using our unique skills and gifts in our homes, workplaces, and ministries to build up others.

Time (Our Days): Dedicating moments to prayer, rest, family, and service, recognizing each day as a sacred opportunity.

## *Caring for Creation: Our First Charge*

The very first task God gave humanity in Genesis was to care for the Earth (Gen 1:28). Environmental stewardship—reducing waste, conserving energy, supporting local efforts—is a crucial part of honoring the creation God entrusted to us.

## *Stewardship as Joyful Discipleship*

Instead of a burdensome obligation, let's view stewardship as a joyful response to God's generosity. It's an invitation to be active participants in God's ongoing work, using our lives as tangible expressions of His love for our neighbors and His world.

## *This Month's Stewardship Challenge:*

This week, reflect on one area beyond finances. How can you be a better steward of your time, your talents, or creation? Perhaps it's calling a friend you miss, using a skill to help someone, or starting a small, sustainable habit. Let's embrace stewardship as a year-round, faith-filled adventure!



# New Year Prayer 2026

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered upon us.  
We beg your pardon in our many failings and trespasses. Make the new year a more fruitful and blessed one.  
We also thank You for every test of time that has brought us stronger in faith and trust in You.  
Bestow upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
We call upon our Lord Jesus Christ for His intercessions, His guidance and His light to shine our path.

## Prayer For Us As Individuals In The New Year

Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up ourselves in our present state.  
We pray that we become more responsible in our pursuits, our faith and our prayer life.  
In our personal development, as members of our families, employees, and in society, we pray to improve in our duties and responsibilities. May we be more diligent and productive in our contribution.  
We pray to keep our eyes, our ears and our hearts from clinging to the things of this world.  
May we keep our whole being fixed on You, O Lord.  
Let us never lose sight of You, and let our love for You grow more and more every day.  
Bestow upon us, O Lord, a genial spirit and unwearied forbearance. Give us a gentle, kind, loving and patient heart.  
Bless us with a pleasant, cordial speech and manners.  
We pray to be true to all in our words, thoughts and deeds.  
May we be humble and respectful toward others and honoring God all our lives.

## For Our Family Life

Lord, we pray for all family members: father, mother, husband, wife, brothers and sisters. We pray for each one to be blessed with Your love and providence, that they may be part of a family of unity, peace and well being.  
May there be love in the family, which will overlook all shortcomings. Let there be compassion, which will see one another in mercy. And may there be forgiveness and acceptance in the times of failure and disappointments.  
For those who are without faith, we pray that You open a door of opportunity for one to reach them with Your Good News. Convert their unbelief to embrace You, Lord Jesus Christ, with their hearts.

## For Employment Opportunities In The New Year

Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up those who are reading this, who are unemployed and in desperate need of a job.  
We pray for Your divine help and guidance as they seek suitable employment. They need Your wisdom to guide their footsteps along the right path, and to lead them to find the proper things to say and do in this quest.  
We pray they use the gifts and talents You have given them, as you reveal opportunities to do so with gainful employment.  
Do not abandon them, dear Lord, in this search, but rather grant them this favor so that they may return to You with praise and thanksgiving for Your gracious assistance.

## For Children Of All Ages

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for children of all ages who are either pursuing their studies or working.  
May they be focused in their pursuit and become responsible individuals, contributing well to family and society.  
Guard them, O Lord we pray, from all dangers and evil exposures. Protect them from the worldly pleasures that lead to an unhealthy lifestyle. May their homes be filled with love.  
Let their hearts be strong and secure, not to fall into the way of darkness.  
May education be important to them, and may moral values and discipline be an integral part of their lives.  
We pray that they turn to You, O Lord, in prayer, for Your continued love, mercy and support as You lead them to green pastures all the days of their lives.

## Praying For The World Around Us

Lord Jesus Christ, last but not the least, we earnestly pray for world peace and unity.  
May war and persecutions in the name of religion come to cease.  
May there be respect and tolerance for one another's beliefs.  
We pray for the sick, the terminally ill, the abandoned, the homeless, the rejected, the lost and those affected by natural calamities.  
May we who are well and good, in our best, reach these who are suffering and aid them with care and support.  
May our hearts extend with love, and our hands extend in sharing our blessings and providence, always for the glory of God, in Your blessed name Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- Geevetha Mary Samuel / Christians TT