

# Welcome!

## Trinity United Methodist Church

"Together we LIVE to see our lives, our community, and our world transformed by the power of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST."

### 2023 Missions - DECEMBER

4th Sunday "Above and Beyond" Special Offering  
(Please give generously)

### PROVIDENCE PLACE

"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



THIS  
SEASON,  
LET HIM BE  
BORN INSIDE  
YOUR HEART



## Fear Not! A Savior Is Born

"Fear not! Do not be afraid!" The angel spoke these words to Zachariah, to Mary, to Joseph, and finally to a group of shepherds on a hillside near Bethlehem.

"Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

**F**ear has a way of tying our stomachs up in knots, paralyzing our thinking, inducing panic. Fear, and its cousin worry, can capture our hearts when we see ourselves caught in a whirlpool of disasters beyond our control.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talks about tiny, defenseless sparrows in the context of fear and worry:

"Therefore I tell you, **do not worry** about your life, what you will eat or drink... look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

In another place he reassures his followers:

**"Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."**

I don't know how many of you may remember, during the Christmas of 2010 the entire world was caught up in the grip of an economic down-spiral. Houses were being foreclosed on. People were losing their jobs. Restaurants and some factories were closing. Food costs in countries had risen. More and more you had glimpsed a kind of bleak fear in people's eyes. Will I lose my house? My job? What will become of us if this recession deepens into a depression? How will I feed my family? Fear can grip us; choke all faith out of our hearts. Fear also drives economic depression. Fear causes companies to stop hiring and people to stop buying. It is as true today as it was on the first Christmas.

For on that first Christmas, the world was in desperate times, too. A census is being conducted in order to raise already-high taxes. Murderous, paranoid Herod the Great is king of the Jews. It is winter on Bethlehem's hillsides – and cold. Inside a stable in the town sit a poverty-stricken carpenter and his young wife – far from home, chilled to the bone. She is in labor. Her child will be born in a stable, of all places. Why is it like this?, "She may have asked. And then she recalls an echo of the angel's words to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary...."

On the windswept hillsides outside town, shepherds are huddling, too. All of a sudden the sky lights up and an angel proclaims:

"Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Fear not. The shepherds' fear is turned to joy as they hear news that a Savior is born. The Messiah! In Bethlehem, the city of David!

And so they run down the hillsides into the town and hurry from stable to stable until they find the Child in the manger, just as they have been told. Tucked in that manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes against the cold, is the Savior himself.

A Savior comes to rescue people in danger, preserve those who are threatened by harm, and to protect his people from the troubles that surround them. That's what saviors do! That's what Jesus came to do for us.

Do not be afraid because God has sent a Savior to us – Jesus Christ the Lord. He is the One who will:

- Never leave us or forsake us.
- Supply all our needs according to his riches in glory.
- Add to us all the things we need as we seek him and his kingdom.

Our world doesn't know. They think that Christmas is about gifts under a tree and a spirit of good cheer, with Christmas dinner and family around the table. But as good as all that may be, it isn't nearly as good as the Real Christmas.

next page ...

The real Christmas message is this: God has sent a Savior for you; to save you from your sins and to help you in this life, to lift your burden and ease your fears. That's it! A Savior who is Christ the *Lord*—God himself!

The world is gripped by fear. But fear's hold has been broken in those of us who believe the angel's words:



"Fear not ... for a Savior is born to you – Christ the Lord!"

Henrietta and I wish you and yours a Wonderful, Blessed and Spiritual Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Shalom,*  
*Rev. David Cervantez*

## "A Real Baby"

In preparation for Christmas, a Sunday school teacher asked her children to write on small slips of paper the kind of gift the infant Jesus would like and could use.

They were to drop the slips into a box near a manger scene set up in the classroom. Some of the children misunderstood and, instead of the name of a gift, they put the gift itself. In the box, the teacher found a jar of baby food, a small teddy bear, a toy truck, a tiny pair of mittens and a disposable diaper.

At their classroom party, the children were to "show and tell" their gifts. The little girl who had given the disposable diaper explained that Jesus was a real baby and that real babies need diapers. Christmas is God's becoming a real baby. Jesus sometimes slept quietly in his crib, and other times he twisted restlessly. He smiled, cried, got hungry and needed his diapers changed. Incarnation may be a big word but it means simply that God took on human form. God became touchable, squeezable and holdable. Jesus was pleasant and irritable, had good and bad days, brought to those around Him both joy and concern. God became human and Christmas is a real story with a real baby.

God's love came from heaven to earth to enter your hearts. The truth of Christmas is real for you, too.

Thank you God for being real, and we are thankful that you have touched our lives.

*Henrietta Cervantez*



10:00 a.m. Regular Sunday Worship Service

**TRINITY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Christmas Eve*

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

December 24

6:00 p.m.

*Christ The Savior is Born!*



**MOBIL AUTO TRADES**

Sell your vehicle right from your house, plus we will also buy vehicles of people that are going into assisted living. Any automobile needs, we will help for free. Please call our brother, Byron Burge at 210-825-7075. Let's give him our support!



**Location**

location updates



**JOIN THE SEEKERS ('N' FIPS)**

THE SEEKERS/FIPS LUNCHEON MEETINGS ARE EVERY SUNDAY (EXCEPT 5TH SUNDAYS) AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE .

*1ST SUNDAY* — **LUBY'S (FLOYD CURL AND**

**HUEBNER RD)**

*2ND SUNDAY* — **SEA ISLAND (5959 NW LOOP 410)**

*3RD SUNDAY* — **JASON'S DELI (5819 NW LOOP 410)**

*4TH SUNDAY* — **BILL MILLER BBQ (WURZBACH & BANDERA.)**

- *Contact John Reed*

When we joined the church,  
we pledged to  
uphold it with our prayers.

**\*Please pray for our  
church every day at  
noon\***



## WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

**H**ave 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*



REV. FEDERICO PEREZ, JR.  
Pastor  
fperez@riotx.org

Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.  
In the sanctuary -  
we encourage you to wear  
your mask as you feel  
comfortable.

Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m. is also available  
on Facebook live, &  
www.tumcsa.net

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

Seekers Faith Meeting  
(Sunday School):  
- Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.  
Zoom room  
- Sundays, in-person, Null  
building at 9:00 a.m.

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

Church office phone  
210-684-0261  
Office hours:  
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  
www.tumcsa.net

## NOVEMBER 2023

### ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

#### IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON)

November 5	41
November 12	35
November 19	41
November 26	34

#### FACEBOOK LIVE – VIEWS

November 5	80
November 12	52
November 19	41
November 26	48

### TITHES & DONATIONS

(Report taken from ONLY the counters;  
NOT including online and text giving).

November 5	\$6,789
November 12	\$37,823
November 19	\$1,734
November 26	\$ 585



#### Happy Birthday to:

TRACEY PEREZ	1-Dec
JIM CHESNUT	1-Dec
DON GERTH	12-Dec
DAVID C. LOPEZ	17-Dec
DON KHAN	19-Dec
MARCIA ALLEY	21-Dec
CAROL WILSON	27-Dec
DAVID DYE	30-Dec
DON KETCHUM	30-Dec
PAT PUTZ	30-Dec

### 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.

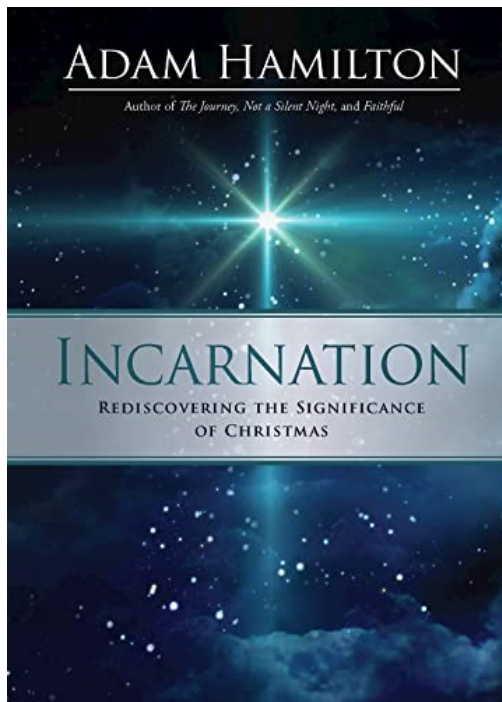
You may also **text**  
giving to:

**844-210-1179**

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



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



**Seekers Sunday School** invites everyone to our Zoom Christmas study and fellowship. If you would like to join us please let us know so we can order a book for you. We will meet on Sunday evenings at 7 pm for this study in December. The first Sunday to meet will be November 26 at 7 pm. For Zoom links, please call the church office or go to the website at [www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net).



*Hello 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*  
Treasurer, TUMC



**Weekly Recurring Meetings where everyone is invited:**

- Sack lunch ministry each Sunday at 9:15am in the narthex.  
Everyone is welcome to help. For more information, please contact Don Ketchum.
- Seekers Sunday school every Sunday at 9:00am in the parlor.
- Pastor-led Bible study every Tuesday via zoom at 5:00pm.
- Prayer meeting every Wednesday via zoom at 2:15pm.
- Sunday school meetings every Thursday via zoom at 3:00 p.m.

*Please call Cynthia for zoom links or visit our website at [www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net).*

**Trinity is asking for volunteers to...**

..... broadcast our worship service live on Facebook (on rotation).

..... help with the Family Life Committee alongside Alisa Roberts, Carol Lewis, & Sandra Dance. Family Life is responsible for our social activities, e.g., July 4th luncheon and sing-along, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving luncheon, Super Chili Bowl Cook-off, and “Fat Sunday instead” (Sunday before Ash Wednesday).

..... read at our Sunday’s worship services, on rotation.

..... help in the church office with very light clerical duties such as answering phones, assisting visitors, and other tasks alike. Help is needed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am -2pm.

..... serve refreshments and clean up after church on the 1st Sunday of every month.

..... donate refreshments such as cookies, doughnuts, sweet breads and beverages to serve after the first Sunday worship services; please contact Stacie Brown.

If you are led to serve in these areas, or any other ministries not mentioned, please contact Cynthia in the church office or Harriet Phillips.



**Trinity UMC Prayer Team †**

**Come  
Let Us  
Pray**



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



this  
and  
that

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND CAROLS!

Sunday, December 10th, after the worship service—  
Please join us in the gym for a “Tamales” lunch and singing  
Christmas carols.

### CHRISTMAS EVE FELLOWSHIP

We are continuing our tradition of fellowship following our  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (6 pm on Dec 24th)*.  
Please bring treats to share with our church family.  
Please bring your treats in a container that you do not want  
returned to you (disposable).  
Please contact Stacie Brown if you have any questions.



**W**e are grateful to God as He continues to bless Trinity’s care package ministry. We teamed with adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities from the Unicorn Center and the Arc of San Antonio on several projects this year. Together we provided:

- ⇒4,800 sack lunches for low-income patients at Methodist HealthCare clinics
- ⇒150 bags of hygiene supplies to refugees at the border
- ⇒50 backpacks filled with cold weather supplies for the homeless
- ⇒240 bottles of water and snacks to hospital staff during the heat of the summer
- ⇒96 backpacks filled with school supplies for children with a parent in jail
- ⇒50 bags with diapers and wipes for young mothers at Providence Place
- ⇒355 gifts of crafts and art supplies to seniors for Easter and Christmas
- ⇒270 gifts of crafts to adults with intellectual/ developmental disabilities for Christmas
- ⇒200 bags of groceries to children likely to miss meals during spring break
- ⇒48 gifts of craft supplies to children at the Methodist Children’s Home for Christmas



Thank you to everyone who participated! How blessed we are that Trinity gives us so many opportunities to help our struggling neighbors. Jason Brown will be leading us in Christmas caroling and cookie decorating as we celebrate with our friends at Unicorn and the Arc on December 19 & 20. Please let Don Ketchum know if you are interested in joining the fun at 210/827-2527.



Preparation by Trinity



Packing by adults with IDD



Care packages distributed free through partnering charities



# Christmas Bells are Ringing

## 2023 Holiday Handbell Concert Series

Sunday 12/3  
4:00 pm

First UMC of Boerne  
205 James St, 78006

Tuesday 12/5  
7:00 pm

Army Residence Community (ARC)  
7400 Crestway, 78239

Thursday 12/7  
7:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Church  
9944 Leslie 78254

Monday 12/11

Private Event

Tuesday 12/12  
7:00 pm

San Antonio Central Library  
600 Soledad, 78205

Friday 12/15  
7:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church  
6720 Broadway, 78209

Sunday 12/17  
3:00 pm

Trinity Baptist Church  
319 E. Mulberry, 78212  
(w/ Heart of Texas Concert Band)



[RiverCityRingers.org](http://RiverCityRingers.org)



[RiverCityRingersSA](https://www.facebook.com/RiverCityRingersSA)

Concerts are free and open to the public. Donations appreciated!

River City Ringers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Artwork designed by pikisuperstar/freepik

There will be a container for donations in the Narthex starting this Sunday for the month of December.



**Sandra Banks Dance**  
**CEO/Founder**



**The Arbutus Place is seeking donations of socks (adult and children) and bags of beans/rice for Holiday Joy to those in need.**



**Please contact Sandra at [thearbutusplace@gmail.com](mailto:thearbutusplace@gmail.com) or call 210-480-2969 for drop off or pickup.**



**PARTNERS:**

