

# TRINITY MONTHLY

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOD'S TRUTH THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE



## Time, Talents & Treasure

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

In order to see things as they truly are it is necessary to turn one's attention from time to time to things that are often hidden from our sight. You can't really understand how Trinity works without recognizing the legions of faithful volunteers. Some are front and center during worship like our musicians, singers, readers and worship

assistants. Others are hard at work behind the scenes preparing service elements, helping to work the sound booth, broadcasting the service on the radio and internet, and others are somewhere in the middle ushering, greeting and hosting. Of course there is the Altar Guild helping to prepare for worship and caring for the sacraments. But you may not know that after the services there is much done by volunteers during the week.

*(continued)*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

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**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Not only that but our Sunday School is volunteer-led, as are most ministries of the church, which are led by those who volunteer and also participate in the committees which direct most of what we do. Volunteers help us keep the building secure, work on and oversee projects, feed members and guests, count the offerings and enter them into the system. And there is much more.

Although most people who serve behind the scenes are happy to remain behind the scenes I would like to highlight and express gratitude for those who enter in our giving. While this was done in the past by our longtime faithful brother and employee of the church Dan Scott, it is now in the capable hands of a trio of our members: Barb Piatt, Laurie Maurer and Cheryl Phillips. They have taken on the task of entering the tithes and offerings, and helping Trinity to streamline that process by going through each of the numerous accounts that have existed across the years and consolidating them into something better. Some of those accounts have not been used in many years or are no longer associated with Trinity. For instance ELCA World Hunger will no longer be a giving option through Trinity. Tax deductible donations can still be sent directly to ELCA World Hunger, but they should not be sent into Trinity. Changes like this help us to see clearly how much money we truly have to operate as opposed to how much is sent in. That work is helping us be more faithful, accountable and effective stewards of the church's finances. They are doing a great job and we are grateful for their help.

This year you will see a difference that is going to help both them and all of us a great deal. When you receive your giving envelopes you will notice they look a little different as they bear our new logo, and have only two giving designations: 1. "Where it is needed most" which means there are no restrictions on how we can put your gift to work. Those gifts will go into the General Fund where they are most certainly needed. 2. "Other" this designation is for giving a gift which is meant for a specific ministry or account. When you check that box be sure to write on the envelope where you would like that gift used. Of course if you need a hand we are always here for you in the church office, just call or stop by.

These are just a couple of ways that the participation of volunteers are helping to bless us all. You, too, can make an impact. God has blessed you with gifts and skills that are a blessing meant to share. I encourage you to get involved as a volunteer at Trinity. You'll be amazed at what God will help you to do. If you're not sure where to get started, call or stop by the church office and speak with Wendy Schreffler, she's an expert at helping folks get connected. Thank you to all of you who give of your time, talents and treasure here at Trinity!

In Christ,



*Rev. K. McClain*  
Pastor Kevin McClain  
Lead Pastor

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



## PLEASE WELCOME CHARLES ROBERTSON

We are pleased to welcome Charles Robertson who joined us in January as our new facilities manager. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and give him a warm welcome when you see him around the church!

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, Feb 14th | 11am & 7pm

Trinity invites you to begin your Lenten journey at one of two Ash Wednesday Communion Services on Wednesday, February 14th. The 11am service is designed for those available during the day, while the 7pm service provides an evening option.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent, a time to examine personal faith journeys and to recommit lives to the Lord. The imposition of ashes, a reminder of human mortality and of cleansing, will be offered as part of each service.



## HYMN OF THE MONTH

One of the things that makes Trinity special is the variety of worship services we offer. Each service has its own revered traditions, music, community, and personality. While continuing to respect these differences, we also want to cultivate greater unity across our church. We believe singing is a gift from God that allows us to worship Him together. So starting this month, we will have a featured "Hymn of the Month" that every service will incorporate. Our hope is over time we will accumulate beloved hymns that all Trinity members know, regardless of which service they usually attend.

Hymns unite us through rich theology and beautiful lyrics imprinted on our hearts. Imagine attending a church-wide event or service and hearing hundreds lift their voices as one in song! For January, our featured hymn has been "In Christ Alone" and in February we will highlight "Jesus Paid It All." We pray this monthly hymn unites us and enriches our worship as one diverse body.

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

## SPRING CLEANING

Happy New Year, friends! As you tidy up and declutter in the new year, please keep in mind our Trinity Rummage Sale coming up on May 10-11th. We would be overjoyed if you could set aside any quality items to donate closer to the sale. We unfortunately don't have storage space just yet, but we'll gladly take your treasures off your hands this spring. The proceeds from our sale will go to the wonderful Operation Christmas Child organization which brings holiday joy to children in need around the world. Just imagine how your generous donations can make a child's face light up!

When the time comes, we'll send a friendly reminder for rummage contributions. Every little piece makes a difference! Thank you in advance for keeping us in mind during your new year clean slate. Wishing you a happy and healthy new year ahead! Please contact Dawn Forbes at dawn@trinityashland.org or (419) 289-2126 if you have any questions.

## CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

 508 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

 Phone: 419-289-2126

 Fax: 419-289-1381

 trinityashland.org

And of course, you are always welcome to stop by Trinity's office, Monday - Thursday, 9am-5pm!

## CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Let's shower our cherished members over 85 with lots of love and well-wishes as they celebrate their February birthdays!

**Shirley Reed** - February 1st

**Bernard Wolf** - February 4th

**James Prinz** - February 5th

**Larry Sears** - February 28th

### **Birthdays we missed in January— our apologies!**

**William Hawkins** - January 5th

**Rebecca Humrichouser** - January 17th



### TODDLER TIME CONTINUES

Thursdays | 10:30-11:30am | Jack's Place

Join us for Toddler Time on Thursdays! This is a great chance to get your little one out of the house for playtime with other preschoolers while you connect with other moms and caregivers. We have many toys, activities and plenty of space for the kiddos to run around, explore and burn off energy in Jack's Place. Join us for this no-cost time of fun and connection. Toddler Time will be offered through March 21st, but will not take place on February 1st in order to accommodate the Father-Daughter Dance set-up. Please note: When Ashland City Schools are closed or delayed, we will not have Toddler Time.



### FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Friday, Feb 2nd | 6-9pm | Jack's Place

Fathers and daughters are welcome to share in this special event that celebrates the unique and precious bond between fathers and daughters. The cost is \$50 per pair, and \$5 for each additional daughter. Photos will be taken by a photographer for a \$5 cost. Follow the QR code for more information and to register. Space is limited!



### OPEN GYM

Thursdays starting Feb 8th  
6:30-7:30pm | Jack's Place

Thursdays in February, all kids up to Grade 8 are welcome to come and play during our free open gym time! There will be basketball, dodgeball and other games, giving kids a great chance to hang with friends. Dates for Open Gym include February 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. Come when you can and bring a friend!

### SAVE THE DATE:

### GROWING IN GRACE

Sunday, Mar 3rd

1:30 -3:30pm | Location: TBD

Moms and daughters, this event is for you! Mark your calendars for this special time. More details will be announced soon, and registration will open February 5th.

## ASHLAND SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY RESPITE PROGRAM

Feb 10th & 24th | 4-8pm | Outside of Jack's Place

Trinity partners with the wonderful ministry of Ashland Special Needs. Every other Saturday, Trinity is a host church as they care for kiddos with special needs for a few hours to give their parents a break. If you are interested in volunteering with this meaningful ministry, please contact Charity Wolfe at [charity@trinityashland.org](mailto:charity@trinityashland.org). She will provide you with more information and get you started with the volunteer application.

### MS AND HS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 10-11am | Youth Rooms

Students can join us on Sunday mornings for a time of community and discipleship during the Sunday School hour. We gather in the Youth Rooms. This month, Youth Sunday school will be offered on 2/4, 2/11 and 2/25. Please note, there will be no Youth Sunday School on 2/18.



### YOUTH BIBLE STUDY (YBS)

Wednesdays | 6:30-7:30pm | Youth Space

On Wednesdays starting January 10th, students in Grades 4-12 are welcome to join for a time of community, growth and faith. This year, we are exploring the Gospel of John together. Doors open at 6pm, and we gather in the Youth Rooms. Join us any time, and bring your friends!



## ALL-CHURCH BOWLING AT LURAY LANES

Sunday, Mar 17th | 2-4pm | LuRay Lanes

Trinity is taking over the lanes on for some all-church bonding. Cost includes bowling, shoes and pizza, just \$5 per person at the door. Put on your green! We want to see your whole family there - sign up today!



## CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Tuesdays, Feb 6th - Mar 26th | 4:15pm | Jack's Place | \$8/class

Another eight-week Creative Movement session begins meeting weekly on Tuesday February 6th at 4:15pm and runs through March 26th. Come and give it a try! Walk-ins are welcome every week. Classes are open to those 18 months old and older; \$8 a class. A low-key, fun, open-ended atmosphere is provided for all as we explore the basics of movement and dance.

Enrollment forms with more information are available in the church office. Feel free to call Mark Koehler at (419) 281-8948 if you have questions.



## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sundays, Apr 7th-May 5th | 10-10:50am  
North Patio Room

This is an opportunity for anyone interested in becoming a member! This class will take place in the North Patio Room on the church's lower level.



**Sunday School Dates:** Feb 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

**Trinity Kids Dates:** Feb 4th, 11th and 25th

**No Trinity Kids on Feb 18th**

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## SAVE THE DATES: GIRLS' NIGHT OUT EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Girls' Night Out events, and we'll see you there!

- Monday, February 5th, 5:30-7:30pm
- Monday, March 4th, 6-8pm
- Monday, April 15th, 6-8pm

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (WITH CHILDREN'S PROGRAM)

Thursdays | 9-10:30am | Mitchell Hall

Our Women's BSF will be studying the Book of John as a community in the weeks ahead. We meet at Trinity and offer a children's program (infant-preschool) during our time together. Find more information on Bible Study Fellowships at [bsfinternational.org](http://bsfinternational.org). We hope you'll join us!



## WOMEN'S BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

Wednesdays | 1:30pm | Meeting Rooms A & B

All women and their friends are welcome to join this conversational Bible study led by Pastor McClain.

# MEN'S MINISTRY

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS

Day and evening options

Our Men's BSF groups will be studying the Gospel of John in the weeks ahead. More information on BSF is available at [bsfinternational.org](http://bsfinternational.org).

- Our **day group** meets in the AU Student Dining Hall at Noon on Tuesdays.
- The **evening group** meets in the Trinity Community Room at 6:30pm on Mondays.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1st & 3rd Thursdays each month | 8am

This Thursday morning Bible study is open to all men and is led by Pastor McClain. We gather in Meeting Rooms A & B at Trinity.



# SENIOR MINISTRY

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## EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, Feb 16th | Noon | Lower Level Hallway

If you love creating original greeting cards, join us! Bring a packed lunch, and then craft handmade greeting cards to be used by staff and ministries at Trinity. Cards are also available for purchase, and all money received in February goes to the Beacon Afterschool Program.



## MNM'S LUNCH

Tuesday, Feb 20th | Noon | Jack's Place

Let's bring in the new year with fellowship! If you are a woman who is single, widowed or on your own, you are invited to join. On the menu is Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, carrots and pie. Please RSVP by February 15th by calling the church office. Cost is between \$5-\$7.



## EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, Feb 22nd | 6:30-8:30pm

Montessori Hallway

Shuffle up and deal! Join us in Jack's Place for a lively game night of Euchre. All skill levels are welcome and you don't need a partner to attend. Contact the office at (419) 289-2126 to RSVP and come enjoy an evening of cards and camaraderie.



## WOMEN'S CHOIR: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Rehearsals 7-8:30pm | Dates below

Let's have some girl time! Mark your calendars for the the Trinity Lutheran Church Women's Choir 2024! Our **rehearsals** will take place from 7-8:30pm on the following dates:

- Monday, Feb 5th
- Tuesday, Feb 13th
- Monday, Feb 19th
- Tuesday, Feb 27th
- Tuesday, Mar 5th
- Thursday, Mar 7th

Women's Choir **performances** will take place on Saturday, March 9th at the 5:30pm Folk Service, Sunday, March 10th at the 8:45am Traditional Service, and Sunday, March 10th at the 11am Praise Service. Come to the rehearsals that work on your schedule, and invite your friends! This is open to the community!



## CHERUB CHOIR

Sunday, Feb 11th | Praise Service

The Cherub Choir will sing for the 11am Praise Service on Sunday, February 11th in Jack's Place.



## NOTES OF JOY CHOIR

Sunday, Feb 25th | Traditional Service

The Notes of Joy Choir will sing for the 8:45am Traditional Service on Sunday, February 25th in the Sanctuary.



## UPDATE & THANK YOU!

We were delighted to have many of our families come and celebrate with us for our Epiphany celebration in January. Special thank you to Pastor Kevin, Kim Wolbert, Peggy Boggs and Robin Burkholder for helping make this event so special for the children and their families.

## JOB OPENINGS

**Preschool teacher:** We are looking for a caring, reliable person who loves working with preschool children. Mondays through Thursdays during the school year. Fridays, weekends, and summers off (few exceptions). 26-30 hours per week during the school year. Must be willing to meet state requirements and training.

**Office assistant:** 10-15 hours during school weeks, possibly substitute in the classroom. Plus, 5-10 hours total during the summer.

Please contact Cindy Duffey or Dawn Forbes at (419) 289-2126 or [montessori@trinityashland.org](mailto:montessori@trinityashland.org) for more details.



## BEACON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM UPDATE

Monday-Thursday | 3:30-5:15pm | Community Room

We are still accepting more students into the program! If you know of a family that may benefit from this program please reach out to Dawn Forbes at (419) 289-2126.

Looking forward to Valentine's Day, Beacon will be making a Valentine's gift for the seniors at Good Shepherd.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Sundays, Feb 18th–Mar 10th | 10–10:50am | Mitchell Hall

Pastor Kevin will teach this introductory class to third-grade children and their parents. Children beyond third grade are also welcome to participate. This is an opportunity for the church to partner with parents in teaching their children about the faith. We are excited to help in preparing your child for communion.

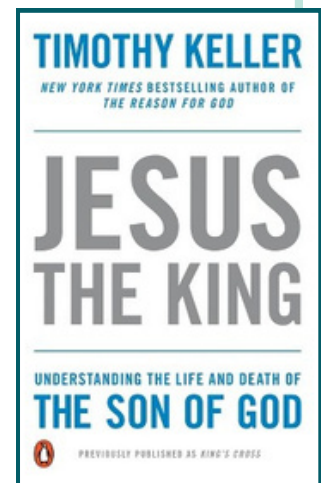
## LENT STUDY: JESUS THE KING

Options for Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings

The book, *Jesus the King*, by Tim Keller is a study on the book of Mark. Throughout the season of Lent, we will be offering two opportunities to join a weekly study:

- The **Sunday study group** will meet together in the Trinity Room on Sunday mornings from 10–10:50am. This group will meet February 18th – March 17th.
- The **Wednesday study group** will meet together in the Main Lounge on Wednesday evenings from 6–7pm. This group will meet February 21st – March 20th.

You can buy your own book, or you can buy one from the office and pick it up any time starting February 14th. The cost for the book is \$18. Sign up for either the Sunday or Wednesday group by following the QR code below to our event registration page.



## PRAYER EVENT: WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED

Sunday, Feb 11th | 10–10:45am | Trinity Room

As we prepare to move into the season of Lent, we are planning a special time of Sunday morning prayer and fellowship. This event will take place during the Sunday school hour, and is open to all. We hope you will join us.

**Sunday School Dates:** Feb 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

**Trinity Kids Dates:** Feb 4th, 11th and 25th

**No Trinity Kids on Feb 18th**



**MORE INFO &  
SIGN-UPS FOR  
THESE EVENTS**

# GET INVOLVED



## SONETWORK ENGLISH BIBLE CAMPS

Summer 2024 | Applications due Feb 29th

You are invited to participate in the SONetwork English Bible Camps in Eastern Europe this summer. The trip to Albania will be from June 26th through July 15th, and Slovakia from July 4th through July 22nd.

To be part of the trip, you must complete the application and turn it in by February 29th. We encourage you to sign up today using the QR code below, and let the missions committee know you have registered. Trinity's Council has approved the church helping pay half the cost for members to go on the trip. The leadership feels that encouraging and supporting missions is healthy for the church and Christian growth and worldview.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Rob Pool at [rpool35@gmail.com](mailto:rpool35@gmail.com) & (585) 330-6072, or Kim Pool at [kimpool155@gmail.com](mailto:kimpool155@gmail.com) & (315) 398-2610.

We encourage you to pray and consider being part of a trip that will be transformational for yourself and others.



**MORE INFO  
& SIGN-UP  
FOR THIS  
OPPORTUNITY**





## PLEASE PRAY WITH US

If you would like to participate in praying for the needs of our church and others, please sign up on our church website to be included in receiving prayer request emails. You can do so by visiting [trinityashland.org](http://trinityashland.org). Select "Get Involved" in the top menu, then click "Subscribe." When filling out the subscription form, select "Prayer Requests" from the list of interests. Feel free to contact the church office with further questions. Thank you for caring for our community through prayer!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Do you know someone who needs a little extra help or someone to listen? We can help. Stephen Ministry is centered around caring through compassionate listening. Stephen Ministry is a distinctively Christian caregiving ministry. Lay ministers are extensively trained to help through listening, prayer and conversation. Please get in touch with the church office or Michelle Vanderzyden at [michelle@trinityashland.org](mailto:michelle@trinityashland.org) for more information, or to connect with a Stephen Minister.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

### Welcoming February donations

Since February is a Valentine's Day celebration, let's show love to children needing to know about Jesus. We are asking for donations of coloring books (sketch pads) and crayons (or markers, colored pencils) for our Operation Christmas Child ministry. Children love to be creative, and this activity can be a release for them to showcase their artistic talent. Please help us fill the baskets in the Gathering Space and outside Jack's Place.

We are the hands of God to bring Jesus to children worldwide. Blessings to all! Contact Ruth Ann Linder at (330) 683-0096 with questions.





## BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, Feb 26th | 10:30am-4pm | Jack's Place

Our upcoming blood drive will be held on Monday, February 26th. The drive will be located in Jack's place and will start at 10:30am and conclude at 4pm.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: ACCESS' ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Thursday, Feb 15th | 6-8pm | Mount Vernon Estate

Join ACCESS at Mount Vernon Estate for their 15th annual "Love Your Neighbor" fundraising banquet. It will be an evening of celebration as they reflect on their successes, show love to their neighbors and fellowship together as a community. This promises to be a truly special occasion filled with joy, laughter and meaningful connections. Their team is working hard on an unforgettable evening with delicious food, inspiring speakers and engaging stories. Whether you're a long-time supporter of their ministry or new to the community - all are welcome!

### **Get your tickets through one of these options:**

#### **Option 1: Mail**

Mail a note indicating the number of tickets and the names for each ticket along with your check and phone number to: ACCESS, 508 Claremont Ave., Ashland, OH 44805

#### **Option 2: Call**

Call the office and reserve tickets: (419) 903-0099

#### **Option 3: Scan the QR code**

Follow the code below to secure your tickets for the banquet.



# WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY

## What's On the Menu

### Shredded Chicken Sandwiches

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Shredded chicken sandwiches, tater tots, coleslaw and assorted pies.

FEB  
7

### Salisbury Steak

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Salisbury Steak, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots and strawberry cake.

FEB  
14

### Shepherd's Pie

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Shepherd's pie, salad and cherry pie.

FEB  
21

### Goulash

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Goulash, corn muffin and jello & fruit.

FEB  
28

5:15–6pm in Jack's Place  
Suggested \$5 donation

### WEEKEND SERVICES & TIMES

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#### SATURDAY NIGHT:

FOLK SERVICE  
5:30pm

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#### SUNDAY MORNING:

TRADITIONAL SERVICE  
8:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10am

PRAISE SERVICE  
11am



**RSVP encouraged by Tuesday.**

**Call ahead for carry-out. Please call:**

Peggy: (419) 210-5226 | Robin: (419) 632-5097



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



508 CENTER STREET, ASHLAND, OH

(419) 289-2126 | TRINITYASHLAND.ORG



# ATTENDANCE & GIVING

DECEMBER 2023 ATTENDANCE		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
Dec 3rd, 2023	88	312
Dec 10th, 2023	55	441
Dec 17th, 2023 <i>*This includes the musical</i>	53	680
Dec 23rd-24th, 2023 <i>Usual weekend services</i>	N/A	118
Dec 24th, 2023 <i>Christmas Eve PM Services</i>	N/A	927
Dec 25th, 2023	N/A	59
Dec 31st, 2023	N/A	241

***We are celebrating that Trinity's Christmas Eve/Day attendance of 986 was the highest since Pre-Covid in 2019 (1,168). 2020 was 564, 2021 was 820 and 2022 was 904.***

*The financial report for December 2023 will be included in the March 2024 newsletter. Thank you for your patience as we transition to a new financial system. We appreciate your grace during this time and look forward to sharing the financials with you soon.*

# COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

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## COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM DECEMBER MEETING

### **Pastor's Remarks:**

Pastor Kevin encouraged the council to look within the congregation for new council member nominations to replace those whose terms end this year. The visa process continues for Pastor Georg Warnecke's upcoming 3-month sabbatical at Trinity. We look forward to welcoming him in April!

### **Finance:**

New finance software roll-out and report formatting continues. The council approved moving interest earned on restricted funds into those funds annually.

### **Outreach:**

The committee continues to work through grant details. Melissa See and Shane Ross have completed their terms on the Outreach Committee. Angela Baker joins as the new council rep, with Steve Strine continuing another term.

### **Property:**

Basement waterproofing work continues. Trinity Properties rentals continue, with upgrades at rentals.

### **Safety:**

Discussed parking lot security for Christmas events. Adding lower level lighting and reviewing door locks. Getting replacement AED pads. Discussing building policies with non-member youth.

### **Worship:**

Christmas Eve attendance was the highest since pre-pandemic. Lots of musical groups and special services planned for the start of the year.

### **Senior Ministries:**

Trinity Travelers women's group had a December trip and is planning more. Monthly MnM's and Luther Club senior groups continue.

### **Women & Children:**

Recent Girl's Night Out event. Upcoming Father-Daughter dance, Toddler Time and Open Gym.

### **Personnel:**

Formed an Affiliation Committee and held first Council Corner. Ongoing hiring process for Communications role.

### **Youth:**

Ten people attended respite care training. Upcoming concert event has a need for parent chaperones.

### **Call Committee:**

Reached out for more information from the December applicant but no response yet. No new candidates at this time.

*The council covered other administrative items and remains dedicated to guiding the church in the year ahead. We appreciate the congregation's prayers and partnership as we pursue God's mission together.*