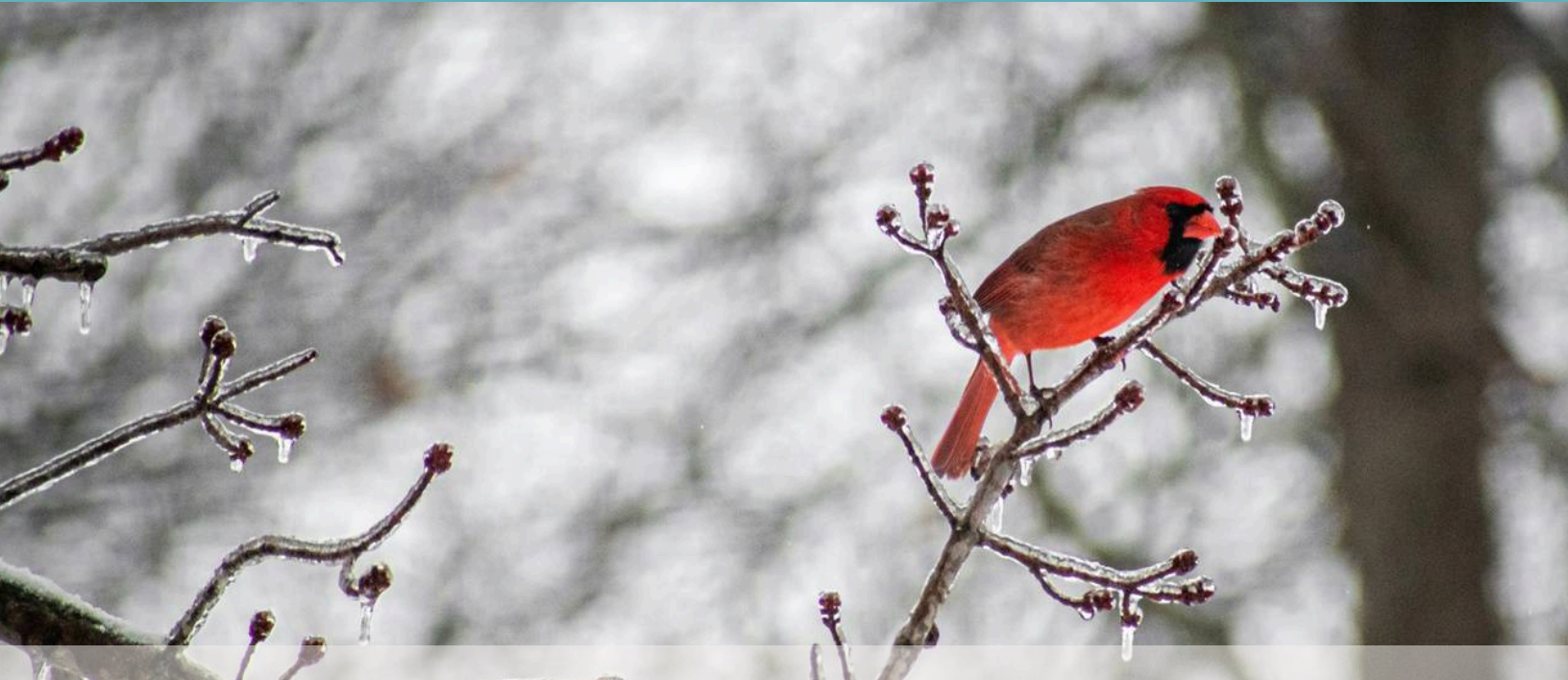


TRINITY MONTHLY

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



New Year, New Life

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

What makes a year “new”? If each year were filled with the same things, the same troubles, the same blessings, the same experience day after day, could it really be called new? The new year has long been seen as a time of new beginnings. A new year gives us the hope that things might be different this time around, that things will be better as time moves on.

Yet, in order for things to be truly different in our lives, our lives

must be truly different. If you were to live the same way, be the same person, make the same choices, could you really be called new? Of course not. New life is found in new living.

As Christians we celebrate the gift of a new life through faith in Jesus Christ. We celebrate that because of Jesus there really is a new beginning because he gives us the power to live a new life of love toward God and toward each other. Will this year really be “New”? By God’s grace it can be.
(continued)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

[Christmas Gratitude | 3](#)

[Welcome New Staff | 4](#)

[Senior Ministry | 11](#)

[Get Involved | 14](#)

This year we can lay hold of a new life as we live out our faith in Christ day by day. We see our Lord at work through his many blessings here at Trinity as we welcome new faces to our congregation and staff, there really is new life to live together.


I pray for your new year, that it will truly be new, that your life will be renewed in Christ as you follow him in this year ahead. May your eyes be opened anew to God's Word, may you know that your prayers are heard by our Lord, and may your thoughts, words, and deeds be formed into a new and greater life in this year ahead.

In Christ,



Rev. K. McClain
Pastor Kevin McClain
Lead Pastor

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

 508 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805

 Phone: (419) 289-2126

 Fax: 419-289-1381

 trinityashland.org

Of course, you are always welcome to stop by Trinity's office:

Monday - Thursday
9am-5pm

WORSHIP WITH US

Folk Service

Saturday Night - 5:30pm (Sanctuary)

Traditional Service

Sunday Morning - 8:45am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School

Sunday Morning - 10am

Praise Service

Sunday Morning - 11am (Jack's Place)

Your Generosity Makes a Difference



You can securely give to the ministries of Trinity.

All of our Sunday messages are recorded and posted for viewing on our YouTube channel!





CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Jan 26th | 7pm

Save the date! All Trinity members are invited to a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, at 7pm.

At this meeting, we will:

- Vote on a constitutional amendment to allow the annual budget to be approved at the start of the year.
- Approve the 2025 Congregational Budget.

This adjustment will streamline our budgeting process, ensuring ministries can begin each year fully supported. Your participation is vital as we make these important decisions for the future of Trinity.

A BEAUTIFUL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we conclude the joyful season of Advent, and the celebration of Christmas, there is a heartfelt gratitude for so much. We are truly thankful to each of the volunteers, musicians, and ministry leaders who offered their care, time, and service to create a warm and welcoming environment, allowing our community to celebrate God's presence and blessings during this sacred time. We are also immensely grateful to our church leadership and pastoral staff for their many contributions throughout this season! If you haven't already, consider taking a moment to share with our staff members how the gifts of their presence and efforts have impacted you during this season.

More than anything, we are grateful to God, and the life that has been shared with us through the gift of Jesus Christ! May God continue to guide and bless our community—both Trinity and the greater Ashland area—abundantly in the new year ahead.





WELCOME MACKENZIE EVERY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

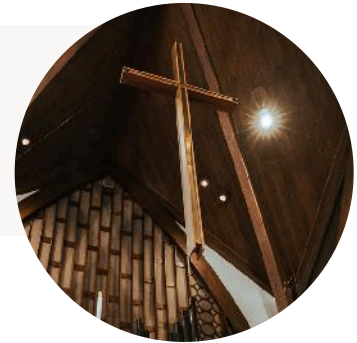
We're thrilled to welcome Mackenzie Every to the Trinity family! Born and raised in Ashland, Mackenzie recently returned to her hometown after living in Columbus. She and her husband, Austin, have deep roots at Trinity, where Mackenzie attended preschool and catechism. With a love for reading, playing and coaching volleyball, and spending time outdoors with friends, Mackenzie is eager to connect with the congregation and grow both personally and in service to the church.

WELCOME BEN MOLLOHAN: ASSOCIATE PASTOR

We're excited to welcome Pastor Benjamin Mollohan who is joining Trinity Lutheran Church as Associate Pastor, bringing over a decade of ministry experience and a heart for proclaiming Christ. Originally from Gallipolis, Ohio, he holds a Master of Divinity from Liberty University and most recently served as Associate Pastor of Worship and Youth at Moundsville Baptist Church in West Virginia. Pastor Ben and his wife, Kayla, have three children—Judah, Augustine, and Imogen—and enjoy hiking, reading, and family time. While coming from a Baptist tradition, he has been drawn to the Lutheran Church, sharing, "I have become increasingly convinced that the Lutheran view most clearly proclaims Christ for the world and most adheres to the witness of the Scriptures." Now pursuing ordination in the Lutheran Church through the colloquy process, he looks forward to becoming part of the Trinity community and sharing God's love in this new chapter of ministry.



EXCITING NEWS & AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT TRINITY



As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the generosity and support that sustain Trinity's mission in Ashland. Your contributions have enabled our church to flourish and serve the community in countless ways.

We are excited to welcome Pastor Benjamin Mollohan as our new Associate Pastor. His ministry promises to bring additional care and leadership to our church family. However, this new role also comes with financial commitments, and we are currently facing a budget deficit. Your support is essential to covering this need and sustaining the vital work of our church. If you are able, please consider increasing your support or beginning a regular contribution.

GIVING OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- **Cash or Checks:**

These can be brought or mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate.

- **Online Giving:**

- Bank ACH: Set up monthly or weekly contributions to the Operating Fund with no processing fees.
- Planning Center: Offers one-time or recurring giving options, with flexibility in fund designation. (A 1.616% fee applies, with an option for donors to cover this fee.)

If you need assistance with setting up your giving, Lindsey is available to help. Reach out to her at finance@trinityashland.org for support, especially if you prefer traditional methods.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to support Trinity's mission and ministry. Your commitment makes a difference as we continue to grow and serve together.



Scan the QR code to give safely and securely to the ministries of Trinity.



CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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

Norma Hiner | January 3rd
William Hawkins | January 5th
Donna Wolf | January 16th

Rebecca Humrichouser | January 17th
Alice Fetzer | January 19th
Judy Eagle | January 21st

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY

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

JAN
1

Happy New Year!

No meal will be served.

JAN
15

Chicken Pot Pie

Salad & Chocolate Cake with White Frosting

JAN
8

Beef & Noodles

Mashed Potatoes, Corn, & Cherry Poke Cake

JAN
22

Goulash

Corn Bread & Cheesecake

JAN
29

Meat Loaf

Scalloped Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, & Brownies

RSVP required by Monday.

Call ahead for carry-out.

Please call:

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

**Please note all meals are subject to change*

TODDLER TIME IS BACK!

Begins Jan 16th | 10:30-11:30am | Jack's Place

Let your toddlers burn off energy while you enjoy fellowship with other moms at Toddler Time! This free program offers a safe space for kids to run, play, and have fun under the supervision of former preschool teacher Joyce Picking. Plus, Mr. Mark Koehler will bring creative movement activities to keep the little ones engaged. Don't miss this great opportunity for fun and connection!



YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH GAME NIGHT THROWBACK: RETRO Pictionary

Wednesday, Jan 15th | 6-7pm | Youth Room

Kick off the new year with some nostalgic fun! Join us on January 15th in the Youth Room for Retro 1990s Pictionary and lite snacks. Bring your creativity and your competitive spirit as we draw and guess our way through a night of laughs and memories. Don't miss this relaxed and fun-filled evening with friends—sign up through the QR code!



All youth events will be held from 6-7pm and open to grades 7th-12th

JAN
15th

Game Night Throwback: Retro Pictionary

Kick off the new year with some nostalgic fun! Join us on January 15th in the Youth Room for Retro 1990s Pictionary and lite snacks. Bring your creativity and your competitive spirit as we draw and guess our way through a night of laughs and memories. Don't miss this relaxed and fun-filled evening with friends!



SIGN UP

FEB
19th

Blow-Up Pickleball Night

Get ready to serve up some laughs on February 19th in Jack's Place for Blow-Up Pickleball! Learn the game of Pickleball while rocking your favorite blow-up costume. We'll start on one side of the room during dinner and expand as the night goes on. It's the perfect chance to try something new, have some laughs, and enjoy great company.



SIGN UP

MAR
26th

Youth Easter Outreach Project

Spread some love this Easter season by joining us on March 26th in the Youth Room for a special outreach project! We'll create Easter gifts to brighten the days of our Trinity shut-ins. Lite snacks will be provided as we come together to make a difference in our church family. Your time and care can bring joy to someone in need!



SIGN UP

APR
30th

Youth Indoor Mini Golf

On April 30th, grab your putter and join us in the Youth Room for a night of indoor mini golf fun! We'll transform the church into a mini golf course with plenty of challenges and laughs along the way. Lite snacks will keep your energy up as you sink your putts. Don't miss this fun and creative night!



SIGN UP

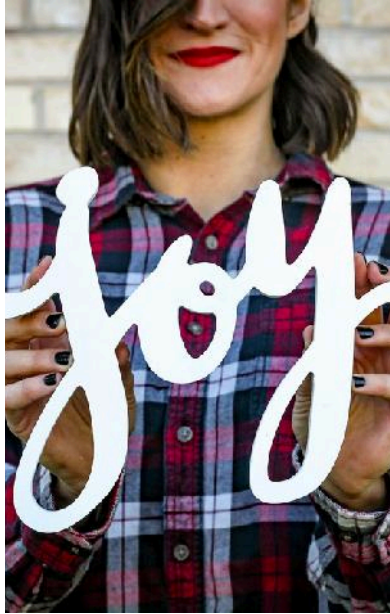
MAY
21st

Senior Dinner Celebration

On May 21st, we're hosting a special dinner in the Youth Room to celebrate our graduating seniors! Come honor their accomplishments, hear their advice for underclassmen, and join us in praying for their future. This informal gathering is a wonderful way to connect and support our senior class as they move into the next exciting chapter of their lives.



SIGN UP



GIRL'S NIGHT OUT: JOY IN JANUARY!

Monday, Jan 13th | 5:30pm | Church Home



Join us for a fun and meaningful evening as we kick off the new year with laughter and connection. We'll enjoy pizza, popcorn, and movie candy while watching something funny (a movie or comedian).

Cost: \$5 (covers food)

As part of the evening, we'll also take time for a special service project—writing notes to those who have lost loved ones this past year. Come for the fun, stay for the fellowship, and let's bring some joy to January! Sign up using the QR code.

MUSIC MINISTRY

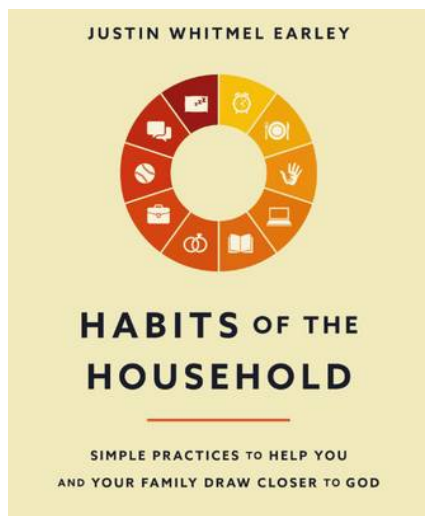
HIGH PRAISE FUNDRAISER PANCAKE BREAKFAST & REHEARSALS

Sunday, Jan 26th | 10am | During the Sunday School Hour

Mark your calendars for the High Praise Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour! All donations will go toward offsetting the cost of the High Praise trip in April. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and support our choir as they prepare for this exciting opportunity. High Praise will also be singing at both Sunday services that day.

Additionally, High Praise will meet for rehearsals on three Wednesdays in January: January 8th, 15th, and 22nd, as they continue to prepare for the upcoming performances. We look forward to seeing you there!





HABITS OF THE HOUSEHOLD: SUNDAY SCHOOL SHORT TERM STUDY FOR ADULTS WITH FAMILIES



Jan 5th - Feb 2nd | 10-10:50am | North Patio Room

Discover how small, intentional habits can shape your family's spiritual life. Habits of the Household explores how finding meaning in the daily chaos of raising kids can have a lasting impact on their spiritual formation—and yours too. Come learn how to cultivate habits that reflect your faith and transform your family life. Sign up using the QR code, or just show up—everyone is welcome!



SAVE THE DATE: FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE



Friday, Feb 7th | 6-9pm | Jack's Place

Create unforgettable memories at our Father-Daughter Dance! Dads and daughters will enjoy a special evening together, celebrating their unique bond.

Cost: \$50 per couple, \$10 for each additional daughter

Registration: Opens for members on January 13th, and for the public on January 20th.

Invitations will be coming soon! Don't miss this opportunity to share a meaningful experience and strengthen the connection that will last a lifetime. For questions, please contact Dawn Forbes at dawn@trinityashland.org.

LUNCH WITH PASTOR BEN

Tuesday, Jan 14th | Noon | Jack's Place

Join us for a special opportunity to meet our new Associate Pastor, Ben Mollohan, and enjoy a delicious meal together. The menu includes Million Dollar Spaghetti Pie, side salad, garlic bread, and yellow cake. This is a wonderful chance to share in fellowship, get to know Pastor Ben, and welcome him to Trinity. Register by calling the church office. Come on out and be part of this warm and friendly gathering—we can't wait to see you there!



MNM'S: MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Tuesday, Jan 21st | Noon | Jack's Place

Women on their own are invited to join us for the next MnM's (Making New Memories) lunch! Enjoy a delicious meal of lasagna, side salad, garlic bread, and cheesecake while connecting with others in a warm and welcoming setting. The cost is \$7, and RSVPs can be made by contacting the church office. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful opportunity to share good food and great company!

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, Jan 17th | Noon | Lower Level Hallway

Do you enjoy making greeting cards? Join us for Expressions of Faith, a creative time for anyone interested in crafting cards. Bring your lunch and any ideas you'd like to share—we'd love to see your creativity in action! No sign up needed.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, Jan 23rd | 6:30pm | Jack's Place

If you enjoy playing Euchre, join us for a fun evening of cards! You don't need a partner to register—just bring your enthusiasm and we'll pair you up. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office. We look forward to a great time together!

Luther Club Break

*Luther Club will not meet in January or February.
Stay tuned for updates on future gatherings!*

STORY OF IMPACT

True Freedom Ministries: Transforming Lives with the Gospel

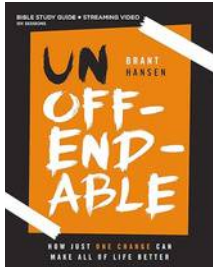


What an incredible story of transformation! Thanks to the generous support of Trinity's Outreach Fund, True Freedom Ministries has been able to expand its outreach in a powerful way, impacting the lives of thousands of men behind bars. In 2023/2024, the ministry's reach grew to include six additional prisons, with over 20,000 inmates in attendance. This is an incredible milestone in their mission to serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) and bring the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to those who need it most.

Through Bible studies and character development classes, men and women in these prisons are not only hearing the Gospel but are also growing in their relationships with Jesus. The impact is profound: as hearts are changed, lives are transformed. Over 500 men have made commitments or been rededicated to Christ, and their stories of hope and redemption are just beginning. The work of True Freedom Ministries is not just about teaching the Gospel; it's about restoring families, transforming communities, and creating lasting change that reaches far beyond the prison walls.

As these men come to know the love of God, the Holy Spirit empowers them to live out that love in their lives and share it with others. The result is a ripple effect of healing and restoration that stretches across families and communities, offering hope where it seemed impossible.

True Freedom Ministries is dedicated to reaching Ohio's prisoners, homeless, and addicted with the truth of God's Word and the true freedom found only in Jesus Christ. Through this partnership, Trinity is part of something truly transformative. We are honored to be a part of this incredible ministry, and we look forward to seeing how the Gospel continues to change lives for eternity.



UNOFFENDABLE: **SHORT TERM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

Sundays, Jan 5th - Feb 9th | 10-10:50am | Trinity Room



Join us for an eye-opening study on how to experience the joy and freedom of becoming unoffendable. With deadpan humor and refreshing honesty, bestselling author Brant Hansen will guide us through why letting go of anger is a biblical choice, not just a nice idea. In this six-session video Bible study, Hansen explores how “righteous anger” may not be what it seems, and how forgiveness, rather than anger, is the response Christ calls us to in a world that often feels unjust.

Sign up using the QR code, or just join in! Video access is included for this powerful and practical study that will help you flourish in the way God intended. Don't miss this chance to change your perspective and experience a life of peace.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE

Sundays | 10-10:50am | All Ages

Please check out our website for a full list of Sunday School classes for all ages/stages of life. If you have questions about long and short term classes, contact Michelle Vanderzyden at the church office, or michelle@trinityashland.org.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES:

January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th

NOTE: No Sunday School on December 29th for the holidays.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: A LISTENING EAR FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sometimes, all we need is someone to listen. If you're looking for support and encouragement in the new year, a Stephen Minister may be just what you need. Stephen Ministers are trained lay ministers who provide confidential, one-on-one care to individuals going through difficult times.



If you're interested in receiving a Stephen Minister or learning how to become one, contact Michelle Vanderzyden at the church office for more information. Start the new year with the help and hope you deserve!



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH AND LIFE? COME TO ALPHA AND JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION.

Tuesdays, Jan 14th - Feb 25th | 5:30-7pm | AU

Join us for an abbreviated Alpha course where we'll dive into the essentials of the big questions of faith. Whether you're new to Christianity or looking to explore your faith further, Alpha offers a welcoming environment for open discussion with a wide variety of people. Sign up or just come as you are! Bring a friend and enjoy snacks, great conversation, and a chance to discuss the big questions of life in a casual, friendly setting. Everyone is welcome. Sign up using the QR code.



RADIO MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you push buttons, slide cards, operate a mouse, or adjust volume? Can you read a story aloud? If so, you're perfect for our Radio Ministry team! We're looking for volunteers to help broadcast our worship service to homebound members. It's an easy, behind-the-scenes way to share the Gospel. Training is provided. Interested? Contact Ron Marenchin at ron@trinityashland.org to get started!

October 2024 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
October 5-6, 2024	98	312
October 12-13, 2024	115	303
October 19-20, 2024	91	449
October 26-27, 2024	105	465

October 2024 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
10/6	\$27,065
10/13	\$23,463
10/20	\$13,206
10/27	\$28,396

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$814,350
DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,023,274
DEFICIT	-\$201,063
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$23,797

REGARDING GIVING ENVELOPES:

If you receive envelopes for giving but would like to discontinue receiving them, you may request this through emailing giving@trinityashland.org. Please include your name and address and we will confirm your request. You may continue to give electronically/paperless via our website.

**Newsletter receipt and operating fund amounts reflect information from two months prior, as approved and available at the time of newsletter composition.*

COUNCIL REPORT: DECEMBER 2024 MEETING

Meeting Highlights

Pastor's Opening Reflection

Pastor Kevin reflected on the humble arrival of Christ as an infant, emphasizing faith in the unexpected and the power of God revealed through humility. He encouraged the council to embody this faith through love and sacrifice in their work together.

Approval of Minutes

Gary moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Becky. Motion carried.

Staff Updates

- Pastor Ben Mollohan and MacKenzie Every began their roles this week.
- Rae Harris's last day as Communications Director is Thursday.
- Joellen Smalley has returned on a reduced schedule to assist with Christmas bulletins.
- Wendy Shreffler fell and broke her arm.

Old Business

- The 2025 Operations Budget was approved to present to the congregation at the January 26, 2025, meeting.
- A motion was passed to update the Constitution to require annual congregational approval of the budget.

Christian Education

- A "Birthday Party for Jesus" will replace K-6 Sunday School classes on December 22nd with a lesson, music, games, and cookie decorating.
- No Sunday School for children on December 29th.

Outreach

- The Outreach Committee received 337 ballots for fund distribution this year, with \$225,009 to allocate.
- The council approved the Outreach Funds grants as outlined in the distribution table.

Personnel Committee

- Holiday pay eligibility in the Employee Handbook was updated.
- Christmas bonuses were approved: \$250 for staff employed since July 1 and \$50 for staff employed at least 60 days.
- The council approved funding for a staff Christmas party.

Property and Grounds

- Approval was given for Kahls Electric to address wiring issues near the organ and piano.
- Barefoot Floors will install new flooring on the choir stage after the wiring project.

Worship and Music

- Christmas services include four Christmas Eve services (4pm, 6 pm, 7:30 pm, and 10pm) and a Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30am.
- Choirs will resume rehearsals the week of January 6th.

Youth Ministry

- Upcoming youth events:
 - Dec. 18th: Minute to Win It
 - Jan. 15th: Pictionary
 - Feb. 19th: Pickleball (with costumes)
 - March 26th: Outreach for shut-ins
 - April 30th: Mini Golf in the church
 - May 21th: Senior Dinner

Women and Children

- Kristen McClain is developing new baptism gifts and creating a schedule to connect with new parents.
- Toddler Time begins mid-January, and Girls' Night Out will feature a comedy movie night.
- Nursery renovations are progressing, with painting nearly complete.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn, followed by the Lord's Prayer.