

The Annual Christmas Brunch

Presented by
The United Methodist Women

December 2
10:00 a.m.

Tickets are \$15

See Frances Cunningham
for more information.



TRINITY UMC
5613 WESTERN AVE.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921
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The Bitter-Sweetness of Christmas

Rev. Rhonda Hobbs

While the holiday season is filled with joyful moments and happy celebrations, for many of us, there is also a bitter sweetness to the days ahead. Although the house is full of decorations and lights, there in the background is a dark empty spot for those of us who have loved ones who have died, or for those who have lost their jobs, or might be going through a divorce, or who are estranged from their families. Not everything about Christmas is merry.

You might have those homesick moments right in your own living room as you take out the Christmas ornament that hung on your tree as a child, that's one of mine. It also happens when I open Christmas cards. My Mom Manning (my maternal grandmother), always sent a new crisp two-dollar bill to her fifty some grandchildren. Now that she celebrates Jesus' birthday with Him, I get that little lonesome feeling when I open Christmas cards but hers is missing. One of the gifts of Christmas is wonderful memories, but it also brings sense of loss, a feeling that something (rather someone) is missing. We all need a place and space to be real, to not have to pretend that the holidays are all jolly.

This year, we are going to be adding a very special service to our Christmas events called "The Longest Night" or "Blue Christmas" service. As the name implies, this service is for anyone who would like to acknowledge their sense of loss during the holiday season. This will be a time where we can share our sorrow with God, Immanuel, who comes among us in the painful moments of our lives. The service will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. It will consist of songs, scripture readings, meditation and reflection, prayer and lighting of candles.

If you need a time and space to acknowledge the blue of Christmas, please join us. (I promise – no versions of Elvis' "Blue Christmas" allowed.) If you are not experiencing a sense of loss this holiday season, but know someone who is, there is no greater gift that you could give them, but to come and just be present with them during this time.

Shalom,
Rhonda



In the Scriptural Story, we see that names matter to God.

In Holston's story, we believe names matter as well, as they reflect our sense of connection and our sense of calling.

Over the past several weeks, the churches of the Holston Conference have been suggesting new names for our districts as we move from twelve districts to nine districts. This change was approved at the 2017 Annual Conference as one part of the Holston Conference Strategy.

We are now in the process of selecting a name for each of these nine new districts that will represent the gifts and unique characteristics of the people and places of each part of the Holston Conference. From the names that have been suggested, each district superintendent has worked with a district committee to determine the top three choices. Between November 15 and December 8, 2017 you have the opportunity to vote on your favorite district name from these three choices. New district names will be announced on December 14, 2017.

Below is the list of the top three name options for your district, in no particular order.

Please vote once for your favorite name.

You may verify your church's new district at Strategy.Holston.org or by viewing the district map above.

District 6

Option 1: Bull Run District

Option 2: Heartland District

Option 3: Tennessee Valley District

You may submit your vote by mailing, emailing, or dropping this form off at your current district office.

Mary Hawkins maryhawkins@holston.org
P.O. Box 6689 Knoxville, TN 37914 (Mail)
4630 Holston Dr. Knoxville, TN 37914 (physical location)

Thank you for your input! It's an exciting time of anticipating how God will continue to act and how we will continue to respond as the people called Holston.

Your Church Name _____

Prayer Requests

Continuing Prayers

Joanne Stansberry, Kenny Higgins, Rowena Walker, Delt Sharp, Gary Sharp, Sherran Key, Nick Seagle, Nancy Kitts

Prayers for those with recent surgeries and health needs

Paul Boyer, Joe Mischlich, John Mitchell, Jack Woods, Gary Simmons, Jack & Sheree Shaw, Charlene Walker, Ellen Ferry, Joann Rayburn, Megan Emeheiser, Rita Raymond, Belle Simms, David Ruckart, Larry Anderson Velma Bradford, Sadie Kinnamon, TJ (grandson of Larry Anderson), Gail Vandiver, Larry Wallace, Karen Hosack, Jean Fraley

Continuing Care

Lola Corrier, Mary Heimbaugh, Nancy Wallace, George Jack George Deaton (father of Julius Deaton)

In the Military

Mathew Chesney
Tim George
Wayne Houser
James Raxter
Ryan Witzak
Bennie Satterfield

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted ... to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." (NKJV, Isaiah 61:1-3)

Life Together

How do we know for sure if we are listening to WIFO (What's in it for Others) vs. WIFM (What's in it for me)? This is the checklist I shared on Commitment Sunday it is from an article written by Bud Reedy which provides us indicators of Christ-like growth.

As one person said, this is a good "I" exam. Take time regularly for a good checkup by asking these questions for your personal spiritual life. But as a community of faith, we ask "Are we":

1. Are we more like Jesus than we were a year ago?
2. Are we thirstier for God than ever before?
3. Are we more and more loving of God and neighbors?
4. Are we more sensitive to and aware of God than ever before?
5. Are we governed more and more by God's word?
6. Are we concerned more and more with the physical and spiritual needs of others?
7. Are we more and more concerned with the Church and the Kingdom of God?
8. Do we value the disciplines of the Christian life more and more?

Are we more and more willing to forgive others?

How are we doing? Are we growing in our faith? Our love? Our grace?



Sounds of The Season

Chancel Choir

December 3	8:45 am 11:00 am	Choir Choir
December 10	8:45 am 11:00 am	Praise Team Praise Team + MIM
December 17	8:45 am 11:00 am	Cantata Cantata
December 24	8:45 am 11:00 am	Choir Choir
Eve	7:00 pm 11:00 pm	Choir No Choir
December 31	8:45 am 11:00 am	No Choir No Choir
Wednesday, December 6	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm 8:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Praise Team
Wednesday, December 13	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	
Saturday, December 16	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Cantata Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 20	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal

NO REHEARSAL December 27

Staff Christmas

It's that time of year! Once again, we are accepting contributions for our staff bonuses. Please prayerfully consider how we can bless our staff this Christmas season. Thank you for your continued love and blessings to our church staff. We will accept contributions until Sunday, December 17. When placing your contributions in the offering, please be sure to designate it as "Staff Christmas".

Young in Heart

December 21 at 11:30 a.m.

Let's have a party!

Charlene and Joe Mischlich
have invited us to their house for a Christmas Party!

5705 Fall Creek Lane Knoxville, TN 37912

We will meet at the church at 11:15 a.m. and take as many as we can in the van. For those driving, please carpool as there is limited parking. Francis and her crew will prepare our always delicious lunch. Hope to see everyone there! Please note the change in the time.

The Continuing Craft Sales

Christmas Brunch

December 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TCDC Christmas Program

December 7, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Trinity UMC Christmas Program

December 10, 5:00-8:30 p.m.

Get your last minute Birthday, Anniversary, Neighbor, or Christmas Gifts or just purchase something for yourself.



Memorials

In Memory of Bob Vandiver

Given by

*Tracy & Scott Karner
Larry & Laretta Best*

*Bob & Carla Brown
George Jack*

In Memory of Clara McGill

Given by

Larry & Laretta Best

Happy Birthday!

12/02	Ellen Vo	12/21	Ava Walker
12/11	Joanne Stansberry	12/22	Richie Reed
12/11	Jeanette Farmer	12/22	Jerry Manley
12/11	Audie Walker	12/22	Joe Newby
12/12	Wally Gillespie	12/23	Lillian Higgins
12/12	Loraine France	12/24	Randy Hobbs
12/13	Joyce Felknor	12/25	Sadie Kinnamon
12/17	Andy Edley	12/26	Nolan Gross
12/18	Frances Cunningham	12/27	Yolanda Boyd
12/19	Rick Thompson	12/28	Roberta Fogle
12/19	Tiffany Vo	12/30	Madison Bailey
12/20	Joyce Sharp	12/31	Tom Kinkead
12/20	Samantha Raymond	12/31	Karen Kegley
12/21	Logan Gross	12/31	Karen Rader
12/21	Paul Newby		

Music in Motion

Sunday, December 3 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Work Thru

Saturday, December 9 9:00 am – 11:00 am Dress Rehearsal I

Sunday, December 10 Sing in church @ Bridge Service
10:30 am Rehearsal
11:00 am Service
3:30 pm Dress Rehearsal II
5:30 pm Potluck Dinner
6:30 pm Program

Help Us Decorate for Christmas!

Music in Motion programs take a lot of work. We will have a three hour work session to get ready for our program. Sunday, December 3 after church we will set up our stage, string popcorn and cranberries, decorate two Christmas trees and make Christmas paper chains. We need a few strong men or women to help with the stage and many more creative types to do the Christmas stuff.

Meet at 12:10 pm after Worship in St, James for lunch (provided) We will work until 3:30 pm to get our set completed.

This will be a fun time so come join us!

Sunday, December 10
Church-wide Christmas Party

5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner 6:30 p.m. Entertainment

Music in Motion

Presents

**A Homemade
Christmas**

& An Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest!

Compete for prizes! Wear your Ugliest
Christmas Sweater to the Christmas Party!

Thursday, December 21 @ 7 pm

**Blue Christmas
Service**

Many people struggle during the holidays and find
“rejoicing” a difficult task. This service is
designed to be a balm for those who are hurting
during the Christmas Season. Come to find hope,
healing, or to honor a loved one’s memory, or
come in support of someone.

Mark Your Calendars!

December 17, 2017 at 4 pm: Church Council

January 4, 2018 at 10 am – 2 pm: Staff Retreat

**January 14, 2018 at 12 pm – 2 pm: Soup & Salad Lunch with
Church Town hall Meeting** to follow.

This is for everyone active in the life of
Trinity UMC. Child care will be available.

January 27, 2018 at 9 am – 2 pm Leadership Training Retreat
for all church council members

Newsletter Schedule Change

Due to the Christmas and New Years holidays, there will be a change of
schedule for the publishing of the next newsletter. The January 2018
newsletter will be printed on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 and the
deadline for newsletter submissions is Tuesday, December 12, 2017.
Thank you, and have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy
New Year!

Thank you!

Thanks to everyone for helping make the Veteran’s Day Dinner and
Dance a success. Frances Cunningham and her Kitchen Crew prepared a
great meal. The Scouts and the church youth were super as servers.
Trinity has a good reason to be proud of our young people. They were
polite and attentive to everyone.

Thanks to Karen Dockery for helping me set up tables and chairs. Thanks
to Sheryl Howard and Liana Woods for decorating the tables.

Because this is the centennial year for WWI, Rev. Rhonda led a
re-dedication of the Trinity WWI plaque. It was a very moving moment
as the names of the men and women who had served were read.

Dr. Robert Rennie from the University of Tennessee gave an interesting
and entertaining talk about WWI.

We had a great crowd and everyone enjoyed the food, fellowship, and
dancing to Nigel Boulton’s Big Time Band.

Also, thanks to the many guests who stayed at the end of the evening to
help stack tables and chairs and to clean up.

It was a wonderful event and the veterans very much appreciated the
honor. Thanks again to everyone for being so willing to help.

Charlie & Jeanette Stevens



Dear Trinity UMC Members,

The youth have started Confirmation Class and it will run all the way to Pentecost (May 20). I am excited for the faith journey that these youth and their parents have decided to take over the next six months. Please be supportive of these youth as they learn more about their Christian heritage and traditions, United Methodist beliefs and polity, and their faith. Stop by anytime during our Sunday School hour and visit or share with the youth. They would love to see you.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I know we will all probably experience stress, traffic jams, crowded stores, and massive shopping lists. However; I beseech each of you to slow down and remember the real reason for the season. The season of Advent and the glory of God's great plan of salvation through the sending of His Son, Jesus. The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. We should also be focused on His second coming as we wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. Christmas should be for all of us a world-changing event :)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Again, I want to personally thank each of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, for being a part of my faith family. May your Christmas season be filled with love, peace, joy, and hope.

Would you like to stay connected and know what is going on with the youth in the church? If yes, then you can ask to join Trinity UMC Crossfire Youth on Facebook, Trinity Crossfire Youth on Instagram, and/or sign up to get Remind texts. To sign up for Trinity UMC Crossfire Youth Remind texts follow the directions below.

**Text: @tricroumc
To: 81010**

Here is a prayer to pray for the youth and children this month.

"May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 15:13)

Sunday, December 17
Chancel Choir Cantata

Lead Me Back to Bethlehem

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

With Chancel Choir,
Guest Musicians & Singers
Braxton Kiser, Casey Maxwell,
And Featuring Actress Leann Dickson

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Join us for our morning services
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Carols, Candlelight & Communion Services

7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00 am Hearts to Hands Raxter's Home	2 9:00 am Continuing Craft Sale 10:00 am UMW Annual Christmas Brunch 3:00 pm AA Christmas Eat & Speak
<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 3 8:45 am Cornerstone 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Youth Class 11:00 am Bridge Service 4:00 pm Trustee Meeting 4:00 pm Music in Motion	4 6:00 pm Trinity Folks 6:00 pm Band of Brothers 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	5 10:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Joyful Gathering 6:15 pm Silver Winds 7:00 pm Sons of Thunder 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 6:30 am Early Birds 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30 pm Praise Team	7 5:00 pm TCDC Christmas Program Dinner 6:30 pm TCDC Christmas Program Show 6:30 pm Girls Scouts	8 10:00 am Hearts to Hands Raxter's Home	9 9:00 am Chrysalis 9:00 am Music in Motion Rehearsal
<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 10 8:45 am Cornerstone 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Youth Class 10:30 am MIM Rehearsal 11:00 am Bridge Service 3:30 pm MIM Rehearsal 5:30 pm MIM Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm MIM Program	11 6:00 pm Trinity Folks 6:00 pm Band of Brothers 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Kairos Council 7:30 pm Lydia Circle <i>Mid-Month Deadline</i>	12 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Joyful Gathering 6:30 pm Ruth Circle 7:00 pm Abigail Circle 7:00 pm Sons of Thunder 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	13 6:30 am Early Birds 6:00 pm Crossfire Youth White Elephant Party 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 9:00 am Crafters 10:00 am Ester Circle 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Young Adults Bible Study	15 10:00 am Hearts to Hands Raxter's Home	16 8:00 am TCDC Training 9:00 am Chrysalis 10:00 am Cantata Rehearsal 4:30 pm Emmaus
<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 17 8:45 am Cantata 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Youth Class 11:00 am Cantata 3:00 pm Finance Meeting 4:00 pm Church Council	18 6:00 pm Trinity Folks 6:00 pm Band of Brothers 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	19 6:00 pm Joyful Gathering 6:15 pm Silver Winds 7:00 pm Sons of Thunder 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20 6:30 am Early Birds 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 11:30 am Young in Heart 6:00 pm Holston Homes 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service	22 10:00 am Hearts to Hands Raxter's Home	23
<i>Christmas Eve</i> 24 8:45 am Cornerstone 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Youth Class 11:00 am Bridge Service 7 pm Christmas Eve Service 11pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Joyful Gathering 7:00 pm Sons of Thunder 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27 6:30 am Early Birds	28 9:00 am Crafters 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Young Adults Bible Study	29 10:00 am Hearts to Hands Raxter's Home	30
<i>Watch Night</i> 31 8:45 am Cornerstone 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Youth Class 11:00 am Bridge Service	<i>Christmas Day Church Office Closed</i>	<i>Church Office Closed</i>				