



A Publication of Trinity United Methodist Church

In Touch

Volume 64

NOVEMBER NEWS 31 October 2025

Hello Trinity! Ready or not, here come Advent and Christmas! This season, I invite you to take time to examine your life in the lens of your faith. As Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Let's dive in! My prayer is that as we all move through the Advent season together, we will hear God whispering and guiding us into a new depth of relationship with God and with each other. I am going to help the process with two teaching resources. The first is a weekly devotional called, The Will to Dream. This devotional is designed to work through at your own pace alone, or with family and friends. I've found it to be an excellent resource and am looking forward to sharing it with you. We will place copies on the welcome tables for you. Here is a summary of what you will experience:

In this time of upheaval, trust can feel fragile. Truth is often contested. And the distance between us-whether physical, relational, or spiritual-can seem harder to cross. Many of us are carrying quiet questions and deep weariness. We long for something more than certainty-we long for healing, understanding, and hope. This ache isn't a weakness; it's a holy longing. A sacred desire for a world made whole.

The Will to Dream was created with this longing in mind. Whether you're engaging this resource on your own, with your family, or as part of a wider church community, it's here to help you pause, reflect, and reconnect with the radical hope at the heart of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. You'll explore the wisdom of the prophets, name what's broken, and imagine what could be.

Feel free to adapt the materials in whatever way works best for your household-this resource is here to support you.

The second resource we will work through together. Beginning Tuesday, December 2nd, at 6pm we will gather in fellowship hall 1 and dive into an Advent study called Voices of Advent. This study is prepared by a Lutheran scholar who teaches at St. Paul Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN. It is beautifully written and easy to enjoy for people of all faith experiences. Here is a summary of what we will study:

In "Voices of Advent," Matthew L. Skinner leads readers through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus' birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns. Listen carefully to the Bible's various perspectives that shape our preparations for Christmas; you'll hear hope in all of them. "Voices of Advent" helps readers experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian Church Year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the incredible story of Jesus.

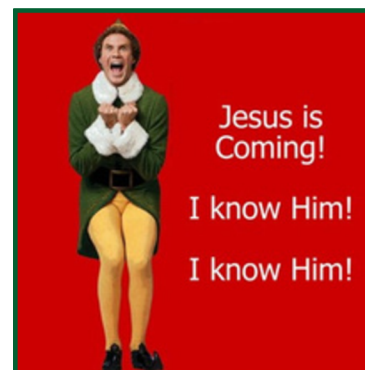
We will have sign-up sheets at the welcome centers soon for ordering the book. I look forward to listening to the voices of Advent with you.

Pastor Eric

Hanging of the Greens!

This year we are going to have some fun and everyone is invited. Right after the 11:00 a.m. service on Nov. 23, we are going to have a party! All are invited to a potluck lunch in the Family Life Center. Bring your favorite dish and join us. A very special elf will be present to serve up refreshments & we will have the Chiefs v. Colts game running on the big screens.

We will then decorate our church for the Christmas Season. We will have everything out for you and you can choose the location you want to decorate. Come for a while or stay for it all, that's up to you, but please come out and celebrate with us!



Chelsea Shrack Bell chelsea@triumc.org

Pastor

chelsea@triumc.org

Our October 'Crafting Connection' was a hit! Anne Hoekstra taught us to make foam relief prints and we came away with some gorgeous autumn leaf art! We decided we need a Christmas-themed print making class as well, so stay tuned for information on the next class! Thanks Anne and crew!



Marilla Colson

Communications
marilla@triumc.org

Colorful Colorado. Now empty nesters, my husband and I took a short vacation to Pagosa Springs to see the Fall colors. We enjoyed a hike to Treasure Falls and took some winding roads to view all the fall foliage. Below are a few shots of our short get-a-way!



Kylee Gragg

Director of Youth & Intern Ministries
kylee@triumc.org

Youth Ministry Update.

Our youth have been busy living out their faith through service and community! Earlier this month, students partnered with New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church to prepare and deliver over 500 meals and 125 winter care packages for those in our community who are homeless or without steady housing. It was a wonderful day of teamwork, compassion, and connection. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a huge success!

As we look toward Advent, our youth are hosting a Tater Tot Casserole Meal Fundraiser and selling Co-Conspirators with Christ t-shirts. Half of all proceeds will go toward purchasing Christmas presents for children in the care of St. Francis Ministries. The youth have set a big goal: to provide gifts for 90 students this year! Meals and shirts are open for everyone to purchase, not just Trinity members, so please help us spread the word and support this meaningful cause. Orders for both will close on November 20, with pick-up on November 30. Please contact Kylee for more details or to place your order.

Youth art will also be featured on the Art Wall beginning November 3. Make sure to stop by and check it out! Students created pieces representing their own mountaintop or valley moments in faith, and their work is both beautiful and deeply meaningful.

Youth group gatherings have been taking place around the fire pit as we dive into our Campfire Faith series. Students are enjoying the chance to reflect, connect, and grow in their faith under the open sky. As we move into the Advent season, we will continue that spirit of reflection by studying different names of Jesus and exploring whether our favorite Christmas songs are scripturally accurate.



Thank you for continuing to support our youth as they learn to serve, lead, and live out God's love in our community!



**YOUTH GROUP ADVENT FUNDRAISER**

Tater Tot Casserole



PRICES:
FAMILY SIZE: \$25
INDIVIDUAL: \$15

Why Your Meal Matters:
Half of the cost of all meals and any additional donations will go directly towards purchasing Christmas gifts for 90 children in foster care at Saint Francis.

How to Place Your Order:
Email kylee@triumc.org to order
Submit your order by November 20th!
Pick-up available on November 30th after any service, or you can collect it from the office the following week.

Use the QR code to donate or pay





T-Shirt Orders



Short Sleeve Shirts:
S-XL \$20
2X-5X \$25

Long Sleeve Shirts:
S-XL \$25
2X-5X \$30

Order forms are in the office or email Kylee

ORDERS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 20TH
PICK UP WILL BE NOVEMBER 30TH



Pictured above: Ava Garwood and her friend Austin DeHaven, sharing the announcement for the Christmas Pageant during 9:50 Worship on Oct. 19th.



The 9:50 Worship Service on October 12th, features Lyz Garwood & Wells Johnson, *Second Sunday, Children First*.

The Beautifully Imperfect Nativity. Trinity's 2025 Christmas Pageant: It's that wonderful time again—Christmas Pageant season! This year's pageant, The Beautifully Imperfect Nativity, will be filled with laughter, music, and a message that reminds us we don't have to be perfect for God to use us in beautiful ways.

Sunday Rehearsals (Ongoing). Location: FH2 Music
Rehearsal: 11:00-11:30 a.m. (Includes 2 fun, choreographed whole-group songs!) Speaking Part Rehearsal: 11:30-12 p.m.

Kids will be placed in mixed-age groups of 10–12 students to learn, rehearse, and have fun together. New this year! We're experimenting with an extra choreographed group song — everyone will get to join in on some special moves! Speaking parts: Sign-ups will take place on Nov. 2. Can't make it? Contact Lyz Garwood to sign up! lyz@triumc.org

November 30: Music rehearsal 11:00 -11:30am.

Speaking Parts 11:30 -12:00pm Speaking Parts.

Wednesday, December 3: Music rehearsal 6:00-6:30-7pm, Speaking Parts 6:30-7:00pm —***No Scripts/All memorized***

Friday, December 5: Speaking Parts microphone and staging rehearsal. 6:00-7:30pm.

Saturday, December 6: Speaking Parts Dress Rehearsal 1:00- 2:30pm. 2:30-3:30pm—(All students Dress Rehearsal).

Sunday, December 7: Speaking parts arrive at 9:30am. All other students arrive at 9:45am.

Morea Charvat

Missions

Socktober Update. The Missions committee would like to thank everyone who donated socks for Soctober! Salina Shares is most appreciative to have socks to give out to their clients!

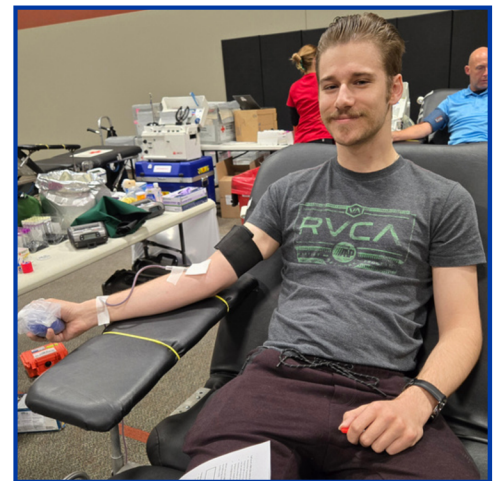
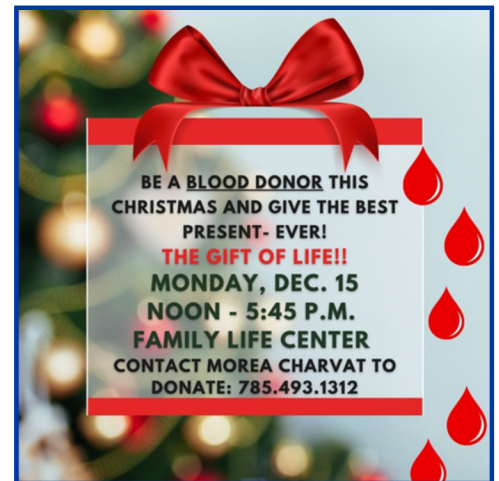
Blood Drive. The October blood drive went very well! We had two new donors and exceeded our goal by 4! Our next blood drive is Monday, December 15th. What better present can you give someone than the gift of life???!! To donate call or text Morea at 785-493-1312. Thank you!

Christmas Advent Project. We have chosen the Boys and Girls Club of Salina as the recipient for our Christmas Advent project. The congregation will be learning more about this organization during the weeks in December through a video and from speakers that represent the Boys and Girls Club. Stay tuned!! (All donations will be matched by a private donor.)

Salina Food Bank Collection through December 6. We will be collecting food for the Salina food Bank starting November 9. Paper bags will be available at the church for you to fill up with suggestions on items to buy. Food bags will need to be returned to the church by Thursday, December 6th. Thank you for feeding our neighbors!

Silent Auction Update. The silent auction is underway and going strong! We appreciate everyone who donated items and we appreciate those who are bidding on them! Auction ends on Thursday, November 20th. Items that you won can be picked up and paid for on Sunday, November 23rd, at the church.

Angel Tree. Families from Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (CAPS) will once again be our recipients for the Angel Tree. More information will be coming!



Thank you to Perry Grewell for his donation of blood at the October Blood Drive.



Missions: Trinity Advent Christmas Project

In 2011, Trinity started the Advent Christmas Project after a visit by several members to Ginghamburg UMC outside of Dayton, Ohio. Mike Slaughter, the pastor of that mega-church had written an influential book, *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus*, about his idea to celebrate Jesus' birthday in a meaningful way by giving Him a yearly birthday present, of which He would be very proud and delighted. In the book he relates how he had asked his congregation members to give a special mission fund at their church, an equal amount as they had spent on Christmas presents for all their family members. This plan was so successful that they continued it each Christmas.

After returning home and discussing this idea, AdCo decided to start by giving a tithe (10%) of our collected giving during the four Sundays of Advent every year plus any specific individual donations to a mercy mission project. Over the years we have funded:

- Circles of the Heartland
- Water wells in Africa
- A Fair Trade Market
- Houses for Haiti
- Freezers for the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank
- To equip kitchens for both Ashby House and Salina Grace
- Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (CAPS)
- Love, Chloe Foundation
- Salina Rescue Mission
- Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVACK)
- Salina Shares
- Feed My Starving Children

Our Advent project this year, the new Boys & Girls Club of Salina, is an investment in Salina's youth! Every dollar invested in a club creates \$10.32 in economic benefits for youth, families and their community. When kids have access to after-school programs, they thrive. Young people learn to lead, serve, advocate and dream big. They find mentors, make friends and discover their purpose. Every dollar given towards our Boys & Girls Club endowment will be matched for operations by the Ted and Almita Augustine Fund. To reach this match of \$500,000, the money must be raised by December 31st. More information regarding how you can help will be coming in the following weeks.

Morea Charvat, Missions Committee Chairwoman

Lori Blake

Finance
lori@triumc.org / 785.822.4677

Trinity Capital Campaign

We finished the 7th quarter of our 12-quarter Trinity Capital Campaign to pay off the remaining \$1.2 million debt on our Family Life Center.

- Total Amount Pledged as of September 30, 2025 = **\$926,640**
- Total Payments made during the 3rd quarter of 2025 = **\$40,868**
- Grand total Payments & Pre-payments since August 1, 2023 = **\$741,770**
- Horizons Stewardship Fee paid from pledge pre-payments = **\$46,042** (paid in full)
- Interest paid since January 1, 2024 = **\$76,551**
- Remaining Debt on the Family Life Center on September 30, 2025 = **\$684,131**
- Required monthly loan payment to First Bank Kansas = \$5,283 (66% interest & 34% principal)

Fixed interest rate on our loan for the next 3 years: **6.26%**

Thanks to all of you for your faithful stewardship! *Lori Blake*



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FINANCE UPDATE
through 9/30/2025

	Jan - Sept 2025	Jan - Dec 2025	Over/Under Budget	Jan - Sept 2024	Jan - Dec 2024	Jan - Dec 2024	Over/Under Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Fund Giving	\$ 447,929.67	\$ 632,476.79	\$ (184,547.12)	\$ 393,129.55	\$ 603,030.15	\$ 650,300.00	\$ (47,269.85)
Operating Expenses	\$ 516,459.70	\$ 632,190.76	\$ (115,731.06)	\$ 438,845.99	\$ 662,626.30	\$ 663,172.78	\$ (546.48)
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (68,530.03)	\$ 286.03	\$ (68,816.06)	\$ (45,716.44)	\$ (59,596.15)	\$ (12,872.78)	\$ (46,723.37)
Building Fund Giving	\$ 112,115.90	\$ 250,000.00	\$ (137,884.10)	\$ 335,669.39	\$ 425,247.41	\$ 105,600.00	\$ 319,647.41
Building Fund Loan Payments(Prin & Interest)	\$ 112,115.90	\$ 250,000.00	\$ (137,884.10)	\$ 335,669.39	\$ 380,460.00	\$ 124,050.00	\$ 256,410.00
Net Building Fund Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,787.41	\$ (18,450.00)	\$ 63,237.41

Thank you for your giving! Please keep those gifts coming in and turn in your pledge card as soon as possible! We have to have our budget for 2026 turned in to the conference office by 12/31/25.


785-822-4677

Lori Blake, Treasurer
lori@triumc.org

United Methodist Women





United Methodist Women

Next Meeting
Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall 1

*The UMW meets every third Monday each month.

Pastor Eric was UMW’s guest speaker on October 20th. He shared information and pictures about his most recent trip to Turkey. If you would like to attend a UMW meeting, they meet the third Monday each month. Contact: Jan Everhart with questions.

Church Activities

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2025

NOVEMBER
9
SUNDAY

1:30 P.M.
CHURCH OF THE CROSS
1600 RUSH STREET, SALINA
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Charge Conference 2025. Join us on November 9, at 1:30 p.m., Church of the Cross, 1600 Rush Street. All Welcome to attend.

A CHILD IS BORN
AN ADVENT STUDY BY AMY-JILL LEVINE

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS, 2-3 PM
TRINITY FELLOWSHIP HALL 2
DECEMBER 2, 9, 16 & 23
LED BY PASTOR CHELSEA

JOIN US AS WE DISCOVER THE
FASCINATING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN
ANCIENT BIBLICAL BIRTH STORIES AND
THE NATIVITY OF JESUS IN THIS
CAPTIVATING FOUR-WEEK STUDY.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



ORDER FORM

____ Yes, I would like an 18"
Red Poinsettia. \$13 each.
(include how many)

Choose an option below.

____ I would like to take my Poinsettia
home after Christmas Eve.

____ I would like to donate my
Poinsettia to the church.

Orders & payment due by
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

For Church office

_____ payment

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Poinsettia Orders due November 13. This year we are supporting the Smoky Hill Museum Friends Poinsettia Sale. If you are interested in an 18" red poinsettia for \$13 fill out this form. We will get that ordered for you. You will be able to take your poinsettia home after worship on December 24th or you may donate it to the church.

W.O.W.
WIDOWS & OTHERS WIDOWERS SUPPORT GROUP
WILL MEET AT SPANGLES AFTER
11AM WORSHIP SERVICE
NOVEMBER 16, 2025

TUMC Bridge Group

November 19th / Coffee Bar, 1-4 p.m.
Contact Cheryl Siemers-Johns
to play at: 785.820.0556

Voices of Advent
Bible Study with
Pastor Eric

Tuesday Dec.
2, 9, 16, 23
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.
Fellowship Hall 1

Matthew Skinner leads
readers through biblical
texts and explores how
they shape our lives and
Christmas celebrations.

**VOICES
OF ADVENT**
THE BIBLE'S INSIGHTS FOR A SEASON OF HOPE
MATTHEW L. SKINNER

Church Activities

Pastoral Care

Pastor, Eric Meyer: 479.426.8411

Pastor, Chelsea Shrack: 620.546.6059

Pastoral Care Concern, contact church office: 785.825.5270

Prayers

Short-Term

Kaiden Comeau
Hoge Family
Stewart Hoss
Chad Knobloch
Jeff Knobloch
Kody Larson
Janice Scott
Jim Waters & Family

Long-Term

Bonnie Baldwin
Beth Berridge
Steve Daily
Hilma Demaree
Michele Gant
Mason Glavin
Richard Howeth
Eli Jackson
Sandy Jones
Ronnie Knott
[Rochelle Masterson
(Culley)]
Jimmy Joe Patterson
Don Peterson
Lindsey Pratt
Mark Turner
Denny Wahlgren
Thaine Weber
Cory Wilcox
Ralph Windholz

Prayer Update:

*Pat Masko passed away on 9.27.25. Please keep Juanita & family in your prayers.

*Prayers for Jim Waters and family in the death of Jim's mother, Betty Waters. She passed away last evening one month shy of her 99th birthday in Junction City, KS. *Beverly Waters*

*Linda Collins, mother of Robbie and Amy, passed away quietly in her sleep this morning. We will hold a service for her sometime in November and will share the details with the congregation soon. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Trinity Staff attends Leadership Conference in KC



Trinity Welcomes New Members on Sunday, September 28th



Pictured above: Leslie & Pat Hyland. Not pictured: Amanda Noller. Please give a warm welcome to our new members at Trinity.



Welcome Ivy Weichman, baptised on Oct. 26th



RETHINKING JUSTICE:

A scripture study for churches in central Kansas exploring God's call to *do justice*.

RSVP HERE (required)
Saturday, November 1st
8:30 - 11:30 am in Abilene

Hello Trinity Friends!

For the past several months, I've been meeting with other clergy to explore launching a new justice ministry in Central Kansas. We are now reaching an important milestone: engaging lay leaders in this journey. To that end, I'd like to invite you to a region-wide scripture study called "Rethinking Justice." Together, we'll explore what the Bible has to say about justice, hear modern examples, and learn about the plan for a new Central Kansas organization. I believe this organization will become a major part of the mission work at Trinity in the coming years, and I sure hope you can join me at this event!

Event Details: Address: St. Andrews Catholic Church, 311 S. Buckeye Ave., Abilene, KS 67410.
Pastor Eric

Prayer Team: The Trinity Prayer Team is a group of people who commit to come to the church once a week to pray for those listed on the Prayer Request Cards (but not cards for pastors only). We also pray for God's work in Love in Trinity, our city, state, country and world. If you feel the call to pray for God's work, contact Sandy Ward, 785.823.2081. She will be glad to give you information.

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David Corman
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Jeff Waters
Custodian

Mandy Jarvis
Nursery Director
mandy@triumc.org

Chris Carazo
Sunday AV Admin.

Building Blocks field trip to Pumpkin Patch, Oct. 15



To securely give online, scan the code or go to: triumc.org/giving
or visit the office.



We envision vibrant, thriving, teaching congregations which are developing relationships with Jesus and for Jesus in the congregations, in the community, and on campus.

We develop these relationships by inviting people, investing in them, and then inspiring them to use their God-given talents to transform lives, the community, and the world.