

# TRINITY TIDINGS

## DECEMBER 2022

Trinity United Methodist Church  
1400 Husson Avenue  
Palatka, FL 32177-5464  
Phone: 386-325-5272  
Pastor: John F. Bennett  
<https://www.trinityumcpalatka.org/>  
[trinityumcpal@gmail.com](mailto:trinityumcpal@gmail.com)



### AWAY IN A MANGER

No matter how many times I read this, I just cannot do it without getting chills all over me! I bet you didn't know the following about the manger that Jesus was laid in. Of course, mangers are animal feeding troughs but in ancient Israel they were made of stone - not what you would see in a modern-day nativity scene. Not comfortable, but great for protection. That's why those who were experts in this matter, the priests, would put their newborn lambs in them for protection. But not just any lamb, the unblemished perfect lambs that were used in the sacrifice for sins. And Bethlehem, where Jesus was born was FAMOUS for their UNBLEMISHED LAMBS used for the sacrifice. These lambs had to be perfect so they would wrap them tightly in cloth and lie them in the manger to keep them safe. This is exactly why the only time mangers are mentioned in Jesus' birth story it is being told to shepherds. In Luke 2 it says, "This will be a sign for you, you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger." The shepherds would have understood this powerful parallel! THEY KNEW what the cloth and the manger meant! This baby would be THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD! The Messiah who would sacrifice His life for the sins of the whole world. He wasn't just a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger, He was GOD: perfect, sinless, and Holy, humbling Himself to become the perfect sacrifice to reconcile us back to Himself!! THAT my friend, that Perfect Lamb, is WHY we celebrate Christmas!!

This year, as we come together with our families and friends to happily open our gifts and enjoy a wonderful meal, I hope that we remember the perfect lamb and his sacrifice to ensure that we could take part in the celebration together as brothers and sisters, sons, and daughters of our Lord God.

Sharon and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and may God richly bless you all.

*Pastor John*

## “Meet your new Bishop”

Bishop Tom Berlin: “I want to be in ministry with you”

November 16, 2022, By Joe Henderson/ FLUMC



As Thomas M. Berlin prepares for the challenge he will face as the new Resident Bishop in The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, he and his wife, Karen Berlin, have a message for the people he will soon lead. “We’re excited about coming to Florida. We’re excited about the diversity of your conference. Your conference has one of the most exciting ministries in the Southeast Jurisdiction,” he said. Karen Berlin added, “I’m embracing the novelty, the newness of it. It’s good to go somewhere new and discover.” She is a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst who works at George Mason University as a Training and Technical Assistance Center Coordinator for Special Education. She provides professional learning and resources for educators in special education. The couple raised four daughters.

**Bishop Berlin was elected** on November 2, at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, N.C. He was the first of three bishops chosen at that conclave. “You all have been such a great blessing to my life, and to be elected as bishop is a singular great honor,” he told the delegates and attendees that day. Florida Conference Mission Training and Volunteer Coordinator Molly McEntire served as the first elected lay delegate to SEJ. Along with Rev. Alex Shanks, who represented Florida as the first elected clergy delegate, she had an opportunity for an up-close, advance look at the man who was about to become Florida’s new bishop. “He is a deeply rooted disciple of Christ. His passion will help continue to make the Florida conference a place of hope and love. We will be blessed to have him as our bishop.” He begins his new assignment on January 1, 2023, succeeding Bishop Ken Carter, who led the Florida Conference for ten years. Bishop Carter moves full-time to the Western North Carolina Conference.

### **A builder and author with a heart for children**

Bishop Berlin entered ordained ministry in 1988 and comes to Florida after serving churches of all sizes in his native Virginia, including the last 25 years as the lead pastor of Floris UMC, a multi-site, multi-staff congregation in Herndon, VA., near Washington, D.C. He is a builder. Floris UMC had grown from an average of about 400 people attending worship in 1997 to more than 1,200 before the pandemic struck. Bishop Berlin also is the author of nine books and has served on multiple boards and outreach ministries, and he has a special heart for children. At Floris UMC, he helped establish an international outreach now known as the Child Reintegration Centre. The ministry now serves more than 600 children, providing school fees, medical care, mentoring to caregivers, and training so that their families can be self-supporting and independent. In 2018, Bishop Berlin also served on the Commission on a Way Forward, where he met Alice Williams. She is the co-lay leader for the Florida Conference.

**Florida Conference Communicator Brittany Jackson contributed to this story.**

**Joe Henderson is News Content Editor for FLUMC.org**

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## Meaning behind the Chrismon tree

This is the forty-fifth year Trinity has had a Chrismon Tree. A Chrismon is a monogram of Christ and His life. The tree is decorated with symbols from Christian History. Chrismon colors are gold and white. Small amounts of red (which signifies Christ’s blood) are allowed only on crosses. White refers to the purity of the son of man. The gold refers to the majesty of the Son of God, so the colors reflect both Jesus’ divinity and his humanity. Decorating the tree with these symbols of our faith helps us to focus on the real reason that we celebrate this season.



## **United Methodist Men**

The UMM will have their annual Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall on  
Dec. 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. \$15.00

### **Kid's Klub**

On Wednesdays 5-7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Kids ages 3 thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Wed. Dec. 7, Stations of the Manger.
- Wed. Dec. 14, Hayride & Caroling.
- Wed. Dec. 21 & 28, no kid's klub.

### **Ladies Bible study with Sandra Collins**

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in her home. (386) 937-6475

\*Wednesday's at 7:15 pm.—Chancel Choir Practice in choir room.

\*Tuesday's at 6:00 pm.—Flame Practice



**Prayer of Concern:** Everyone effected by hurricane Ian; & Nicole; Addie Joy; Alayna; Amber Vojak; Alex; Ashton; Austin; Belinda; Bill; Carol; Carolyn; Chris; Clint; Cody; Connie; Derrick; Diane & Bill; Donna; Donnie P; Dougie; Freddie Edwards; Gail; Jacob; Jim; Johnny B.; John Ray; Justin; Karen & Herb; Kim; Lilly; Linda & Bill Gardner; Mary Beth; Michelle; Mickie & Joey; Ora & Crystal; Page; Rhonda & Randy; Samantha; Shane; Smith family; TJ; Tammy; Teresa; Val; Wendy Perez; We pray for the people of Haiti; Those in the nursing homes and our shut-ins; We pray for our sister church in San Antonio de Rio Blanco in Cuba; the Persecuted Church; Moseley Elementary School & teachers; Children at the Methodist Children's Home; our National leaders & military; The people of Ukraine; your Pastoral family & your Church.

### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT (Through 11/29/2022)**

Total Budget	\$197,655.00
Estimated needed to date	\$182,450.77
Received to date. **	\$124,797.05
Amount of Received to date that came from E-giving	\$9,401.28
Percent of "needed to date" that has been collected	68.40%
Percent of Year that is complete	92.31%
Percent of Yearly contributions that have been received	63.14%
<b>DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	
Kids' Klub	\$1,735.00
Cuba Covenant	\$1,140.00
Salary-Worship Leader	\$4,583.26
Children's Home	\$2,452.87
United Methodist Men	\$1,200.00
A Women's Resource Center	\$140.00
In memory of Don Kennard	\$1,365.00
In memory of Trey Curtis	\$100.00
In memory of Sara Dew	\$425.00
In memory of Phil Lednik	\$200.00
United Methodist Women	\$220.00
In memory of John Alexander	\$100.00
In memory of Bonnie Trauerman	\$475.00
In memory of Ed Griffin	\$50.00
In memory of Jolee French	\$260.00

## KIDS' KLUB CORNER

November has come and gone, and Kids' Klub has so very much to be thankful for. We thank you for your support in prayers, attendance, and monetary donations. We are very thankful that you have shared your children with us. They are such a blessing and cherished part of our lives. We are so very thankful for all the special gifts you have given the children from candy to mac and cheese to gloves with candy in them. You certainly know how to make us smile. We are so very thankful for those leaders that share their servant hearts each week. We are thankful for God's presence at Kids' Klub!!  
December Happenings at Kids' Klub:

November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Workshop/a time for families to prepare for Christmas
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Stations of the Manger
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Blanket ride and caroling

Kids' Klub will not meet again until January 4<sup>th</sup>.  
May all of you have a very blessed and God filled Christmas Holiday season.  
God has truly blessed us. We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesdays. Come learn and enjoy all the things that God has blessed us with. God Bless!! The Kids' Klub Team



Enjoying some outside fellowship



Praising God through singing



Grateful for God's healing as we make "Get Well Cards"



Grateful for our voices to Praise God



Grateful for good food and fellowship

## Christmas Parade

What a great time was had as we shared our Trinity spirit at the Palatka Christmas Parade. On November 25<sup>th</sup> Trinity was a part of the downtown Christmas parade with a float "Jesus Makes Us Pure as Snow." We would like to thank those that helped to create the float, put the float together, or helped with the float at the parade. Matt and Megan Simpson did a great job designing and supplying the materials and trailer to create the float. Saturday morning, November 19<sup>th</sup>, was spent putting everything together on the float. Thanks to all who showed up for the assembly of the float. "Thank You" to all that rode and walked in the parade. Jackson did a great job as baby Jesus and George and Sarah Langley did a wonderful job as Mary and Joseph. We appreciate Alice Ryals providing the music as we "Merry Christmased" all the way down St. Johns Avenue. The Christmas parade gave us an opportunity to share some Trinity love with Palatka.



The group that helped assemble the float with its lights, decorations, and message.



Our float as we waited for the parade to begin.



**Wish a Happy Birthday To:**

- 07**—Gary Simpson
- 09**—Kenny Thompson
- 16**—Brandon Underwood
- 20**—Shirley Saunders
- 24**—Micke Schmidt

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10**—Herb & Karen Dutou
- 14**—Troy & Cassie Nettles
- 16**—John & Sharon Bennett
- 28**—David & Gail Cahan
- 30**—Paul & Jayne Moran

# DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> Sunday School 9:15 Worship: 10:30				1	2	3
<b>4 Holy Communion</b>  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	5	<b>6</b> Trinity Flame practice 6:00 pm	<b>7</b> Choir Practice- 7:15 p.m. *Kid's Klub 5-7, Fellowship Hall. Kids ages 3 thru 8 <sup>th</sup> grade. <u>Stations of the Manger</u> *Ladies Bible Study with Sandra Collins at 10:00 am.	8	9	<b>10</b> UMM Christmas Dinner @ 6:30 p.m. \$15.00
11	12	<b>13</b> Trinity Flame practice 6:00 pm	<b>14</b> Choir Practice- 7:15 p.m. *Kid's Klub 5-7, Fellowship Hall. Kids ages 3 thru 8 <sup>th</sup> grade. <u>Blanket ride &amp; Caroling</u> *Ladies Bible Study with Sandra Collins at 10:00 am.	15	16	17
<b>18</b> Christmas Cantata by the Chancel Choir	19	<b>20</b> No Flame practice	<b>21</b> No Kid's Klub or Choir practice	22	23	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 	26	<b>27</b> No Flame practice	<b>28</b> No Kid's Klub or Choir practice	29	30	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve

If you have any information for next month's newsletter, the deadline to have it in the Church office. Monday December 19, 2022. Please send an e-mail or drop something off in writing. Thank You!

Christian Bible Reference Site

<https://www.christianbiblereference.org/>

