



@TrinityUCPG

MINISTER’S MESSAGE—REV. BOB

Something Bigger

Our second COVID Advent and Christmas is just around the corner and If you’d asked me a year ago if this would be the case I’d have replied “surely not!” and yet, here we are. I’ve been reflecting on what the last year has meant for us as individuals, as a church, and as a community in general.

I don’t think anyone can say it’s “business as usual.” We’ve all had our routines disrupted, pivoted to new ones, had those disrupted, and pivoted again. There are days when it feels like constant shifting sands make it impossible to find secure and familiar footing. We’ve had to recognize the need to help keep unvaccinated people safe from vaccinated people and contend with the divisive phrase “a pandemic of the unvaccinated.” We’ve had forest fires destroy homes and now flooding, mud, and landslides. With all the chaos and uncertainty, it is understandable for people to question where the Holy One is in all of that.

In many ways, the uncertainty and challenges of our current reality aren’t that dissimilar from the context that Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, the shepherds, and others faced around the time of Jesus’ birth. Their society was in a state of upheaval due to a foreign military occupation. Life was hard. Life was uncertain. For Mary being pregnant brought with it a whole number of social and physical challenges. It is understandable that any or all of these people would question, where is God in all of this?

And yet, in the midst of all their trials and tribulations, in the midst of their pivots and pivoting again each of these people say yes to something bigger. Even though there were all kinds of very good reasons for them to say no, they said yes. Even when confronted with the harsh realities of the world, the phrases behind their back, the social pressures, the gossip, the danger – they said yes. Even when God’s invitation to be part of something bigger meant they had to set aside their egos and the temptation to demand something in return from God (or at least to barter for some concession) they embraced something bigger than themselves.



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That same invitation to be part of God's something bigger extends to us. Each of us is invited to take time this Advent season and journey inward to see what space we need to make so there is room for God's incarnation in us. This Advent our theme *Something Bigger* invites each of us to discern how we, as individuals and as a community, can risk taking a leap of faith and respond *YES* to the something bigger that is evolving right in front of us.

What that *YES* looks like for each of us will look different, yet all our responses are part of something bigger happening during Advent and throughout Christmas. For some that will mean time for reflection while for others it will mean helping a neighbour. For some, it will mean helping deliver packages, or making cookies and sandwiches while for others it will mean building a Christmas Shoebox. For some, it will mean joining a committee or team while for others it will mean taking part in worship more regularly. For some, it will mean tackling issues related to the climate crisis, homelessness, reconciliation, racism, and how to be an inclusive fellowship while for others it will mean offering words of encouragement and support. The point is that God needs all of us to share our time, talent, treasure, passion, creativity, and faith. How we prioritize our participation in God's something bigger is up to us and Advent, the season of preparing and waiting is a perfect time to make room for God's mission in our lives.

And so, may I take a moment as Advent is about to begin to invite you on a journey into *Something Bigger* through song, special music, video, word, reflection, contemplation, and response. As the journey is about to begin, I want to say thank you to each of you. Thank you for the ways you support our ministry at TrinityUCPG and the difference we make in people's lives and our community. Thank you for supporting one another; for making space to have meaningful conversations; for expressing care even when it is hard; for keeping your sense of humour during this pandemic tide; in short, for being the amazing and wonderful community of faith that I know you are.

Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas from my home to yours. May you be safe, be calm, and be community this holy season.

Christmas Shoeboxes ***DROP OFF DEADLINE DEC 8TH @NOON***

**Hats, Gloves, Face Masks, Scarves,
Toiletries, Puzzles, Cards, Gift Certificate
Socks, Books, Sweets**

***PLEASE NO ALCOHOL BASED MOUTHWASH,
AFTERSHAVE OR COLOGNE!**

Warm inside and Out

Donations of gently used or new jackets, sweaters and especially mitts and gloves

**Drop off Sundays 10am-12noon
Mon-Thurs 9am-12noon**

***Isaiah 7:14** - Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

FINANCE COMMITTEE—DOUG HOFSTEDE

Greetings,

Here is a quick update from the Finance committee. Most importantly, you continue to be generous with your gifts, which allows the church to be a positive influence in the community with ministry and outreach.

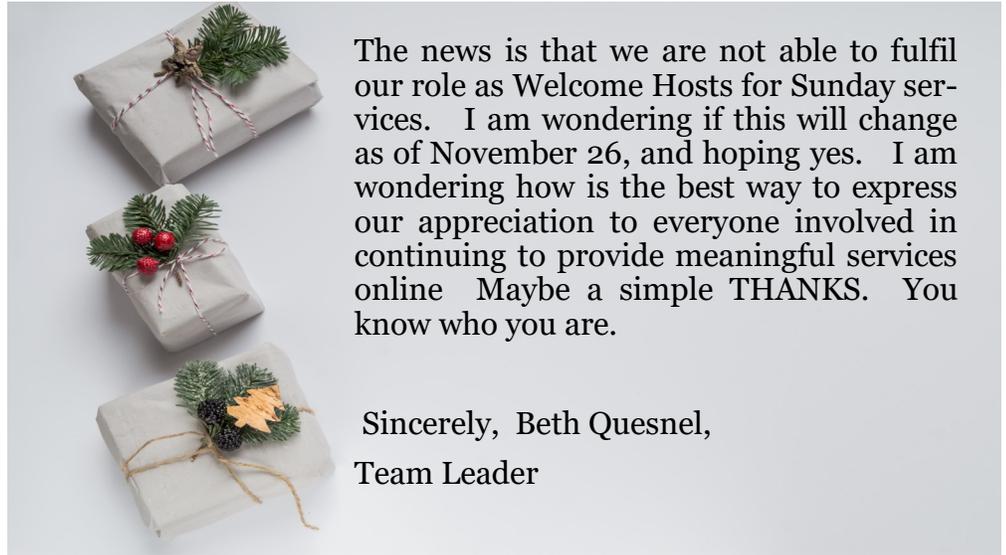
Revenues for operations and M&S are above our anticipated budget but some of the costs for the roof replacement at the downtown building still remain. In the Thanksgiving newsletter (based on the September statements), we reported that the difference between the Capital deficit and Operations surplus was approximately -\$24,000. Today, that is now just under -\$8,000. I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and ask for your continued assistance as we approach Christmas and the end of the year.

Doug Hofstede
Chair, Finance Committee





WONDERHOSTS—BETH QUESNEL



The news is that we are not able to fulfil our role as Welcome Hosts for Sunday services. I am wondering if this will change as of November 26, and hoping yes. I am wondering how is the best way to express our appreciation to everyone involved in continuing to provide meaningful services online. Maybe a simple THANKS. You know who you are.

Sincerely, Beth Quesnel,
Team Leader

M & P COMMITTEE—KEITH TAITE

The Advent and Christmas season is a time when our appreciation is often expressed more than we typically do on a day to day basis. The M & P Committee, while appreciative of the day to day efforts of our paid staff at Trinity United PG, would like to express to them our gratitude and best wishes for the holiday season. Know that your efforts do not go unnoticed and are appreciated every day. Thus, we share our gratitude for the talents of Rev. Bob, Erica Skowron, Vic Steblin, Diane Kjorven, Rebecca Fillier, Trish Appleton, Tom Hynd, and Susie Wilson, all of whom share their talents willingly.

As the Chair of the M & P Committee, I would also like to acknowledge my appreciation for the talents of my fellow committee members. Each of you is a gift in your own way and our church family is better because of the talents you have and the ways you use them for the benefit of us all.

Best wishes this holiday season from the M & P Committee. Kindest Regards, Keith Taite (Chair)

Committee Members:

Marilyn Blair
Vicki Brown
Shannon Carson
Don Homan
Les Waldie

FELLOWSHIP TEAM—CATHIE REID

Seasons Greetings from the Fellowship Team.

The Fellowship Team continues to be busy organizing fundraisers for the benefit of our church and community.

Our first muffin sale was delayed from October 16th until October 31st because Covid rules changed. It was successful and we thank all those who helped make the sale a success.

Our fabulous seamstresses, Dee Neukomm and Lorna Brown are busy making **Hats, Scarves & Mitts for adults**. These items are available for \$5.00 each and can be ordered on line or through the office. These items are great for inclusion in the Christmas Shoeboxes that will be distributed at the December Soup Kitchen, or for personal gifts.

They are also making fleece hats for children. These items are available **in packages of six for \$20.00**. The hats will be delivered to a school in Prince George or you may distribute the hats as you see fit. A big thank you to Dee and Lorna for all their hard work.

Our **annual Cookie Sale** will be held on December 12th after the church service. This is a very popular fundraiser for Trinity. Donations for the sale can be dropped off at the church on December 11th between 9:30 and 10:00. Donations will then be packaged up by members of the Fellowship Team. Please pre-order your cookies on line or by contacting the church office.

We are making plans to hold another muffin sale in January. We are also making plans to hold a Spring Silent Auction. Stay tuned for further announcements regarding these fundraisers.

Dorothy Seiter has assumed the task of sending sympathy cards and thinking of you cards.

Judy Wilson remains involved with the Fellowship Team but has resigned as Chairperson. We thank Judy for her many years of dedication and leadership of Fellowship.

The Fellowship Team meets the first Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting is December 7th at 7:00 pm. They last about one-half hour and we usually share a few laughs. Right now, our meetings are being held via zoom and new members are always welcome. If you would like to join us let the office know and Reverend Bob can send you the link.

On behalf of the Fellowship Team, I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathie Reid (Chairperson)



WORSHIP COMMITTEE—MARION BARTLETT

It is so hard to understand how Advent is nigh upon us. It seems like just yesterday we were prepping for summer services, but here we are, the year is almost done. It's been another roller coaster kind of year, but I think as a church community, we have weathered it well.

It is sure nice to see the choir on Sundays, even if we have been back to online only. We are definitely hoping that the Covid numbers will allow a return to onsite worship, so fingers crossed and prayers that we can once again be sitting together. In the meantime, the Worship Committee has been working to plan the Advent season, and there is much to look forward to. If you miss a worship service or want to watch one again you can always find them on our Facebook page (TrinityUCPG) or our YouTube channel (Search TrinityUCPG) we also try and keep the website archive as up to date as possible.

(As you probably know – Rev. Bob really does the heavy lifting, but we do join in.)

Advent Theme is “Something Bigger” and here is an outline of what has been planned.....

Week of November 15th – delivery packages will be put together
November 21 – Hanging of the Green service
November 22 week

Advent package will be delivered door to door

Christmas decorations will be put up at the church. If you would like to help decorate just contact Betty Belado @ 250-562-7533 or Marion Bartlett @250-613-5628 for times

November 28th Advent

December 12 will be Cantata featuring our own wonderful Trinity Choir

December 21 (Monday) will be Blue Christmas service at 7:00 pm – hopefully in-person

December 24, Christmas Eve

6:00 pm – Family Service – Candlelight

8:00 pm – Communion – Candlelight Service

December 25 – service will be broadcast at 7:00pm

December 26 – live – Lessons and carols – 10:00 am

January 2nd – Reverend Bob will be away, but as usual, one of our wonderful congregation will lead the service

January 9th 2022 – will be communion, and will also be our anniversary service

The upcoming Advent delivery package will have several items together with suggestions/instructions for some of the content. Enjoy.



Come January the Worship Committee will jump feet first into preparations for Reverend Bob's upcoming sabbatical. The preliminary plans have been laid out but come January we may be knocking on your door for suggestions or our assistance requests. Until then – have a wonderful Christmas, stay safe and warm.

***Isaiah 9:6** - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE—VICKIE BROWN

This year has been a difficult one for many of us in a variety of ways. Many of us are feeling a sense of loss; loss of freedom to do as we choose and a familiar way of life, loss of our health, loss of a sense of security, loss of income or employment, loss of relationships, and loss of loved ones. We have generally been blessed with a good life and have come to expect that it will always be so. And when things change for the worse it is natural to become focused inward on our own troubles. But one only has to look around to see that there is always someone worse off than ourselves; people facing chronic homelessness, hunger, violence, drug abuse, hopelessness, and psychological issues. Outreach is one of God's way of providing healing to all of us.

When we think of Outreach at Trinity we think of the monthly food donations to stock the cupboards at A.C.E, collecting and organizing personal items for women through In Deo, and the monthly Soup Kitchen and Christmas Shoebox campaign. We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to these efforts. But Outreach has expanded to include collecting and distributing backpacks, school supplies, socks, gloves and hats, and warm outer clothing to address the daily needs of kids and people at St. Vincent's door. Trinity is also embracing the community with community take out dinners and by extending an invitation through social media to people outside of the congregation to assist in Outreach efforts. We have been blessed to receive donations of knitting, toiletries and other items, and shoeboxes from the Prince George community.

So I want to thank everyone who has been involved in Outreach this year, whether on the front lines or behind the scenes. I pray that your Christmas is blessed with hope, peace, joy and love and may you feel God's presence in your lives through the coming year!

Vickie Brown, Outreach



COVID UPDATE

While we are seeking clarification related to the life events (baptisms, weddings, and funerals), the existing public health restrictions instituted in October for Northern Health have been extended indefinitely. For us @TrinityUCPG this means that we will continue to share worship experiences online only and only those with leadership roles will be onsite. Please stay tuned for more information as we clarify what is possible and how to share a meaningful Advent and Christmas season with one another in the safest way possible.

HARMONY HOUSE UPDATE

It has been a while since there has been an update about the Harmony House Project. 2021 has been a tough year for construction projects. A shortage in skilled labour and soaring construction costs have meant that many projects like Harmony House have been delayed longer than expected. However, recently we received news from BC Housing that the planning phase of the project will continue through the fall and winter of 2022 so that when the next fiscal year begins in April for BC Housing and the 2022 construction plan is created the Harmony House Project will be ready to go. When might construction start? Honestly, we don't know for sure. The hope is sometime between April and September of 2022 with a completion date no later than 3 months after construction starts. For now here are three conceptual drawings of what the project will look like.



**IN PERSON WORSHIP SUSPENDED
INDEFINITELY**

By BC Public Health Order

PROTECT YOUR



NEIGHBOURS LOVED ONES COMMUNITY

Poinsettias

Available in Red, White and Pink

4in - \$10 | 6in - \$16.5

Order Nov 30th - Delivery First Week Dec
See Tom Hynd to Order

MISSION AND SERVICE TEAM

As the season approaches please consider gifts that will make a difference, please consider “Gifts With Vision.” The gift catalogue gives a glimpse of our Mission and Service ministries and programs. They have gift ideas that will suit every interest, budget and person. The catalogue is updated on a regular basis. It is also distributed in print with the Broadview magazine and we also have some catalogues available at the church office. To learn more you can access the website at -giftswithvision.ca. “Hope comes in a Syringe.” Less than 2% of the vaccines are reaching Africa and less than 7% are reaching South America. Many countries in the world will not even be able to start a vaccine program until 2022.” Giving Tuesday” is November 30th this year. The whole church is invited to give the gift of life. For just \$25 you can give someone a life-saving, full vaccination. How to give can be found in Gifts with Vision under VACCINE GIFT. Covid-19 will not end until it ends for everyone. Thank you for your passion and care. We would like to thank you for your continued generous support to Trinity United and the United Church of Canada. Even during these very chaotic times, we are on track, thanks to your stewardship as God’s people. You are showing that you care, not only for those you know but for those who are struggling near and far.

Warmest wishes for a very Merry Christmas Your M & S Team
Wendy Hudyma, Beth Quesnel, Melita Higgins, Sharon Vincent,
Pam Boulding and Betty Belado



CAC AND TRINITY DOWNTOWN

In the spring of 2021, the Board started a preliminary formal discussion with the Community Arts Council regarding the possibility of making some changes to Trinity Downtown to create the Knox Bell Theater, a space designed to promote and support live music performances with all the supporting infrastructure needed and a 250-350 seating capacity. At this point, no decisions have been made. Trinity and the CAC have applied for funding to do a feasibility study for two main reasons: we need to know what can and can’t be done at Trinity Downtown (what is or isn’t feasible) and if things move forward, we need a feasibility study in place to support further grant applications. We are waiting to hear if our funding applications to support the feasibility study have been successful. In the meantime, we have made some changes at the front of Trinity Downtown. We’ve taken out the choir loft; lowered the knee wall; and moved the pipe organ. The result is a space that is more open and feels like there is less separation between those at the front and those in the pews. The changes make the space more flexible and friendly. A huge thank you to Gary Dean and Tom Hynd for all the work. If you have any questions, please contact Gabriele Slater or Rev. Bob.



BOARD MESSAGE—GABRIELE SLATER

It's the most wonderful time of the year....

As I sit down to write I am reminded on how quickly the year seems to have passed by. For anyone else who has continued to work through our current pandemic, I am certain you can relate. We have all done so much adjusting, realigning, and cooperating with the constant barrage of changes, of both information and conditions of operations. It has been interesting to say the least. Then in the same moment I am reminded on how long we have been doing this, and how isolating it can be for those without the ability to 'get out', for the 'shut ins', those who are compromised, those who have little or no family, those who felt alone before this pandemic.... and, it can be exacerbated at this time of year, and with the Christmas season upon us, I am reminded that it is not always a happy time for everyone.

The worship/IT team has done an exemplary job of adjusting, and readjusting and re-re-adjusting to whatever came from the Ministry of Health and Northern Health, keeping us 'informed, and in the loop' and most of all ministered to, during an awkward and challenging period. Our church has continued to do as many of the programs it could, under the new guidelines, and continued to fund and provide for programs that were needed, in particular, where it would have been detrimental to stop, so many people put aside their own fears and concerns, to ensure that necessities were provided. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in any of it, this year.

Covid-19 has been a good teacher, a teacher that taught us what is really important, and what isn't, and it wasn't what many of us thought it was prior to this pandemic. It has brought to light some glaring inconsistencies, and shortcomings. Our bubbles may have gotten smaller, and social events have been cancelled or reinvented, but for many, it was a wake-up moment to show us who and what was important, who and how are they are being affected? Interesting food for thought, at the very least, when reflected upon.

Christmas Cookie Sale
Dec. 12 | Cost: Donation
Drop off Dec 11th | 9:30am - 10am
DEADLINE FOR ORDER: DEC 9TH
Place orders at:
trinitypg.ca | 250-563-9167

What I hear the most, is a deep sadness of the loss of fellowship, the lack to being able to physically get together and see, chat, touch one another. Unfortunately, I have no crystal ball, I do not know if or when it may change, but I do know we have a great group of people. When we all put our minds together, we can move mountains, we can be the change we want to see, we can go forth and be the Church, in manners that some of us have not ever thought of before. We as the board have tried our best to ensure that nobody is left out or forgotten about, and if by some chance you are reading this and feel you were, or know of someone who may have been, overlooked in any way, I beg of you to call me, my home number is 250-963-8374. I would be happy to speak to you individually, and together I am certain we can come up with a plan.

Last but not least I want a big shout out to go to Rev. Bob, he has quietly been juggling so many **additional** balls that it would make your head spin, and in spite of it all, he has kept his sense of humour, his poise and above all has steered us in a positive direction both as a congregation and as the United Church of Canada, and even as individuals. He always has time for anyone who wants it. His job has morphed into so many odd hybrids, like lead-minister/head-techie/producer/presenter/advocate, representative, the list goes on. I just wanted to say that we, the board, know what he does and we are amazed, each and every day. We are grateful, for his strength, time and input, and as mentioned, sense of humour. In closing, I want to wish you all the very Merry Christmas. May you experience the laughter of children the warmth and comfort of family and friends, and most importantly, may you experience the presence of God. So as we go out into our community, may we all be his hands and feet, may we “go and make a difference.”

Blessings to all, and stay safe.

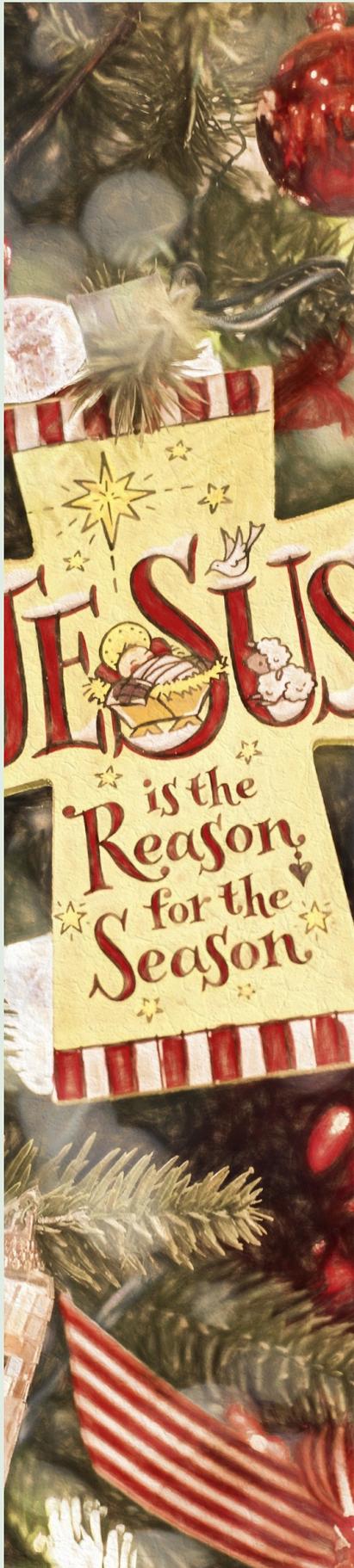


HATS FOR KIDS

Each bag purchased will be donated to a local school to keep kids warm

6 items per bag | \$20/bag





STREAMING WITH HEART - JUDY THOMAS

These ones are all on Netflix. Unfortunately I couldn't find any good Christmas ones.



Peanut Butter Falcon: This sweet romantic comedy shows the adventures of a young man with Down's Syndrome. He escapes from an old age home. It's really about the power of friendship, honesty and following your dreams. Shows some of our hidden biases about disabled people. Excellent scenery of North Carolina outer banks.

Indian Horse is a tough drama showing a boy growing up in residential school and his attempt to be a professional hockey player. Very well done. I realized the scarring, guilt the watchers of abuse also carry, because they were unable to help. Well done. Gritty. Necessary, if painful, education of us white majority.



Brene Brown-Call to Courage

Brene Brown is a prof at the University of Houston, podcaster, speaker, best-selling author, Christian. Mostly I listen to her podcasts. She gets to the bottom of recognizing then dealing with your shame so you can emerge into courage, authenticity. Doesn't sound good, but it is. Helps you grow.

The Never Ending Story is a fun fantasy fairy tale with it all: saving princesses, dragons, a boy's hero's journey to save the world. Friends who help. Scary for younger children.



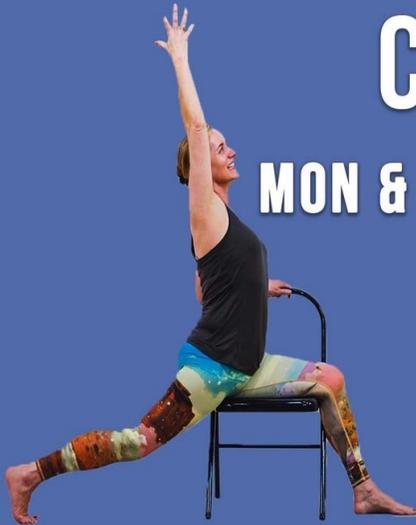
CHAIR YOGA

MON & FRI | 11:15-12:00 NOON

FELLOWSHIP HALL

COST : DONATION

ALL DONATIONS SUPPORT CAMP SPIRIT



WINTER WARMTH SALE

Hats | Scarves | Mitts
Headbands | Neck Warmers | Masks

\$5 Each | \$15 Sets of 3

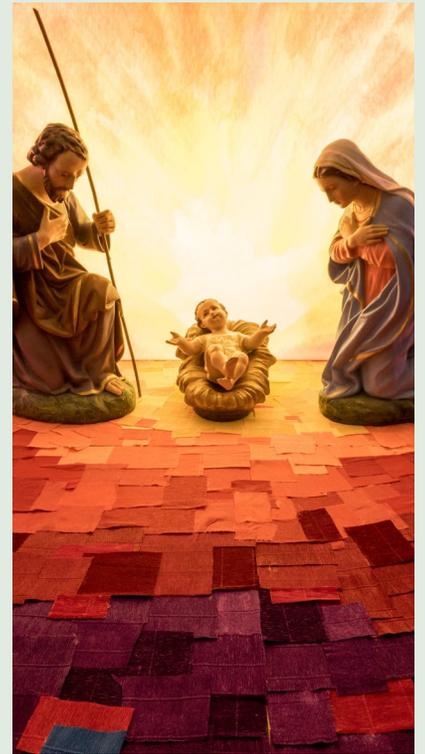
ORDER ONLINE OR THROUGH OFFICE

From all of us
at Trinity United Church:

Merry Christmas

and

New Year Blessings



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Church**

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