

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
(United Church of Christ)  
72 Elm Street  
North Andover, Massachusetts 01845

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LAWRENCE, Ma



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## **Advent begins December 1st**

**Look inside for:**

**A schedule of Advent and Christmas services**

**Poinsettia order form**

**Christmas Cookie Ministry**

**... and more!**

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**Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams**

**Music Director, Christopher Wood**

**Administrative Secretary, Dorothy Taylor**

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**Moderator, Sarah Dunlap**

**Handbell Choir Director, Bev Valle**

**Sexton, Doug Beach**

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# The Trinitarian Times

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC  
72 Elm St. North Andover, MA  
978-686-4445  
www.natrinitarian.org  
offices@natrinitarian.org



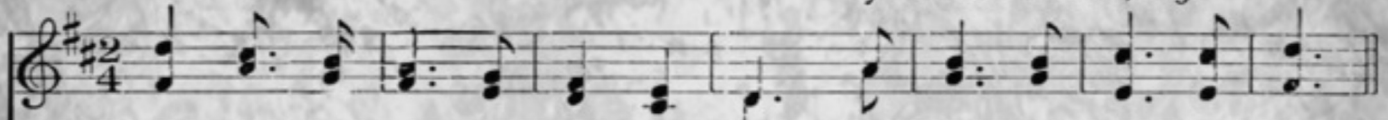
December 2019

## Joy to the World

(ANTIOCH. C. M.)

ISAAC WATTS, 1719

Arranged from HANDEL'S Messiah, 1742  
by LOWELL MASON, 1830



Beloved,

When we are expectant about a future event we can become so excited that waiting for it almost seems impossible. Ask any child or their parent and they'll tell you about the difficulty the whole family experiences when waiting for the arrival of Christmas morning. For Christians, waiting through Advent is essential to our preparation for the coming Christ child. As we wait together this year, we will ponder 'Joy' and how it touches our lives. Below is a little more about the series. You will find a calendar of services is listed on the reverse side of this cover. Please plan to join us!

*"Make a joyful noise to the Beloved  
all the earth; break forth into grateful song  
and sing praises! Yes, sing songs of praise extolling  
Love's way; lift up your hearts with  
gratitude and joy!"*

*- Psalm 98 (translation, Nan C. Merrill)*

"Joy to the World," a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt's interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a "new song"—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than "joy" being yet another word for "happiness," we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs. © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/joy](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/joy)

Christmas Blessings to you and yours,

*Pastor Debra*

Church Office hours : Monday through Wednesday, 9 to 12:30, Thursday 12:30-4, Friday 9-12:30

# Heaven and Nature Sing!

300 Years of

JOY

to the World

## *Worship schedule for the Advent and Christmas seasons*

December 1 "Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy"

December 8 "Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy"

December 15 "Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy"

December 19 "Longest Night Service: Elusive Joy" 6:45 pm

December 22 "Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy"

December 24 "The Lord Is Come: Incarnate Joy," Lessons and Carols 7 pm

December 25 "Christmas Morning," 10 am

December 29 "Wonders of His Love: Compassionate Joy" Hymn Sing

### *Longest Night*

Christmas activities can take the focus off the reason for the season. Take some quiet time to reorient yourself from the rush. This night of hope and light will include prayers and music that can lift the spirits of those who are longing for something more, or who are struggling or grieving. Invite a friend who needs this and join us for a simple soup and bread fellowship supper at 6 pm followed by the short service at 6:45 pm. Please let Dorothy know if you plan to be here for the soup so we are sure to have enough!

**December 19th, 2019**

**Soup and fellowship at 6 pm, Service at 6:45 pm**

### **Coming in January! Revised Bylaws**

The revised bylaws will be ready for review immediately after the first of the year. Paper copies will start to be available on Sunday, January 5th so you will have plenty of time to review before Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th. Church officers and committee members have worked prayerfully and diligently to bring the bylaws up to date. It's an exciting time in the life of TCC!



## Christmas Cookie Ministry

This is a reminder to mark your calendars for **Tuesday, December 10th**. On this day we pack cookies to deliver to our homebound friends. We request that you bring in 2 dozen of your favorite cookies by **10 am**. If it is more convenient please leave the cookies in the kitchen on Sunday or Monday clearly marked . Please remember that we pack **cookies only. No bars and PLEASE no nuts**. If you are able to help deliver to one or two people please let Sarah Dunlap or Bev Valle know. This ministry of love and remembrance is always gratefully and cheerfully received and it is a heartwarming experience to those who make the deliveries.

## Christmas Choir

This year, the Trinitarian Choir will be singing Vivaldi's Gloria Chorus during our Christmas Eve service. If you would like to join us in the singing of this wonderful piece, please consider joining the choir for the Advent season. Commitment is minimal and stress free. Reach out to Chris at [musicdirector@natrinitarian.org](mailto:musicdirector@natrinitarian.org) for details and with interest. We hope to see you for Christmas Eve to enjoy this special music!

## The Banner Fund

Banners in the worship space create visual appeal for those who learn from their surroundings. We have new banners for Advent and Christmas! If you would like to contribute and help purchase some of these banners, it would be great! This would be much like purchasing flowers, but have a longer life. You can also honor or memorialize loved ones as part of your contribution. Simply send a check for any amount to the office and write "Deacon Banner Fund" in the memo line. Please include a note saying how you would like to see your gift printed in the bulletin or newsletter i.e. "In memory of my parents by Joe Smith."

## TCC Book Club

The TCC Book Club meets just about every month from September through May, and reads a variety of books. Recent titles include Michelle Obama's book "Becoming," and "The Lost Girls of Paris." If you are interested, email Lorene Beach ([beach206@verizon.net](mailto:beach206@verizon.net)).

**Memorial Gifts:** This is one of the quieter committees in the church but some very special items in our building have been purchased with this money. This is a gentle suggestion that if a family member passes away or if you want to honor someone you love, consider a tax deductible donation to this fund, or consider leaving a legacy in your will.

**Our Yoga classes have been suspended** as we search for a new instructor. If you know someone who might like to run our 5:30 to 6:30 pm classes every Friday, have them contact Glen Ayer at 978-994-0430.

**Prayer requests:** You can call or email the office any time with prayer requests to be listed in the bulletin. Praying for our friends and neighbors, family and acquaintances is important spiritual exercise.



## Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy

Winter is coming and with it comes unpredictable snow fall and poor driving conditions. Sunday worship service cancellations will be announced on TV (WBZ) and (WSBK). They will no longer be announced on the radio. You can also see cancellations on [CBSBoston.com](http://CBSBoston.com).

# Christmas Flowers

It's time to order poinsettias for the sanctuary for Christmas services. All orders must be placed by **December 11th**. Call or email Dorothy if you have any questions, 978-686-4445 or email offices@natrinitarian.org

## ORDER FORM FOR POINSETTIAS

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) to be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 22nd (**Price \$15.00**). If the plant is to be a memorial, please indicate for whom it is given:

*In loving memory of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_

- I will leave the plant for Christmas Eve service.
- I will pick up the plant at the conclusion of the service on December 22nd.
- The plant may be used, following the service, for distribution to a home-bound.
- I would be interested in delivering plants to shut-ins.

**Payment should accompany the order, and checks made payable to TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.**

**Please place your order no later than Wednesday, December 11th. Thank you.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **In lieu of a Poinsettia I am making a \$25 donation for a Market Basket gift card to assist local families.**



# Hands and Feet of Christ: Message from Missions

December is a busy time for giving, but we would like to remind you of the importance of the “Who is My Neighbor” project. We would like to know what you feel is important so we can direct our Missions money toward those groups who best represent Christ’s mission on earth as the congregation envisions it.

We are collecting toys for the **Shoebox Ministry!** We need toys and items for boys and girls ages 6 to 14 that are small enough to fit in a Christmas stocking or a shoe box. Crayons, markers, small coloring books, pens, and anything fun will be perfect! Our donations will be given to the children of Manos Felices/Happy Hands at Hancock Courts in Lawrence at their Christmas Party December 20th. All items need to be to Missions by December 15th.

The Warmth Tree is up as well! If it’s warm and you can wear it, you can put it on the tree. We will be collecting the warm clothes through January.

Don’t forget, we still have food pantry collection boxes in the Narthex and at the back entrance. Food pantry donations dry up after Christmas, so please consider bringing in items in December that will keep through January. We usually collected coffee, tea and cocoa for December, and peanut butter and jelly in January, but any and all donations are accepted.

Did you see us in the Santa Parade? We had signs advertising the church and our Christmas services. We used part of our outreach budget this year to send Easter and Christmas postcards to our neighbors inviting them to attend our services. We are trying to be more visible to the greater community.

This year, Barbara McGovern sent 270 boxes of donated items to underserved schools in West Virginia. She has been performing this act of loving kindness for 13 years and deserves to be recognized. Thank you, Barbara, for being an inspiration!

*Your Missions Board*

The Diaconate is undertaking a “**Who is My Neighbor**” project, based on workshops at last spring’s and this fall’s UCC Super Saturday. The idea is to learn more about ourselves, the people with whom we engage, and those we’d like to engage. This process of information gathering should help us determine TCC’s true mission. Members of the Diaconate will be meeting with TCC boards, committees and other groups, such as the choirs and Bible Study group, to ask three questions:

- What do you personally need, or wish was available in our community?
- What does our community as a whole need?
- What are the strengths and gifts that you/TCC bring – or could bring – to our community?

The deacons are also happy to meet with individuals interested in answering these questions, or you can email your answers to us. We hope to complete our internal interviews, as well as interviews with those who use our facilities, prior to the annual meeting in January. Pam Foote ([pfoote@comcast.net](mailto:pfoote@comcast.net)) and Betsy Hopkins ([betsyhopkins@earthlink.net](mailto:betsyhopkins@earthlink.net)) are leading this market research project for the Diaconate – please contact one of them if you have any questions or are interested in participating.



Who Is My Neighbor?

**THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A  
GREATER NEED FOR LOVE**

Take a neighbor to  
church



## Stewardship Nugget

In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.

*-Iroquois Confederacy Maxim*

# Stewardship Brunch Recipes

Here are some of the recipes from the brunch held November 3rd. Lots of delicious-ness!

## Manteiga's Strata

### Ingredients:

10 slices bread (any kind), buttered and cubed  
3/4 lb cheddar, shredded  
3/4 lb mozzarella, shredded  
1 lb sausage  
8 eggs  
3 1/2 Cup milk  
1/4 teaspoon Paprika  
1/2 teaspoon Curry  
1 teaspoon Dry Mustard  
1/2 teaspoon Salt  
1/8 teaspoon Cayenne Pepper

In a 9 x 13 inch casserole dish, layer 1/2 bread, 1/2 cheese, sausage, remaining bread, remaining cheese  
Whisk eggs, milk, spices together, and pour over egg and cheese mixture.

Refrigerate overnight

Bake in morning at 325 F for 1 hour.

**Note** – you can substitute anything you want for the sausage – sometimes I use ham, or broccoli, peppers and onions, or a combination.

## Easy Toast Casserole French (Lorene Beach)

### Ingredients:

1 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup butter  
1 (8 ounce) loaf crusty French bread, cut into bite-sized pieces, or as needed  
2 cups milk  
6 eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1 pinch ground cinnamon, or to taste  
1 tablespoon brown sugar, or as needed

### Directions:

1 Grease a 9x12-inch baking dish.  
2 Stir 1 cup brown sugar and butter together in a saucepan over medium-low heat until butter melts and sugar dissolves into butter, 2 to 4 minutes. Pour into prepared baking dish and spread a 1 1/2 to 2-inch layer of bread pieces over the top.  
3 Beat milk, eggs, and vanilla extract together in a bowl; pour milk mixture over bread into the baking dish and

move bread as necessary to ensure all bread is absorbing liquid. Sprinkle cinnamon over the top. Cover the dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate, 8 hours to overnight.  
4 Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Remove and discard plastic wrap from baking dish and sprinkle remaining brown sugar over the top of the bread mixture.  
5 Bake in the preheated oven until browned and bubbling, about 30 minutes.

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### Notes:

I used cinnamon swirl bread, 1 loaf, cut into bite sized pieces.

I mixed the cinnamon and brown sugar in with the egg mixture. (this was by mistake, but I'd probably do it again.) I used about 1 T cinnamon because I love cinnamon.

Then, before I cooked it the next morning I sprinkled with cinnamon and brown sugar.

- Lorene

## HAZEL'S STRATA

12 slices white bread cut into 12 inch squares  
1 lb. ham cubed; and some raw veggie for crunch;  
2 C shredded Monterrey Jack Cheese  
2 C shredded cheddar cheese  
6 eggs; 1/2 cup butter melted; 3 cups milk room temperature

Grease 9 x 13 pan. Layer 1/2 the bread, 1/2 the cheeses; 1/2 the ham; and the veggie into the pan. (I used broccoli

florets.) Repeat layers.

Mix eggs, milk and melted butter in bowl. Pour over layers. Refrigerate over night (or at least 2 hrs.)

Bake at 350 deg. for 45 – 50 minutes. Let sit for 10 minutes.

**TIP:** Milk s/b at room temp. prior to adding the melted butter so the butter won't harden into droplets or little flakes.

## Cinnamon Rolls (from the Betty Crocker Cookbook 1st Edition) (1950)

Soak 2 packages of dry granular yeast in 1/2 cup lukewarm water for 5 minutes without stirring. Stir well before adding.

Mix together 1 1/2 cups lukewarm milk, 1/2 cup sugar, 2 tsp. salt. Add yeast.

Stir in 2 eggs, 1/2 cup soft shortening.

Mix in first with a spoon and then by hand 7 to 7 1/2 cups

of sifted flour. Add flour in 2 additions, using the amount necessary to make it easy to handle. Once it is mixed, turn it out onto a lightly floured board to knead. Fold dough over toward you, then press down away from you with the heel of your hand. Turn a quarter turn, and repeat until it's smooth, elastic, and doesn't stick to the board. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to bring the greased side up.

Recipes continued...

Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm, draft free spot (80 to 85 degrees) until it is double—1 1/2 to 2 hours. To check if it is doubled, press two fingers into the dough. It will leave indentations when doubled. Punch the dough down in the center, fold the edges into the center and turn completely over in the bowl. Let rise again until almost double in bulk (30 to 45 minutes). After the second rising, roll the dough into an oblong 9 x 18". Spread with 2 tbsp. softened butter and sprinkle with 1/2 cup sugar and 2 tsp. cinnamon. Roll up tightly, beginning at the wide side. Seal well by pinching the edges of the roll together. Cut roll into 1" slices. Place a little apart on a greased 13 x 9" pan or in muffin cups.

Cover and let rise until double in bulk (35 to 40 minutes). Bake until golden brown and completely baked through.

TEMPERATURE: 375 degrees (quick mod. oven)

TIME: 25 to 30 minutes

**Our building is busy: please make sure you schedule all events with the office.** There is a copy of the calendar posted outside the office, be sure to check and make sure there is no one scheduled in a room you want to use and that you know if someone is waiting to use the room after you.

## Call for Annual Reports from Officers, Committees and Boards

Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26th after worship service. In order to complete the Annual Report, all reports are due by Thursday, January 9th. The following reports are due:

- Pastor
- Church Council
- Moderator
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Collector
- Board of Trustees
- Diaconate
- Board of Christian Missions and Outreach
- Music Committee
- Memorial Gifts Committee
- Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
- Scholarship Committee



Coffee Hour

Won't you please sign up to be the host of our Sunday after worship coffee hour? The coffee is made for you, but you should bring a sweet (a box of cookies is fine) and a smile.

You also need to stay and clean up, sorry. There are sign up sheets in the Davis

**Please wear your nametags.** If you prefer, you can have yours on a string rather than a clip on.

Let the office know if you need a string or if you need a new nametag. It's a small request, but it is something we

can all do to make visitors feel more welcome.



**Remember the last time** you went someplace new and maybe felt a little confused, lost, or lonely? Let's make sure visitors to church (and regulars, too!) see a friendly face with an outstretched hand at the front door. Sign up to be a greeter on Sunday morning. There are sign-up sheets in the Davis Room, or contact Dorothy in the office (offices@natrinitarian.org or 978-686-4445) and make a commitment to be a little early one Sunday and smile!



## What can you do to support Trinitarian Congregational Church (UCC)? Here are a few ideas!

If someone is new in town, and looking for a church, where do they look? Social media! We're on Facebook (@natrinitarian) and as of last month, Instagram (tccadmin72)! If you are, too, like our page, write a review, or give us a recommendation — and have your kids or grands like us, too! (You can like and share our posts, as well.)

- Forward our emails to your friends.

- Invite a friend to worship

Just a few ideas so you can help get the word out about our programs. And they don't cost a thing!