

Worship - Sunday 10 AM
Sunday School - during worship
(Sep-Jun)

Twins Talk

January 2025

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Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year!!! A day and a metaphor for new beginnings, renewal and looking forward. It also reminds us of the adage "Time flies when you are having fun..." Isn't that the truth! What happened to yesterday, to last fall, to the last 25 years??? It's also a day to reflect on the past, on the things we loved, on the things we wish we could do over, on the times of our lives! Busy day - whew!

Maybe that's why New Year's Resolutions were invented. What do we want to do differently, better, healthier, happier! But why do them? Why dwell on what we think we have to change? That's kind of discouraging!

I invite you to consider a New Year's Resolution as an opportunity to give yourself a sense of accomplishment. A gift to future you.

Last Sunday I spoke about Mr. Roger's understanding that Heaven is a place where good people go after they die, but he didn't want to wait. He wanted to live in Heaven right now, right here!

So how about a resolution like "Let's create heaven on earth, right here, right now!" What do you think? I imagine some of you think that's a bit much, a bit over the top, a resolution we probably can't accomplish.

Last Sunday we also talked about loving ourselves so we could better love others, noting it was the most important commandment! So what if we combine our New Year's Resolution with the most important commandment?

"Oh great, that's so much easier to accomplish!" said that voice inside.

I invite you to begin simply, gently, quietly - inside your head and your heart.

Begin with gratitude. Consider, note, even write down what you are grateful for today - right now, right here! Don't consider what you used to be able to do, or what happened that hurt; focus on today. "What am I thankful for right now."

Let Gratitude be the stairway to discovering love for all you have, for all you are.

Let Gratitude be the stairway to loving yourself so you can better love others.

Let Gratitude be the stairway to Heaven - right here, right now!

Steve

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us!" 1 John 4:12



Session Scene

- Committee Reports:
 - Fellowship – planning congregational social events for 2025
 - Mission – Annual donations to local charities have been distributed.
 - Property – looking into motion lights for exterior doors.
 - Safety – will schedule training for defibrillator to be held during coffee hour
 - Worship – there is a need for ushers and greeters
- The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26.
- The next Session meeting will be January 19 following worship.

5th Sunday Service Hosted by Twin Churches



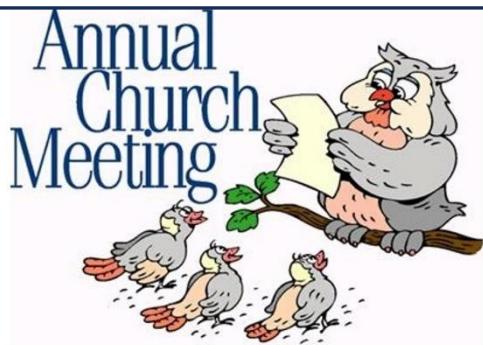
It was truly "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" on Sunday, December 29 as we celebrated the 5th Sunday and welcomed friends from local churches including St. David's Episcopal, Trenton United Methodist, and the Unitarian Church of Barneveld to join us in worship.

The service was enhanced by our choir, a combined community bell choir, and guest organist, Jason Steiner (Gaby McGhee's grandson).

Pastor Steve Vance began his message by re-enacting the well-recognized opening to "*Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*", sweater and all. He referenced the renowned Fred Rogers (an ordained Presbyterian minister) and his work in TV and society to bring the concept of being a good neighbor to everyone.

We are truly blessed to live in this neighborhood, with such great neighbors!

Our next 5th Sunday Service will be held on March 30 at the Unitarian Church of Barneveld.



January 26, 2025

**Also Voting on the recommendations of
the Nominating Committee**

**In the Sanctuary after worship
followed by our ever popular
(and delicious) Coffee/Fellowship Hour**

**All reports due by Jan 10 for the Annual Report
to Carol Heburn**

Email: carol.heburn@gmail.com

Beat the After-Christmas Blues

(Inspired by PositivelyPresent.com)

The holidays are over, the days are short, dark, and often gloomy, and it's cold. Dreading the infamous question: "*What's your New Year's Resolution?*" Try something new!

Make a Stay-the-Same Resolution:

Instead of focusing on what you don't want to be (or don't feel you are), try zeroing in on what's working about you and your life. Think about what worked well in the previous year, what you want to stay the same, and direct your focus to creating more of that in your life. It's sure to make January a bit more joyful (and perhaps a little less judgmental, too!).



Bad Weather Policy

If our Sunday service, or any other church activity, must be cancelled due to weather, check the following outlets for notification:

- Email notification to our mailing list
- Church Facebook page
- WKTV Closings and Delays

Please help us by notifying anyone who does not have access to these sites.



January 2025

Jan 5 – Deb Rowlands - *Epiphany*

Jan 12 – Bonnie Churcher

Jan 19 – Janet Stengel/Vicky Allen

Jan 26 – Cindy Rye & Friends – *Annual Mtg*

Janet Lanning – Phone 315-941-7409

Email jasc@me.com

Spot the Differences in The Wise Men's Story

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 16 things that are different.



January

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 2 | Mickey Howard |
| 3 | Jim Allen |
| 4 | Ryan Carnright |
| 6 | Brenda & Paul Castle (A) |
| 9 | Beverly Seifried |
| 12 | Rich Mueller |
| | A. J. Bosman |
| | Carol Heburn |
| 13 | Kathy Lemieux |
| 15 | Lisa Burnham |
| | Sarah (Clemmons) Palmer |
| 17 | Mark Niedzielski |
| 18 | Christopher Wall |
| 20 | Evelyn Clark |
| 24 | Ruth Walker |
| | Karl Werbovetz |
| | Patrick Phillips |
| | Bob Wozna |
| 26 | Walt Hagues |
| | Tom Kraft |
| 28 | Jessica (Aubry Meade) |

UPCOMING EVENTS

Worship Schedule

Jan 5 - Bonnie Tryon – Communion, Epiphany

Jan 12 - Janet Stengel

Jan 19 – Steve Vance

Jan 26 – Steve Vance

Events

Choir Practice – Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Jan 19 - Session Meeting - after worship

Jan 26 - Annual Meeting and Vote on Nominating Committee recommendations

Check our website at "twinchurches.org" for a complete calendar of events



bits & pieces

Prayers are asked for:

- Karl Werbovetz who had a heart catheterization that resulted in placement of 3 stents.
- Sally Preston whose twin brother, Curtis's health has declined.
- Bev Seifried who had a fall involving facial stitches but seems comfortable during recovery.
- Gaby McGhee who, like many, suffers from hearing loss and is very grateful that hearing assistance is available. She asks prayers for those who miss so much of life because they are in need of hearing assistance.
- Cathy Vannicola who had knee surgery and is in rehab. Prayers for a good recovery so that she is able to come home soon. A joy that Vince has recovered and was able to worship with us this week.
- Dick (Fuddy) Hoffman who suffered a heart attack and had 5 stents placed. Prayers for a speedy recovery.
- Gail Smith who fell and broke her leg and had stitches in her head. Gail and her husband were long-time members of our congregation before retiring to Georgia.

Joys are shared for:

- Janet Stengel who thanks everyone for their prayers following her hand surgery. Her recovery is going well.
- Bob Griffith who expressed joy and thanks that an unknown angel plowed his driveway after a recent storm which allowed him to attend worship.
- Vicky Allen, who will be having a visit from her daughter, Kerkira. Travel mercies for Kerkira as she makes several stops to visit family and friends across the country as she makes her way to Stittville.

Prayer Chain - Peg Curtacci

phone: 315-867-7898 or email: [pcurtacci.1947@gmail](mailto:pcurtacci.1947@gmail.com)