



**CONCORD
TRINITY**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ConcordTrinity.org



*GIVE
Thanks
WITH
A
Grateful
HEART*

NOVEMBER 2021 Newsletter

News Items You can Use to

Worship, Grow, Serve and Invite

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INVITING PEOPLE TO
WORSHIP, GROW AND
SERVE WITH CHRIST

Concord Trinity UMC

November 2021

WWW.CONCORDTRINITY.ORG
(314)842-2060

From the Desk of ...
Pastor Mary Weaver

Hello Concord Trinity Friends!

Some of you may have noticed that I was gone for a few days in October. It's ok if you didn't; I'm not offended! I went on a clergy mission trip, sponsored by the Missouri Annual Conference, to El Paso, Texas, which is right on the border with Mexico and New Mexico.

This was a research mission trip, not a "work" mission trip, and we were there to meet folks who were either directly involved or directly impacted by the US/Mexico border issues. We met with a retired Border Patrol Supervising Officer who now teaches at the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP). We met with teachers and students at the Lydia Patterson Institute, a 100-year-old Methodist school in El Paso, serving 7th-12th graders who are immigrants, either living in El Paso or over the border in Juarez, Mexico. We spent a day in Juarez and met with a Methodist pastor who leads a refugee center that can house up to 250 people at a time as they wait for their trial date to come into the United States, mostly for asylum. We met with a municipal-run refugee center where the vast majority of people and families there tried to cross over the border but were sent back.

Back over in El Paso, we met with the director of the new chapter of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), a non-profit organization that helps migrants and immigrants with their legal cases and the social system of the US.

After all of these conversations, and after reflecting together on the issues at hand, it was clear to me and others that this was not just a border issue we were researching. Of course, issues at the border matter, but we found that this was a humanity issue. These are people and families who are for the most part just trying to find a better life. Many are fleeing gangs that overwhelm their countries.

By far the majority are economic migrants looking to better provide for their family. And they are not only from Mexico and Central America, but

South America, Haiti, Cuba, Iran, and Africa. What does this mean for the Missouri United Methodist Churches? I don't think any of us know, but we don't have to live on the border to feel the ripples from these humanity issues.

Missouri receives migrants and immigrants often, especially in the more urban areas, but even in the rural areas with farmland. While we were arriving at the airport to leave El Paso, several of the national guard were leading a large group of Afghanistan refugees through the airport, heading to somewhere in the States, maybe even to St. Louis.

What I do know is that we see from scripture time and again that we are to welcome the stranger, the alien, the displaced. This isn't a strict political issue except for the stark fact that border issues have a lot to do with politics, but that's why it's vital to see this as a humanity issue. No matter where you fall politically, we cannot deny the fact that these families and people are human beings, and as Christians, we can care for them in love.

As we come upon Thanksgiving this month, I am so thankful for my job, my house, my car, my medical insurance. Things that may seem like basic rights; things I should never take for granted. But not everyone has those things. Every single person has meaning, deserves a life without oppression, and is worthy of love. That's what we hold onto when dealing with or talking about issues at the border. These are just people who God loves just as much as God loves us.

Pastor Mary



**New sermon series in November:
Changed by Grace**

Worship Updates

[Lori Scott](#), Director of Worship

New Sermon Series!

Throughout November our focus will be **“Changed by Grace.”** Based on scriptures from Ephesians, Genesis, and Second Corinthians, sermons will revolve around the **Wesleyan theology on Prevenient, Justifying, and Sanctifying grace.**

Free Grace According to John Wesley
Prevenient (preparing) Grace - Grace that is coming before
Justifying (accepting) Grace - Conversion
Sanctifying (sustaining) Grace - Toward Perfection

Join us in worship for this exciting series!

CTUMC Concert Series

The Landolfi String Quartet will be featured in free concert on Sunday, **November 7 at 4 pm.** **“Melodies through the Ages”** will feature many songs with memorable melodies that you already love!

Music from Bach to Star Wars will be performed. Join us for a great event! Reservations are suggested. Free event with offering taken to assist with expenses.



“Deck the Halls” Christmas Decorating Times

Our annual decoration of the sanctuary will be divided into two sections. On Sunday, November 21 from 6 to 8 pm all adult volunteers will be assisted by CT Youth with setting up our Christmas trees for decorating.

Then the next day, Monday, November 22 at 9 am, many volunteers are needed to assist with decorating the sanctuary and trees. Contact [Lori Scott](#) if you wish to assist at (314)842-2060 Ext 22 or lscott@concordtrinity.org.

Advent Candle Lighting

Volunteers (singles, couples, class groups, families) are needed for lighting the Advent Wreath from November 28 through Christmas Eve. If you and your family are interested, please contact [Lori Scott](mailto:Lscott@concordtrinity.org) at Lscott@concordtrinity.org, OR you may sign up directly on the bulletin board by the usher's closet at the back of the sanctuary at the double doors leading to the offices. Volunteers must be able to use public speaking skills and the ability to have someone light candle(s).



Special Events during December

“Christmas at Concord”

On **Sunday, December 12 at 4 pm** celebrate ***Christmas at Concord!*** Choirs, singers, bell choirs and Wire Choir will help us praise God at our annual holiday concert featuring the inspiring Christmas cantata “Peace” by Joel Raney. **We hope you will invite friends and family and come together in celebration of Jesus’ birth.**

Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 16 at noon a special remembrance service will be held in the sanctuary. This service is for those struggling with grief faced by those living with loss during the holiday season.

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24 join together at CTUMC with friends & family at two worship times: 3 pm and 7 pm, both with candle lighting. Come rejoice in the birth of our Savior!

Sunday, December 26, only one worship time will be offered at 10 am with no Sunday school or gatherings for children, youth, or adults.



Deadline: Dec. 5th
Christmas Poinsettia Orders

The Poinsettias are back! Purchase a red poinsettia in honor of or in memory of someone for **\$12.00 each**, and help beautify our sanctuary. The plants are grown in St. Louis at a local greenhouse. They are in 6-inch pots with a gold pot cover. There are 5-7 blooms per plant. Plants will be on display in the sanctuary December 19 - 26. You may take yours home after services on Christmas Eve or on Sunday, December 26. Please complete the order form below and return with payment to the church office by December 5.

**CLICK [HERE](#) to print out online
poinsettia order form!**

Helping the Homeless

Diana Rudloff and United Methodist Women will collect new hats, gloves, hand warmers (such as hunters sometimes use), and individually wrapped candies & snacks which they help distribute to our brothers and sisters living on the streets in our communities. Deadline: December 3, 2021.

Opportunities to Serve the Community

Help Local Families in Need

Due to Covid, the traditional United Methodist Women's holiday tradition has changed. We recommend working directly on your own through Feed My People's Adopt a Family Program, where you are encouraged to purchase gift cards for families in need (and some are available for sale in the church office). You would be responsible for getting the gift card(s) to Feed My People yourself. To start, call Sharon at Feed My People, (314) 631-4900 ex. 302. Deadline is early December!

UMW Toy Drive

Diana Rudloff and United Methodist Women will collect new, unwrapped toys during the month of November and drop them off at agencies that work with toy distribution and needy children. Please bring your donations to the church office during the week or to worship time on Sunday. Deadline is Friday, December 3. Contact Diana with any questions.

Hope Lives - 2021

For three nights this **December (21st, 22nd, 23rd)** CTUMC will again invite the community and church friends to "Hope Lives," a newer version of last year's beautiful, meaningful drive-thru Christmas light display and food donation drive! **Can you help with these job areas?**

- ♥ **Help with set up** outdoor decorations (dates TBD)
- ♥ **Help take down** and store decorations (dates TBD)
- ♥ **Help at the drive-thru one night** directing traffic, intake of food donations, moving donations into building at end of night, passing out ornaments and thank yous to drivers, etc
- ♥ **Money** - every event has expenses, and this one is no different. Please indicate "Hope Lives" on your donation so that funds will be properly credited. You can drop your donation at worship time starting now, or mail it into the office.

More information will be available very soon! If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please call the church office or contact [Melanie Lloyd](mailto:mloyd@concordtrinity.org) at mloyd@concordtrinity.org or [Sarah Rosendahl](mailto:srosendahl@concordtrinity.org) at srosendahl@concordtrinity.org.

Opportunities to Serve the Community

Everyone's In Mission – Join the Missions Team!

As followers of Jesus, you, I, and everyone are called to serve, based on your areas of giftedness and your heartfelt concerns.

Concord Trinity has a Missions Team to help with promoting ideas to support our primary missions such as Home Sweet Home, Feed My People and Midwest Mission, along with other concerns. **We want to see people grow in their mission involvement!**

Our Missions Team has gone through several changes in the past few years due to aging and moves, and we are in the process of recruiting a new team of folks who have a heart for lifting up missions and serving others.

Informational Meeting for All: November 22 at 7 pm in room 223.

If you cannot attend, but are interested, please contact Diane Nichols at bjn524@yahoo.com or Cathy Black at t nusfmly@sbcglobal.net, or call the church office.



Cutting Edge Card Makers You are Invited to Help Create Cards

Join Cutting Edge every second Saturday of the month at CTUMC from 10 am - Noon, room 223 (next meeting: November 13). This energetic group will have all the pieces ready, and you can help create greeting cards which brighten the lives of shut-ins, hospitalized friends, veterans in the VA hospital, and more! Just drop in, no registration.

Opportunities to Serve the Community

November 14th - 28th

Shelf-Stable Food Donation Drive for Downtown Shelter

“For I was hungry and you fed me.” Matthew 25

In Downtown St. Louis, our neighbors using the overnight shelter could use our help! The CTUMC Missions Team will be collecting non-refrigerated, microwavable meals such as ready-to-eat soups, pasta dishes, rice dishes, beef stew, chili, mac and cheese, oatmeal, etc. You can donate it as long as it's ready to microwave, and is shelf-stable (non-refrigerated). Clients downtown who use the overnight shelter have access to a microwave, but there isn't refrigeration.

You can drop off your donations at the church office, or at worship times on Sunday mornings starting Nov. 14 through the 28th.

DRIVE THRU EVENT The Missions Team will kick off this food drive for shelf-stable, microwaveable items at our Drive Thru Food Drop Off on **Sunday, November 14 from Noon to 2 pm**. Spread the word! Tell your friends, co-workers, grandparents, and neighbors about this opportunity to help feed those in need in St. Louis.

Mark Your Calendars! April 2, 2022 Meal Packing Event

Even though it's about 5 months away, please plan to join our Meal Packing Event on Saturday, April 2nd Noon - 2 pm. We'll be packing rice and bean meal packs in partnership with Midwest Missions from Chatham, Illinois, which will distribute the meals internationally. When our meals get delivered, we'll get a notice so we can share the story of what part of the world received our meals.



Weekly / Monthly Reminders

These events are “no sign-up,” just come when you can.
We will be updating classes on our web site soon!

- MONDAYS** Now at church or Zoom! 10 am Sisters Bible Study (All Welcome! Call Church office for Zoom info)
- TUESDAYS** 1 pm Bible with Bob Class (room 223)
7:30 pm Fierce Friends Book Study (room 223)
- THURSDAYS** 8 am Men’s Bible Study (room 222)
9:30 am Thursday Sisters Bible Study (room 222)
- SUNDAYS** 9 am Christian Living Adult Sunday School (check sched.)
9:15 am “Belong” Sunday Small Group (rm 223)
9 am GAB Adult Sunday School (room 107)
10:30 am Travelers Adult Sunday School (room 222)

*New Short Term and Long Term study/connect groups coming soon!
Watch for weekly email updates on topics and start dates as we look to launch this season with on-line and in-person options.*

United Methodist Women Monthly Meetings

10:30 am Sarah Circle

Join us the second Thursday of each month in room 223

7 pm Circle TWO

Join us the second Monday of each month in Trinity Hall



Holiday Dates to Remember

**Sunday, November 21 11:30 Concord Kids Advent Adventures
(Trinity Hall) Community Welcome!**

Sunday, November 21 6 pm - 8 pm Part 1 Sanctuary Decorating

Monday, November 22 9 am - 1 pm Part 2 Sanctuary Decorating

Sunday, November 28 First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 5, Poinsettia order form due

Sunday, December 12, 4 pm "Christmas at Concord" Concert

Thursday, December 16 Noon Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 24 3 pm and 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 26 one worship time 10 am (no classes)

December 27th, 31st Church Office Closed (open Dec. 28, 29, 30)



Opportunities to Grow in Spirit



Will You Join Us in Prayer? Prayer is a Powerful Tool

Philippians 4:6 reminds us to not worry but bring everything to God in prayer. Prayer is powerful! It is important for you and I as the church to stay connected & feel supported through prayer, especially in this time of COVID and other troubles. Our pastors pray over confidential prayer

requests; our church staff prays weekly over other prayer requests, and CTUMC also has a small Prayer Team who have been a part of our public prayer chain for public prayer requests. If you are interested in joining the prayer team please contact [Melanie Lloyd](#).

To make a confidential or other prayer request, feel free to contact the pastor by phone (see last page) or use our online Prayer Request form on the main page of the church website. You can select "Pastors only"; "Pastors & Staff"; or "Public Prayer Chain." *Note: If Public Prayer Chain is selected you must be granted permission by the recipient of the prayer request for this information to be made public.*

If this is a ministry you would like to join please contact Melanie Lloyd at mlloyd@concordtrinity.org or call the church office at (314) 842-2060.

In Memoriam

Sending prayers and our sympathies to the family of Concord Trinity member Lloyd Roseberry, who died October 2, 2021. We are keeping in prayer Marilyn Roseberry, son James (Lara Thiel), daughter Lynn Kezar, grandchildren, extended family & friends.

Lloyd's memorial service was at CTUMC on October 23rd.

We also keep in prayer the Henneberry Family on the loss of Terry's mother recently.

Opportunities to Grow in Spirit

Free Advent Cartoons and Lessons for Home

The first Sunday in Advent is November 28th! As we head into the Advent season and move into a sermon series helping us to remember and participate in the Christmas Story found in the Gospel of Luke, we encourage groups and families to find a way to celebrate Advent together outside of worship, too.

Amplify Media from Cokesbury Publishing provides 100s of videos to livestream, available to members in our church for free.

Start Today! Visit

my.amplifymedia.com/concordtrinityumcstlouismo/welcome

Initial Access Code: YSLTKW Questions? ltaylor@concordtrinity.org

Take a look at their huge “Advent for the Whole Church” collection!





Dear Parents,
Guardians, and
Friends of
Concord Kids:



Hello! I can't believe how fast time is flying by! We've been busy the last couple months, so I want to take a moment to reflect, if that's okay with everyone (just so you know, you don't have a choice).

First, it's hard to believe we're nearly two months into our 2021-22 Sunday Morning Gatherings program. Every time Concord Kids gather, I never fail to be amazed by these amazing disciples I get to walk alongside.

It's never a dull moment in our Sunday gatherings and I'm constantly learning from the kids as much as I hope they're learning from their leaders!

And speaking of, I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to our Gathering Leaders: **Jenny Elphingstone, Ella Evans, Jei Evans, Katie Evans, Layla Weaver, and Wendy Wertel**. This ministry wouldn't be possible without you and all of your hard work and dedication!

Second, I want to thank everyone who helped make our **Trunk-or-Treat** such an awesome event! 185+ children, plus their families, enjoyed CTUMC hospitality and fun! To everyone who decorated a trunk,

donated candy, and brought their kiddos to come and have some fun is responsible for the success we had last weekend. In particular, I want to thank Jill Smith who did all the heavy lifting in getting our DJ and bounce house booked, and Kim & Mike Dambach who graciously covered the cost of the bounce house. You both have no idea how helpful this was to our Concord Kids ministry!

Now, as we begin to put the fall festivities behind us, it's time to start talking about **Advent!** I know it's *unbelievable* to think that we're already that close to Christmas, but Advent is only a few weeks away and we're excited that this year we'll be bringing back our **Advent Adventures, 11:30 am on Sunday, November 21** in Trinity Hall after our casual worship time. We will have fun Advent for activities, and storytelling and light refreshments, so I hope you

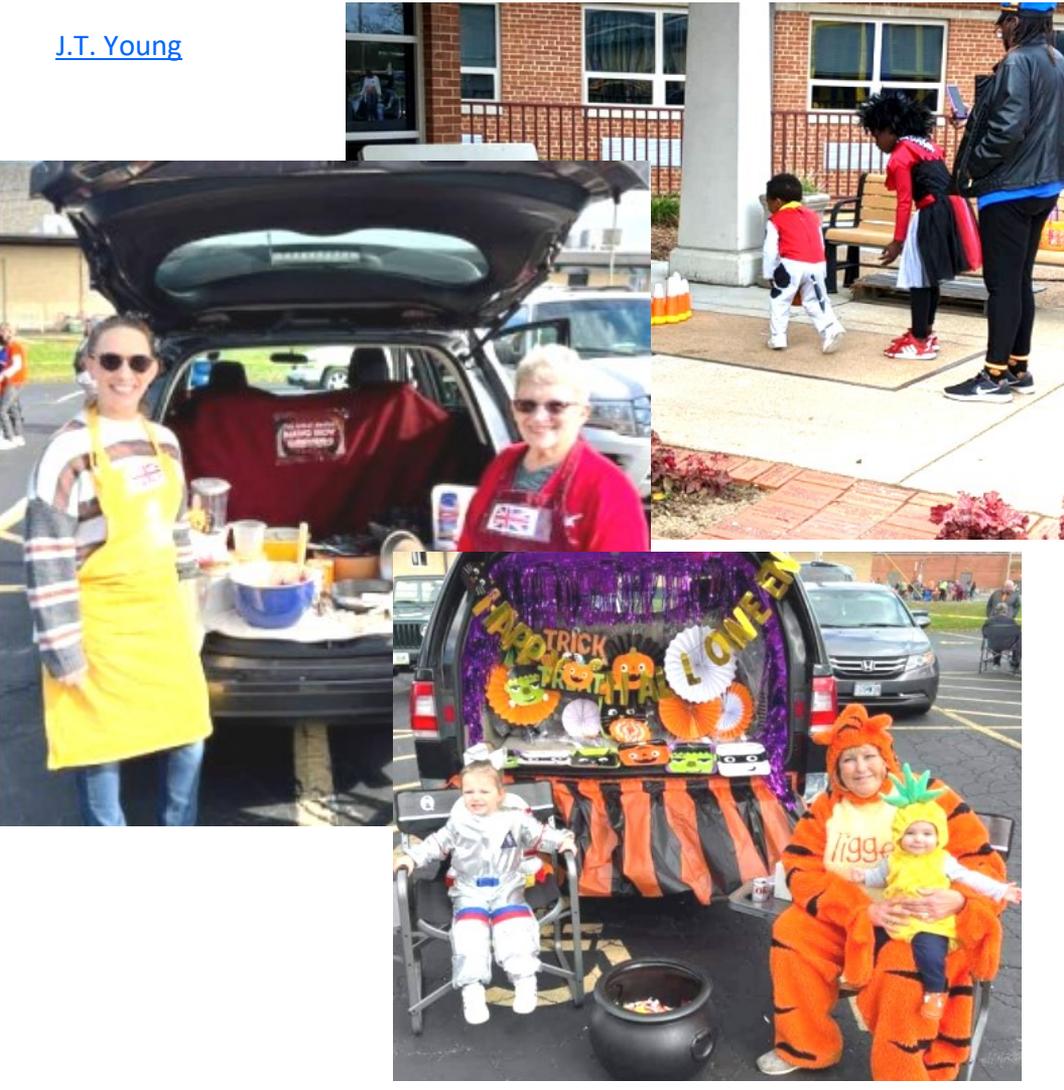
will be there!

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! Thank you so much for your continued support of **Concord Kids** and I can't wait to see what the Lord will continue to do through our collaboration with these awesome little disciples.



Grace+Peace,

[J.T. Young](#)



W O R S H I P , G R O W , S E R V E , I N V I T E

**Invite your nieces, nephews,
cousins, neighbors,
grandparents**

**All ages invited
for a fun start to Advent!**

a Concord Kids event

ADVENT
adventures

NOV 21 | 11:30-12:30

5275 S. Lindbergh Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63126



Church Family, Thank You!

As we move out of October and our busy pumpkin patch season, we look toward the coming months and our focus on service. We are so grateful to our Concord Trinity family for always supporting us, and for the opportunity to serve others this coming Christmas season! We're "cooking up" some plans to reach out to our older adults in the congregation and show our love for our church family!

Calling all youth: we have a fun month coming up this November! Most notably, we are having our annual Fall Retreat November 5-7 at Camp

Wartburg in Illinois. Our theme this year is **"Fearless,"** and will focus on **challenging our Youth to act boldly and fearlessly in Jesus' love, rooted deeply in their faith. It's going to be a lovely weekend together!**



We are so happy to report that we had another successful year of the pumpkin patch. We raised money for our Youth summer missions and had a great time while doing it. Thanks to all who volunteered and helped out!

Questions? Visit concordtrinity.org/youth-ministry for Frequently Asked Questions, or email Sarah at srosendahl@concordtrinity.org!

***The fastest way to receive CTYouth updates
is to follow us on***

Facebook and Instagram: @ctumcyouth.

**For more information contact Director of Youth Ministry
Sarah Rosendahl srosendahl@concordtrinity.org (314)363-4764**

Hello, CTUMC friends! As we near the end of 2021, we want to give you some tips and information when it comes to some options for your end-of-year giving. We are blessed to be able to have talented and skilled congregants to help put this together for us! In the following section is information for the **Best Tax-Saving Benefits of Giving.**

Charitable Giving and Saving on Taxes

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), a tax-smart strategy that allows you to transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity when you reach the age of 70 ½. **You will pay no taxes on those withdrawals** and still benefit from your standard deduction.

Also, if you have reached the age of 72 (formerly 70 ½) and are taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, one can use the QCD tax strategy for your RMD and pay no taxes, plus keep both your adjusted gross income and taxable income constant.

You can only make a tax-free transfer from an IRA, not from a 401(k) or a 403 (b). **The way to do this is as follows:**

Have the firm (trustee) that is holding your IRA liquidate a specified dollar amount and have them mail/wire the funds directly to CTUMC. Note: If a distribution check is made payable to you, the distribution would NOT qualify as a QCD and would be treated as taxable income.

If the funds are transferred by check, make it payable to CTUMC and mail it to CTUMC c/o Marilyn Roseberry, Business Manager, 5275 South Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63126. For wiring/electronic transfer instructions of funds to the CTUMC bank account call Marilyn at (314)842-2060.

Deduction for Individuals who don't itemize; cash donations up to \$600 may qualify. Ordinarily, individuals who elect to take the standard deduction cannot claim a deduction for their charitable contributions. The tax law now permits these individuals to claim a limited deduction on their 2021 Federal tax returns for cash contribution to certain qualifying charitable organizations (i.e., CTUMC). Nearly 90% of all taxpayers now take the standard deduction and could potentially qualify to claim a limited deduction for cash contributions. These individuals, including (continued)

married individuals filing separate returns, can claim deductions up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married individuals filing a joint return.

For those individuals of any age who itemize their deductions and have appreciated securities that have been held for one year or more:

A. Have the firm that is holding your stock or mutual fund investments transfer those investments to a CTUMC investment account. Several local Edward Jones offices have an CTUMC account already established. The investments can be liquidated in the CTUMC investment account, and a check sent to CTUMC. Other firms can easily set up an account for the church and follow the same procedure.

B. Because the shares are going to a qualified charitable organization, the donor will not realize any capital gains at the time of the gift, thereby avoiding payment of capital gains taxes on the appreciation of these securities. Plus, the value of the donation is the fair market value of the securities on the date of the gift, which is deductible from the donor's federal income taxes (up to the IRS limits).

This can be a particularly helpful strategy for those securities (stock/mutual funds) which have been held for a long time. As well as securities that you have received as a gift or shares for which you do not have good information for calculating your cost basis.

Even if you do not itemize on your tax return, investment securities can be gifted to CTUMC, and you will pay no capital gains taxes on that transfer. One may want to also consult with your financial and/or tax advisor, to help evaluate the best approach to charitable giving and saving taxes. For **questions, please call Marilyn Roseberry, Business Manager at CTUMC at (314)842-2060.**

**Thank You for
Your Generosity!**

Church Leadership Council Meeting Updates

All are invited to each month's meeting at Concord Trinity, Room 223 (next meeting: Monday, November 8, 7 pm. New! Now you can read the latest meeting minutes on our church website under the "About" tab (click [HERE](#) to view).

Christmas Gift Time - Remember to Buy Gift Cards from CTUMC

The CTUMC fundraiser for Missions let's you buy 650+ different gift cards for family and friends at regular face value, and CTUMC gets to keep the rebate!

At the church office you can purchase our selection of store cards every day, or plan ahead for Christmas and place your order with Nolan Black by November 15, 2021. For more information, please call the church office. (314)842-2060 or info@concordtrinity.org.

[Find more information by visiting concordtrinity.org/gift-cards](https://concordtrinity.org/gift-cards)














Thankfulness Challenge

Hello, Concord Trinity Friends! We are very thankful for our church family. Do you have people whom you are thankful for in your life? Most of us do. When was the last time you told them? In November we are challenging you to contact 1 or more people you are thankful for being in your life. You may contact them by phone, text, email or send them a card or note to tell them why they are special to you. You will both be blessed.

Concord Trinity UMC Staff

email us or call (314)842-2060 and dial *8 then the person's extension

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