Trinity Presbyterian Church

the Vision

October, 2020

Volume 29, Issue 10

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Wednesday Evening Vespers

Dr. Mack hosts a weekly devotional on Zoom called "Wednesday Evening Vespers" each **Wednesday, at 6:30 pm** for about 30 minutes. This will be a brief time of prayer and sharing . He will share scripture, a devotional, prayer concerns, and then we will pray as a group. The invitation is available at **http://trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/.**

World Communion Sunday - October 4

Online Worship including communion with music provided by Trinity's Vocal Ensemble. The Peace & Global Witness special offering can be made online or mailed in with that noted in the memo line of your check. Join us each Sunday online at trinitytucson.org/watch-live, www.facebook.com/tpctucson or using the BoxCast app on Roku TV, Apple TV and Fire TV.

All Saints Sunday November 1

Our worship service that morning will include a special time to remember loved ones who have gone ahead of us into the church triumphant. You are invited to submit names of those you would like to have remembered to the church office by Monday, October 26. We will read aloud the names of Trinity members who have passed away this past year, as well as all of the names submitted, regardless of the year of their passing.

Pastoral Letter

I have been studying the Book of Lamentations these past several months and discovered for myself that it is truly one of the hidden gems of the Old Testament. I also think that Lamentations is very contextual in its purpose. By this I mean that it was written out of a historical situation that provoked lament, sorrow, and prayer among the people of God – the conquering of Israel and the exile of its citizens to Babylon. To read Lamentations is to understand the catastrophe that the exile of God's people represented to Israel, an event we read about in 2 Kings 25:8-21.

Coming in order after the Book of Jeremiah, Lamentations is closely associated with the prophet (it has been titled "The Lamentations of Jeremiah" in some translations) although there is little proof he had a hand in its writing. Yet, all that Jeremiah predicted about Israel's conquest and exile is reflected in Lamentations, which is a collection of five poems in five chapters. The book itself is a work of art, and we need to keep that in mind when we read it. Some of the images it expresses are horrible, but not unique to cities that have been under siege. As I read Lamentations, I thought about what happened in Stalingrad during World War II and realized that Lamentations is not a poetic exaggeration.

One of the reasons I have grown closer to Lamentations is the feeling of exile that myself and many others are experiencing in our isolation due to Covid-19. I know there are many in our church and in my family that are experiencing sleepless nights and restless days. When we consider the suffering from the pandemic, natural disasters, and human violence, any person of conscience is going to experience times of hopelessness, if not outright depression.

As the people of God, it is our spiritual response to turn to our faith through our life in the Christian Church, but we are exiled from the normal exercise of our faith because of our desire to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and each other. There is not a day that goes by that I do not feel the pain of our separation – it is like being exiled from the family that you love. But there is also something we can take from this difficult time to enrich our spiritual lives.

While Jesus did not quote Lamentations when he was on the cross, he did quote the lament from Psalm 22 – "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Lamentations echoes Jesus' despair in every way. In my home church, our pastor used a quote from Lamentations to begin every Maundy Thursday service: "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger…the Lord handed me over to those whom I cannot withstand."

However, for me the most meaningful part of Lamentations is where I have found hope and peace. It comes almost exactly in the middle of the book – a surprising counterpoint to the writer's despair that emerges suddenly in the third chapter. It begins with the author contemplating sorrow and the terrible conditions in the world, but it then makes an unexpected and wonderful turn: "My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"

You might recognize the words of that beautiful old hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" in these verses. What a wonderful mantra for us to keep in our hearts in this time of exile – "The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in him." To say, "The Lord is my portion" is a powerful statement of faith, asserting the light of hope against the darkness of the world. Hope is the foundation upon which our faith in Christ is built, and when I read these words in my most troubled of days, I feel that hope, and the peace that comes with it.

I also love the way Lamentations ends: "But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old—unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure." Those words remind me of Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." Just like Christ's prayer, Lamentations con-

Christian Education

YOUTH CLASSES

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (children ages 4-8)

Teacher: Kathy Moser

We will be using Top 50 Instant Bible Lessons for Elementary. Each lesson begins with the focus Scripture and memory verse. The "Big Idea" keeps children focused on the main truth being taught from God's Word. The Bible Story opens God's Word and begins the learning. Until we are together again for in-person class time, a month's lessons will be mailed to the parents. Look below for a peek.

Bible	Memory Verse	Bible Lesson	Big Idea	Opening Game	Object Lesson	Optional Activities
Genesis 25:19-34	Colossians 3:13	Isaac and His Sons	I Can Choose Forgiveness	What Are You Feeling?	Lemony Milk	Making Stew, Art Therapy, Sorry cards

KREAMER'S CRUSADERS

(children 8 through 12)

Teacher: Matt Kreamer

We will be exploring questions of faith using the Be Bold Curriculum. Each week, Matt will email a lesson plan containing questions that will be discussed using scripture. This curriculum is meant to allow students to ask questions followed by a discussion. There will always be a bible exploration and a core bible truth. Please check out the link below.

https://www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/be-bold.do

ANCHOR TRINITY

(Junior High School through College)

Teacher: Rona Kreamer

Anchor Trinity is going to SEE THE WORLD! This Fall, we will (virtually) travel around the world with the Presbyterian Church! We will be watching services from churches around the USA and the World, as well as learn more about Presbyterian Mission Partners around the globe. Please send your contact information and preferred way of receiving the virtual lessons to rona.nichols@gmail.com - Links/Lessons can be emailed, sent via text message, Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp.

cludes with a fervent prayer for restoration, but acknowledges that the decision is God's will, and not the penitent's desire. Maybe that is how we should pray in this time of exile and anxiety. Perhaps our faith might even be strengthened if we hold fast to the words of Lamentation – "The Lord is my potion…therefore I will hope in him." You might try reading this brief, but beautiful, poem to see if, in your most anxious times, it brings you peace for your heart and rest for your spirit. I will pray so.

Dr. Mack

Here at Trinity we are working hard to be here for you & our community. In this trying time we appreciate you & thank you for helping us continue our mission of *"Serving God in the Heart of the City"*.

<u>You may mail in your pledges and donations or use Trinity's online service available on the home page of the website</u>.

If you donate online you will receive a receipt from the Presbytery Foundation/Vanco as they are our processor. *Thank you!*

Christian Education

ADULT CLASSES

GOD AND THE PANDEMIC WITH DR. MACK Sundays 9:00 am ONLINE

Join us through October 4 as Dr. Mack concludes this class. In times of disaster or crisis, Christians have been notoriously prone to jumping to conclusions about the nature and character of God, what he might be doing or saying in all this, and who is at fault for these great and terrible events. Embrace a different approach. The class has been recorded and is on our website.

Congregational News

WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW
Meet Betty Lu Holland

What did you do for a living?
I was an English teacher in several African countries, Japan and China and the US.
Where is your hometown?
I grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland
What do you like to do in your leisure time?
Reading: news, books, and hiking, camping, backpacking
What are your favorite hymns?
In Christ there is no East or West, and Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
What does this church mean to you? Trinity is the place where the people I meet are friendly to everyone, and want to serve God and serve others, through singing, through providing food and help with ID's, and Food Stamps and Medicaid. Also getting to know neighbors through the 4th on 4th Community Suppers (when we can have them). It was so encouraging last year when we were able to help refugees on their way to their sponsors: many of our members were involved as well as non-members.

WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW
Meet Doug Holland

What did you do for a living?
I was a physics professor in Africa & then worked on fusion energy, mostly in the US and Japan. My family enjoyed living in exocytic places.
Where is your hometown?
I grew up on a farm in Onsted, MI.
What do you like to do in your leisure time?
Anything outdoors; hiking, backpacking, skiing, hunting and fishing.
What is your favorite song?
What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong
What does this church mean to you? Trinity gives me the opportunity to work together with others to help people who are less fortunate.

TRINITY BOOK CLUB

Until the Book Club meets again in person join them the 4th Monday each month at 5:00 pm on Zoom.
If you would like to participate please contact Billie Holbrook (billie.holbrook@cox.net).
Upcoming book selections are:
October 26: Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson
November 30:: Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano
December 28: Through the Gates of Splendor by Elizabeth Elliott

Mission News

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Sunday from 12:00 to 2:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm** in the Education Building Room 14. Thanks for your food and monetary donations.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is open **Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 to 4:00 pm** in the Education Building Room 13 to help clients with Department of Economic Security (DES) applications, vouchers for duplicate Arizona ID cards and notarizing documents. They also have limited clothing and shoes.

4TH ON 4TH COMMUNITY SUPPER

Whenever our next 4th Friday on 4th Avenue Community Supper happens please plan to join us.
Food and Helpers are always welcome and we will start again when the church is safely reopened.

SAVE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 TO BE PART OF THE CROP HUNGER WALK

Things will be different this year but we hope you will join Trinity's walking team or make a donation

Each church coordinator & their walkers will decide how and where to walk: in neighborhood groups or from their church to a point with masks.

Helping to meet the needs in the World and in Tucson is our goal: *Sign up to participate and walk or donate online at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/tucsonaz/Team/View/133161/Trinity-Presbyterian*

Church World Service (CWS) combines the efforts of 30 Christian denominations to provide:

- **Disaster Relief**- not just for a month, but long-term rebuilding
- **Refugee relief/Resettlement in the US**: careful screening brings hope to new, energetic workers
- **Self-help development:** local staff work with communities to help them meet *their needs:* with tools and skills to make lasting changes to feed themselves for a lifetime/improve their health: with chicks and vegetables; a staff teaches whole communities how to build family sanitary latrines, building materials for primary schools with communities providing the labor, then the government provides the teachers.

75% of what we raise goes to the worldwide work of Church World Service
25% stays in Tucson, shared equally between the Community Food Bank,
Casa Maria and Interfaith Community Services.

Any questions or suggestions on where you want to walk
please call Betty Lu Holland 579-2895 or Sherry Letson 954-4057

MAKING SANDWICHES

A small group of volunteers meet regularly to make sandwiches for Casa Maria. If you would like to help contact Dede Markin at 982-3787 or ddmarkin@yahoo.com. Thanks for your help !

Session Notes

Trinity's elders are getting better and better at Zooming their meetings. Committee chairs are adept at streamlining their information. Everyone receives minutes and pertinent reports prior to the meetings via email. A big thank you is well deserved for Sheila Croteau because she makes sure the elders have all the materials needed to make good and informed decisions. And Dr. Mack, as Moderator, moves us all along at a steady pace. Following are decisions & topics considered by Session in September:

- Session discussed the Worship Restoration Workgroup that begins meeting in September to consider opening Trinity to corporate worship. Nearly every elder expressed a safety concern about having congregants return to church such as – our large vulnerable population, our ventilation, our disinfecting, our proximity to the university, our young children who might not social distance and other concerns. The workgroup has a daunting task ahead.
- Our Presbytery Commissioners – Leone Mohney and Will Tilley – will be attending a Zoom Presbytery de Cristo meeting on October 17, 2020 to help make decisions about the future Presbytery de Cristo and Grand Canyon. Leone and Will have a lot of material to study and will participate in Zoom Town Hall meetings prior to the October 17 meeting to learn more.
- Session approved mailing paper ballots with a return stamped envelope to congregants to affirm Class 2023 Elders and Deacons and other vacancies nominated by the Congregational Nominating Committee.
- Nominations for Elder Class 2023 are Steve Barlow, Carolyn Maycher, Leslye Obiora, Roberta Westergaard and Karen Wilkison. Deacon Class 2023 nominations are Charity Everitt, Daphne Madson, DeDe Markin, Jerry Rowe (one year) and Shirley Wilka. Betty Lu Holland was nominated for Deacon Class of 2021 and Marilyn and Jim Slagle are nominated to fill one position for Deacon Class 2022. Give thanks for these future church leaders.
- The Congregational Nominating Committee concluded their work in record time. They deserve our gratitude. Thank you Elders Ruth Russell and Jeanette Ryan, Deacon Cindy Toering and congregants Liz Barlow, Peggy Chamberlain, Nancy Hamadou and Bill Goodhue.
- Session approved the opening of the Resource Center with modifications and safety procedures in place at the first possible date (maybe October 1, 2020).
- Session disapproved the use of a hold harmless contract for the Resource Center and Food Bank volunteers. Our insurance covers congregants and volunteers.
- Session approved a Called Zoom meeting for September 29, 2020 to address personnel related issues. The entire Administration & Personnel Committee is invited to this meeting giving Roberta Westergaard and Ed Hawley voice during this meeting. Elders Jeanette Ryan and Liz Strong are the other members of this committee.
- Small group study will remain on hiatus for the near future.
- The Wednesday Vespers Service for devotion and prayers is successful.
- With the fires, the hurricanes, surgeries and medical procedures, family grief and the continued plague, Session spent time praying for our Trinity family and our country.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session

SCRIPTURE READINGS

<u>October 4</u> Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

<u>October 11</u> Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Phil. 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

<u>October 18</u> Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

<u>October 25</u> Deut. 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Trinity Milestones

Honoring & Memorials

In Memory of Bill Davies by Leone Mohney
In Memory of Marsha Stull by Leone Mohney
In Honor of Barbara Kittle's Birthday by Leone Mohney
In Memory of Marcia Sisley by Don & Ruth Myers
In Honor of Dede Markin by Don & Ruth Myers

October Birthdays

4 Emelia Maycher
7 Debbie Hobbs
9 Roberta McDermott
11 Derry Dean
12 John Price
17 Glenn Moyer
18 Koffi Seddo
19 Jennifer Lohse
24 Kuman Tenge
25 Latre Lawson Adokpo
26 Doug Holland
27 Margaret McConnell
31 Mary Wong - 96

November Birthdays (1—10)

2 LaRue Woslum
3 Greg Keidel
4 Dave Cotton
5 Lily Chacon
5 Evelyn Chapman
10 Christine Toering
10 Cameron Toering

October Anniversaries

12 Chris & Sarah Svenson
15 Bart & Heather Lind
17 Ed & Daphne Madson

Trinity Women

The Horizon's Bible Study "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" by P. Lynn Miller taught by Dr. Mack will begin October 13. Contact Leone Mohney for a study book and watch for more information from her about how the class will be offered.

Ryan's Bears Despite the pandemic the making of bears has continued. Thanks to Bonnie Stull, Janet Jones, Ruth Myers, and Ruth Russell. Fabric contributions (fleece or flannel are preferred but any good cotton can be used). We can also use buttons (nickel sized with two holes are best). Thank you for your contributions & support.

Steve and Liz Barlow's grandchildren (Sally & Craig Miller's children) took a Food Bank field trip. They had neighbors drop off cans and then brought the donations to Trinity's Food Pantry. Thank you for sharing and caring. Donations can be brought to Room 14 Tuesday or Thursday 12:00-4:00, or Sunday 12:00-2:00; or taken to the church office Monday-Thursday 10:00 & 2:00. Through your donations of non-perishable food or funds; Trinity's Food Pantry continues to help the hungry in our community.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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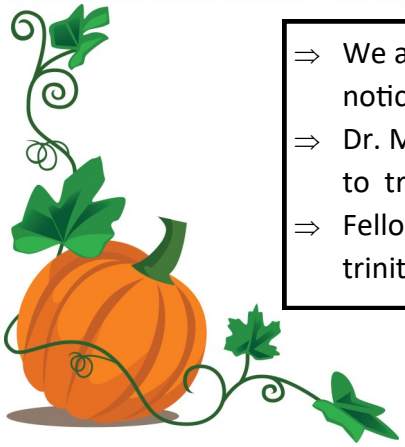

- ⇒ We are "LIVE" streaming the Sunday service beginning at 10:15 am until further notice. Go to trinitytucson.org/watch-live to join in.
- ⇒ Dr. Mack continues his class "God and the Pandemic". For more information go to trinitytucson.org/god-and-the-pandemic/.
- ⇒ Fellowship happens online each Sunday at 12:00 pm. Your invitation to join is at trinitytucson.org/watch-live below the Sunday service.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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520-623-2579
Office 10:00 am-2:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website
www.trinitytucson.org

Email Addresses
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Deadline for the November 2020 *VISION* is
Monday, October 19, 2020
Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or to: office@trinitytucson.org