

January, 2021

Volume 31, Issue 1

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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/>.



**Thank you to everyone who  
planned & participated in  
the Advent Mini Concerts &  
Christmas Eve Service**

This Advent Season was very different from past years however with the planning of the Worship Committee we were able to enjoy wonderful music of the season by the talented instrumentalists, vocalists and the Trinity Jazz Ensemble during the online Advent Mini Concerts.

By prerecording videos of readers and musicians beforehand we were able to ensure the safety of all the participants of the Christmas Eve service. Dr. Mack provided the only "live" participation that evening but we made every effort to create a service that would make you feel like you were here in person. We even fooled a few people that did not realize we had done this.

Video recordings of the Advent Mini Concerts and the Christmas Eve service are available to view anytime at [www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org) on the homepage and under the Worship tab on the top menu.

# PASTORAL LETTER

“How did the year 2020 go by for you? Did it move quickly or slowly? The answer question is usually relative to our experiences within the year. If that is true, 2020 had to be one of the slowest moving years ever. I think it was our anticipation which slowed down our perception of the year. We anticipated returning to worship together, but it did not happen. When we moved to worship online in the first quarter of the year, we expected to return to worship in the sanctuary no later than June – but it did not happen. We anticipated the end of the pandemic, or at least a slowing of its spread, but that did not happen either. We anticipated the end of having to wear a mask in public and social distancing. I could name many more of our “anticipations for 2020,” but it is enough to say that here we are, finally in 2021, still anticipating. So is there a better way to enter this New Year. I think there is a much better way.

As we begin a new year, we always speculate about the things that are to come, both from a personal and community point-of-view. When the Apollo 13 disaster occurred in the 1970, Commander Jim Lovell was forced to navigate his ship by hand, because the guidance system could not be powered up. Lovell knew that all he needed to do was find a fixed point in space to correct the ships approach to earth, so he used the earth itself, and aligned it with the navigation marks in his window. Through skill and a little luck, Lovell’s correction aligned the spacecraft into the correct position for re-entry, and the astronauts made it home.

For we who believe, Christ is our fixed point in space. By focusing our hearts, our minds, and our lives upon Jesus, we can find our way home, no matter how we perceive the universe around us. Time can rush by quickly or slowly; changes occur through our own plans or by happenstance; what seems solid and sure one minute can become shaky and frightening the next- this is the nature of the world and of the human condition. For Christians, however, there is one thing that is certain - the

kingdom of God. We experience God’s kingdom when we suspend time and space through acts of prayer, worship, inspiration, and illumination. In Christ, past, present and future lose their meaning, for God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit is the Alpha and the Omega.

To look forward to the new year with hope and expectation is natural for us, but beyond our resolution and wishes for 2021 is that which cannot leave us, fail us, or disappoint us - it is the assurance of Christ’s presence in our lives today and in the life to come. Christians are not those who tick off the days of a calendar that ends when our hearts stop beating; we are, instead, residents of a kingdom, and servants of a sovereign whose reign never ends. We live in and for a different reality, and that is why, in faith, we can say with blessed assurance that the new year will be a good year - not because of what may or may not happen to us, but because God is always good, and no matter how fast or slow time goes by, we are moving with and toward our Lord and Savior. Have a wonderful New Year, filled with the peace of Jesus Christ.

*Dr. Mack*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**January 3** Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:1-9, 10-18

**January 10** Gen. 1:1-5 and Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

**January 17** 1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20) and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

**January 24** Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**January 31** Deut. 18:15-20, 10 and Psalm 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

### GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (children ages 4-8)

*Teacher: Kathy Moser*

We will continue 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.

We will begin our year with the lesson "Wise Men Visit Jesus". Then we'll travel back to the Old Testament for lessons "Baby Moses is Saved", "Moses and Pharaoh", "Israelites in the Desert" and "Jericho".

### 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.

<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](mailto:rona.nichols@gmail.com) - Links/Lessons can be emailed, sent via text message, Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The January Book is "*The Dutch House*" by Ann Patchett. "Patchett is at her subtle yet shining finest this gloriously incisive, often droll, quietly suspenseful drama of family, ambition, and home." — Booklist (starred review). We'll be meeting via Zoom on January 25th at 5:00 pm. If you'd like to Zoom in, email me: [billie.holbrook@cox.net](mailto:billie.holbrook@cox.net).



### NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

New ruling elders & deacons for the Class of 2023 are training and begin service this month. Thank you to the following people for their willingness to serve our church. Deacons are Charity Everitt, Daphne Madson, Dede Markin, Jerry Rowe, Jim & Marilyn Slagle & Shirley Wilka. Elders are Steve Barlow, Carolyn Maycher, Leslye Obiora, Roberta Westergaard & Karen Wilkison.



### 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](mailto:ddmarkin@yahoo.com). Thanks for your help!



# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW

### Meet Cindy Toering



#### **What do you do for a living?**

I am a veterinarian & currently working very part time, in Bisbee Arizona .

#### **Where is your hometown?**

I grew up in a small town in eastern Kentucky, but I have lived in Tucson since 1981.

#### **What do you like to do in your leisure time?**

I like to go hiking/walking with the dogs, & showing our purebred corgi. I also enjoy crocheting and watching Star Trek with my husband.

#### **What is your favorite food?**

I would have to say chocolate cake.

#### **What is your favorite hymn?**

Here I am, Lord

**What does this church mean to you?** It means a sense of family and fellowship, I really miss being together and can't wait till we can all see each other again in person.

## WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW

### Meet Dave Toering



#### **What do you do for a living?**

I am a software engineer for a medical software company.

#### **Where is your hometown?**

I was raised in Denver Colorado but I have lived in Tucson for a long time now.

#### **What do you like to do in your leisure time?**

I like to watch Star Trek & program my computer. I also enjoy hiking with my family and my dogs, and watching the Denver Broncos.

#### **What is your favorite food?**

Steak and potatoes

#### **What is your favorite hymn?**

Spirit, spirit of gentleness

#### **What does this church mean to you?**

Fellowship with others that believe the same as I do.

# MISSION NEWS

## TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open Sundays 12:00 to 2:00 pm & Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 to 4:00 pm.

## RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is closed until further notice. AZ DMV Vouchers to pay for duplicate Arizona ID cards are given out at the Food Pantry during its open hours.

## The Importance of an Arizona ID

Imagine your ID having been lost or stolen and you had no way to pay to replace it. Now what?? This is what happens to many people we see in the Resource Center. Without a valid AZ ID, a person cannot get into a shelter, the Social Security office, most Federal buildings or courts, get a prescription, or go to the hospital or doctor. The \$12 AZ DMV vouchers we give out at the Resource Center are a real lifeline to our clients. This is just one example of how important your donations are to helping Trinity Resource Center continue 'Serving God in the Heart of the City'.



A special Mission offering is being taken in February to benefit TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network). This organization provides support for people living with HIV by bringing together religious, secular, corporate and non-profit organizations. Our Mission Committee has selected TIHAN to receive this Mission offering that is usually taken Sunday, February 14. More information about TIHAN & their services will be in the February VISION. You may make a donation at any time online or in the mail. Please put Special Offering or TIHAN in the memo . Thank you in advance for your support.

# SESSION NOTES

Well, we won't be sad to turn the page on the year 2020, but Session will have a called Zoom meeting on December 29th to approve and discuss the 2021 Trinity Budget and other routine housekeeping issues. Then we can look forward to new beginnings with hope and anticipation. The Worship Restoration Workgroup is waiting to meet with the Rev. Brad Munroe once he has recovered from the virus in order to see how other churches are handling in-person worship. We can rest assured that Trinity will not open for in-person worship until it is completely safe to do so. It would be fun to try guessing the Sunday in 2021 when we do open for congregant worship much as Alaskans try to guess the day in spring when the ice breaks up in the rivers. And the winner is . . .

- Session approved the dates for communion during the upcoming year.
- Session approved that the Rev. Bill Voigt may preach on January 3, 2021 if he has recovered from his fall. If he is unable, then Dr. Mack will tape his sermon for that Sunday.
- Sheila Croteau has asked committee chairs and Deacons and Trinity Presbyterian Women to submit their year-end report to the office by January 7th so she can put together the Annual Report to the Congregation.
- Over sixty-three congregants mailed back their ballots to elect the Deacon and Elder classes for 2023 as well as the members of the 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee. That number is about the same number of people who attend a regular congregational meeting. Good job, folks!
- Property Committee has approved allowing Big Brothers/Big Sisters to have a rummage sale on January 27-29, 2021 using two classrooms in the old educational building. They will practice best safety precautions.
- Worship Committee has decided to use Trinity Sings prior to worship on special music occasions and allow other recorded messages to be featured at 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings.
- For the Administration & Personnel Committee, Session approved two amendments to the Personnel Policy defining full-time and part-time

employees and defining eligibility for holiday pay.

- Growth & Outreach Team is discussing the recorded messages as mentioned above and anticipating the reopening of the sanctuary for worshippers.
- Mission Committee has shut down the Resource Center temporarily for safety reasons, but other mission work is ongoing. Count them – 924 sandwiches for Casa Maria and 685 walk-ins at the Food Bank to name just two.
- Trinity Presbyterian Women are pleased that 69 Ryan's Bears were recently blessed for service to the Tucson community.
- The elders listed prayer concerns and they prayed for those in need of special care and concern. Appreciation for our terrific staff, the hard work of "retiring" elders and for those in the 2023 classes who are ready to serve was expressed.

Janet Hooper  
Clerk of Session

## TRINITY WOMEN

*The Horizon's Bible Study* "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" by P. Lynn Miller taught by Dr. Mack continues **Tuesday January 12 at 10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall with masks and social distancing. The monthly business meeting is at 10:00 am before the Bible study class.

*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). If you would like to help please contact Ruth Myers. Thank you for your contributions & support.

# TRINITY MILESTONES

## Honoring & Memorials

*In Memory of* Barbara Kittle by Janet Jones  
*In Memory of* Barbara Kittle by Margaret Nellis  
*In Memory of* Wilka & Alice Wilson by Jerald Graeme  
*In Honor of* Those who participated in the Advent and Christmas services by Leone Mohney  
*In Honor of* The Spiller-Mace family by Holly Clark  
*In Memory of* Barbara Kittle by Becky Moore



### A Note from the Stewardship & Finance Committee

Thank you for your generous response to our 2021 pledge request. As of December 29, 2020 we have received 61 pledges for \$219,240. This amount will support one third of our budget. The remainder will come from unrestricted gifts, offerings, support of specific programs (i.e. restricted gifts), interest, church use, and bequests and special offerings throughout the year. We value your support in "Serving God in the Heart of the City".

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Trinity Website  
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Email Addresses  
[office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)

## January Birthdays

1	Sanani Mukadesa	15	Peggy Chamberlain
1	Hadija Bamurange	19	Matt Creamer
1	Amos Nsenga	23	Hannah Toering
2	Emmanuel Alley	24	David Toering
2	Dale McCray	24	Cindy Toering
2	Dr. Mack Sigmon	26	Kyle Elliott
5	Jeanette Ryan	27	Janet Munson
6	Maria Andrade	27	Tom Henderson
9	Jeri Ogden	30	Bobby Whipple
11	James Hooper	31	Ezra Moyer

## February Birthdays (1—10)

3	Betty Lu Holland	8	Emmanuelle Seddo
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## January Anniversaries

15 Lynn & Kathy Moser



We are "LIVE" streaming the Sunday service beginning at 10:20 am if you cannot attend. Watch it on our website at [trinitytucson.org/watch-live](http://trinitytucson.org/watch-live).

Visit our website at [www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org) for all the information and events you are looking for.

Deadline for the February 2021 **VISION** is Thursday, January 21, 2021  
 Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or to: [office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)