

December 2021

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Advent Mini Concerts continue...

Trinity's Advent mini-concerts continue following the Sunday worship service in our Sanctuary. The programs feature music for the Advent & Christmas season with each lasting approximately 20 minutes. You may watch IN PERSON or ONLINE.

December 05 *Praise God with Tambourine & Cymbals!*

Featuring The Trinity Jazz Ensemble

December 12 *Praise God in His Sanctuary!*

A Musical Potpourri

December 19 *Let Everything that Has Breath, Praise the Lord!*

Featuring a Woodwind Trio and Pipe Organ



Cantata Sunday December 19

Our worship service will include the beautiful Christmas cantata, "What Sweeter Music" by American composer John Leavitt. The cantata mixes Biblical readings, taken from the Prophet Isaiah and the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John with carols and traditional Christmas songs in new and exciting musical arrangements. Don't miss this wonderful presentation by the Trinity Choir, a chamber orchestra of 16 players and 9 readers from our congregation. Come & invite someone who might enjoy this holiday worship experience. We look forward to you enjoying this beautiful musical cantata IN PERSON or ONLINE.

Christmas Eve Services December 24

Casual Christmas Eve 5:00 pm

An informal service that includes a children's procession, a brief Christmas message by Dr. Mack, carols and candles.

Christmas Café in Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

"Visions of Sugar Plums" Enjoy hot cider, cocoa, sandwiches, Cookies and fellowship with friends old and new
Please bring holiday goodies, veggies or fruit to share.

Traditional Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

Organ prelude at 6:50 pm, a candlelight service with a Christmas message, led by Dr. Mack, along with instrumentalists & vocalists

Bring your family, friends and neighbors as we celebrate our Lord's birth on this holy day! IN PERSON or ONLINE.

PASTORAL LETTER

Have you ever heard the phrase “Many Happy Returns”? In my generation we heard it used years ago in advertising & sometimes on special occasions associated with Christmas, birthdays, & other special celebrations. It is rarely heard any more in American English, but is still common in Canada, Britain, and other English-speaking parts of the world. Since the 18th century the salutation has been used to offer the hope that a happy day being marked would recur many more times.

Of course, when we think about “returns” in our culture, particularly in association with Christmas or gift-giving, we think about the things we have purchased or have been given that we need to take or send back for a refund or for replacement. That is the purpose of a gift receipt, which is now a common part of gift-giving. Printed without the purchase price, a gift receipt allows the recipient to return the gift and exchange it for something preferable. It is a way of giving a gift without demanding a commitment to keep it from the recipient.

The season of Advent is about one particular return which is the happiest of all for those who believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior and Messiah of the world. Jesus made it clear throughout his ministry and just before his ascension that he would return one day to gather the church to him in the final realization of the kingdom of God. In the meantime his church, created and guided by the Holy Spirit, would be the incomplete realization of the kingdom of God in the lives of believers.

At the heart of Christmas is the idea that the incarnation of Christ was a gift for all creation and for all time. While our culture has transformed the holiday tradition of gift-giving into a commercial enterprise which does little more than measure the health of our economy, disciples see the exchange of gifts as representational for the gift God gave to us in the sending of God’s Son. While there is no exchange for that gift that we can offer – as it was gift of love

from our Lord – it is a gift to which we can make a commitment that transforms us into a people of the kingdom of God, awaiting the happy return of our Lord.

However, we must also keep in mind that God’s gift of love does not come with a gift receipt. While we can abandon our discipleship or deny our faith, we cannot exchange the gift of the Messiah for anything else – although many have tried. Nothing material, political, social or personal can replace the value of that Jesus which Jesus brings into the hearts of believers.

Yet, the commitment that we embrace in accepting God’s gift and Christ’s promise of his return obliges us to make our lives meaningful through our prayer, fellowship, and service. The secret to discipleship is that the more we engage in it, the greater the spiritual and emotional returns. Have we not experienced these gifts, sometimes in the most surprising of ways and unexpected of moments? I hope that as we share this season of Advent and Christmas, we will think about these “little returns” that anticipate the great day when Christ will return and take us to the home prepared for us. What will be the “happy return” of your discipleship in the days ahead? May there be many, and may you and your loved ones have a Merry Christmas, filled with the peace of Christ.

Dr. Mack



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH CLASSES

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (children ages 4-8)

Teacher: Kathy Moser

A LOOK INTO GOD'S AMAZING CREATION

On January 9, 2022, we will return to in-person classes. Until that time we will continue to use the Discover column for kids exploring nature, science, and God's amazing, good world (thebanner.org).

A packet with lessons for the first 3 Sundays in December will be mailed to the parents. Lesson titles are as follows: "Christmas Traditions Around the World", "Christmas Surprises/Shepherds and Sheep" and "Follow That Star". Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas vacation (12/26-no lesson).

THE CRUSADERS

(children 8 through 12)

Teachers: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull

December's Growing In God's Love unit – **THE BIRTH OF JESUS** - explores the stories of the Jesus' birth in Luke and Matthew: the Annunciation of Jesus' birth, John the baptizer - the prophet who prepared the people for the Messiah, Jesus' birth, the visit of the shepherds, & finally, the visit of the magi. The first three lessons will be emailed to families this month. We will begin in-person Sunday School in January 2022 with the shepherds' and magi's stories.

Dec. 5 How Can This Happen? Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 12 A Prophet Is Born Luke 1:5-21, 57-80

Dec. 19 A Baby Is Born Luke 2:1-7

Jan. 9 Surprise Visitors Luke 2:8-20;

Jan. 16 Visitors from the East Matthew 2:1-12

ANCHOR TRINITY

(Junior High School through College)

Teacher: Rona Kreamer

HEARING GOD

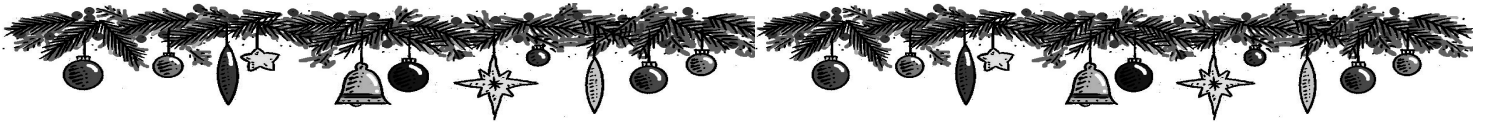
Rona sent out a list of Contemporary Christian Musicians across all genres- listen to these artists, visit their web-sites, and choose your Top 3 and send the artist's name and favorite songs to Rona at anchortrinity@gmail.com. When it is safe to get together in person again, we will meet downstairs and listen to your favorite musicians together and talk about how God is speaking to us through music.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

OTOJOY Hearing Loop Installed in the Sanctuary

Thanks to a generous donor Trinity is excited to share that we have recently installed a Hearing Loop System in the *front half of the sanctuary (and choir loft)* to assist those with hearing loss to hear more clearly. A Hearing Loop is an assistive listening system that transmits the sound directly into ones hearing aids or cochlear implants rather than depending on the sound coming from the loudspeakers. In doing so, all ambient and background noise is reduced, providing crystal clear sound directly to user's ears. To receive the Loop signal, manually activate your T-coil, Telecoil or Hearing Loop setting on your hearing aid or cochlear implant. If you don't know if you have a T-coil, or if yours is not properly programmed, consult with your audiologist or hearing aid professional. If you don't wear hearing aids, ask to use a Loop receiver (available in Narthex) to receive the sound. We are planning an informational event in early January. STAY TUNED!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Let us introduce you to our newest members

WHO'S NEW IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW

Meet John & Eileen Lamse

What did you do for a living?

Both of us are retired. John was a social security administrator and Eileen is a CPA.

Where is your hometown?

John's hometown is Grand Rapids, Michigan and Eileen's is Las Cruces, NM.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

We both love to sing in church choirs & community choirs. (We have ceased doing this for now because difficult for John) We like reading, educational TV, drama, classical music. We also like to keep in touch with children & grandchildren who live in many different areas of the country. We have six children, eleven grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

What is your favorite food?

John-Shrimp, Eileen-Anything with lots of cheese

What is your favorite hymn? "A Mighty Fortress is our God", "Be Still My Soul" and "O Holy Night."

What does this church mean to you?

A community of the Faithful that we have joined. A place we can learn how to practice our faith and begin to understand its deepest meanings. A comfortable, joyous worship service.



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

A cherished tradition at Trinity, poinsettias adorn the Sanctuary enriching worship during Advent. The cost is \$10 each and you may order as many as you like. You may either pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve services or after worship on December 26 or leave them to be distributed by the Deacons. Order forms are at the Narthex desk.



ADVENT DEVOTIONS

- "d365 Daily Devotionals" an app which includes a daily thought, scripture, prayer and even music.
- "Devotions – Advent & Lent" This is an app from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Advent Bible Study
<https://hindscoaching.com/free-bible-study-lessons/>

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering Presbyterian church congregations have long expressed their compassion for others, especially for those who serve the church. This Offering is received for the equal benefit of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). The offering will be taken in person **Sunday, December 19**. You may also mail in your donation or make it online & designate "Christmas Joy Offering" in your memo throughout the month of December.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Just Coffee For Sale

The Mission Committee sells Just Coffee in Fellowship Hall before and after church each Sunday. The display is near the stained glass window manned by volunteers. You may pay by cash or check. Coffee will be \$10 or \$11 and the proceeds benefit Café Justo, a Grower owned Coffee Cooperative based in southern Chiapas Mexico, formed to address the poverty and migration from Mexico to the U.S.A. More information about the cooperative is available at justcoffee.org.



DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 5 Mal. 3:1-4 & Luke 1:68-79;
Phil. 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 12 Zeph. 3:14-20 & Isaiah
12:2-6; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19 Micah 5:2-5 & Luke 1:47-
55 or Ps. 80: 1-7; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke
1:39-45; (46-55)

December 26 Isa. 52:7-10 & Psalm 98;
Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

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 2:00 pm** in the Education Building Room 13 to help clients with Department of Economic Security (DES) applications, vouchers for duplicate Arizona ID cards, birth certificates for adults and notarizing documents.



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 !



The results for the Church World Service CROP walk are in. Nine churches raised money and participated with the total from all the churches was \$10,913 This is a very good result and badly needed by our local hunger programs and world-wide. Trinity narrowly edged out the other churches to be the most generous donor, raising \$2,910. Thank you to all who supported the CROP walk & gave generously. Thanks to Betty Lu Holland and Sherry Letson who publicized the walk and organized the kick off. Also, thanks Trinity Presbyterian Church for hosting the walk.

Session Notes

Still Zooming! Soon we will add the Meeting Owl and then some elders will meet in Fellowship Hall and some will tune in using Zoom and we will have "hybrid" stated session meetings. Safety first! during these trying pandemic times. All of us are stretching and growing into doing things in new and different ways. The Deacons met this past month using The Owl and it worked! Session business was accomplished in short order this month and following are the highlights of the November meeting:

- During the 4th Avenue Street Fair the Deaconate will charge customers to park in our south parking lots. The deacons are looking for volunteers from the congregation to help them collect parking fees on the Saturday and Sunday of the street fair.
- Session acknowledged that congregants are self-masking and self-distancing during worship. In-person worshipers number around 60-80 while those streaming varies from around 40 to 60 persons. Sheila Croteau told Growth & Outreach Team that there are people in other states and other countries that are streaming our Sunday services.
- Session approved calling a congregational meeting for December 12th to elect nominees for the Deacon and Elder Class of 2024. Elder nominees are Barbara Callaway Pollack, Chuck Sosna, John Hill and Janet Jones. Deacon nominees are Betty Lu Holland (for one year), Vade Henderson, Ruth Myers, Kofi Seddo and Cheyenne Williams. Give thanks for these church leaders ready to serve.
- Session approved holding the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 6, 2022 to receive committee reports, elect four congregants to the Congregational Nominating Committee and approve Dr. Mack's Terms of Call.
- Because of the pandemic Session approved cancelling the annual joint dinner and meeting of the Session and Deaconate in December and to receive the Deacon Moderator's monthly report to Session as approval of their work in 2021.
- Session approved Communion dates for 2022.
- Trinity Presbyterian Women have a record 72 bears to bless on the first Sunday of December.
- Sunday School children, parents and teachers plan to begin in-person classes in January. This allows time for the children to be vaccinated and holiday excitement to settle down.
- Administration & Personnel is following up on staff performance reviews with Dr. Mack.
- Growth & Outreach Team will advertise the Christmas Cantata on NPR.
- Stewardship & Finance Committee is preparing the 2022 budget and will present it for Session approval in December.
- Mission Committee continues to report record numbers visiting our Food Bank site and the Resource Center. They are appreciative of all the holiday food donations that congregants bring for their clients.
- Property Committee reports the hearing loop called OTOJOY is being installed and should be operational before the end of the year. Plus, they are in the process of approving Presbyterian Campus Ministry to use the chapel narthex for their meetings.
- Session members prayed for congregants in need of extra care and Belarus refugees.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session



Thank you for all the cards, emails, flowers and food that I received after my recent surgery. You are all so special! Sending love and appreciation back to my Trinity family!

Thanks,
Roberta

TRINITY MILESTONES



In Memory of Alice Smedley by Ruth Russell

In Memory of John Dean by Don & Ruth Myers

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Ida Wickizer	19	Melissa Bird
4	Melinda Arnold	19	Ann Butler
5	Errol Dimenstein	19	Janet Jones
6	Elliott Koeppen - 92	22	Jeremy Roggow
7	Marilyn Slagle	22	Beatrice Spillers
9	Bonnie Stull	25	Charity Everitt
12	Rosalie Goll	29	Don Myers
13	John Hill	31	Sherry Letson
17	Heather Lind		

TRINITY WOMEN



The Horizon's Bible Study

continues Tuesday, December 7
at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Mack leads the study, "What
My Grandmother Taught Me -

Learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus by Merryl Blair. See Leone for a study book. The business meeting is held first.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

1	Sanani Mukadesa	5	Jeanette Ryan
2	Dale McCray	9	Jeri Ogden
2	Dr. Mack Sigmon		

December Anniversaries

17 Bobby Whipple & Sherry Letson



This was a banner year for Ryan's Bears and Caps. 72 bears were made and 70 caps were crocheted or knitted. Charity Everitt and Catherine Dimenstein are artists with crochet hooks. Some statistics about the process of making the bears: 45 yards of fabric used. 72 yards of ribbon to tie around their necks], 74 buttons used for eyes on the jointed bears, 576 buttons were needed to attach the arms & legs of the jointed bears, 72 handmade tags, 24 yards of ribbon to attach the tags, 26 hours to embroidery the faces, time to cut out bears?, machine stitching bears ?, hand stitching of bears? It takes a "church" to make the bears and caps. Donations of fabric are always welcome. Fleece or flannel are preferred because of the texture. Donations of buttons with only two holes and nickel sized are always appreciated. We will begin again on January 18 (3rd Tuesday) at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall, for Christmas 2022. The bears & caps will be given to Arizona Children's Association , Our Family Social Services Gospel Rescue Mission & Primavera. If you have skills to stuff bears, cutting them out please join us. Any questions, contact Ruth Myers 520-326-6888.

