

April, 2024

Volume 34 Issue 4

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## Science in the Church

**Join us April 7 after worship in Fellowship Hall.**

“The Book of Job and Extreme Biology 101” – The Book of Job is the most biological book in the Bible. Come and find out why with Dr. Bill Brown, Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary.



## **Thank you to everyone who planned & participated in the Holy Week Services**

The music in all of the services was beautiful. We thank all the readers and musicians that participated. We are grateful that we were able to worship in person along with having the services available online.

**Video recordings of the Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday & Easter Cantata services are available to view anytime at [www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org) on the homepage.**



## **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 is a brief time of prayer and sharing when Mack shares scripture, a devotional, prayer concerns, and then participants pray as a group. The invitation is available at <http://trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/>.

# PASTORAL LETTER

One of my favorite hymns from my southern Presbyterian heritage is “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.” The opening line of the hymn is “Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.” The scriptural reference for that beautiful stanza is found in Jeremiah 18: “Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”

In this passage, Jeremiah envisions a shapeless lump of clay, without form, meaning, or purpose, but with great potential. The potter begins to spin the wheel and mold the clay into a new creation. God is the potter of Jeremiah’s vision, and God’s people are the clay, a people who exist for God’s own creative purposes. Jeremiah presents a deeply spiritual image of how the people of God, then and now, are to view the meaning of life and our place in it.

While Christ doesn’t use this image in his own teaching, he constantly speaks of the creative spirit that will come after his death and resurrection, and how that spirit will shape our lives to fit the Lord’s ultimate purpose: “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” (John 14: 25-26)

If we are to affirm our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, then we must also affirm that God is the potter, and we are the clay. Anyone who has watched potters perform their art knows that the creation of a vessel is a turbulent process involving spinning, shaping, and baking. Committing one’s life to Christ demands that we open ourselves to God’s creative spirit, and in doing so we will feel spun, shaped, and put under the heat of life’s turmoil and temptations.

The Christian conscience does not allow us to embrace a convenient faith empowered by cheap grace. If we allow Christ to shape our lives, we must change the way we see ourselves and those around us. In changing our view of our place and purpose in the world, we then must act as God calls us to act. We cannot sit still in the face of suffering, intolerance, and injustice. We also cannot rationalize our sinfulness. Rather, we must feel the pain of our wrongdoing, so that we can experience the joy of forgiveness. In addition, the spirit will not allow us to be occasional in our commitment or seasonal in our worship. A commitment to Christ’s church places upon us an obligation to join our spiritual and material gifts with our sister and brother Christians in furthering the Kingdom of God in this world.

Do we put God into our hands as we feel the need, or do we place ourselves into God’s hand as God needs us? To place God into our hands is idolatry – it is to make God into an object that exists for our purposes and at our convenience. Christ made it clear that those who would be his disciples must humble their hearts and place themselves wholly into God’s hands. God is the potter – we are the clay, and there can be no other way.

It is not easy to surrender so much of one’s self in a world that thrives on selfishness, but everything made of the world eventually falls into decay and obsolescence. It is God alone, through the love of Christ and the presence of the Spirit, who can make us new each day, each hour, each heartbeat and beyond. Are we on the potter’s wheel? It is easy to get there – all we need do is ask for God to use us as his clay and make something of us for his glory. May God’s work in this world begin in us today, right now, and forever.

*Dr. Mack*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

**GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS** (Preschool - 2nd Grade)

*Teacher: Kathy Moser*

### A Look Back at Jesus' Early Ministry

We will be having in-person Sunday School downstairs in **Room 8** following the children's message. We will celebrate and learn about Jesus's early ministry by looking back at several Bible stories: A man who could not walk, Jesus calms the storm, Jesus feeds 5,000 and Jesus walks on water. Each lesson includes coloring pages, simple word search puzzles or other activities.

**THE CRUSADERS** (3rd - 5th Grade) & **FAITH ENCOUNTERS** (6th Grade & Older)

*Teacher: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull*

### GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG

We encourage children and youth grades 4th and above to pick up activity sheets and supplies for worship-based activities from the Kids Korner in the narthex and to sit with their families during worship.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Our featured authors during the month of April are Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Corrie Ten Boom. Quotes from them that caught my eye: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength." (Corrie Ten Boom); "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God." "Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). Please come and "check out" the large selection of Dietrich's and Corrie's books from our library. There is also a documentary film (DVD) on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The books and DVD will be in Fellowship Hall. Instructions for checking out books/DVD and the "check out" card basket will be in Fellowship Hall. When returning books/DVD, please leave them on the desk in the library. The library is open before and after the worship service. Please contact Kathy Moser, your librarian, if you have any questions. Thank you!

## Montlure Presbyterian Camp

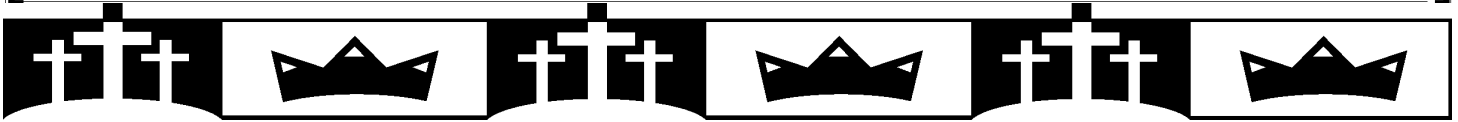
Check [www.montlure.org/overnight-camp](http://www.montlure.org/overnight-camp) for more details. Registration is open now. **Scholarships are available to all children and youth interested in going to camp this summer.** Speak to Bonnie Stull, Debbie Hobbs, Kathy Moser, or John Hill for information.

**OVERNIGHT CAMPS** at Montlure in the White Mountains town of Greer.  
9-12th Grades - June 2-7 (Sunday through Friday)  
7-9th Grades - June 10-15 (Monday through Saturday)  
6-8th Grades - June 17-22 (Monday through Saturday)  
4-6th Grades - June 25 - 29 (Tuesday through Saturday)



Montlure Camp

# SESSION NOTES



Session's March stated meeting was very low key without any big decisions to make. Each committee presented the progress of their work. The highlight of the meeting was during the Leading Together time where we heard Dr. Bruce Chamberlain outline his work as Trinity Choir Director. With 41 years of experience as a conductor, this consummate professional makes his work look rather easy. But we only see and enjoy the polished performances and have little idea about the amount of preparation required for those performances. The time and thought that Bruce spends to enhance our worship experience is astounding as he manages the choir members, the section leader interns, the orchestra, the individual instrumentalists, the anthems, the music budget and more. Trinity PC is so blessed to have Bruce on staff as our Choir Director. Following are the communications from busy committees:

- ◆ The Deacons have scheduled the All-Church Picnic for November 2nd. The deacons also monitor members of our Trinity family and give them care and understanding.
- ◆ Trinity Presbyterian Women will soon finish their Bible study and are working hard on Ryan's Bears for 2024.
- ◆ Administration & Personnel Committee is conducting bookkeeper interviews soon to replace Gerry Pearson who is retiring in April.
- ◆ Christian Education will host Bill Brown on April 7th as he speaks about "The Book of Job and Extreme Biology 101" after worship in Fellowship Hall. They also made plans for the Easter Brunch, the Egg Hunt and Easter story for our young members.
- ◆ Mission Committee is giving a \$500 gift to the Young Adult Volunteers and allowing Mata Ortiz pottery people from Frontera de Cristo as vendors on our church property during the spring 4th Avenue Street Fair.
- ◆ Property Committee has arranged for the final duct work to be completed for the Trinity Hall air handler in time for the Rose Show. They are also researching how to make the ramp at the east entrance safer for everyone.

- ◆ Stewardship & Finance Committee is reviewing our insurance carrier and working to maintain a good cash flow while managing deficit expenditures.
- ◆ Worship Committee finalized plans for Easter worship. They also received a report from Lynn Moser about the progress made by the Organ Committee as they hear presentations from different companies about how to repair/replace/restore our organ console and its many pipes.
- ◆ Dr. Mack and Tom Roof are researching ways and organizations that can help us do some strategic planning for the future.
- ◆ The elders are thankful for servant leaders and all the ways we can be serving God in the heart of our city as Tucson faces a migrant crisis and a homeless crisis.

Janet Hooper  
Clerk of Session



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**April 7** Acts 4:32-35 & Psalm 133 or Isa. 65:17-25 & Psalm 3; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

**April 14** Acts 3:12-19 & Psalm 4 or Isa. 6:1-9 & Psalm 40:1-5; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48

**April 21** Acts 4:5-12 & Psalm 23 or Zech. 10:1-12 & Psalm 80:1-7; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

**April 28** Acts 8:26-40 & Psalm 22:25-31 & Ex. 19:1-6 & Psalm 118:19-25; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## WHO'S IN YOUR PEW

### Meet Sanani Mukasine & Felix Nchimiye

**What do you do for a career?**

Healthcare Nursing Assistants.

**Where is your hometown?**

Rutchuru, DC Congo

**What do you like to do in your leisure time?** We like to go to movies and the mall and have devotions with our family.

**What is your favorite food?** Our favorite foods are all types of vegetables.

**What is your favorite hymn?** We like "In Christ Alone", "My Hope is Built On Nothing Less", and "Blessed be the Name of the Lord"

**What does this church mean to you?** This church means Family and Family in Christ.

**What is something that many people would not know about you?** We love friends, visitors and chilling with our church member friends.



Birthday & Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday, April 21 in Fellowship Hall  
after worship

## SAVE THE DATE

Don and Ruth Myers will be celebrating  
70 years of Marriage on June 6, 2024.

We are inviting our church family to join  
us for lunch in Fellowship Hall **Sunday,**

**June 9** after the morning worship. No  
presents please). More details will be in  
the May Vision.



# MISSION NEWS

## TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 3:00 pm in basement of the Sanctuary building. Thanks for your food and monetary donations.



## Just Coffee For Sale

The Just Coffee display is near the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall with volunteers handling the sales before and after church on Sunday. If a volunteer is not available you may still purchase the coffee and place your cash or check in the lockbox on the wall. 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 & migration from Mexico to the U.S.A. More information is available at [justcoffee.org](http://justcoffee.org).



## CASA MARIA SANDWICH MAKING

April's sandwich making in Fellowship Hall is after the Sanctuary service on **April 14**.

# TRINITY MILESTONES

## HONORING & MEMORIALS

*In Memory of* Dr. John Davies by Bonnie Stull

## TRINITY WOMEN

*The Horizon's Bible Study* Dr. Mack leads the study "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts" by Olive Mahabir. The group meets Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00 am in person in the Library and everyone is welcome.

*Ryan's Bears* meets Tuesday, April 16 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We are off to a good start with bears in the process of being stuffed and stitched. More bears were cut out and will be ready to be stuffed. Every one is welcome to help. Any questions, please call Ruth Myers at 520 326 6888

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

8 Helen Greer	24 Lonzo Ray
13 Rick Wickizer	24 Ward Spillers
16 Barbara Sosna	28 Liz Barlow
18 Lori Boston	28 Grace Corona
22 Jim Thomas	

## MAY BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

3 Jessa Roggow	9 Susan Chambers-Casteloes
6 Celeste Dzakpa	9 Turner Miller

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

6 Jeff & Debbie Hobbs
14 David & Sheila Croteau
19 Jessa Roggow & Ruben Zamarano
21 Barbara & Chuck Sosna
25 Hap & Nancy Howard



- ⇒ We are "LIVE" streaming the Sunday morning service beginning at 10:20 am. Watch on our website [trinitytucson.org/watch-live](http://trinitytucson.org/watch-live)
- ⇒ Join us in the Sanctuary for In Person Worship at 10:20 am.
- ⇒ Visit our website at [www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org) for all the latest information and events you are looking for.

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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Email Addresses  
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Deadline for the **May 2024**  
**VISION** is  
**Thursday, May 25**  
Please submit articles to the  
church office or to:  
[office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)