

February, 2025

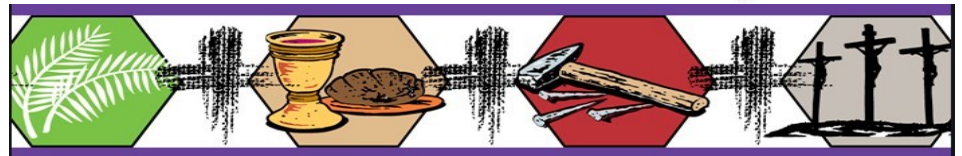
Volume 35, Issue 2

*Inside
this
Issue:*

<i>Highlights</i>	1
<i>Pastor's Letter</i>	2
<i>Christian Ed.</i>	3/4
<i>Mission News</i>	5/6
<i>Session Notes</i> <i>Trinity Women</i>	7
<i>Milestones</i>	8




Montlure Camp
Info on page 3



PREPARING FOR LENT

The observance of Lent begins **March 5** with the Ash Wednesday worship service. This contemplative service of Scripture and music invites us to search our hearts, confess our sinfulness, and reflect on Christ's great love that compelled him to journey to the cross. There will be a simple soup/bread supper at **5:30 p.m.**, followed by the worship service in the Sanctuary at **6:30 p.m.** During the supper hour, we will be putting together snack packs for individuals to take with them to give to those in need. Join us in person or online at trinitytucson.org/watch-live.

Mack's Lenten study for this year will begin **March 9** in the Upper Room. More information about the class and time will be available in the March VISION.

YEAR ROUND DEVOTIONS

The Christian Education committee recommends the D365 devotional for use during Lent (and year round). Visit <https://d365.org> or download the free D365 app from your app store. It has 5 steps of "pause, listen, think, pray, go" which includes scripture and music each day.

LENT DEVOTIONS

If you prefer a book, Rev. Rachel M. Srubas of Mountain Shadows wrote a book called "The Desert of Compassion: Devotions for the Lenten Journey". The book is available for purchase from Westminster John Knox & Amazon.

PASTORAL LETTER

There are many difficult situations in which we might find ourselves at different times in our lives, but a time of uncertainty may be the worst. I remember a “Peanuts” cartoon from many years ago that has stuck with me, which I often call to mind when I am struggling with uncertainty. The first panel shows Snoopy running flat out to the right side of the panel, with Charlie Brown laconically staring at him in the background. The next panel is a mirror of the first panel, except this time Snoopy is running to the left side of the panel with Charlie Brown in the exact same position as before, just watching. The third panel reverses once again as Snoopy runs to the right. The final panel shows Snoopy once again speeding toward the left, with Charlie Brown calmly observing, “Indecision is an awful thing.” You may have heard me speak occasionally about “liminality” – spaces, places, and times that can best be described as “in between.” Liminal spaces are such that we may enter them intentionally or unintentionally; but however we get there, we do not wish to stay in them. Liminal spaces and times are uncomfortable, anxious, and in extreme cases, both physically and psychologically damaging. Liminal moments can be spiritually hazardous as well. Have you ever found yourself crying out, either from without or within, “God, do something!!!” That is our own expression of Charlie Brown’s observation aimed at God. We must be careful with that kind of prayer because it denies something in our relationship to God which is very important for our faith and our discipleship. To put it succinctly, God does not stand still, but sometimes we do. Perhaps the better prayer we can make is not “God, do something” but “God, what can I do?” Indecisive times can paralyze us, making it difficult to think or to act. But Christ taught us some very basic actions that any believer can do. Read The Beatitudes – you will see them. Read Matthew 25 – you will see them. Simple acts of love are never beyond our ability to perform, and in the most indecisive of times they must start in places within sight, sound, and reach of where we are in the moment. We may not be able to decide for ourselves sometimes, but we can certainly decide to not let someone go hungry, or cold, or alone, or grieving. Human suffering is always there, and that means we always have something to do. But to act, we must decide to act. Everyday God grants us the opportunities to act, regardless of our circumstances. If we can breathe, we can pray. If we can walk, we can search. If we can reach, we can share. If we can see, we can feel. No matter how much uncertainty there is in our lives, one thing is certain – God has something for us to do. So let’s be at it. That is one decision we can make for sure.

Dr. Mack



Since the Wallow Fire in 2011, Montlure Camp has worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to establish a viable plan for restoring the site and ensuring long-term occupancy. It has been a long road and they've reached a new milestone where public comment and support is needed for the next phase of negotiations. Your help is essential as you are encouraged to let the USFS know about the positive impact Montlure has had-whether in your life, the lives of your family and friends, or the greater community. It's important to act quickly as comments are only accepted through February 21, 2025. To submit your comment, go online to https://linktr.ee/montlurecamp_churchresources and look for the instructions. That same link has many pages of background information. It also has a second request to write your representatives supporting a congressional inquiry regarding how the NEPA process could be handled more expeditiously.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH CLASSES

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (preschool - 3rd grade)

Teacher: Kathy Moser

GOD'S CREATURES, TO-GO-BAGS PROJECT AND NOAH

We will be having Sunday School downstairs in Room 8 following the children's message. We will begin with a lesson on "God Made the Animals". Our Bible verse will be Genesis 1:24. Our "Little Helping Hands service project", will be on the second Sunday of the month. We made 55 to-go-bags last month! On the last two Sundays of this month, we will have lessons on Noah (selected Bible verses from Genesis 6, 8 and 9), including Bible activities and a craft.

CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (4th grade & older)

Teachers: 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 & sit with their families during worship.

ADULT CLASSES

Mack's Lenten study for this year will begin March 9 in the Upper Room. More information about the class and time will be available in the March VISION.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our theme for February will be "Love: God's love and our love for God and our love for others". There are a variety of books on this theme such as "A Love Worth Giving: Living in the Overflow of God's Love"; "Grace in a Tree Stump: O.T. Stories of God's Love"; "Finding Our Father"; "A Layman Looks at the Love of God"; "The Art of Loving"; and "How Big is God's Love". These and other books will be on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. Instructions for checking out books and the "check out" card basket will also be on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. When returning books, please leave them in the Book Return basket 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!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CAMP? SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Montlure is looking forward to another incredible summer with campers. Montlure offers a summer camp experience where campers can unplug from both technology and stress/anxiety and connect with nature, their peers, their counselors, and their faith. All while having an incredible amount of fun! Space is limited so register early to hold your spot. Overnight Camps: 10-12th Grade: June 8-13, 8-9th Grade: June 16-21, 6-8th Grade: June 23-28, 4-6th Grade: July 7-11. Traveling Day Camps are being planned too. Details at montlure.org. Scholarships are available through our Christian Education Committee!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

The Annual Congregational meeting was Sunday, February 9. Members that were present that day received the 2024 Annual Report and meeting agenda. These have been mailed to people that were not present that day. The Annual Report is available online at <https://trinitytucson.org/media/annual-report/>



WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

The first-known mention of per capita dates back to 1734 in a letter to ministers! According to the PCUSA website, “per capita is a set amount of money per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together.” It is the Presbyterian Church’s way of sharing the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future.

Each congregation (through its session) pays an annual amount of money per church member to its presbytery. The amount is determined by a combined total of requests from that congregation’s presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located, and the General Assembly — based on their respective budgets for the coming year(s). In 2024, the estimated total average per capita was 26.1% for the General Assembly and 73.9% for Presbyteries and Synods. Per capita is the primary funding source for the many ministries teaching and ruling elders have discerned to be integral to the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Among other things, this per capita funding provides for the cost of:

- Bringing together commissioners and delegates for the General Assembly,
- Publishing and distributing of the Book of Order, the Book of Confessions, and other General Assembly publications,
- Supporting the work of the General Assembly and its Committees,
- And providing a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical gatherings in the U.S. and worldwide, thus extending our mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves.

“As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him. United with Christ in the power of the Spirit, the Church seeks ‘not [to] be conformed to this world, but [to] be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds, so that [we] may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect’ (Romans 12:2)” (Book of Order, F-1.0401).

Per capita is about community. It is committing to connection and support between all members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Through per capita, we join together and serve as Christ's church in the world.

This year, Trinity’s per capita is \$43.85 per congregant. Please consider giving your per capita on February 23 to support the Church’s work in Tucson and throughout the world.

WORSHIP NEWS

WEDNESDAY EVENING VESPERS

Dr. Mack hosts "Wednesday Evening Vespers" the **first Wednesday each month, at 6:30 pm**. This is a brief time of prayer and sharing with scripture, a Devotional, prayer concerns, and prayer. Join him online at <http://trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/>.

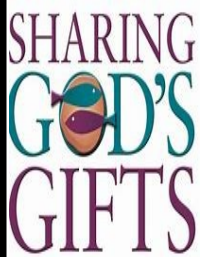
CHOIR REHEARSAL is **Thursdays at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Join the Trinity Choir in the weekly service & Easter Cantata.

HANDBELL REHEARSAL is **Thursdays at 5:30 pm** in the Bell Room upstairs. Please see Lynn Moser if you are interested in participating.

BE PART OF THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Would you like to be a part of the committee that makes Worship happen? We are currently recruiting for one or two members at large to serve on this vibrant committee. One of our jobs is setting up Communion once a month. If you're just interested in that, we would welcome the help. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Contact any committee member if you are interested. Janet Jones, Cheyenne Williams, Jim Hooper, Janet Hooper, Lynn Moser, Bruce Chamberlain, Mack Sigmon

MISSION NEWS



Special Mission Offering Twice a year the Mission Committee has a special offering that reaches out to the community. February's offering will be given to our **Arizona Diaper Bank**. Information about this great organization and the people they help is available at <https://diaperbank.org>. You may make your donation to this offering throughout the month of February in the offering plate, by mail or online. Please designate February Mission Offering when you do. Thank you for your generosity.

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 3:00 pm in basement of the Sanctuary building. Thanks for your donations.

Casa Maria sandwich making was **February 9** in Fellowship Hall thanks to everyone that helped that day.

Just Coffee For Sale

The Mission Committee sells Just Coffee before and after church each Sunday in Fellowship Hall . The display is near the stained glass window manned by volunteers. You may pay by cash or check. The proceeds benefit Café Justo which is a Grower-owned Coffee Cooperative based in southern Chiapas Mexico. For more info about them visit justcoffee.org.

Food Items are Needed for the Food Pantry:

Please bring your donations on Sunday or by the church office or food pantry during open hours. Crackers & tuna, sausage sticks, Vienna sausage cans, ramen, peanut butter, cheese & crackers, water

SESSION NOTES

Session experienced a great beginning for the new year. We welcomed back John Hill and Janet Jones for another three years of service. And we are pleased to welcome our new elders Cheyenne Williams, Carolyn Maycher and Karen Wilkison. To begin the new year, we see many routine housekeeping items that need attention such as Committee assignments, election of officers and approving new members-at-large. Dr. Mack spent some time discussing some basics about preparing for meetings to avoid conflict and confusion by preparing reports, communications and actions that need Session approval. So here are the business items presented & approved by Session in January:

- ◆ Session elected Janet Hooper as Clerk of Session and Eileen Lamse as Treasurer.
- ◆ John Hill & Carolyn Maycher will be Presbytery Commissioners with Billie Holbrook as an alternate.
- ◆ Janet Hooper and Karen Wilkison will serve on the Congregational Nominating Committee.
- ◆ The following Committee assignments were approved: Administration & Personnel with Chair Roberta Westergaard and Liz Strong; Christian Education with Chair John Hill and Karen Wilkison; Mission Committee with Chair Cheyenne Williams; Property Committee with Chair Tom Roof and Al Coffin; Stewardship & Finance Committee with Chair Ruth Russell; Worship Committee with Chair Janet Jones and Janet Hooper; Trinity Presbyterian Women to be represented by Carolyn Maycher.
- ◆ New members-at-large approved by Session are Eileen Lamse for Mission Committee and Dave Croteau for Property Committee.
- ◆ Session added April 17, 2025 (Maundy Thursday) to the Communion schedule.
- ◆ Session approved Mission Committee's decision to transfer \$10,000 from the Special Mission Fund for monthly payments to our 10 Presbytery Mission Partners.
- ◆ Ordinations and Installations of new elders and deacons will take place at the February 9, 2025

worship service.

- ◆ The Necrology Report for 2024 submitted to Presbytery includes deceased elders Allyn Spence, John Lamse, Elliott Koeppen & former Associate Pastor the Rev. Dr. John Davies.
- ◆ Received the Deaconate report that they elected the following officers: Daphne Madson as Moderator, Jim Slagle as Vice-Moderator, Kathy Moser as Secretary and Karen James for the Congregational Nominating Committee.
- ◆ Administration & Personnel presented the Pastor's Terms of Call that the congregation will see and approve on February 9.
- ◆ Mission and Property are planning to expand Trinity participation in the 4th Avenue Street Fairs with the usual Cup of Water as well as face painting, balloon art, children's area, entertainment and other ideas. Volunteers please step forward.
- ◆ Worship Committee is planning for the Lenten season.

Session prayed for God's loving care as we venture into a new year of service in the heart of Tucson.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session

SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 2 Jer. 1:4-10 & Psalm 71:1-6;
1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 9 Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13) & Psalm 138;
1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 16 Jer. 17:5-10 & Psalm 1; 1 Cor.
15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

February 23 Gen. 45:3-11, 15 & Psalm
37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50;
Luke 6:27-38

TRINITY MILESTONES

HONORING & MEMORIALS



In Honor of Don & Ruth Myers by Jill & John O'Rourke
In Memory of Melissa Bird by Amy Bird & Douglas Bland

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 Emmanuelle Seddo	19 Ida Medina
15 Faith Mukasine	20 Kathy Moser
16 Georgia Bach	26 Al Coffin
18 Bill Goodhue	28 Shirley Wilka

MARCH BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

1 Harriet Marsh	4 Ed Hawley
2 Truman Spillers	6 Peter & Paula Alley
3 Riley De Pizzo	7 Holly Clark

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Liz & Steve Barlow

WHO'S IN YOUR PEW Meet Errol Dimenstein

What did you do for a living?

I was a probation officer for the better part of 30 years. My last seven years on the job I was a Division Director (deputy chief). I have been retired since 2014



Where is your hometown?

Bridgeport Connecticut

What do you like to do with your leisure time?

Play mandolin and drums, exercise and waste time with games on my iPad

What is your favorite food? Seafood – lobster stuffed salmon fillet is my current favorite

What is your favorite hymn? "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

What does this church mean to you? Excellent musical opportunities and fellowship

What is something that many people would not know about you? I am exclusively right-handed, with one exception – I use my left hand to cut with a scissor



TRINITY WOMEN

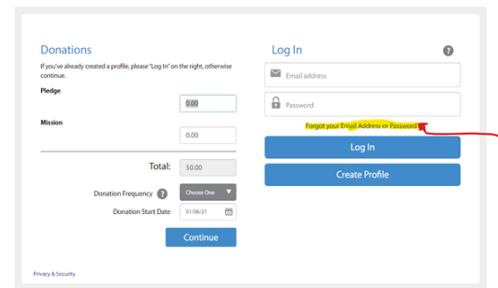
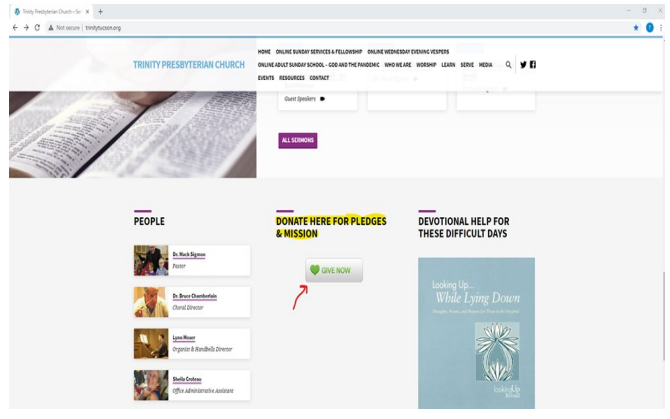
The Horizon's Bible Study meets Tuesday, February 11 at 9:30 am in the Library. Dr. Mack leads the study "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" by Judy Yates Siker. Nine lessons explore the "Who is Jesus?" through a theological lens of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Hebrews, the non-canonical gospels, Abrahamic Faiths, & contemporary interpretations.

Ryan's Bears meets Tuesday, January 18 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to help cut them out and to stuff them. Donations of fabric are always needed along with black embroidery thread, ribbon to put around their necks & buttons for their eyes, nickel size with two holes. We made 98 bears this past year which is a record. Our members also make caps and other items and these are donated in December.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Online Giving is a great option. Follow these steps to setup your account at the Presbyterian Foundation to support Trinity's mission of "Serving God in the Heart of the City" If you have issues setting it up at trinitytucson.org or making changes to an existing account please contact the office so we can help.

- ◆ Go to www.trinitytucson.org & scroll to the bottom. Click the GIVE NOW button to go to the secure website for the Presbytery Foundation.
- ◆ On this page you may make a one-time donation on the left side or you may create a profile & setup recurring donations. Choose Mission or Pledge and enter the amount. There is a memo option on the next page where you enter your credit card information that you can specify if you want the donation to go to a specific fund other than what you chose (we were only allowed two options) You can also type in any instructions such as an honor or memorial for the donation.
- ◆ If you want to make changes to an existing profile such as updating credit card information, enter your email address and password and click LOG IN to go into your profile and do that.
- ◆ If you have forgotten your profile password, click Forgot your Email Address or Password? above the Log in button. Type in your email address and click RESET PASSWORD An email will be sent to your address on file (where you get your donation receipts) from cs@vancopayments.com. The email will provide you a temporary password & instructions on how to reset your password.
- ◆ Once you have done this you can login and make changes to your account & make donations.



We appreciate your support!

We are "LIVE" streaming the Sunday morning service beginning at 10:20 am. Watch it on our website at trinitytucson.org/watch-live

Visit our website at www.trinitytucson.org for all the information and events you are looking for.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
400 E. University Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85705

520-623-2579
Office 10:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website
www.trinitytucson.org

Email Addresses
office@trinitytucson.org



**Deadline for the March 2025 VISION is
Thursday, February 20
Please submit articles to the church office or
to: office@trinitytucson.org**