

March, 2025

Volume 35, Issue 3

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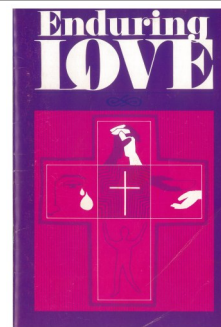


Lent begins March 5



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](http://trinitytucson.org/watch-live).

Dr. Mack's Lenten Study begins Sunday, March 9 at 9:00 am in the Upper Room



Mack's Lenten study this year is titled, "Enduring Love," based on a curriculum written by Lynette C. Schroeder. Published in 1987, it was originally written as an Adult Bible School study, but he has kept it all these years because it is so good. A light breakfast is planned for all the participants. The class will conclude at 9:45. "I think a focus on Jesus' love is especially important in these times of great division and anxiety. There is no video, but there will be handouts each week (the book itself is out of print). I hope you will join me for breakfast and our Lenten study". Here are the titles of each lesson:

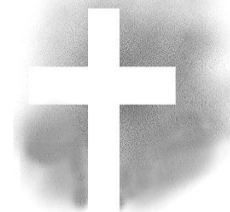
- 1) Jesus Loves All People
- 2) Jesus Cares for Us in Sad Times
- 3) Jesus Brings Us Joy
- 4) Jesus Helps People in Need
- 5) Jesus' Love is Forever
- 6) Summary and Discussion

# PASTORAL LETTER

The season of Lent is often associated with sacrifice and denial. The reasons for this originate in how Lent became something different than how it was originally practiced. Over the past one hundred years, and particularly in the last few decades, Lent could be described as “the forty -day hangover after the party.” The growing secularism of our world has made this even more true, creating a “pre-Lenten” period of what is literally a debauch. If you want to get a look at the “Mardi Gras” spirit, it is easy to find right now. Though Mardi Gras has usually been a one-day revelry, it now begins sometime after New Year’s Day extending up to Fat Tuesday. While there is live video on You Tube featuring the New Orleans Mardi Gras, it is nothing compared to the Rio De Janeiro Mardi Gras, parts of which You Tube will not allow because they border on the pornographic. It is a fact that Mardi Gras celebrations in many cities have become dangerous to attend, with a significant increase in violent crime. Was this actually how Christianity came to understand the time preceding the Lenten season? Was it intentional sinning for the sake of intentional repentance?

The reality is that Lent is not a season of deprivation, but a season of benefit. In Lent we take time to add something to the ordinary progression of our lives. If there is a personal act of deprivation, it is a voluntary surrendering of something in order to spiritually focus our hearts. Food, luxuries, preferences, or other similar things might help that spiritual focus, but for me one of the most precious things that we have is time. That is why Lent is such a wonderful opportunity to add a daily time of prayer, and that is why there are many Lenten devotionals for each day of the forty-day season that assist us. There is a difference in bowing our heads for a brief prayer of thanksgiving at a meal and opening our

hearts for a genuine plunge into the meaning of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection. Lent is not “preparing us for Easter,” but is helping us to understand why Christianity celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ – not just one day out of the year, but as a regular part of our lives in the community of faith. Do you know why the church traditionally worships on Sunday? It does so because Jesus rose on the third day. The kingdom of God calls us to more than just a religious season of denial– it calls the church to be permeated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ in lives of confession, faith, discipleship. Can we make time for the season of Lent this year by spiritually walking with Jesus each day in devotion and prayer? Lent does not require us to sin in order to have forty days of repentance, but to celebrate with each other and in our own hearts the benefit of Christ’s grace through his crucifixion and resurrection. Let our Lent be the true Lent.



*Dr. Mack*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**March 2** Ex. 34:29-35 & Psalm 99; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

**March 9** Deut. 26:1-11 & Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**March 16** Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18 & Psalm 27; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

**March 23** Isa. 55:1-9 & Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**March 30** Josh. 5:9-12 & Psalm 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

### GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (Preschool - 3rd Grade)

*Teacher: Kathy Moser*

#### Preparing for Easter and To-go-bags project

We will be having Sunday School downstairs in **Room 8** following the children's message. This month we will have lessons on "Preparing for Easter" with Easter crafts and Bible activities. Our Bible verses will be John 3:16 and Romans 5:8. Our "Little Helping Hands service project" is the second Sunday.

### 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 CLASS

See Page 1 for details on Mack's Lenten Class "Enduring Love"

## LIBRARY NEWS

Our theme for March will be "Preparing for Lent". "Meditations for Lent", "Kneeling in Jerusalem" and "Places Along the Way" just to name a few. 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!

### 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" & includes scripture and music each day.

### LENT DEVOTIONS

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

# WORSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



**Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:20 am** A celebration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a palm procession & trumpet soloist.

**Maundy Thursday, April 17**

**5:30 pm** We'll share a meal and the Lord's Supper together in Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the main course; bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP 520-623-2579 or [office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)).

**6:30 pm** A Service of Tenebrae in the sanctuary with Scripture readings and music that will relate the story of Jesus' life from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion as candles are extinguished & the sanctuary darkens.

**Easter Sunday April 20**

A celebration of Christ's Resurrection

**6:30 am** – Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden,

**9:00 – 10:15 a.m.** – Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. The church will provide pancakes; please bring a dish to share (*eggs, fruit, rolls, etc.*)

**9:45 am** – Easter Story (Library) and Egg Hunt (Courtyard),

**10:20 am** – the Trinity Choir & Orchestra present a stunning cantata, A LIVING HOPE, based upon 19th century American musical sources. During the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter we witness extraordinary images of hope gained, hope lost and hope reborn. Even Jesus' closet friends and disciples doubted his promise that, "In three days I will rise again." Death, however, was swallowed up in victory and through his death and resurrection, we who follow Jesus receive new birth into A LIVING HOPE.

Join us in person or online for all of these services at [trinitytucson.org/watch-live](http://trinitytucson.org/watch-live).



If you would like to purchase an Easter lily in honor or memory of someone special please use the enclosed form and mail it along with your payment to 400 E. University Blvd Tucson, AZ 85705. You may also bring it to church or pay online at [www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org). Enter the dedication information in the memo area when ordering online.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL Thursdays at**

**7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary.

**HANDBELL REHEARSAL**

**Thursdays at 5:30 pm** in the Bell Room upstairs.



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

Montlure is looking forward to another incredible summer with campers. Montlure offers an 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](http://montlure.org). **Scholarships are available through our Christian Education Committee!**

# MISSION NEWS

## 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

March 9 in Fellowship Hall Thank you for helping with that mission project.

## Just Coffee For Sale

The Mission Committee sells Just Coffee before & 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, a Grower-owned Coffee Cooperative based in Chiapas Mexico. More info is at [justcoffee.org](http://justcoffee.org).



### Ministers

Rev. Peggy Christiansen

Rev. Jocabed Gallegos

### Members of the Session

Jesse Avila

Susan Kramer

Manuel Valenzuela

Robert Victor

### Treasurers

Jean Tsuya

Sylvia Valenzuela

## First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 410  
Douglas, AZ 85608  
Located at 10<sup>th</sup> Street & D Avenue

Website: <https://fpcdouglasaz.com>  
Church email: [fpcdouglasaz@gmail.com](mailto:fpcdouglasaz@gmail.com)

February 10, 2025

Mission Committee  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Tucson, AZ

Dear Friends at Trinity,

We are writing to invite you to consider supporting our capital campaign: "Out of the Ashes, With God We Rise!"

As you know, our sanctuary was destroyed and our fellowship hall badly damaged by an arsonist in May of 2023. You were one of the first churches to reach out and help us right after it happened, and that love and support has meant everything to us as we've struggled to deal with the devastation. It has taken us a long time to get through insurance claims, structural engineer evaluations, exploration of options available, finding the right general contractors, dealing with the legal system, and much more than any of us were equipped to deal with – not to mention the grief and learning that our insurance coverage was not enough to restore our buildings.

Throughout these long months we have been asking, "what is God's desire for us and our future?" Now we have come to a clear vision and are ready to move forward in a big way, with the help of God and our extended church family and friends.

Our primary goal\* is to reconstruct our fellowship hall and create a welcoming, **multi-purpose facility** which can serve the needs of our border community in southeastern Arizona. The new building will serve the community with a commercial kitchen; community garden; cooking and nutrition classes; accessible bathrooms and space for shelter; tutoring and youth enrichment; English and Spanish lessons; addiction recovery groups; and of course, space for worship. To complete this project, we need to raise an additional \$100,000 by July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have started receiving pledges and so far have raised \$20,000!

We believe that something beautiful is rising out of the ashes of our sorrow. God has brought us this far, and we are ready for the Love, Peace and Good News of Christ to shine in new ways through First Presbyterian Church of Douglas. We hope you will join us on this journey forward!

In deep gratitude,  
Rev. Peggy Christiansen, M.M., M.Div.  
Rev. Jocabed Gallegos, L.S.T.

*\*(The historic stone walls of the sanctuary will be preserved and a new roof installed, so that at some future time, it may be possible to restore it; but most of the money we have from insurance and fundraising will be spent on the new vision.)*

First Presbyterian Church is a 501(c)3 organization incorporated in Arizona.

## 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



## CUP OF WATER

at the Spring 4th Ave Street Fair  
March 21-23  
We are looking for volunteers, please contact Dave or Sheila Croteau to sign up and help.

# Session Notes

Yikes! We are already into the third month of 2025. Where does the time go? The February stated Session meeting predominately involved the sharing of information amongst the committees with only two actions of import. With regret, Session accepted the resignation of Al Coffin from being an actively serving elder and member of the Property Committee. His service on our Session has been very productive and needed. His expertise will be missed plus his dedication as he attended meetings via Zoom while on his annual summer departure to cooler climes. Please thank Al for his service to our church. The other action was to approve the Annual Statistical Report that is sent to General Assembly every year and is archived in Trinity's Minutes Book. The following highlights the reports from committees:

- The Deacons have booked a ramada for the All-Church Picnic for November 8, 2025 and are researching fund raising ideas.
- Our Presbytery Commissioners attended the combined Annual meeting for de Cristo and Grand Canyon – one by Zoom and one in person at First PC in Casa Grande, AZ. Thank you, Carolyn Maycher and John Hill.
- Administration & Personnel are conducting staff reviews.
- Christian Ed has big plans for the Lenten season and Easter celebration. Check the VISION and Sunday bulletins for updates.
- Mission Committee is always thankful for volunteers. They help astronomical numbers of people in the Food Bank and will share those numbers with the congregation via Sunday bulletins. The committee also is promoting help for First PC in Douglas, AZ as they rebuild after a devastating fire.
- Property Committee and Peter Holbrook are overseeing Titan Roofing and Construction LLC as they fix our sanctuary roof after storm damage. The clay roofing over Fellowship Hall is also being repaired. And they are tracking down a water leak in the Trinity Hall kitchen.
- Kudos to our Treasurer Eileen Lamse from Stewardship & Finance for her excellent balance

sheets and operating statements. She oversees Trinity's finances with an eagle eye and great expertise. The committee plans to share Minutes for Mission with the congregation on a more regular basis.

- Worship Committee is fine tuning plans for the Cantata and Easter services. They are working with Property to plan a meeting with the Rev. Joseph Moore who will visit Trinity the last weekend of March. Joe Moore has experience with downtown churches that wish to interface more with the community via a sanctuary that can house musical performances from outside groups.
- Dr. Mack spoke to Session members about the ordination/installation question that asks about promising to further the peace, unity and purity of the church. Those on the Session are notches on the two-thousand-year continuum of Christians trying to do just that – further peace, unity and purity in the church.

Session prayed for our staff, committee members and our church leaders.

Janet Hooper  
Clerk of Session

Need magnified hymns? Get the 'Glory to God' app from your app store, to view the hymns on a tablet. See J. Hill or C. Maycher for details.



# Trinity Milestones

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |   |                    |    |                    |
|---|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Harriet Marsh – 96 | 11 | MacKenzie DePizzo  |
| 2 | Truman Spillers    | 11 | Asa Moyer          |
| 3 | Riley DePizzo      | 15 | George Zellar, Jr. |
| 4 | Ed Hawley          | 18 | Jerry Rowe         |
| 6 | Paula Alley        | 22 | Roberta Crawford   |
| 6 | Peter Alley        | 23 | Emalie Wilka       |
| 7 | Holly Clark        |    |                    |

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS (1–10)

- 8 Helen Greer

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Kuman Tenge and Latre Lawson






**Birthday & Anniversary  
 Celebration Sunday, March 16 in  
 Fellowship Hall after worship**

**NAMI SA (NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON  
 MENTAL ILLNESS- So AZ)**

“Please walk with us for our annual NAMI-Walks on **Saturday, April 5**, at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center, at Reid Park, S. Country Club & 22nd Street. This walk helps to raise awareness & provide support to individuals affected by mental health conditions. There is no fee to join us. Derry and Tom Dean”



# TRINITY WOMEN



Trinity Presbyterian Women are planning a salad luncheon and program for **Tuesday, March 25**. Watch the bulletin for further details. Questions call Ruth Myers or Liz Barlow.



**The Horizon's Bible Study** meets **Tuesday, March 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, March 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.



# Trinity Presbyterian Church

400 East University Blvd.  
Tucson, Arizona 85705

Phone: (520) 623-2579

Fax: (520) 624-7115

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



- ⇒ 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  
400 E. University Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85705

520-623-2579

Office 10:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website

[www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org)

Email Addresses

[office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)

Deadline for the **April 2025**  
**VISION** is **Monday, March 24**  
Please submit articles to the  
church office or to:  
[office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)