

August, 2025

Volume 35 Issue 8

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## August is Mission Sunday month

Trinity is serving God in the Heart of the City.

Trinity's Mission committee has elected to support Frontera de Cristo with the August mission special offering. The offering will be taken in person August 24. See [page 6](#) for additional events happening that day.

*Please consider making a donation (noting August Special Offering) anytime in August online at [trinitytucson.org](http://trinitytucson.org), by mail or in person.*



## AUGUST 23, 2025 THE BIG EVENT MONICA TORNOE

### The Power of Stories and Storytelling

In divided times, storytelling has the power to unite us. Come be reminded about the power of stories, learn how to tell your story more effectively, and how to encourage and train your congregation to tell their stories. Join author, educator, and immigration advocate Monica Tornoe as we learn together how to join our stories with *The Story of God's love in Jesus*.



**In-Person:**  
Northminster Tucson

\*\*\*\*\*

**Zoom Pod:**  
Phoenix (TBA)

9:00 am-3:00 pm

**Books by Monica :**  
**The Truth in Our Stories**  
**(Immigrant Voices in**  
**Radical Times)**

...

**The Holy Stranger**

...

**Doki, the Immigrant Dog**

### QUESTIONS?

Email Ann Skipper at  
[pby.rec.office@gmail.com](mailto:pby.rec.office@gmail.com)

More information and registration is available at [azpresbyteries.org](http://azpresbyteries.org)

# PASTORAL LETTER



One of my favorite old hymns is "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (which was in the Presbyterian "Redbook" of the Southern Presbyterian Church.) 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 verse 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. 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 God'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 to the fire.

The Christian conscience does not allow us have 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.

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 you on the potter's wheel? It is easy to get there – all we need do is ask, and then let the work begin! May God's work in this world begin in us today, right now, and forever.

*Dr. Mack*

**BACK to SCHOOL**



**Birthday & Anniversary  
Celebration**

**Sunday, August 17**  
in Fellowship Hall after worship

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

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

*Teachers: Kathy Moser*

#### CREATIVE SUMMER ACTIVITIES

We will be having summer Sunday School in the Library following the children's message. We will have DOMINOES and building BLOCKS fun, along with MATCHING games. We will also have an assortment of PUZZLES and ACTIVITY and COLORING pages. Our snack time will be in Fellowship Hall.

### THE CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (4th Grade & Older)

*Teacher: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull*

#### GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG

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

## LIBRARY NEWS

Our theme for August is back to school. No way! Is it that time already? Do you wonder what books your librarian has selected for this theme? Wonder, no more. The books selected will be on the credenza in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, August 3rd. "The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt"; "Lincoln's Mothers: A Story of Nancy and Sally Lincoln"; "In a World Gone Mad: A Heroic Story of Love, Faith and Survival"; "Sala's Gift: My Mother's Holocaust Story"; "Unbroken"; "The Rainbow People of God: The Making of a Peaceful Revolution"; "City in the Sun: The Japanese Concentration Camp at Poston, Arizona"; "Copper Creek: A Biography of Martin E. Tew"; and "A History of Sahuari-ta". The last two books were written by Jerry Rowe. Instructions for checking out books and the "check out" card basket will be on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. When returning books, please leave them in the Book Return basket in the library. The library is open before and after the worship service. Please contact Kathy Moser, your librarian, if you have any questions.



We said farewell & God bless to Alix Roa on Sunday, June 29. She moved to Venezuela & joined her family there.





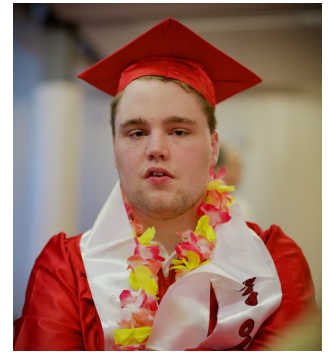
# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Looking for a fun way to unwind, connect, and challenge your mind this summer? Join us for table games, laughter, and great company in Fellowship Hall! All ages are welcome. We'll have games like Uno, Scrabble, decks of cards, and Monopoly. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share.



Paula Alley & Charles Williams graduated from high school.



Kyra Toering graduated from ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law with her J.D. in May 2025. Kyra will take the July 2025 Arizona Bar Exam & then join the law firm Salmon, Lewis & Weldon in the fall as an associate.



Dave Toering graduated in May with a Master of Science in Computer Science from Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), with a specialty in Artificial Intelligence. He started his new job in June as a senior Vista MUMPS developer at Veterans EZ Info Inc.

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WITH RESEARCH

(We received the following email & wanted to share it with you)

My name is Ava Gardner, & I'm part of a research team at University of Arizona College of Nursing. We are conducting an NIH-funded study on non-pharmacological approaches to managing chronic pain in older adults with knee osteoarthritis. We see the value and importance in connecting with community members and population, which is why we are seeking this collaboration with Trinity Presbyterian Church! We would hope to connect with you in hopes to provide resources that aging members of your congregation may benefit from. Our research includes chair yoga led through Zoom sessions & transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS). Our goal is to better understand how the brain responds to these interventions and how they can reduce pain-related behaviors and improve quality of life.

Participation involves short phone screening, two visits to our study center for data collection, a four-week home-based meditation and tDCS program & chair yoga sessions home-based through Zoom sessions. We'd be happy to provide more details or set up a time to discuss how we can collaborate in a way that works best for you and your members & friends. Thank you for considering this opportunity, and for your time in the matter!

Best regards, Ava Gardner, Research Assistant Brain Digital Technology Lab **University of Arizona College of Nursing** (520) 334-0300 [avadgardner@arizona.edu](mailto:avadgardner@arizona.edu)

# MISSION NEWS

## FOR OVERWHELMED FOOD PANTRIES, THE CUTS JUST KEEP COMING

Heather Mace Special to the Arizona Daily Star Jun 7, 2025

If you find yourself strolling near University Boulevard and 4th Avenue on a weekday afternoon, you may notice a stream of people trickling into the basement of the big pink corner church. Chances are, they're visiting the Trinity Presbyterian Food Pantry, where I had the privilege of volunteering from 2009-2012. Over the years, as word spread about the small pantry in the heart of the city, it has taken root and bloomed. Through a partnership with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Trinity typically distributes 200 food boxes per month through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and hands out about 55 snack packs every Tuesday and Thursday. Judging by the smiling volunteers and appreciative clients, it would appear that the pantry is thriving. However, as I learned in a recent conversation with Trinity's food facilitator, Billie Holbrook, looks can be deceiving. Holbrook shared that in the past few weeks, a record number of families have requested food boxes, and the daily pack distribution has surged by nearly 30%. One in seven Arizonans, including one in five children, already face hunger; rising food bank visits could mean that number is growing. The problem is, as Trinity's client base increases, the amount of food available to them is decreasing.

One major reason is that in March, as part of President Trump's sweeping cost-cutting measures, the U.S. Agriculture Department cut \$500 million from the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program. This program would have paid local farmers to provide fresh produce and proteins to supplement food boxes, which only contain enough dried and canned goods to last about three days. Due to these cuts, Trinity just learned that there will be zero supplemental items available for families in June. Government cuts to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program have also affected Tucson, forcing the Community Food Bank to eliminate this critical food resource for hundreds of seniors.

At the same time, cost-of-living increases are pushing some families to the brink of food insecurity. From 2020-24, U.S. food prices rose by 23.6%, and the average price of homeownership rose by 76%. For some people, a stipend from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the only way they can afford groceries amidst these rising costs. However, instead of ramping up support for struggling families, the U.S. House of Representatives just advanced a bill that would cut nearly \$300 billion from SNAP over the next 10 years. If that happens, millions more Americans may rely on food pantries to survive.

Despite these mounting challenges, Trinity's pantry staff – consisting mostly of retired volunteers – continues to fight for their clients. They coordinate pickups of surplus food from retailers like Walmart, Trader Joe's and QT through the Grocery Rescue and Meal Connect programs. Then they haul, inventory, and package this food so it's ready to distribute. The church allots thousands of dollars to provide snack bags for unhoused clients, who often don't have the means to cook items from traditional food boxes. Trinity has also invested in refrigeration units to store perishable goods – a luxury many pantries don't have the space or finances to accommodate. Yet despite all of their efforts, the cuts just keep coming.

**CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE**

# MISSION NEWS

## FOR OVERWHELMED FOOD PANTRIES, THE CUTS JUST KEEP COMING

(Continued from the previous page)

Holbrook fears that if funding cuts continue, eventually churches will carry the entire responsibility for providing supplemental food assistance to communities. It appears she has reason to worry. When the USDA slashed food bank budgets, their rationale was that the programs "no longer effectuate the goals of the agency." If feeding Americans isn't the USDA's primary goal, perhaps they don't need a financial overhaul; they need a moral reckoning.

Holbrook hasn't given up hope. She says the gratitude on clients' faces is the fuel that keeps her going. But determination and goodwill can only carry an organization so far. To keep folks fed, pantries need food. All of us can help immediately by donating our money, resources, or time to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona or our neighborhood pantry. As the current administration cuts assistance programs down to the core, we as a community must commit to feeding our neighbors. If we don't step up, who will?



## MISSION SUNDAY AUGUST 24

### Mark Adams & Frontera de Cristo Worship Service and Luncheon

Every August Trinity's Mission Committee designates one Sunday for a Special Offering. We chose Frontera de Cristo for Sunday, August 24 when Mark Adams will be speaking in worship. Mark Adams and his wife Miriam Maldonado were Presbyterian Church USA Mission Co-Workers with the Frontera de Cristo until the program was ended earlier this year. They will remain on the staff at FDC with the support of the two Arizona presbyteries and continued global support of the non-profit itself. The offering will go toward staffing at the Frontera de Cristo.

After the worship service there will be a luncheon provided by the Mission Committee in Trinity Hall. Please RSVP to [office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org) or call 520-623-2579 by Wednesday, August 13 so that we know if you will be attending.

## TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursday  
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm in basement of the main Sanctuary  
building on the south side.

## *Sandwich Making for Casa Maria*

Sunday, August 10 in Fellowship Hall after church. Join  
us in this monthly project. Come at 9:00 am to setup.

## Just Coffee For Sale

The display is near the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall. Coffee is sold before and after church Sunday. Coffee will be \$10 (cash or check) & proceeds benefiting Café Justo, a grower-owned Coffee Cooperative in Chiapas Mexico. More information about Café Justo is at [justcoffee.org](http://justcoffee.org).

# MISSION NEWS

## HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR FOOD PANTRY

Hi to everyone who may want to feed Tucson (parents, grandparents, kids and those who've helped with giving out food with us in the past), Trinity Food Pantry is connected with Grocery Rescue (part of Feeding America). We've experienced cuts in the federal allotments but now a windfall of goods (produce, meat, bread and dairy) has come with the addition of the Walmart Neighborhood Market on Alvernon and Grant. We will need lots of help unloading and storing a delivery of food on Monday mornings at 9:30 in Trinity's south parking lot. Twelve people helped on Monday, the 12th. It was a trial run. We unloaded in Trinity Hall and sorted, documented, 'weighed', stored and tossed items. We even gave a load of baby formula and food to Casa De Los Niños. The Southern Arizona Community Food Bank has connected our pantry with Walmart and we are committed to every Monday, holidays included! I'm including those who helped with Casa Alitas travel bag packing because the Casa Alitas kitchen workers are now at the Food Bank's Gabby Giffords Center on south Country Club signing up refugees for SNAP and DES services! In essence, we are helping some of the same people. It's almost summer, we'll be doing most of our job in Trinity Hall's (NOW) air conditioned comfort (compared to last summer with limited AC). I hope kids can come. It's fun to see the different produce and the abundance of it. Come to the south parking lot Mondays at 9:30 and help. I'll have the Pantry Gate open! Wear a hat! We'll have gloves and water. See you there! P.S. If you have a vehicle & want to help pick up call Billie: 520-668-6341 or Pete: 520-240-0339

**Food Pantry Needs** Check the table in the Narthex for ideas. Canned vegetables, protein or granola bars, tuna and peanut butter are always needed. Grocery bags too. Donations may be brought to church on Sunday & the office Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Sign up to volunteer at [trinitytucson.org/volunteer](http://trinitytucson.org/volunteer).

**Food Pantry Numbers** In June Trinity's Food Pantry served 420 people in 205 households. We gave out 201 Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Boxes. We averaged 56 walk-ins each day. **We have Starbucks coffee beans that need to be ground & pet food to shovel into smaller bags too.** **Please come to the Food Pantry & help Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.**

## WORSHIP

### Bell Choir



**The Trinity Ringers** Handbell Choir resumes weekly rehearsals **Thursday, September 4, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm** New members are welcome! If you're interested in joining this fun and meaningful music ministry, please see Lynn Moser at the organ console after worship.



**The Trinity Choir** resumes its regular rehearsal/worship schedule **Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Exciting worship coordinated anthems and the annual Christmas cantata are planned. We hope that interested singers would join us for this vital ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church.



# SESSION NOTES

Dr. Mack opened the June Session meeting with prayer asking that our Lord be with us during these times of fear, trouble and trepidation as we search for opportunities to serve our neighbors and do God's work in the heart of Tucson. Usually, Session does not meet in July to give everyone a break and many of our committees did not meet in June or July. Our pastor missed a couple of Sundays because of health issues. Worship Committee has a set of plans about what to do when our pastor is absent unexpectedly. Other options were discussed about "what to do" when our solo pastor is unavailable, and further plans will be made. Here are the highlights of the June meeting:

- Though Eileen Lamse does not attend our Session meetings, she submits detailed reports about the Trinity operating statement, the balance sheet, cash flow, investment accounts and upcoming budget work for 2026. She reports that for the first five months of 2025 the Trinity actual deficit is less than the budgeted deficit. This is good news just now.
- Two representatives from Presbytery de Cristo came to Trinity to check the Membership Rolls book and the Minutes book for several of the Tucson churches. Bill Voigt and the Tortolita PC Clerk of Session checked the Trinity books so we should get a good report on our work!
- Peter Holbrook, Roberta Westergaard & Eileen Lamse helped the clerk to fill out an Annual Risk Assessment Survey for Trinity and that report has been sent to Presbytery.
- Session approved a motion from Administration & Personnel to collect a monetary gift for Alix Roa as she prepared to move to Venezuela. Alix has enriched our church family with her smile and gracious ways for years and we wish it could be for even more years.
- Session also approved a motion from Mission Committee for A&P to update the Jani-King contract to clean various parts of the church to include having them clean the floors in the Food Pantry twice a month.
- Property Committee is working hard to review and update the facilities use policies for our church. This is not an easy task as they consider insurance requirements, adequate security, advance notification, tax implications

and other tricky issues.

- During the Leading Together time Mack led a discussion about the church and liability. During these litigious times the church must be protected. One facet of this issue is that Trinity uses only licensed and insured vendors. There are many other things that require due diligence and thoughtful consideration.
- Session members prayed for congregants in need of care and concern especially Jerry Rowe and Marilyn Nichols. We are blessed to do God's work.

Janet Hooper,  
Clerk of Session



## **WHO'S IN YOUR PEW** **Meet Michael Rhodes**

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

I'm a Cybersecurity Specialist at Raytheon

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

Yuma, AZ

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

Teach music to teens and I enjoy computers

***What is your favorite food?*** Anything I shouldn't eat like carbs and gluten.

***What is your favorite Bible verse?*** Matthew 6:25-34

***What does this church mean to you?*** It is a way to commune with fellow Christians and have fun making music at the same time

***What is something that many people would not know about you?*** I took first place in my division at the 2005 US Scrabble Open.



# TRINITY MILESTONES



## HONORING & MEMORIALS

*In Honor of* Marian Wald by Don & Ruth Myers  
*In Memory of* Jerry Rowe by Don & Ruth Myers  
*In Memory of* Jerry Rowe by Bonnie Stull  
*In Memory of* Burt Struthers by Karen Wilkison



## TRINITY WOMEN

**The Horizon's Bible Study** meets on **Tuesday, September 9 at 9:30 am in the Library.** Dr. Mack will lead a new study "*Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*" by Rhashell D. Hunter. In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how other people define joy. We will also seek to rediscover our identity. Books will be available at the class for \$15.



**Ryan's Bears** took the summer off. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday September 16 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall** to stuff and cut out more bears. The bears are distributed in December to Arizona Children's Association, Primavera, Gospel Rescue Mission and Our Family Social Services. Questions? Please call Ruth Myers 520-326-6888

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4 Daniel Seddo	19 Tom Roof, Jr.
9 Peter Holbrook	20 Cecilia Kreamer
10 Joan Kingan	24 Bruce Chamberlain
12 Ruth Myers	24 Randi Windsor
12 Corbin Lind	27 Charles Cook
14 Travis Spillers	28 Marilyn Nichols
17 A. Bates Butler, III	29 Jane Marie Boyiddle

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Rick & Ida Wickizer
20 Geoffrey & Kirsten Barlow



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

3 Wayne Steele	8 Jim Croxen
4 Rona Kreamer	8 Bucky Lovejoy, III
5 Dave Croteau	9 Madeline Lind
6 Janet Goodhue	

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**August 3** Eccl. 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23 & Psalm 49:1-12; Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

**August 10** Gen. 15:1-6 & Psalm 33:12-22; Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

**August 17** Jer. 23:23-29 & Psalm 82; Heb. 11: 29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

**August 24** Isa. 58:9b-14 & Psalm 103:1-8; Heb. 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

**August 31** Prov. 25:6-7 & Psalm 112; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14



Phone: (520) 623-2579  
Fax: (520) 624-7115  
Email: [office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)

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**Deadline for the September 2025  
VISION is Thursday, August 21**  
Please submit articles to the church  
office or to: office@trinitytucson.org