

January, 2026

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**Advent Music at Trinity**



Photos by Kathy Moser

**Thank you to everyone who  
planned & participated in the  
Cantata, Advent Mini Concerts, &  
Christmas Eve Services**



This Advent Season we were able to enjoy a cantata complete with a 14 piece orchestra and three Advent Mini concerts to prepare us for Christmas. Christmas Eve night we had a candlelight service with several members participating as readers and musicians. The procession at the beginning of the service was wonderful as a small group of youth dressed as the shepherds, wise men and holy family. We are grateful that we were able to worship in person and have the services available online.

**Video recordings of the Cantata, Advent Mini Concerts and Christmas Eve service are available to view anytime at [www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org) on the homepage.**

**Wednesday Evening Vespers**

Dr. Mack hosts “Wednesday Evening Vespers” on Zoom the first Wednesday of each month, 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, & participants pray as a group. The invitation is available at <http://trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/>.

# PASTORAL LETTER

Did 2025 move by quickly or slowly for you? It seems the older I get, the quicker the years go by, but I know this is not reality – just perspective. There are always 24 hours in one day, 7 days in one week, and 365 days in one year, except for Leap Year. As we begin a new year, we always speculate about the things that are to come, both from a personal and collective point-of-view, but our perspective makes a difference. I've been re-reading "Lost Moon" by Astronaut Jim Lovell. When the Apollo 13 disaster occurred in the 1960's, you might recall that Lovell was forced to navigate his ship by hand, because the guidance system could not be powered up. Lovell knew that all he needed to do was find a fixed point in space in order to correct the ship's approach to earth, so he used the earth itself, and aligned it with the navigation marks in his window. Through skill and a little luck, Lovell's correction aligned the spacecraft into the correct position for re-entry, and the astronauts made it home.

For we who believe, Christ is our fixed point in space. By focusing our hearts, our minds, and our lives upon Jesus, we can find our way home, no matter how we perceive the universe around us. Time can rush by quickly or slowly; changes occur through our own plans or by happenstance; what seems solid and sure one minute can become shaky and frightening the next- this is the nature of the world and of the human condition. For Christians, however, there is one thing that is absolutely certain - the kingdom of God. We experience God's kingdom when we suspend time and space through acts of prayer, worship, inspiration and illumination. In Christ, past, present and future lose their meaning, for God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit is the Alpha and the Omega.

To look forward to the new year with hope and expectation is natural for us, but beyond our resolution and wishes for 2026 is that which cannot leave us, fail us, or disappoint us - it is the assurance of Christ's presence in our lives today and in the life to

come. Christians are not those who tick off the days of a calendar that ends when our hearts stop beating; we are, instead, residents of a kingdom, and servants of a sovereign whose reign never ends. We live in and for a different reality, and that is why, in faith, we can say with blessed assurance that the new year will be a good year - not because of what may or may not happen to us, but because God is always good, and no matter how fast or slow time goes by, we are moving with and toward our Lord and Savior. The Son of God is always our fixed point in our hearts, and it is toward him we are always moving. He alone will bring us home. Have a wonderful New Year, and a meaningful 2026, filled with the inner peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Dr. Mack*



Photos by Kathy Moser



Ryan's Bears dedication & Christmas Eve service

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

### GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (Preschool - 4th grade)

Teacher: *Kathy Moser*

#### **VISIT OF THE WISE MEN, SERVICE PROJECT AND GOD'S ARMOR**

We will be having Sunday School downstairs in Room 8 following the children's message. We will begin the new year (Jan 4) with the visit of the Wise Men. We will meet in the library on the second Sunday (Jan 11) to do our "to-go-bag" project. The "to-go-bags" will then be handed out to individuals in the congregation to distribute to those in need. We put together 80 to-go-bags last month. The last two Sundays of January we will learn about God's Armor using creative activities.

### CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (4th grade & older)

Teachers: *Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull*

#### **GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG**

Children and youth in 4th grade and above are encouraged to pick up an activity packet and WORSHIP BAGS, and to sit with their families during worship. These resources contain activities to enhance their worship experience. Look for the Children in Worship display in the narthex.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Our theme for January is hope and peace. A collection of Bible verses & books to inspire, encourage, and guide you as we head into 2026. Please check out the library's display of Scripture verses (Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 90:12, Philippians 3:13-14, Psalm 65:11, 1 Peter 1:3, Zephaniah 3:17, and Habakkuk 1:5) along with the variety of books on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. Instructions for checking out books and the "check out" card basket are there too. 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 note: The book "Café Justo" is available for check out by the Just Coffee display near the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall.

## SCIENCE FOR THE CHURCH

Join us February 1 after worship for "Little Bugs...Big Color" presented by Dr. Andrew Lettes. Dr. Lettes a retired TUSD BioTech teacher, will lead a workshop on the historic use & hands-on techniques of Cochineal (insects) in dyeing a variety of media. More details will be in the February VISION & bulletins later this month.

### *Christmas Eve*



Processional at the beginning of the service



Photos by Kathy Moser

# 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.

**Food Pantry Needs** Check the table in the Narthex for ideas. Canned vegetables, protein or granola bars, bread, tuna or other canned protein and peanut butter are needed. 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 December 596 people in 279 households received 284 Food Bank Boxes through our Food Pantry with 45 return pantry visits. There were 402 Walk-ins - an average of 50/day.

Trinity's Food Pantry is connected with Grocery Rescue (part of Feeding America). We are always looking for volunteers to help with unloading and storing a delivery of food on Monday mornings at 9:30 in Trinity's south parking lot. We unload in Trinity Hall and sort, document, weigh, store and toss spoiled items. The Southern Arizona Community Food Bank has connected our pantry with the Walmart Neighborhood Market at Grant & Alvernon and we are committed to every Monday holidays included! Kids are welcome to help during school holidays and breaks. It's fun to see the different items we receive 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. Drivers are also needed to pick up at Walmart, contact Peter or Billie if you are interested in doing that.

## **Just Coffee (Café Justo) Update January 2026**

Eileen Lamse says: "It may be some time before we receive additional shipments of Just Coffee to sell. Café Justo has had a number of challenges in their operations in 2025 including a supply shortage of coffee beans, pricing adjustments needed due to the increased cost of the beans and processing & "a landscape of uncertainty about import/export requirements & tariffs." They are working with Frontera de Cristo to stabilize their operations in 2026 and are hoping to start processing coffee once the next coffee harvest is completed in February. They plan to raise prices somewhat, and the size of the coffee packages will be reduced from a 1 pound size to a  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound size. We will keep current on what is happening and place an order for new coffee as soon as they are operational again." There is some coffee for sale in Fellowship Hall near the stained glass for \$10 each (cash or check).

# WORSHIP NEWS

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** is Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Join the Trinity Choir as they participate weekly in the service and prepare for the Easter Cantata. **We resume rehearsals Thursday, January 8.**

**HANDBELL REHEARSAL** is Thursdays at 5:30 pm in the Bell Room upstairs. See Lynn Moser if you want to participate. **We resume rehearsals Thursday, January 8.**

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



## TPW SAYS THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP THIS YEAR

Trinity Presbyterian Women completed 80 teddy bears for the year of 2025. 37 caps and 9 lap quilts were also completed. Many hands were used to make all these items. Fabric was donated for the bears by Marilyn Slagle, Janet Hooper and Helen Greer. Liz Barlow, Nancy Hamadou, Billie Holbrook, Rose Emery, Harriet Marble, Karen Sims, Ruth Russell, Ida Wickizer and Ruth Myers have worked to cut the bears out, stick, stuff, embroider and stitch them shut after stuffing. Janet Jones helped with sewing machine work. Catherine Dimenstein and Charity Everitt have crocheted caps. Mary Wong contributed fabric well before she died for quilts. Bonnie Stull cut blocks from the fabric and stitched them into quilt tops. Ruth Myers machine quilted them.

Debbie Hobbs and Bonnie Stull delivered the bears, caps and lap sized quilts the day after they were blessed by Rev. Dr. Mack Sigmon to Arizona Children's Association, Gospel Rescue Mission, Primavera & Our Family Social Service Agency. These are all organizations that serve families with children. It takes a church to accomplish this task. From 2020 through 2025 488 bears, 157 caps and 30 lap quilts have been created and gifted to these organizations.

We begin again for Christmas 2026 Tuesday, January 20 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to help.

## WHO'S IN YOUR PEW Meet Sohee Kim



**What do you do for a living?** I am a UA graduate student in vocal performance studying classical singing.

**Where is your hometown?** I am originally from South Korea. I first came to the U.S. in August 2023 to study & lived in Illinois for two years before moving here in August 2025.

**What do you like to do with your leisure time?** I enjoy singing, photography, writing and traveling.

**What is your favorite food?** I enjoy warm and comforting home style dishes

**What is your favorite Bible verse?** My favorite Bible verse is Matthew 7:7

**What does this church mean to you?** This semester has been very challenging for me, with personal, academic and financial difficulties after moving to Arizona as an international student. Despite these hardships, Trinity has been a place of joy, comfort & genuine care where I feel supported by the community. Through this experience, I have developed a strong desire to be baptized here.

**What is something that people would not know about you?** I hold a previous master's degree in Arts and Cultural Management from Hongik University in Seoul, South Korea & have published research in the Korean Journal of Youth Studies,

# SESSION NOTES

A good time was had by all! The Annual Joint Deacon/Elder dinner and meeting was a success. The elders provided delicious food and the deacons cleaned up afterward. Daphne Madson reported to the elders about all the wonderful things that our deacons do during the year. And of course, Deacons Rock! Besides offering aid and comfort to congregants with health and other concerns, the deacons administer a Trinity Card Connection that began during the Covid pandemic. They distribute Prayer Shawls, Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias. At the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Street Fair, they raise funds by selling water bottles, sodas and snacks. Last year they raised \$854.00. They also sponsor an All-Church picnic at Reid Park. After their report Dr. Mack summarized many of the activities of the elders during the past year.

Retiring deacons are Jim and Marilyn Slagle and Emmanuel Alley. The next Class of deacons includes Kathy Moser, Emalie Wilka Scott, Celeste Dzapka and Charity Everitt. Ida & Rick Wickizer will serve during 2026. Give thanks for those who say "yes" and those who gave service but are now retiring. Retiring elder is Karen Wilkison. The next class of elders includes Tom Roof, Koffi Seddo, Eileen Lamse and David Toering. Ruth Russell will serve one more year. Once again give thanks to those who are our church leaders.

After the dinner and meeting the deacons and elders hold their separate meetings. Here are the highlights of the Session meeting:

- Since none of the committees had met yet Session voted to bypass committee reports, pass the consent agenda and discuss the 2026 budget.
- The Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2026.
- Committee reports need to be submitted to Sheila Croteau by January 15, 2026 so she can construct and print the overall report to the congregation.
- Worship Committee has approval to serve communion on the first Sunday of each month in 2026.
- Trinity Presbytery Women produced 80

Ryan's Bears that were blessed in a recent worship service before they go out into the world to offer comfort to young people.

- Mack announced that he has been tapped to serve on the Presbytery de Cristo Committee on Ministry once again.
- Sonic, the service dog in training, is better behaved during Session meetings than any of the elders, or Mack. This is a test to see if anyone reads Session Notes.
- Session approved the 2026 budget. This is a big deal. Stewardship & Finance Committee and Treasurer Eileen Lamse worked with each committee to trim expenses and be creative about savings.
- It is heartwarming that pledging for 2026 has increased over pledging for 2025.
- Eileen Lamse says that our investment funds did very well in 2025. Pray that continues.
- Session approved beginning a new line item in our budget called the Senior Emergency Relief Fund (Harriet Marsh Fund). This is being created with the blessing of the Mission Committee. It is designed to help our former Commissioned Lay Pastor Dr. Harriet Marsh and others who outlive their retirement preparations. A few deacons and good friends are involved in helping Harriet navigate the future. Look and listen for more details about how you can help.

Janet Hooper  
Clerk of Session

**Birthday & Anniversary  
Celebration Sunday, January 18**  
in Fellowship Hall after worship



**Casa Maria sandwich making**  
Every second Sunday in Fellowship Hall after  
the Sanctuary service. The next one is  
**Sunday, January 11.**

# TRINITY MILESTONES

## January Birthdays

1	Sanani Mukadesa	22	Karen Sims
2	Emmanuel Alley	23	Hannah Toering
2	Dale McCray	24	David Toering
2	Dr. Mack Sigmon	24	Cindy Toering
2	Barbara Pollack	27	Janet Munson
9	Jeri Ogden	27	Tom Henderson
11	James Hooper	30	Bobby Whipple
15	Peggy Chamberlain	31	Ezra Moyer
19	Matt Kreamer		

## TRINITY WOMEN

The Horizon's Bible Study meets **Tuesday, January 13 at 9:30 am in the Library**. Dr. Mack leads the 2025-2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study "Finding Resilience, Joy, & Our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rhashell D. Hunter. In this nine lesson Bible study, we are exploring resilience which is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel & 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 a lot of people define joy. We will also seek to rediscover our identity.

Ryan's Bears meets **Tuesday, January 20 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall**, to begin making Teddy Bears for Christmas 2026. Everyone is always welcomed 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. Questions call Ruth Myers 520-326-6888. Many thanks to the many hands that created the bears and for Mack's blessing.

## February Birthdays (1—10)

8 Emmanuelle Seddo

## January Anniversaries

15 Lynn & Kathy Moser



## Honoring & Memorials

*In Memory of Melissa Bird* by Amy Bird & Douglas Bland

## NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

New ruling elders & deacons for the Class of 2028 will be training and begin service this month. Thank you to the following people for their willingness to serve our church.

Deacons are Kathy Moser, Emalie Wilka Scott, Celeste Dzapka, Charity Everitt and Ida & Rick Wickizer. Elders are Tom Roof, Koffi Seddo, Eileen Lamse and David Toering



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**January 4** Jer. 31:7-14 & Psalm 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1: (1-9) 10-18

**January 11** Isa. 42:1-9 & Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-43; Matt. 3:13-17

**January 18** Isa. 49:1-7 & Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**January 25** Isa. 9:1-4 & Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matt. 4:12-23



# Trinity Presbyterian Church

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- ⇒ We are “LIVE” streaming the Sunday morning service at 10:20 am. Watch online at [trinitytucson.org/watch-live](http://trinitytucson.org/watch-live) & [facebook.com/tptucson](http://facebook.com/tptucson). You can also watch the BoxCast app on Roku TV, Apple TV & Fire TV.
- ⇒ 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.

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