

August, 2026

Volume 36 Issue 8

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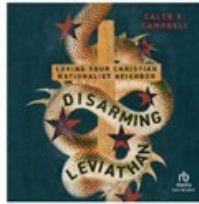
The Big Event Nationalism, Patriotism and the Faith: Finding Our Way Forward...Together

Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

PLACE Church of the Master in Mesa
ADDRESS 6659 E University Dr., Mesa, AZ 85205

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CALEB CAMPBELL

Conservative, Evangelical leader, and pastor Caleb Campbell, author of *Disarming Leviathan*, argues for a robust patriotism that yet prioritizes our allegiance to Christ above all else. For this stand Campbell has suffered relational fallout both in his community and his church. Campbell grieves these losses and has come to see himself as a missionary who reaches out with the love and freedom found in Christ. At the Big Event, the Rev. Campbell will help us find our way forward...together.



WORKSHOPS

- Learning from History
- Practicing Unity Across the Divide
- A View from the Fallout: Impact on Race and Gender
- Christian Nat'lism in Presbyterian Perspective
- Panel Discussion of Pastors
- Action Steps

QUESTIONS

Email Ann Skipper:
pby.rec.office@gmail.com

RESOURCES TO BE PROVIDED

Annotated bibliography
General Assembly documents
Podcast recommendations
Demographic reports
Video links
Website recommendations

More information and registration is available at azpresbyteries.org



PASTORAL LETTER

First, I want to offer my deep appreciation on behalf of Amy and myself for all the beautiful thoughts, prayers, and expressions of love we received through Amy's diagnosis and cancer surgery. It reminded us of what we already knew from the first week we moved to Tucson ten years ago – that Trinity is a warm and caring community of faith, expressing the true meaning of Christ's love.

Second, I want to tell a quick story that leads into my meditation for the month of August. When I went with Amy to our oncologist to talk about the results, we were not sure of the protocol she would need to follow. The doctor handed us a sheet of paper which showed all the procedures for each stage of cancer. Almost all of them involved some kind of chemo or radiation, but Amy's protocol was marked with a yellow highlighter showing only one word in bold capital letters – **OBSERVATION**.

For us this was wonderful news, because it meant that her tumor had been diagnosed so early that its removal required no subsequent medication. However, we also learned that post-surgical "observation" had its own definition beyond the normal way that we think of the word. Amy would need to return every six months for a lung scan and an examination for three years. This is why I have always understood cancer as continuous journey; a journey that is travelled in one direction, but never in a straight line.

The word "cancer" is never lived in the passive voice – "watching" is an intentional and focused set of behaviors demanded by everyone who is involved in providing care for the patient, including the patient him/herself. The same is true for the concept of "watching" over our faith and our discipleship, as Jesus taught us. In the New Testament Jesus and the apostles describe three specific contexts for in which we are to practice watchfulness as we live our faith.

The first context is that of Christ's return. There is a call to believers to be constantly ready for the day when Jesus fulfills his promise – that he would "return and take us to himself." One example from the gospels is Matthew 24:42 – "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

The second context for watchfulness is to "keep us from temptation," which is part of the prayer that Jesus taught us. An example of this teaching comes from 1 Peter 5:8 – "Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour."

The third context for watchfulness is for spiritual vigilance, which is the purpose for our lives in the church of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches this in Luke 21:36 – "Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Our discipleship must intentionally embrace all three forms of watchfulness to keep us healthy in our relationship with Jesus. But – just like dealing with cancer – we are not alone in this task. The Trinity -Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit- is the caretaker of our souls, and never leaves us, even when we might become inattentive to our own faith. That is why, no matter what we face in our lives, the Good Shepherd keeps us from straying from our Father's love.

It is my prayer that as we begin the month of August, we will be observant of our call as members and friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church. It is the place where we are reminded how much God loves us, and where we share that love with each other, the community, and our world. Let us rejoice, and be watchful.

Dr. Mack

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (Preschool - 4th Grade)

THE CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (5th Grade & Older)

Teachers: Kathy Moser, Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull

GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG

Children and youth preschool and older are invited to pick up an activity packet and WORSHIP BAGS, and sit with their families during worship. Look for the Children in Worship display in the narthex. **There is no Sunday School in August.**



LIBRARY NEWS



The library is open before and after the worship service. Instructions for checking out books and the "check out" card basket will be on the desk in the library. When returning books, please leave them in the Book Return basket in the library.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 2 Isa. 55: 1-5 & Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21;
Rom. 9: 1-5; Matt. 14: 13-21

August 9 1 Kings 19: 9-18 & Psalm 85: 8-13;
Rom. 10: 5-15; Matt. 14: 22-33

August 16 Isa. 56: 1, 6-8 & Psalm 67; Rom.
11: 1-2a, 29-32; Matt. 15: (10-20) 21-28

August 23 Isa. 51: 1-6 & Psalm 138; Rom.
12: 1-8; Matt. 16: 13-20

August 30 Jer. 15: 15-21 & Psalm 26: 1-8; Rom.
12: 9-21; Matt. 16: 21-28



WHO'S IN YOUR PEW

**Meet Amil
Bhattacharyya**

What did you do for a living?

I am retired from the United Nations as an International Civil Servant

Where is your hometown?

Kolkata, India

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

I listen to music, and spend time with family

What is your favorite food? Indian Food

What is your favorite Hymn? Glory, Glory Hallelujah

What does this church mean to you? This

church provides me with spiritual nourishment

What is something that many people would not know about you? I love to think about fishing!

MISSION NEWS

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursday from 12:00 to 3:00 pm in basement of the main Sanctuary building. Thank you for your monetary and food donations.

Just Coffee For Sale

in Fellowship Hall before and after church. The display is near the stained glass window. Prices are \$15/bag. You may pay cash or check & the proceeds benefit Café Justo.



SANDWICH MAKING

for Casa Maria August 9
in Fellowship Hall after worship

In July, 594 people in 247 families received 316 emergency food boxes. 257 people in 119 families returned for a pantry visit. There were 454 walk ins for an average of 50/day.

Can You Help Us With Snack Bags & Hygiene Pack Donations?

Snack bags items are often purchased using the Mission budget and your donations of the following items would keep us from needing to do that. Donations of tuna kits, Vienna sausages, peanut butter crackers, Welch's fruit snacks and fruit cups help create healthy snack bags and these items can be purchased at Costco, Sam's Club and your favorite stores.

Hygiene kit items are purchased with the Mission budget too. We need donations of lip balm, bandanas, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap bars, toilet paper, razors, wipes, deodorant, combs and lotions. These items can be purchased online or at the dollar stores locally.

When you make your purchases and there is a delivery option available, that is a great way to get those items to the church. Please select times that align with the office hours Monday – Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Clothing is not given out at the Food Pantry. Trinity collects woman's sandals and donates them to the Sister Jose Shelter. There is a donation box in Fellowship Hall.

We give out water, if you would like to donate cases we encourage it.

Thanks again for your help *"Serving God in the Heart of the City"* and for your donations, it is greatly appreciated by everyone.

SESSION NOTES

Session's June meeting was short and to the point. Session does not meet in July. If something comes up that requires Session attention, we can always use the internet to conduct necessary business. Many of the committees also take a time out as members are on vacation or just need a little break. In June, we met a week later than our usual third Tuesday of the month because Dr. Mack was busy taking care of his wife Amy after her surgery. Everyone rejoices that the surgery was successful, and Amy is declared to be cancer free.

Here are the highlights of the June meeting:

- Trinity PC of Tucson is a corporation and needs to update with the Arizona Corporation Commission every year. We are so lucky that Sheila Croteau takes care of that piece of business.
- Ruth McPherson, Congregational Relations Work Team from Presbytery de Cristo Commission on Ministry, has accepted our invitation to attend our Stated Session meeting in September. Every few years someone from Presbytery visits with Session to find out how we are faring.
- The Deacons report that they are discussing prayer shawl needs in our Trinity family and that they might be planning a baby shower. More to come.
- Administration & Personnel Committee is exploring ways to find someone to replace Billie Holbrook when she retires from our Food Pantry at the end of the year. They are working with Stewardship & Finance and Mission Committees.

- Christian Education reports that Sunday School for the children will take a summer break.
- Mission Committee reports record numbers using our Food Pantry. And Billie is working on some policies and procedures about how to run our Food Bank site.
- Property Committee has high praise for the job that Peter Holbrook does as Facilities Manager. They say that all our spaces are ready for outside groups to rent and they are researching how to outreach to the community.
- Worship Committee and Session approved the Rev. Carol Rose to fill the pulpit on June 21st as Dr. Mack was busy helping Amy that day.
- Session approved spending \$7,500 to contract with Sacred Places and their proposal to study our campus, community and customs to help us plan for future improvements and ways to grow. When their work is complete, we will pay another \$7,500. The money comes from a Session fund and from a private donor.

Session prayed for those in need of special care and concern and that the Holy Spirit be upon us as we move forward into the future.

Janet Hooper,
Clerk of Session



WORSHIP



The Trinity Ringers Handbell Choir resumes weekly rehearsals **Thursday, September 10, 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 following worship.



The Trinity Choir resumes its regular rehearsal/worship schedule **Thursday, September 10 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.

TRINITY MILESTONES



HONORING & MEMORIALS

In Memory of Marian Wald by Barbara & Max Allen Collins

In Memory of Doris Santeford by Maggie McConnell



TRINITY WOMEN

The Horizon's Bible Study meets on **Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30 am in the Library.** Dr. Mack will lead a new study *“United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other,”* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Join Presbyterian Women and learn about Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth. This Bible study explores the letter’s setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ. Readers will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul’s timeless message of loving unity calls Christ’s followers today. Books will be available at the class for \$15.

Ryan's Bears took the summer off. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday September 15 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	



Join the Deacons Sunday, September 20 after worship to celebrate with Cameron & Kyra Toering and their families the pending arrival of their baby. Watch for more details here & in the bulletin