Trinity Presbyterian Church

the Vision

November 2026

Volume 36, Issue 11

Inside this Issue:

Highlights	1
Pastor's Letter	2
Christian Ed.	3
Worship & Congregational News	4
Mission News	5
Session Notes Trinity Women	6
Milestones	7



Our Traditional Cornucopia

Our Traditional Cornucopia will adorn the chancel area in front of the pulpit on **November 15 and 22**. If you would like to contribute Fall produce (e.g. apples, pumpkins, corn stalks, or canned goods to the display, please bring them to the church office by **Thursday, November 12**.
(Food items will be given to our Food Pantry).

Science for the Church

Join us **Sunday, November 22** in Fellowship Hall after worship for "Pima Council on Aging 101" an introduction to PCOA, their services and how they help the community. These services include Healthy Living, Dementia Care, Rights and Benefits, Care at Home, and Medicare.

Advent Mini Concerts are coming...

Trinity's Advent mini-concerts begin November 29 & will occur immediately following the worship service in our sanctuary. The programs of seasonal music last approximately 20 minutes and you may watch IN PERSON or ONLINE.

November 29 The University of Arizona Undergraduate Brass Quintet
December 6 Yuletide on the Yamaha – Lynn Moser, piano
December 13 The Trinity Ringers Handbell Choir
December 20 Christine Harper & Christine Vivona, flute & harp

Pastoral Letter

When ministers arrive to begin their work at a church, they bring with them advantages and disadvantages. The advantage for new ministers is that they bring to the church a fresh perspective and unseen gifts. But one major disadvantage is that the minister does not know the history of the church. That history must be learned and experienced. It's easy to look up Trinity and read the histories that are featured on our website, but our church is much more than its history.

I recently heard a story about one of the churches in our Presbytery that proves the value of our mission more than any printed church history can express. Several years ago, this church was at the crossroads of its existence. The long time pastor had left, few members remained, and the future looked bleak. Once word got out that the church might close, it provoked a very strong response from the residents of the city. They could not imagine what the community would have to take on for themselves if the church closed. They had taken the church for granted until they suddenly realized their community life without that church. It's like the words from the Joni Mitchell song, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

Trinity has endured much in the last ten years. We've gone through COVID and all the changes that came with the pandemic. We've dealt with the deaths of church friends and members and several of the staff. We've dealt with the need to invest in our aging property and our streaming ministry. We've shared joys and we've shared deep sorrows. But God has blessed Trinity with the resources to continue our work and worship– I am not talking about money, but you.

Churches can only operate through the financial support of their members and friends. This is the beauty of the church – it attaches itself not to commercial endeavors, but to the love of Jesus Christ. The church's life hangs entirely upon the generosity of its members. I assume that Trinity is of as much value to you as it is to me. Christ taught us to express our love for him and each other in the now and leave the future to God. Right now, we need generous hearts to continue our united ministry for 2027.

Please consider prayerfully the information you have received from our Stewardship Committee – and give.

Dr. Mack

WORSHIP

Wednesday Evening Vespers

November 4 at 6:30 pm

Join Dr. Mack for a evening vesper service on Zoom. The service lasts 30 minutes and includes a brief devotional, scripture, prayer requests & prayer. Join him at trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/

The Trinity Ringers handbell choir meets **Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30** in the upstairs bell room. New members are welcome!

The Trinity Choir meets **Thursday at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. New members are welcome!

Advent Cantata

Join us **Sunday, December 20** during worship for the annual Advent cantata featuring the Trinity Choir and Orchestra. Enjoy "A Thrill of Hope" a Christmas musical by Joel Raney. This Christmas musical looks at the birth of Christ from four distinct vantage points: celebrating the hope he brought; the love he showed; the peace he promised; & the joy of Emmanuel.

Join us IN PERSON or watch ONLINE.

Christmas Eve

Join us **Thursday, December 24** for the Christmas Café at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and the Christmas Eve service at 6:20 pm in the Sanctuary. **Join us IN PERSON or watch the service ONLINE**.

Christian Education

YOUTH CLASSES

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (children preschool - 4th grade)

Teacher: Kathy Moser

TALKING TO GOD, SERVICE PROJECT, AND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

We will be having Sunday School downstairs in Rooms 6 and 8 following the children's message. We will begin with reading a children's book about a sparrow's prayer. The following Sunday we will conclude with Prayers with Scripture for kids and coloring prayer bookmarks. On Sunday, November 15, we will meet in the library to put together "to-go-bags", which members of our congregation will distribute to those in need. On Sunday, November 22, we will have Thanksgiving activities. On Sunday, November 29, we will begin our Christmas activities.

THE CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (5th 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

"Grateful for Books" will be our theme from November 8th-22nd. I am grateful & appreciative of books that have been donated to our church library. Books will be on the credenza in Fellowship Hall and are available for check out. 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 also open before and after the worship service. Please contact Kathy Moser, your librarian, if you have any questions. Please note: The book "Café Justo" is available for check out by the Just Coffee display near the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall.
Our new theme will begin on November 29th with the beginning of Advent.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 1 Isa. 1:10-18 & Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
November 8 Job 19:23-27a & Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
November 15 Mal. 4:1-2a & Psalm 98; 2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
November 22 Jer. 23:1-6 & Luke 1:68-79 or Psalm 46; Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
November 29 Isa. 2:1-5 & Psalm 122; Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44

Congregational News

Standing on the Corner in Tucson, Arizona

Yes, Trinity PC stands on the corner of 4th Avenue and University Blvd. serving God in the heart of the city. With a shrinking volunteer pool, recent annual deficits, an organ in need of repair, a desired sanctuary update, an outdated idle kitchen, a large campus always requiring repairs and spaces that go largely unused, our Trinity family is dedicated to remaining relevant on our corner. We have the Word; we have the music and education; we have community service and the open arms to welcome all, but it is a struggle.

So far, Property Committee has worked to allow outside entities to use some of our spaces. This will add income. Worship Committee initiated a study to research fixing our organ and making the sanctuary more amenable to musical productions. We even had a study by the Rev. Joe Moore to analyze our finances and determine what is possible.

Then, Pastor Mack stumbled on an organization called Partners for Sacred Places. Sacred Places is a national, nonsectarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to the sound stewardship and active community use of America's older religious properties. In April Session signed a proposal with Sacred Places to help us remain on our corner in Tucson.

A couple of elders sent them a Congregational Profile Form and had a few congregants help fill out the form in Fellowship Hall. Interest was piqued. Next, we had an in-person meeting with Director of Programs Karen DiLossi and Technical Expert Danny Cruz on October 27th. Twelve people – elders, deacons, and members – met with these two experts. After their flight from Philadelphia the day before, Karen and Danny spent the morning touring the church with Peter Holbrook. They made notes and took photos and measurements of every square inch of Trinity. John Hill took them to lunch and gave them the 50-cent tour of Tucson.

The evening meeting with the twelve was facilitated by Karen. Discussion was robust. We talked about our community, our recent history and described our values. Then we talked about goals for the future.

Karen and Danny flew back to Philadelphia where they will compile their reflections of what they found in our physical plant, in our community and in our discussion. The report will be lengthy as it will contain descriptions, photos and an inventory. They will make suggestions of things to do and things to consider doing. Sometime in December Trinity will receive the report and then the fun and/or work begins. We will have a lot to process mentally and physically. After careful study we will decide on a date for Karen and Danny to return for a community-wide meeting. The amount of time needed before this meeting is open to question.

The Partners for Sacred Places will help us translate their research into tools and training to equip our congregation to open our doors to the community and help communities understand the social, economic, and cultural value of investment in our sacred place.

So, we must ask ourselves who is our community? Who should we ask to come to see us and meet with Karen and Danny? We need to begin compiling the list of those to invite. The mayor? The music department at U of A? WUNA? Put your thinking caps on. All hands on deck!

Questions can be directed to Mack, Daphne Madson, John Hill, Liz Strong, Cheyenne Williams, Kathy and Lynn Moser, Eileen Lamse, Ruth Russell, Bruce Chamberlain, Heather Mace, Janet and Jim Hooper.

Congregational News

Sandwich Making for Casa Maria

Sunday, November 8 in Fellowship Hall after church. Join us in this important monthly Mission project.

Birthday & Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, November 15 in Fellowship Hall after worship stay for cupcakes and celebrating.

Knitorious 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 1:00 pm

Bring your crafts and enjoy visiting with others in Fellowship Hall. Contact Liz Barlow for information.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

A cherished tradition at Trinity, poinsettias adorn the Sanctuary enriching worship during Advent. The cost is $10 each and you may order as many as you like. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve or Sunday, December 29 service or leave them to be distributed by the Deacons. Order yours using the enclosed order form. The last day to order is **December 6.**

Mission News

Think about giving some delicious Just Coffee for your holiday gifts! The varieties available and the freshness of their coffee, whether ground or whole bean will be appreciated. The Mission Committee thanks you for your support of the Just Coffee project. Information is at justcoffee.org.

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 to 3:00 pm** in basement of the Sanctuary building. Thanks for your food & monetary donations, they are greatly appreciated.

Food Pantry Numbers In October 653 People in 259 families received 323 emergency food boxes. 166 households made a return visit for a pantry box. There were 393 walk-ins to average 48/day.

Nancy Hamadou sent this picture of the first day at the new school in Malam, Cameroon. (The one that Trinity helped to support with a donation to Malam's Hope in Action this spring!') They had so many students, that they will have to hire a second teacher. Here's the first class at the new secondary school. They met recently for the first time.



Session Notes

Wow! Shortest session meeting ever in October! We were all able to exit Zoom in a little over half an hour. There were no big decisions to make, and it means all committees are working on all cylinders and taking care of business. It was lovely to enjoy a short meeting, but it had a bittersweet moment to learn that the Food Bank site at Trinity will be pausing at the end of the year. Currently there is no one to take the place of Billie Holbrook who will step down at the end of the year. The Southern Arizona Community Food Bank requires one person to be the principal representative for a food pantry site. We all owe Billie a huge thank you for taking on the Trinity Food Pantry for so long. She inspired many volunteers and helped to meet the needs of the food challenged in our community. We can pray that somehow, some way, someone will step forward to take on the task of running the Trinity Food Pantry. At this point that someone will probably need to come from outside our Trinity family.

Here are the highlights of the October session meeting:

- Dave Toering announced his grandfather status as Kyra and Cameron have a newborn son named Westin David Toering. He was born on October 18th.
- Deacons are busy planning parties these days. Upcoming ones include a baby shower for Emalie Wilka and Charles Scott, a picnic at Reid Park and a housewarming for Peter Holbrook and Risa.
- Administration & Personnel Committee will review and update Trinity's policy on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and the training of elders, deacons and staff.
- Thank you to Eileen Lamse and Roberta Westergaard for covering payroll and check writing during November 4th to the 12th while Sheila Croteau is on vacation.
- Christian Education outdid themselves with the NAMI Science for the Church event and have another event scheduled for November.
- Mission Committee is looking forward to an update from Nancy Hamadou about the newly built high school in Malam, Cameroon after receiving a photo of the school and students.
- Property Committee has a few applications for outside groups to use our facility in the works. We need the income from these groups.
- Dr. Mack reports that he ran into Don Bourn by chance and has found out that there will not be any construction on our corner for at least another year.
- Stewardship & Finance awaits pledge cards and the opportunity to plan the budget for 2027.
- There was an uptick in attendance & hopefully giving when the Monsoon Brass was part of our worship service in September. Because of that Worship Committee has decided to advertise their next appearance at Trinity. The money will come from the Music Enrichment fund.
- Sohee Kim and Diana Peralta (choir sections leaders) will be paid with scholarship funds as Homeland Security's new rules for foreign students makes it nearly impossible for foreign students to work.

Session prayed for congregants in need of special care and concern.

Janet Hooper,
Clerk of Session



ALL SAINTS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT



Trinity Milestones

November Birthdays

3	Greg Keidel	15	Catherine Dimenstein
5	Lily Chacon	16	Tony Miranda
10	Cameron Toering	18	Sheila Croteau
10	Christine Toering	24	David Maycher

December Birthdays (1—10)

2	Ida Wickizer	7	Marilyn Slagle
4	Melinda Arnold	9	Bonnie Stull
5	Errol Dimenstein		

November Anniversaries

3	Travis Spillers and Heather Mace
16	Glenn & Johanna Moyer
24	Robert & Linda Lohse
29	Bates & Annie Butler

Trinity Women

Trinity Presbyterian Women continue the Horizon Bible Study on **Tuesday, November 10 at 9:30 am in the Library**. Dr. Mack leads a new study *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other,"* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Join them 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 explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today.

Ryan's Bears Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, November 17 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall** to stuff and cut out more bears. The bears are blessed & distributed in December. Questions? Please call Ruth Myers.

Congregational News



ALL SAINTS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT



Game Days

Tuesdays 9:30 - 11:30 am

Join us for table games, laughter, & great company in Fellowship Hall! We play Mexican Train and other games too. (Ryan's Bears day in the Library)



CHURCH PICNIC

Trinity Presbyterian Church
400 East University Blvd.
Tucson, Arizona 85705

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



⇒ We are "LIVE" streaming the Sunday morning service beginning at10:20 am. Watch online at trinitytucson.org/watch-live and facebook.com/tpctucson. 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 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

Email Addresses
office@trinitytucson.org

Deadline for the December 2026 *VISION* is Thursday, November 19, 2026
Please submit articles to the church office or to office@trinitytucson.org