

December 2022

Volume 32, Issue 12

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## Advent Mini Concerts

Trinity's Advent mini-concerts are after the Sunday Sanctuary worship service. The programs feature music for the Advent & Christmas season with each lasting approximately 20 minutes. You may watch IN PERSON or ONLINE at [trinitytucson.org/watch-live](http://trinitytucson.org/watch-live).



**December 4** – “Glad Tidings for Twenty Fingers” – piano duets with Lynn Moser and Russell Hastings

**December 11** – “Handbell Hallelujahs” – the Trinity Ringers

**December 18** – “Praise God with Strings and Pipe” – Christine Vivona, harp and Christine Harper, flute

## Cantata Sunday December 18

Our worship service will feature a new cantata entitled “THE SEVEN NOELS: Songs to Light the World”, composed by Pepper Choplin. SEVEN NOELS uses the beloved carol, The First Noel, as the framework for newly composed songs that meld into additional familiar carols to tell the ancient Christmas Story. Our section leaders will each be featured as soloists along with a short narration & a lush, colorful 24-piece orchestration. This joyous presentation will be the perfect time to invite someone to enjoy it with you IN PERSON or ONLINE at [trinitytucson.org/watch-live](http://trinitytucson.org/watch-live).

## Christmas Eve Services December 24

### Casual Christmas Eve 5:00 pm

Children and youth will dress up as a character in the nativity story, join a processional into the sanctuary, and be part of the nativity scene or "tableau." There are no rehearsals to attend or spoken lines to learn, so please invite any families that you know to come at 4:45 to get their costumes and be part of leading this meaningful and fun service!

### Christmas Café in Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

“The Carols of Christmas” Enjoy hot cider, cocoa, sandwiches, Cookies and fellowship with friends old and new  
*Please bring holiday goodies, veggies or fruit to share.*

### Traditional Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

Organ prelude at 6:50 pm, a candlelight service with a Christmas message, led by Dr. Mack, along with instrumentalists & vocalists  
*Bring your family, friends and neighbors as we celebrate our Lord's birth on this holy day!* IN PERSON or ONLINE.

# PASTORAL LETTER



What are you giving as gifts for Christmas this year? What will you be getting as gifts for Christmas this year? The first question is a lot easier to answer than the second question, right? While the giving of gifts is a wonderful Christmas tradition, we sometimes confuse the true gifts of the Christmas story with the commercialism of the holidays, and no wonder! Right now, our lives are inundated by gift-giving suggestions in every corner of media that we encounter every day.

The story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth is also inundated with gift-giving, but it describes gifts of a very different type, that place upon us responsibilities we normally do not associate with the presents we receive at Christmas. The gifts of the Christmas story cannot be shelved in a closet to be disposed of later or used at our own pleasure. They can be "re-gifted," but we who believe are not allowed to wait until future Christmases to give them; they can be used, but not for our personal pleasure, and they cannot be disposed of when they grow outdated or are broken, because these gifts are never outdated, and they never break.

What are the gifts of the believer's Christmas? The answer is much more than just "the Messiah of God." That gift is of course at the heart of all Christian discipleship, but the story of Christmas is surrounded with multiple gifts. One of them is the gift of a message.

Multiple messages are shared as gifts in the story of Christ's birth: the message that a young woman – a virgin – shall give birth to a son and that her first born will be the Savior of the world; the message that an elderly, childless couple will give birth to a child as sign of God's impending action to bring about the salvation of all people; the message to a man in a dream that he must believe what his fiancée is telling him, and not respond with the expectations of the customs of his time, but with love and faith; the message to a group of shepherds diligently caring for their flocks that they are

to go and find a newborn baby in an unexpected place at an unexpected hour; the message to a group of travelling astrologers that, having followed the signs to the place where the prophesied child lived and having delivered their gifts, they were to return immediately to their homeland without sharing the news of the child's whereabouts; the message to the parents that they must flee into a foreign land in order to protect their young son from the jealousy and hatred of a corrupt despot.

All these messages are gifts that carry a heavy price, not for the givers, but for those who receive the message and must decide how to respond – do we listen and believe, or do we set it aside and carry on with life as usual? But we must also not forget that the heaviest price for the gift of these messages was actually paid by the divine gift-giver, who would surrender a child for the sake of our salvation, and the child who would surrender his life for the sake of love.

Christmas is truly a story of giving the gift of a message, but it is also the story of the gifts that the message brings to those who receive it. I like to describe those gifts as joyful burdens that obligate us to live our lives in a particular way and with a particular purpose. The gift of purpose is not a "one-size-fits-all" gift, although the manner of each purpose is defined by the one who gives it – it is a manner of love, faith, and grace. But the purposes themselves are unique to each of us, and each of us must search the Spirit to receive that purpose.

This is why the gifts of Christmas – the message and the purpose for the message – cannot be put away at the end of the holiday. These gifts are delivered to us every day of our lives, and they are to be lived out every day of our lives. What will we be getting for Christmas this year? A message. What will we be giving for Christmas this year? A purpose which we will find out because the Holy Spirit will tell us and show us. So, we have a blessed, eternal, and gift-filled Christmas every day of our lives, overflowing with the love of God, so that we may fill the hearts of others with that love.

*Dr. Mack*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

### GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (children preschool - 2nd grade)

*Teacher: Kathy Moser*

#### A LITTLE BIT OF CHRISTMAS

We are having in-person Sunday School, meeting downstairs in Room 7 following the Children's Message.

In December, we will have fun working on Christmas activity & coloring sheets and simple Christmas crafts, discover "Christmas Surprises" in the Christmas story and enjoy some Christmas Surprise Snacks.

### CRUSADERS (3rd grade & older)

*Teachers: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull*

**Crusaders:** 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will use lessons from "Growing In God's Love", and videos from the crew at Konnect HQ as they focus on real-life kid challenges, searching for biblical truth, and modeling spiritual growth. Check out at Konnect HQ - YouTube. During November, the class will be creating Chrismons for the Sanctuary Christmas tree.

**Faith Encounters:** Graders 6 and older will explore The Bible, The Lord's Prayer, and The Apostles' Creed as we journey towards deeper faith development. During November, the class will be creating Chrismons for the Sanctuary Christmas tree.

**Both these groups will be held in Room 1** led by Debbie Hobbs and Bonnie Stull, with the assistance of other adults. They will meet children/youth at the back of the sanctuary after the children's message.

## ADULT CLASSES

### MACK'S ADVENT CLASS

#### "THE ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS: HEARING GOD'S VOICE IN ADVENT"

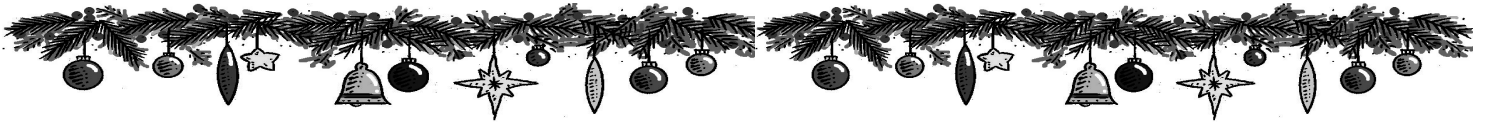
Mack will lead us in a four-week Advent study by Susan Robb which explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this study, participants will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel—and other angels—in the Old Testament. The Angels of Christmas uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now. **The class continues December 4, 11 & 18 at 9:00 am in the Upper Room West.** The class will be recorded and available to view at [trinitytucson.org/the-angels-of-Christmas](http://trinitytucson.org/the-angels-of-Christmas).

### ADVENT & YEAR ROUND DEVOTIONS



The Christian Education committee recommends the D365 devotional for use during Advent (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" including scripture and music each day.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



## WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW

### Meet Janet Hooper

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

My job that earned a salary was as an elementary school teacher. My more important job was to make our house into a home for Jim & our two boys during close to twenty moves while Jim pursued his Air Force career.

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

I was born in Prescott, lived in Flagstaff, then Phoenix, then many, many different places. So now my hometown is Tucson.

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

We like to travel to see our grandchildren. Also, we work on our property.

#### ***What is your favorite food?***

Salmon and shrimp street tacos at Charrovida.

***What are your favorite hymns & Bible verses?*** "As the Deer" and "Lift High the Cross." My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:8.

#### ***What does this church mean to you?***

This church means good friends and feels like family. Plus, learning something new about my faith each Sunday is meaningful and helps me be a more faithful Christian.

#### ***What is something that many people would not know about you?***

Two things: Jim and I have hiked the Grand Canyon from the South Rim to the North Rim in one very long day during the 90s. And our youngest granddaughter played the part of the baby stolen on the last episode of the TV series "Lost."



## 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 either pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve services or



after worship on December 25 or leave them to be distributed by the Deacons. Order forms are in this VISION or this Sunday December 4's bulletin.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**December 4** Isaiah 11:1-10 & Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**December 11** Isaiah 35:1-10 & Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**December 18** Isaiah 7:10-16 & Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**December 25** Isaiah 52:7-10 & Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering Presbyterian church congregations have long expressed their compassion for others, especially for those who serve the church. This Offering is received for the equal benefit of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). The offering will be taken in person **Sunday, December 18**. You may also mail in your donation or make it online & designate "Christmas Joy Offering" in your memo throughout the month of December.



# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## Just Coffee For Sale

The Mission Committee sells Just Coffee in Fellowship Hall before and after church each Sunday. The display is near the stained glass window manned by volunteers.

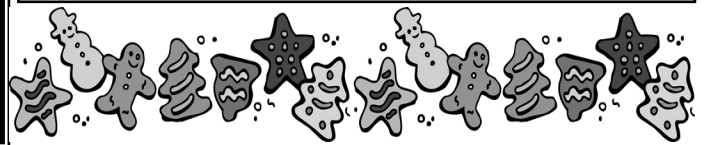
You may pay by cash or check.

Coffee will be \$10 or \$11 and the proceeds benefit Café Justo, a Grower - owned Coffee Cooperative based in southern Chiapas Mexico, formed to address the poverty and migration from Mexico to the U.S.A. More information about the cooperative is available at [justcoffee.org](http://justcoffee.org).



## 4th Avenue Street Fair Opportunities Saturday 12/10 & Sunday 12/11

Cup of Water is back. During the 4th Ave Street Fair Trinity hands out water to passers-by. Sign up to help Saturday and Sunday from 12-3pm when volunteers are needed to hand out water. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Narthex Credenza or call Billie Holbrook. Leave your name and phone number; she will call you to confirm the day before.



# MISSION NEWS

## Please note the new hours for the Food Pantry & Resource Center

### TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm** in basement of the Sanctuary building. Thanks for your food and monetary donations.

### RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is open **Wednesday 12:00 to 3:00 pm** in basement of the Sanctuary building to help clients with Department of Economic Security (DES) applications, vouchers for duplicate Arizona ID cards, birth certificates for adults and notarizing documents.

Casa Maria  
sandwich making  
December 11, 2022  
in Fellowship Hall after  
the Sanctuary service &  
Advent Mini Concert.



A big thank you to everyone who donated, walked, and/or fundraised for this year's Tucson CROP Hunger Walk.

The grand total for this year's Walk was \$12,442 with Trinity's team raising and contributing \$4851! CWS will put these funds to good use in the fight against hunger around the world and here at home! Thanks to Trinity for your continuing participation, generosity & for being the host location again this year.





# Session Notes

Since Dr. Mack suggested earlier that Session meet informally quarterly after worship, Elders can look forward to in-person conversation and fellowship in 2023. Following are highlights of the November Stated Session meeting:

- Worship Committee: The Greening of the Sanctuary takes place Sunday, November 27, after worship followed by a light lunch. Advent Mini Concerts will take place following worship on December 4, 11 and 18, and the Christmas Cantata, which is now fully funded, will be on December 18. Christmas Eve services will be held at 5:00 pm (with a children's tableau) and 7:00 pm.
- The Deacons reported that approximately 39 people attended the All-Church Picnic on November 5th. Everyone had a good time and the Deacons agreed to plan a picnic next year. The passing of the offering plates resumed Dedication Sunday, November 13.
- The Christian Education Committee emphasized that Dr. Mack's Advent class, "The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent", beginning November 27 at 9:00 am will be fun & encouraged those who are able to attend. The class will be recorded and available to view at [trinitytucson.org/the-angels-of-Christmas](http://trinitytucson.org/the-angels-of-Christmas).
- Stewardship & Finance: The closing of Phase II of Trinity property took place on November 8, 2022. The income from the sale will be approximately \$600,000 and will be placed in an account in Trinity's New Covenant Trust (PCUSA Foundation).
- The Session approved the Stewardship & Finance Committee's final edit and revision of Trinity's Financial Policies and Procedures.
- Trinity Presbytery Women report that they now have 80 Ryan's Bears and new people have been joining them to help with this project.
- Presbytery Commissioners, John Hill & Leone Mohnney, reported that the Fall Presbytery de Cristo meeting took place on October 29 at Southside Presbyterian Church. Bill Heinle of the Casa Grande church was elected 2023 Moderator Elect & will be Moderator of Presbytery de Cristo in 2024.
- The Session approved the Congregational Nominating Committee's nominees for Session and Deacon classes of 2025: For Session – Allen

Coffin, Elliott Koeppen, Leone Mohnney and Tom Roof and for the Deacons Emmanuel Alley, Kathy Moser, Jim & Marilyn Slagle, and Emalie Wilka.

- The Mission Committee reported that Food Bank hours will be changed to 12:00 to 3:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday beginning December 1, 2022. Dr. Mack reported that DeDe Markin is doing a great job as Trinity's new Mission Facilitator and a Food Bank Open House is in the plans for January.
- Property Committee noted that the sale of Phase II of Trinity property eliminates duplex utility costs & reduces overall property insurance costs. The cost for the repairs for Trinity Hall Air Handler have changed and a new quote is pending.
- The Session prayed for our Trinity family, for the church, for the community and for our country's leaders.

Liz Strong for  
Janet Hooper, Clerk of Session



## TRINITY WOMEN



**The Horizon's Bible Study** Dr. Mack leads the 2022–2023 Presbyterian Women Bible study, "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." The group meets in person in **the Library Tuesday, December 6 at 10:00 am and everyone is welcome.** Study guides are available from Leone Mohnney.

# TRINITY MILESTONES



## HONORING & MEMORIALS

*In Memory of Evelyn Medina by Ida Medina*  
*In Memory of Ed Buck by Leone Mohnhey*  
*In Honor of Carolynn Carter by Leone Mohnhey*  
*In Honor of Imogene Moser by Leone Mohnhey*  
*In Honor of Mary Wong by Leone Mohnhey*

## TRINITY WOMEN



85 bears, 50 caps and 6 scarves will be blessed December 4 at the 10:30 worship service before they are donated to Arizona Children's Association, Primavera, Our Family Social Services and Gospel Rescue Mission. A crew of ten women have worked since January through November 2022 meeting once a month to cut out bears, sew, stuff, embroidery on faces, attach arms and legs with buttons, hand stitch them closed after being stuffed. Catherine Dimenstein & Charity Everitt crocheted the caps and Francis Roberts made the scarves. Sheila Croteau made the tags that go on the bears. Each bear takes an average of 1 1/2 to 2 hours to make and 5/8's of a yard of fabric. It takes a church dedicated to mission to accomplish such a project. We will begin again **Tuesday, January 24 at 9:30 am in the Lower Lounge**. Any questions? Please call Ruth Myers at 520-326-6888.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Ida Wickizer	19	Melissa Bird
4	Melinda Arnold	19	Ann Butler
5	Errol Dimenstein	19	Janet Jones
6	Elliott Koeppen - 93	22	Jeremy Roggow
7	Marilyn Slagle	22	Beatrice Spillers
9	Bonnie Stull	25	Charity Everitt
12	Rosalie Goll	29	Don Myers
13	John Hill	31	Sherry Letson
17	Heather Lind		

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

1	Sanani Mukadesa	2	Dr. Mack Sigmon
2	Dale McCray	9	Jeri Ogden



BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY



## December Anniversaries

17 Bobby Whipple & Sherry Letson





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  
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